



ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Mary's Catholic School

2200 O'Neil Ave Cheyenne, WY 82001
Office: 307-638-9268 Fax: 307-635-2847
www.stmaryswyo.org

Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds you well. We're excited to share that our Summer Care Program is in the works, and we'll be exploring some amazing STEM curriculums this year! We'll be hiring for summer positions soon, so if you know anyone who might be interested in joining our team, please send them our way. Additionally, we'll be sending more information about Summer registration to parents soon, so keep an eye out for those details!

I want to take a moment to celebrate the academic achievements of our students! They've been excelling in several areas, including MAP and STAR testing, as well as Accelerated Reading. At our last assembly, we were thrilled to announce that students in grades 3-6 have collectively read over 14 million words and completed comprehension quizzes on them! This is such an incredible accomplishment, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work and dedication. Thank you to all the students, teachers, and families for supporting these efforts. Let's keep up the great work!

We're also excited to announce the addition of a part-time preschool program, designed to offer more flexible options for families. The program will require at least 10 students to register. We'll be sending out more details about the program and its hours soon!

After careful consideration, we have made the decision to update our tuition rates for the upcoming year. The new tuition rates will include a \$200 increase, which will help ensure that we continue to provide the high-quality education and services that our families have come to expect.

The family registration fee will now be set at \$200. We also want to highlight that the materials and technology fee has not been adjusted in over 10 years. Unfortunately, in that time, our vendors have raised the costs for workbooks, materials, and technology services, which has made this adjustment necessary.

We understand that tuition and fee changes can be challenging, and we want to be transparent about the reasons behind these adjustments. Tuition and fees help cover essential operational expenses like classroom resources, technology, and staffing. While these increases are necessary to keep up with rising costs, we are committed to

maintaining affordability and ensuring the continued quality of our programs. We appreciate your understanding and support as we make this adjustment to ensure our long-term success.

For context, last year, the school spent \$12,545 per student to provide a quality education. This is lower than the state average, which ranges from \$15,844 to \$16,698 per student. We are proud to provide an exceptional education at a lower cost, but to maintain our standard of excellence, some increase in fees is unavoidable.

We understand that some families find the required 50 Stewardship hours to be a burden, and we want to ease this. As a result, we are reducing the Stewardship hours to 30 for the coming year.

Additionally, we would like to invite all families to an **Educational Savings Account Meeting on February 6, 2025 at 6:00 PM**. This session will provide more information about how you can apply for funds to help cover tuition costs. Please note that legislation, and possibly Governor Gordon, will continue to make changes to this program before it is finalized, so we'll be providing updates as they become available.

We also want to remind families that the ACE Scholarship and other school scholarships are available to assist with tuition. If you are interested in applying for any of these scholarships, please contact the office for more details.

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support and dedication to the school community. Thank you for being part of what makes our school special, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns about these changes.

Take Care,

Christina Williamson
Principal
St. Mary's Catholic School
2200 O'Neil Ave
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 638.9268
Christina.Williamson@StMarysWyo.org