23 January 2025

St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr

St. Marianne Cope, Virgin

Dear New and Returning St. Catherine of Siena School Parents,

 It is time to register your children for the 2025/2026 school year.  Everything you need to know to register your child at St. Catherine school should be covered in this letter.

 As returning parents know, we use FACTS Management to help us manage our student registration, tuition payments, and financial aid assessment.  FACTS is used by almost all the Catholic schools in this area and over 7,000 schools nationally.  We have been using them for years, and they have served us well.

 **Registration will begin Monday, 27 January, and end Friday, 7 February**. The registration fee will be $250 per student, and there will be a $50 late registration fee. If you have any questions about registration, please contact Dennis in the parish office.

 To register your child, simply go to <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/3WJ59>.  This will take you to the part of their website dedicated to our parish.  There are instructions there for new registrations and returning registrations.  **Registration will not be complete until 1) an account has been set up with FACTS, 2) the registration fee is paid, and 3) a tuition payment method has been selected**.  **If you are paying your tuition in one full payment, you must still register with FACTS, but you will not be charged an administrative fee**.

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 The tuition schedule for next year will be as follows:

 **In-Parish** (all grades):

 First child $4,900.00

 Second child $4,000.00

 Third child $3,000.00

 **Out-of-Parish** (all grades):

 $6,800 (no multi-student discount)

 I am sure that by now you are all aware of the changes we have made in the school for next year, the most significant of which is the combining of the fourth and fifth grade classrooms. The other changes involve the five Specials classes: Art, Computer, Humanities, Library and Physical Education. As Mr. Jacks has explained, these will remain, although how we present them will be different.

 All these changes have been made for financial reasons. As I explained in last year’s letter, our present goal is to reach a school subsidy of around 50%, which will allow me also to continue and improve our other parish ministries.

 I want to emphasize the value of your child’s St. Catherine education. Included with this letter – either as a hard copy or an electronic communication – is a fact sheet. I encourage you to peruse this sheet and see how, even as we must contend with significant financial issues, your child is receiving a quality education with a broad spectrum of offerings for your child’s special interests. Of course, and of first importance, she or he will be exposed to the truths and beauty of our Catholic faith.

Although we are going through a challenging time in the parish, there are good things happening. We are already implementing initiatives from our Ignite teams, and many parishioners have commented that they feel a spirit of renewal in the parish. We have had new families join the parish recently and have seen some former parishioners at Sunday Mass again. I cannot encourage you enough to get involved in the parish; a strong parish will make a stronger school. I invite you to delve more deeply into your own faith journey. We offer many ways to do this. Besides Sunday Mass and other liturgies, there are many social opportunities that allow you to meet and get to know other parishioners. There is our family catechesis program, which we call Loreto. Although some people have the impression that this is only for families whose children attend public school – a new kind of CCD – that is not the case. All families will benefit from the education and formation in the program. I invite you to join. I also remind you of our small faith groups. The people involved in them report great satisfaction from them, growing closer to Jesus and to other parishioners. All of this will help you to bring your children to discover the most exciting and rewarding thing there is in this life – getting to know Jesus and allowing Him to bring you closer to our Father in heaven.

In His love,

Fr. Stef