

St. Stephen School

To Love, To Inspire – To Achieve!

Discipleship Embodied • Partnership Embraced • Scholarship Celebrated • Leadership Modeled • Citizenship Personified

January 26, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin this new decade, we want to express our thanks and appreciation to all of the parents and guardians who have been so generous to our school. It is your donation of time and treasure that allows St. Stephen School to be such a wonderful place to send your children. We realize it is a choice, and we do not take that lightly!

This year we are very pleased to implement a modest increase in tuition for the 2010/2011 school year. This year's increase is approximately 3% across all tuition categories. In years past, we had no choice but to substantially increase tuition by 7-9%.

Substantial increases in the past have been due to many factors not the least of which were declining enrollment, challenges presented by The Journey of Faith and Grace as it related to parish investment, and a decrease in fundraising revenue.

Fortunately, our fundraising has been sound, decline in enrollment has slowed and has become a little more predictable, and we have been able to control costs better, by not participating in Universal Pre-K for example.

In order to justify this modest increase in tuition we are assuming, and banking on, the fact that fundraising and volunteerism will continue at a high level.

The first annual appeal involving the Cost of Education Partnership Program (COEP) received pledges over \$20,000.00 in additional funds for our school. It was through your generosity that we will be able to use these funds for the betterment of our school. A portion of these funds will be used to help defray the cost of replacing the school cafeteria roof which is estimated to exceed \$25,000.00.

This year, we will again welcome the assistance from those who can make voluntary additional monetary donations to COEP to continue enhancing our building and enriching our students' educational experience.

We are very grateful for your support. You are the reason we are one of the leading schools in WNY. Thank you.

With gratitude,

St. Stephen School Finance Committee

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