

January 20, 2010

Dear Parents,

At this time, I would like to announce the tuition for the 2010/2011 school year. The tuition shown in the box below includes an increase of \$100 per student, which is well below historic increases. This increase was agreed upon at a recent joint meeting of the Finance Committee, Education Commission, and Parish Council. The decision to increase tuition is never easy, but this increase is essential to ensure St. Jude's financial stability, both now and in the future. It is important to note that the St. Jude families have consistently supported our quest to maintain fiscal responsibility.

2010/2011 Tuition and Fees

For Catholic families who are coming to the school for the first time, and for those registered parishioners who have made a regular practice of worshipping with the St. Jude Parish Community over the year (i.e., 36 Sundays throughout the year), tuition is as follows:

Registration Fee \$50 per family for existing families for all grades K-8 due at the time of registration.
\$250 per family for new families coming to the school for the first time, with \$200 of that fee being applied to the first tuition payment. (The entire \$250 is due at the time of registration and is non-refundable.)

Kindergarten

½ day morning or afternoon session	\$2,110
Morning kindergarten with Extended Day Kindergarten	\$3,445

Kindergarten is a self supporting program and therefore cannot be combined for the multi-student discount offered to students in grades 1-8.

Grades 1-8

One Child	\$3,025
Two Children	\$5,960
Three or More Children	\$8,775

For those who will be coming to the parish at the full rate, the tuition is as follows:

Registration Fee	\$50 per family plus 10% of the tuition rate for the year
Per Student Cost	\$4,295

The first tuition payment for all students is due by June 1, 2010

A 5% discount is available to any of the tuition rates above (not registration fee) by making a one time full payment by May 30, 2010 at 1 PM.

Registration Dates

Registration for the new school year begins on February 1, 2010, and will run each school day until February 12, 2010. After this date, returning student registrations will require an additional late registration fee of \$50 per family. New student registration is on going as space permits. St. Jude families receive priority provided they register by February 12, 2010.

To Families in Need of Financial Assistance

As funds allow, we will offer financial assistance to families who can't afford full tuition. It is very important to us that we don't lose a member of our St. Jude family due to financial hardship. By sending your child to St. Jude School in the past, you have supported the mission of our parish. Please allow us to help you in your time of need. Ken Schultz, our Business Manager 598-2103, will shortly be providing information on applying for financial assistance through the parish. Another source of financial aid is the Elder District Scholars Assistance Program (EDSAP) administered by Elder High School and is offered to students entering grades 5-8 next year. Information will be forwarded when it is made available to us.

Sincerely yours,
Fr. Eric Bowman

St. Jude School Tuition Information

What was the tuition based on?

The committees involved felt it necessary to balance short term needs with St. Jude's long-term financial outlook, we have worked hard to keep St. Jude fiscally sound and to stay on the path created in previous years. We believe that teachers should continue to be paid fairly and that our children deserve quality facilities, equipment and curriculum. We also believe that expense cuts are neither required nor appropriate -- school and church expenses have remained very lean. Finally, we wanted to be able to provide financial assistance to those who can't afford full tuition because we believe it is important to support those in need who desire a Catholic-based education for their children. Please be assured that the members of the Finance Committee, Education Commission and Parish Council share the view that St. Jude, as a parish and a school, must remain fiscally responsible in order to fulfill our mission. We firmly believe that this tuition increase represents a reasoned compromise between our desire to minimize any increase and our understanding of the economic realities involved.

How much are school costs?

School costs are projected to be about \$1,889,800 next year which is over \$3,856 per student. This amount is roughly up \$185 more than last year, due primarily to rising health care costs and the school's share of the cost of running the classrooms and school portion of the Parish Center.

Why can't the parish pay more?

The percentage the church can contribute to the 2010/2011 school year is primarily the same as previous years. The primary reason for this is that the church is paying back the loan from the Archdiocese for the Parish Center. The annual cost of the loan is \$115,000 for principal and interest and will remain so for nearly the next decade. Additionally, and significantly, the parish faces increased costs in operating and maintaining the new facility.

A personal message from the members of the committees involved:

Please understand that the committee members are united with this decision. We worked very hard to keep the increase as low as possible. We know that economic times are tough and we wanted to keep this necessary increase as modest as possible. Our ability to keep the increase low is thanks to many members of the St. Jude family. The staff consistently works hard to keep costs down. Equally important many members have participated in our fundraising activities. The annual festival, Octoberfest and weekly bingo provide funds that would otherwise not be available. Your assistance in staffing these activities and attending with your friends and families makes these events successful. The PTO and the recently initiated 365 Raffle together contributed \$80 per student. Thanks to all who support the PTO, and to all of you who participated in the 365 Raffle. It is important to remember that your use of Kroger cards and other merchant cards directly translate to increased financial support for our school and decreased tuition cost to our students. In summary, the many ways that we participate throughout the year are key elements in providing our students with a quality education at a reasonable price.

We thank you for your interest in St. Jude School. We hope that this letter provides you with insight into our thoughts as we carefully considered this year's tuition. We welcome any constructive or creative thoughts you may have as to how to keep future tuition increases lower, and we welcome your active participation in helping us address this issue. We look forward to seeing you back next year and appreciate your help in keeping our parish financially sound with nice well maintained facilities and a first class school. And one of our top goals is to always provide the best education for our children.

Sincerely,

Finance Committee

Education Commission

Parish Council