



Good Shepherd Catholic School

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**I Love
School
Choice!**

Friday after Ash Wednesday, February 24, 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Lent is an important time for Catholics to reflect on their relationship with God and to make a renewed commitment to their faith. It is a time to turn away from sin and to focus on spiritual growth. The word “Lent” originally was a secular word with no particular religious association. It can be traced etymologically to an Old English word “lencten” (related to “lengthen,” referring to the lengthening of days) that simply referred to the season of Spring.

Just as Christians are now in a time of preparation – for the celebration of Jesus’ Passion, death and Resurrection – Good Shepherd Catholic School is actively making plans for the 2023-2024 school year, and we pray that GSC also is entering a time of renewal and growth.

When we assess our current situation at GSC, we certainly want to see our enrollment numbers go up. It is a very simple reality, really. At the most basic level, we are a school, and our main purpose is to serve students and families who want the well-rounded, faith-based educational experience we offer. Just like the best restaurant in town is going to need a steady flow of new and repeat customers to not only survive, but to thrive (!), our continued existence relies on filling our classrooms with students who are hungry to learn and to grow in body, mind and spirit at GSC.

Please don’t read anything into my use of the word “survive” in the previous sentence above. Everything we do is centered around GSC having a future. We are blessed to have the spiritual and significant financial support from Queen of Peace Parish, thanks to Pastor Father Larry Crehan and generous parishioners. We also are graced with the active ministry of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who are committed to sharing their charism of love, creative hope, and fidelity with the school and parish community as they carry out their mission to evangelize, to catechize, and to teach here in Ardsley.

Beyond this obvious support, you also should know that there are fine men and women in the Office of Catholic Education for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who root for our success and give us the tools we need to deliver our mission of God, Scholarship, Community, and Service. Similarly, we receive guidance and funding from Business Leaders Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS) as well as The Foundation For Catholic Education, not to mention the countless individuals and businesses who contribute time, talent and treasure to keep GSC moving forward. They appreciate your investment in Catholic education and want to do what they can to keep GSC accessible and affordable to parents, knowing that you do make sacrifices to pay for your child(ren) to attend GSC.

Today marks the end of week number 24 of our 40-week school year, and budgeting for the 2023-2024 school year is being discussed in earnest. On page three of this letter is our recently-approved (by the school’s finance committee and the Board of Limited Jurisdiction) tuition schedule. For a fourth consecutive year, we have tried to keep any increases minimal, while also budgeting for teacher and staff raises and the rising costs of many things, as you know from your own experience with everyday household expenses. The \$200 one-student increase is \$5 per student per week for 40

weeks. The registration fee – \$200 per family – is staying the same, and it is worth noting and repeating that our registration and tuition fees are **all-inclusive**; we do not have any additional book, technology or fundraising fees, although we are thinking about adding one “mandatory” fundraiser next school year.

I can discuss fundraisers at another time, since this letter is mostly about enrollment, but another thing you should know is that every tuition dollar we collect and every fundraising dollar we put in the bank is spent on your child(ren)’s education and to improve the school environment. None of this money goes out anywhere, and as I pointed out earlier, a lot of additional money flows in from other sources for GSC to have a balanced budget and to provide tuition assistance to families.

Since most families stay at GSC year after year, we introduced a continuous enrollment approach two years ago that reduces time and paperwork required for re-registration. This method assumes that once enrolled, students will continue their education until graduation from eighth grade, unless we are notified otherwise.

With that in mind, re-enrollment for current GSC families will occur automatically on **Monday, March 6, 2023**. Students currently in grades pre-K3 through grade 7 will be enrolled in the next grade level for the 2023-2024 school year, unless you "**opt out**" by next Friday, March 3.

I realize that this is short notice, because I had intended to send you this letter a week or two ago, but you do have at least a month before any actual payment is due. More details are posted online at www.gscregional.org/re-enrollment-2023-2024.html, including information about GSC adding the \$200 re-enrollment fee to your Blackbaud Tuition account in two \$100 installments, payable in April and May. To opt out, you can call or send me an email, or use the online form at the aforementioned link.

I recently came across a LinkedIn post from Dan Rogers, a marketing strategist at Mission By Design in Austin, Texas. I don’t know Dan and his name isn’t important, but here’s what he wrote about what he has learned working to help Catholic schools grow: “Catholic schools face real challenges, but they’re not destined to fail as long as leaders step up, educators focus on Jesus Christ, and parents continue to invest in their success. We must build the schools we desire, not abandon them and give up.”

Enrollment will be an uphill climb *every* year at GSC, but as a community, we can rise to meet that challenge, year in and year out. That’s the message I want to leave you with as we journey through Lent and Spring and work together to make GSC the best that it can be, starting with boosting enrollment and spreading the gospel (“good news”) about GSC to our neighbors and friends, and to their neighbors and friends.

Lastly, please know that Sister Helen Thomas and I welcome hearing from you with any questions, concerns or comments you have about the re-enrollment process and anything else concerning the current and future success of Good Shepherd Catholic School.

Sincerely,



Jim Templeton
Advancement Director



We are preparing our students for a faith-filled life of learning, leadership, and love for others.



2023-2024 School Year Tuition

Kindergarten through Grade 8 (Based on a 40-Week School Year)

Number of Students in Family	Total Tuition	10 Monthly Remittances	11 Monthly Remittances*	12 Monthly Remittances
1	\$ 4,845.	\$ 484.50	\$ 440.45	\$ 403.75
2	\$ 8,155.	\$ 815.50	\$ 741.36	\$ 679.58
3	\$ 9,900.	\$ 990.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 825.00
4	\$ 11,800.	\$ 1,180.00	\$ 1,072.73	\$ 983.33
Additional Child(ren), 5+	\$1,000. Each		* The default option: August to June payments.	

Early Education for 3- and 4-Year-Old Students (Based on 38 Weeks In School)

Program Schedule	Total Tuition Pre-K3	Total Tuition Pre-K4	10 Monthly Remittances	11 Monthly Remittances*
5 Full Days (Monday through Friday)	\$ 6,395.	\$ 6,100.	\$ 639.50 or \$ 610.00	\$ 581.36 or \$ 554.55
5 Half Days (Mon. through Fri., 7:50 to 11:20 AM)	\$ 3,850.	\$ 3,670.	\$ 385.00 or \$ 367.00	\$ 350.00 or \$ 333.64
3 Full Days (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)	\$ 4,985.	\$ 4,755.	\$ 498.50 or \$ 475.50	\$ 453.18 or \$ 432.27
3 Half Days (M-W-F, 7:50 AM to 11:20 AM)	\$ 3,000.	<i>Please inquire if interested.</i>	\$ 300.00 (for Pre-K3)	\$ 272.73 (for Pre-K3)
<i>Please note: We do offer multi-child discounts for Pre-K.</i>				* The default option: August to June payments.

Good Shepherd Catholic School has a nonrefundable **\$200 registration fee per family**. Our registration and tuition fees are all-inclusive; we do not have any additional book, technology or fundraising fees. **The cost to educate a student at GSC** is around **\$6500** for each full-time student. This cost is offset by a subsidy from Queen of Peace Parish (for K-8 students) and is reduced further by the success of our fundraisers to calculate our tuition rates. We encourage all families to apply for financial aid through FACTS, sponsored by Business Leaders Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS) in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and The Foundation For Catholic Education, based in West Chester, PA. You can find the specific information about Tuition Assistance on the school's Website.

Tuition payments for the 2023-2024 school year will commence on August 1, 2023, for all students, and will continue through to May 1 or June 1, 2024, depending upon your monthly remittance term selection (10 or 11 months). **The default set-up is 11 months, August to June.** You also can choose to start payments in July and pay your family's tuition over 12 months, and you can ask to have your payment due on the 15th of the month instead of the 1st. Good Shepherd Catholic will be switching to FACTS Education Solutions for school management – student information and tuition collection – for the 2023-2024 school year. We will communicate their tuition management policies, including any information about administrative and late fees, when we have the specifics available to share. Thank you for your financial investment in – and commitment to – GSC!