

January 27, 2017

Dear St. John the Baptist School Families,

St. John the Baptist School has been providing a faith-based education to children for 135 years! We are constantly seeking new ideas leading to school improvement and are receptive to the concerns and contributions of parents, students, and staff. This year, we have significantly expanded the use of technology in the school, hired staff with more specialized training, and continue to seek ways to engage our student learners in a faith-filled setting.

At times, it may be easy to forget our school exists because the people of the parish wish to have a place in which our common faith may be taught and passed down to our youth. Parishes are willing to help support a parish school because it's part of the faith and ministry as a Church and a sign of their discipleship of Jesus Christ. For this reason, families are asked to demonstrate active participation in the life of the parish by attending mass a minimum of 60% of Sundays, as may be evidenced by use of your family envelope, an envelope from the pew, or a signed bulletin if attending mass at a different church. Families demonstrating this are eligible to pay a reduced rate of tuition at the active parishioner rate.

**Current families have the opportunity to register for next year during the priority registration period. Please take advantage of this by registering your returning students or younger siblings new to the school between January 29 and February 28.** Registering during priority registration is the only way to guarantee your child's placement as spots will not be reserved for students who fail to register on time. Grade level places may be taken by students new to the school, and registration fees double after February.

Rather than send home registration forms, we are once again using the online portal in *Ascend* to register current or new students. **Laptops and assistance with registration are available in the Adult Enrichment Room across from the school office during the January 29 Open House, and payments may be processed with Mrs. Siemer at the same time.** Visit [www.sjbharrison.org](http://www.sjbharrison.org) to initiate this process on your own. We have created a checklist to guide you as you register your children for their respective grade levels for the new school year.

Since students are not officially registered until they have submitted their registration payment, it is important for families to send registration fees promptly so we match the payment with the information being processed online. **Families must also be current with this year's tuition payments in order to complete registration for next year. Please take care of all outstanding balances, prior to attempting to register for the 2017-18 academic year, and please keep in mind all processing and registration fees are waived, if you are able to pay your tuition in full.** Use the attached envelope to list the names and grades of all students you are enrolling at St. John's as well as the registration fees. Please be sure to do so by the end of priority registration on February 28, 2017. We can then merge this with the information you submit online in order to complete the process for your children.

We understand the difficulties many families face when deciding how to pay for a Catholic education, and this year the Archdiocese has increased opportunities for financial assistance through the *One Faith, One Hope, One Love* Catholic Education Foundation. Although our parish deadline to apply for FACTS tuition assistance remains March 15, 2017, all families are encouraged to take advantage of this new program by visiting <http://catholicbestchoice.org/k-8-tuition-information> and applying before the January 31 deadline. We have confirmed you may use tax information from 2015 when completing the priority application. Even if your child benefits from another type of state scholarship, applications may be submitted, permitted the current scholarship does not cover the cost of full tuition.

Thank you in advance for your trust and support of our staff and school. Please call the parish office at 367-9086 if you have questions about your current balance, mass participation, or tuition assistance. May God continue to bless each of you and your precious family.

Sincerely,

Susan Meymann,  
Principal