

February 1, 2017

Dear St. Vincent de Paul School Parents:

What makes Catholic education special? As someone who received a public school education and came to Catholic education rather late in life, I see the amazing benefits each day and in each student interaction. Our students are grounded in the teachings of Christ and those teachings are reflected in our students' quest to fulfill God's plan for their lives. Our teachers inspire your children to explore, struggle, question, grow, and succeed. A Catholic education provides our young people with a desire for joy, acceptance, love, and service to others. Many schools talk about educating the "whole child," but truly, the only way to accomplish that lofty goal is by grounding the experience in faith.

We recognize that your choice to send your child to St. Vincent de Paul requires personal sacrifices. We never lose sight of the awesome responsibility you've entrusted to us, and we make it a priority to use our resources wisely. One important goal is to retain students and families while retaining our exceptional staff and teachers.

As we pause to reflect on the successes of our school, it's important to note these accomplishments:

- Results from our recent parent survey were extremely positive:
 - 96% agree that SVDP lives its mission and philosophy
 - 96% agree that their child is developing a good understanding of his/her faith
 - 97% agree that SVDP is a caring community of staff, parents, and students
 - 94% agree that they would recommend SVDP to their friends
- Our new Spanish teacher re-launched our language program, sparking renewed student enthusiasm and growth.
- Our students scored extremely well on standardized tests: 83% scored at or above the national grade level norms in reading and language usage and 85% scored at or above the national grade level norms in math.
- Our Blessings Fund continued to provide tuition assistance to families in need. Did you know that through the generous donations of our parishioners and other friends of SVDP, we were able to open our doors to 33 families?
- We launched our new preschool/pre-kindergarten program allowing 40 new young students to benefit from a SVDP education. One of the most exciting aspects of opening our preschool/PK program is that 65% of those students were new to our school community. And we have achieved great success in this first year of operation, motivating almost 100% of our families to return next school year.
- Our library was renovated with beautiful new colors, technology, and inviting new furniture. The students love it!

- We continue to provide students with important technology tools. Our middle school students are using their 2-in-1 devices while students in lower grades now have regular access to iPads and Androids. Going forward we will move to Chromebooks in the lower grades which are more cost-effective and durable.
- Teachers continue to sharpen their skills through new professional development, learning about innovative instructional techniques.

I feel so blessed to be the principal of this wonderful school. I look forward to seeing your children continue to grow and shine!

Tuition

Below are the tuition rates for this upcoming school year. As you know, we work closely with the parish to determine costs and per-pupil expenses, with an emphasis on limiting expense increases while responding to current academic enhancements or requirements. Based on projected increases in our budget, our tuition will increase by 3.8% to \$4,125. This increase reflects additional expenses related to salaries and benefits, technology, and overall operating expenses. This increase amounts to \$150 annually or \$15/month for a family with one child at SVDP.

The total cost to educate a student at St. Vincent's is \$6,150 based on our current enrollment. Tuition covers 67% of this cost. The contribution from Parish Stewardship is 28% while fundraising and donations from individuals comprise the remaining support.

We are able to continue providing discounts for families with multiple children:

- First Child: \$4,125
- Second Child: \$4,125
- Third Child: \$3,810
- Fourth Child: \$3,300

We're happy to note that improvements made in the tuition structure last year will remain in effect this year:

- All enrollments will be processed online through TADS. This includes registrations for both new and returning families. You may begin your enrollment process at from February 1 – 28th.
- The costs for miscellaneous classroom items (e.g. paper towels, disinfecting wipes, and copy paper) have been folded into your tuition; the office will purchase these items for the classrooms.
- The annual tuition amount includes most fees (e.g. technology, pottery, classroom parties and supplies). Field trips will continue to be billed separately during the school year. Fees for Smart Tuition and Home and School will be charged in August as a one-time per/family charge.



If you are financially able to, we ask that you consider making a donation, in addition to the required tuition, to cover the full or partial cost of attending St. Vincent's. The additional contributions will be placed in our Blessings Fund to help the growing number of families who are in need of tuition assistance.

Fundraising success has the long-term effect of keeping tuition rates down. Fundraising is comprised of the marathon, Auction for Education, Catholic United Financial raffle, and the school's share of SCRIP. Consider using the SCRIP program to help reduce your tuition costs. Many of our families use this. It works. A diligent effort can help you neutralize tuition increases.

In addition to tuition, there is a \$60/student (maximum of \$120/family) non-refundable registration fee that is required upon registration.

We are thankful that your family has entrusted St. Vincent de Paul with the education of your child. We look forward to seeing your child continue to grow in the 2017-18 school year. May God bless us in this empowering journey to form our next generation!

Please complete your online registration by February 28, 2017.

Sincerely,

Lisa Simon, Principal

Norm Olafson, Business Manager

Know and celebrate our Catholic Faith, Love God and our neighbor, Serve as disciples of Jesus Christ.

9050 93rd AVENUE NORTH, BROOKLYN PARK, MN 55445
PHONE: 763-425-3970 FAX: 763-425-2674 EMAIL: SCHOOLINFO@SAINTVDP.ORG