

# Saint Michael School

80 N. High Street, Greenville, PA 16125



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Phone: 724-588-7050 \* Fax: 724-588-7056 \* Email: [stmikes@neo.rr.com](mailto:stmikes@neo.rr.com) \* Website: [www.saintmichael1.org](http://www.saintmichael1.org)

*Saint Michael, an accredited Catholic Elementary School, partners with families in the education of the mind, body, and soul of each child.*

+J.M.J.

December 20, 2022

Dear SMS Families,

I write hoping that you are finding these days of Advent both beautiful and enriching for both your family and your faith. This time of year is remarkable for what it can reveal and uncover for us when we look to Christ and yearn for His coming.

With this letter, I wish to happily inform you of one of the changes I will enact for the next academic year here at Saint Michael School.

Arriving at Saint Michael this past summer, what was immediately clear to me was that our school is worth fighting for and inviting all to come and partake in. What we have here is and can continue to be is an unmatched experience anywhere else around us! Therefore, I immediately went to work to find solutions that would allow anyone who wanted to come to SMS to come, regardless of financial constraints, while maintaining the ability to justly compensate faculty and staff and pay the operating expenses. This letter would get too long and heavy with numbers to explain every nuance of what I wish to do so that this school becomes a thriving and vibrant ministry of the Greenville area, but what I will say is that I have been, and will continue to, reallocate parish assets so that I can invest them to generate the income for a new scholarship that will accomplish, I think, an exciting new tuition!

Beginning with the 2023-2024 Academic Year, everyone's tuition will be a simple and flat *\$10 a day!* There are 180 days of school, so each child's bottom line will be \$1,800, regardless of grade or anything else. Let me flesh this out a bit.

For this to work, everyone will need to apply for financial aid, since it is existing scholarships, aid, and this new Parish Scholarship that will get every child's bottom line to \$10 a day. If you fail to fill out an application, you fail to receive any aid and thus will pay the full true cost to educate- many thousands more. This new Parish Scholarship is being made possible because the parish felt it was worth taking its existing endowments and cash from savings and repurposing all those dollars for *your* benefit!

\$10 a day is an easy number to conceptualize, plan for, and budget. For new or prospective families, it's an easy number to take in and decide if they can afford it. As indicated, existing scholarships and aid, in addition to this new Parish Scholarship, will get every child down

to \$1,800. The only existing entity that will not be used to bring you down to that figure will be SCRIP. The money you earn from the use of SCRIP is yours, and that will be used by you to help pay your final number, not bring you down to your final number. So, if you earn \$250 in SCRIP, you can use that \$250 to begin knocking out that \$1,800 per child – it is not part of the aid package, but yours to use to help pay your final bill. (Note-If you simply used SCRIP for gas at Sheetz and groceries at Walmart, \$250 in free cash towards your tuition is easily attainable). With this new rate, it's very plausible to use SCRIP to knock out a significant portion – if not all – of your tuition, depending on your shopping and how committed you are to the program – and free money!

The other side of this is that it will, I pray, attract new families, and bring back some old families to our awesome school. For that to happen, though, I need you to spread the word and share this new, easy, and far more affordable tuition with anyone and everyone. You are the greatest marketing committee and the most effective commercials! I am relying on you to share the good things happening here at SMS and that anyone can come here.

St. Michael, pray for us!

Love,

*Fr. Brandon*