

Dear Friends of Sacred Heart School,

While the school year has just come to a close, we are already anticipating the start of the 2021-2022 school year at SHS! The past year and a half was certainly a struggle, as it was for many schools, but what shone more than anything else in the time of crisis we all just experienced was all that our Catholic Schools are capable of and how much they are needed in the world today.

That reality of hope and possibility was met with fiscal realities that were unmatched and unpredicted. The pandemic has placed a strain on our parish and the Diocese that needs to be confronted now more than ever.

As we move forward with new and exciting programs within the building at SHS, we also want to build a more sustainable future. We have survived some truly challenging times through the generosity of our wonderful parish and the support of the Diocese. For that, I am eternally grateful. As Father John and I truly love this school, we feel the time has come to be a bit more intentional about how we support and sustain this important ministry of our parish.

Over the past few months, we have worked on a plan to do just that. It is outlined for you below for you to review and discern how you can be a part of this plan. In summary, our goal is to build an alternate revenue stream (independent from parish funds) as well as build our student population. Creating an alternate revenue stream will take the financial burden off of our parish, making it possible for our Church to strengthen other ministries and make Diocesan payables. Increasing our enrollment first and foremost lends to the quality of education. Students thrive with many diverse students around them! However, increasing the student population also decreases the cost of education. For instance, a classroom with 12 versus a class of 18 students yields a difference in income for the school of approximately \$35k. This can significantly decrease the need for subsidy from streams other than tuition.

Please review the plan below and give prayerful consideration to how you can play a role in sustaining our school.

Building an Alternate Revenue Stream

In a typical year, the parish can subsidize the school about \$150k. May I stop here and commend our parish for your exceeding generosity. Thank you for being generous enough with our Parish for our Parish to in turn be generous with our school! With the recent increase in enrollment, our projected subsidy for the upcoming year is approximately \$110k.

Our parish, while happy to support the school, has set a goal of raising \$100K annually apart from weekly giving to be directed specifically to the school. We are proposing a 3-pronged approach to accomplishing this:

I. Commitments from Major Donors:

We are seeking several investors who are committed to Catholic Education who can commit to annual gifts of 1-5K to our school over the next 3-5 years. Father John and I are meeting with some potential donors this summer, but if you feel that you can give in the category or know of someone who can, please let us know! We are looking to yield about \$25k annually from these generous givers.

II. A Little from A Lot is...A LOT!

We will continue to rely on our beautiful parish to support our school. We are asking that you consider increasing your weekly giving, even by just a few dollars, to help support our school. In time, you will see an envelope added to your monthly envelopes in order to specifically dedicate your donation to our school. We are looking to gain \$15k total in increased giving from the Parish Community to direct to our Parish School.

III. A Development Team

We are looking for a team of dedicated individuals to plan and execute 4-6 high yielding fundraising events throughout the year. Events like our annual Gala, a Fall Festival, Fashion Show, Casino Night, etc. are examples of the types of events we would be running. The goal of this committee would be to raise \$60k over the course of these events throughout the year. If you have skills, ideas, or passion in this area, please let us know!

Building our Student Population

We are thrilled to say that our student population is projected to increase by approximately 15 students in the upcoming school year! Our goal for long-term sustainability is an additional 20 students beyond that. This means merely adding 2-3 students per grade level (on average). While we welcome new students at all grade levels, we are especially looking for students in K, 1st, and 4th grades.

To that end, we will be hosting an Open House focusing specifically on those grades (though all are welcome!) on Thursday, July 22nd from 5:30-7:30pm. Come see our classrooms and meet our teachers! See the difference that a faith-based education can make in your child's life.

If you have ever considered Catholic Education, or know of a family who is looking for the right fit in their child's education, this is the time to try Sacred Heart School! We have been able to secure significant support to any new student registering between now and September, including \$1000 off the first year's tuition per child in

grades K-8. Should you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us!

As you can see, we have great plans for our sweet school! We hope that you will be a part of them with your time, talent, and treasure!

In the meantime, please keep our parish school in your prayers—especially the sanctity and vocation of each student entrusted to our care!

Thank you!

Sincerely in Christ,
Kathryn