



Saint Bridget Parish School

135 E. Division Street

River Falls, WI 54022

715/425-1872 www.saintbridgets.org/school

St. Bridget Parish School is a welcoming, innovative Catholic community which focuses on faith, family, and individual academic excellence-fostering living examples of God's presence in our world.

Dear St. Bridget School Families,

January 16, 2024

Many exciting things are happening in and around St. Bridget Parish School this month!

Student Council has been working hard with staff to plan Catholic Schools Week. After gathering suggestions and input from their peers they put together a proposal to present to us as principals. We look forward to sharing our final plans with you soon!

Three people this month have expressed interest in becoming our next principal. If you know of anyone qualified and interested in leading our great school please invite them to prayerfully consider applying. Teachers and staff are continuing their own education as they learn from other teaching professionals during no school / inservice days.

Gala planning is in full swing. Students and staff are working together to create classroom creations for the auction and we have many amazing donations arriving daily. Volunteers are working together to plan all the details of this amazing night which supports our parish. Get your tickets now so you don't miss it!

St. Bridget Parish School registration will be opening soon for the 2024-25 school year. Below are a few things we would like to bring to your attention regarding the 2024-25 school year.

- ❖ School lunch prices plan to remain the same as this school year.
- ❖ Before & after school care pricing will remain the same. Before care will now begin at 6:30am rather than 7am.
- ❖ There will be a non-refundable \$100 registration fee for returning students who register on or after March 1st. This fee will be applied towards tuition. Families should register before March 1st to avoid this fee.
- ❖ There will be a non-refundable \$100 registration fee for new students who register by February 29th. This fee will increase to \$200 for new students who register on or after March 1st. This fee will be applied towards tuition.
- ❖ This year we have updated the registration information form and have included a tuition contract for families to sign as a commitment. This commitment allows us to confidently get planning underway for the 2024-25 school year.

Student registration has a direct impact on staffing. The sooner a family registers, the sooner we are able to present teachers with a contract for the following school year. This helps us retain the wonderful staff we currently have and recruit new staff as well.

The cost to educate a student at St. Bridget during the 2023-24 school year was approximately \$7,748. We are anticipating an increase of 5% Parish wide in operating expenses over the next year. As a result, we have determined that an increase in tuition is necessary to help offset some of these costs. Please know that prayerful consideration was put into making these decisions. We are hopeful that projecting a 5% increase to overall expenses will help give our dedicated teachers a little more compensation for all they do to make a difference in the lives of our students each and every day.

Tuition increases are used to compensate our dedicated teachers, make improvements to our school and continue the high level of education and development we provide to our students each and every day. You will see the most significant increase in tuition is for our youngest learners in Preschool and PreK. This change was made to align with neighboring schools and programs. We will continue to offer full day Preschool and PreK options of either 5 days per week or 3 days per week.

Tuition is also increasing for students in Kindergarten through 8th Grade. You will notice that there is now a difference in the price of tuition between St. Bridget Parishioners and Non-Parishioners. Again, please know that prayerful consideration was put into making this decision. It was ultimately determined that because Parish subsidizes 34% of the schools operating budget, it felt appropriate to ask those not active in the Parish to contribute more tuition.

We understand that the costs of living is increasing for all family households. If your family would benefit from a Tuition Grant please know these options are available for those who qualify. The tuition grant forms are available in the school office and are kept confidential. St. Bridget Parish Church and School remain committed to providing a vibrant Catholic education and experience for all students enrolled. Tuition, along with fundraising, the ongoing commitment of the parish subsidy, and the support of our community will ensure ongoing success.

We look forward to the remaining four months or so of learning and growing together as we continue to create our wonderful St. Bridget legacy.

Father Joe Stefancin
St. Bridget Pastor

Mike Leary & Dannel Nordstrom
St. Bridget Parish School Principals

Barrett Grove
St. Bridget Parish Administrator