

May 9, 2019

Dear St. Robert School Families,

Thank you for your commitment to a St. Robert School education for your children. Every day, the faculty and administration of the school seek to earn that trust, and we are proud of the accomplishments we have achieved this school year, among them:

- Implementation of Readers' and Writers' Workshops at the kindergarten through fifth grade levels supported by a substantial investment from our School Society endowment for professional development, ongoing teacher coaching, and books and resources
- Securing \$34,724 in Wisconsin safety grants to fund enhancements to school security including expansion of our PA system, installation of surveillance cameras, upgrading of classroom door locks and purchase of mobile radios
- An outstanding Home and School-sponsored auction that will not only allow for a significant contribution toward school operations, but will also enable us to replace the failing gym roof
- Winning the Middle School State Forensics Championship, capping the significant success our students have achieved over the past five years since the program's introduction at St. Robert
- A significant participation of St. Robert teacher leaders and our administrator in the development of the Archdiocese's standards-based learning initiative.

In short, St. Robert remains a vibrant school, and we greatly appreciate your efforts to tell our story to your friends and neighbors because you are the single best source for attracting new families to our school. Additionally, we appreciate that most of you have re-enrolled your children for next year. Your prompt completion of the enrollment process was an important factor in our prudent planning for the upcoming school year.

At the School Advisory Board (SAB) meeting in April, members worked to finalize key elements of our budget for the 2019-2020 school year, which is expected to be over \$ 2 million. After considering realistic enrollment projections, fixed costs, and all sources of revenue, the SAB recommended the following:

- **A continued commitment to enhancing faculty compensation.** Last year the SAB approved a meaningful increase in the salary scale for our faculty, allowing raises that had not been given in five years, and committed to continue to focus on faculty compensation in succeeding years in order to bring faculty compensation into greater alignment with other North Shore Catholic Schools and Archdiocesan benchmarks and guidelines. Last month the SAB approved including additional funds in next year's salary budget to increase the salary scale in pursuit of this goal. This attentiveness to faculty compensation also positions St. Robert School to better compete in recruiting and retaining a top-notch faculty.
- **A tuition increase of \$300.** This increase of \$30 per month over the 10-month payment cycle is in line with our annual increases of recent years and will allow us to both maintain the services and program features that have become synonymous with our brand and help fund the rise in faculty compensation. As has been the case for the last couple of years, families with three children in the school will receive a tuition discount of 10%, and the fourth and subsequent children from the same family are free.

- **A modest reduction in faculty size.** We are budgeting for a total school population of 15 fewer students than this school year, largely due to a 4K class that is anticipated to be smaller than our historic enrollment at this level. To responsibly accommodate the associated reduction in tuition revenue, we will be reducing the faculty by two full-time members. Based on projected enrollments, all grade levels are expected to have two sections, with the exception of 4K and second grade, where enrollment can be reasonably accommodated with one section.

The 2019-2020 tuition structure will be as follows:

	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
4K* – 2 nd Grade	\$4,650	\$6,150
3 rd – 5 th Grade	\$4,950	\$6,450
Middle School	\$5,250	\$6,750

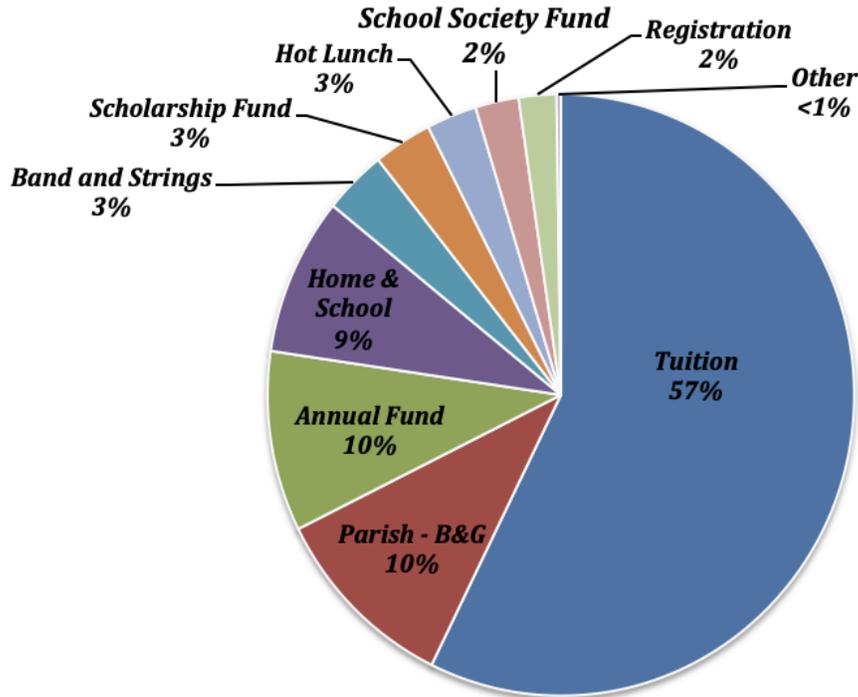
*Half Day for 4K/5K is \$3,700 for Parishioners and \$4,900 for Non-Parishioners

We anticipate that the actual cost of a St Robert School education for the 2019-2020 school year will be \$8,175. Parishioner tuition pays for only 57-64% of this cost and non-parishioner tuition only 75-83%. The remainder is paid by the many generous benefactors who support our mission via the Annual Fund. We extend our gratitude to all of you who recognize this critical gap and contribute as you are able to helping to close it. We humbly ask that those of you who are in a financial position to make a tax-deductible donation beyond tuition, please consider a gift to the Annual Fund for the upcoming school year.

The total cost of a St Robert education and the funding of those costs can be summarized as follows:

	Total	Per Student
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,726,032	\$6,513
Buildings and Grounds	\$225,000	\$849
Technical and Instr. Resources	\$71,150	\$269
Hot Lunch	\$60,000	\$226
Other	\$59,300	\$224
Field Trips	\$25,000	\$94
Total Expense	\$2,166,482	\$8,175

Funding of St. Robert Operating Costs



In keeping with one of the Guiding Principles of the *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools*, a critical mission of St. Robert is to make our rich educational experience accessible to as many families as possible. We understand that for many, the economic sacrifice to pay for tuition is a significant burden. We also realize we are adding to that burden in increasing tuition on an annual basis. Over the past few years we have increased our need-based assistance through financial aid grants from our scholarship investment fund. In this current year, we were able to provide over \$65,000 in financial assistance thanks to ongoing scholarship contributions. We will continue to work to make as much financial assistance available as possible, and pledge to continue to offer the dignity of a third-party application process as currently managed through TADS Financial Aid Management.

Thank you again for entrusting your children to us – and sacrificing to allow us to maintain educational excellence and just compensation. We look forward to another fruitful year ahead.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Lauren Beckmann
Principal

John Dunn
School Advisory Board Chair

Rev. Ray Guthrie
Parish Administrator

Dan Wycklendt
School Budget and Finance Chair