



St. Margaret Mary
Catholic School

January 2023

Dear Parents,

The first half of the 2022-2023 school year has been a time of great accomplishment and growth in faith and learning for the students of St. Margaret Mary Catholic School. The year has been filled with engaging and fun learning, as well as special community events. We are so thankful to be in “full swing” after several challenging years.

While we are just more than half way through the school year, planning is underway for the 2023-2024 school year. The school and parish Administration, has worked in consultation with the Board of Education and the parish Finance Committee in developing the budget and tuition rates for the coming school year. We work diligently each year to ensure that tuition increases are kept to a minimum. Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is now open.

As you may be aware, over the past three years teacher salaries in the public schools have increased with the assistance of tax dollars. The Diocese of Orlando strives to keep Catholic school salaries and benefits within a competitive range in order to attract and retain talented educators. Catholic schools operate primarily on tuition and support from their local parishes. At St. Margaret Mary, we are blessed to also have a Teacher Endowment which helps provide funding for teacher salaries.

This year, the Diocese of Orlando updated their salary scale in order to modestly increase teacher salaries. The new salary scale results in a slightly larger increase in tuition. The increase for 2023-2024 for one, two, and three children is approximately 4.5%. We continue to offer multiple child discount rates for families; however, the discount for a fourth or fifth child has decreased. The tuition and fee rate schedule for 2023-2024 is attached to this letter. Please note that the categories and the format of the tuition / fee schedule have been updated.

In order to make a Catholic education possible for families, St. Margaret Mary Catholic School continues to provide financial support to families who are not able to pay the total cost of tuition. These funds are provided by our parish, as well as by tax-deductible donations made by school families, parishioners, and others to the St. Margaret Mary Catholic School Annual Fund for Tuition Assistance. We encourage all families who are able to contribute to the Annual Fund. Additionally, St. Margaret Mary is now participating in the state scholarship programs, administered through *Step-Up for Students*. We hope that this assists families seeking a Catholic education.

After sixty-nine years of serving the St. Margaret Mary parish community, St. Margaret Mary Catholic School remains a strong parish school, steeped in gospel values and committed to academic excellence while nurturing the development of the whole child. Thank you for your continued support of St. Margaret Mary Catholic School and for choosing Catholic education, a gift that will last a lifetime, providing a solid foundation of faith and knowledge for students.

In Christ's love,
Kathleen M. Walsh