

# St. Francis School Newsletter

St. Francis Xavier School, with family partnership is dedicated to the development of the whole child through the spiritual and academic excellence of Catholic education.

March 15, 2024

## A message from our principal...

Dear Families,

Spring Break begins after the school day on March 21st. This also marks the end of the 3rd quarter. Holy Week falls during our Spring Break this year. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and lasts through Holy Saturday. As Catholics, Holy Week is the most significant week of the liturgical calendar. Throughout our school, our students are learning how this is an important time for prayer and reflection on Jesus' great sacrifice and His boundless love and mercy in anticipation for the joy of the Easter season.

There is no school on Easter Monday, and we return to school on Tuesday, April 2nd. Teachers will be finalizing 3rd quarter grades the week we return from Spring Break and printing report cards the following week. Report cards will be sent home on Friday, April 12th.

### Tuition Rates

Coming up in April, the new tuition rates for the 2024-25 school year will be set. The process involves making projections on school operating costs, and tuition revenue based on the projected number of students. The tuition rates and budget is brought before the parish finance council, and once approved shared with school families and constituents.

### Parking meter enforcement

I know that enforcement by the city of the metered parking on Michigan Street during school hours and at school dismissal continues to be a source of frustration.

Earlier this year, the directors of parking attended our October School Advisory Committee and heard from our committee members at that time. At that time, the only resolution was that parents would be offered to purchase tags if they were in their vehicles. Recently, a school parent met with members of the Downtown Management Board and voiced concerns on behalf of parents.

### A message from Fr. Greg:

Take the high road, not just for the sake of our school image, but for the sake of setting a healthy example for the kids. If we model the wrong kind of behavior, then that pattern will inevitably be picked up by the children. We're being identified as the light of the world in Matthew 5:14. But we're making the world a darker place when we take the harsh approach.

We can continue to engage the city on this issue. But it needs to be done in the right way. Don't let it make you less than what you are called to be. Be graceful.

-Fr. Greg

### Teacher Requests

This time of year, we begin to prepare for the next school year. One aspect of preparation is to create class list. Some parents may consider a teacher request for students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade to take into consideration the individual needs of their child. Our teachers meet each year to carefully place each student. Factors such as academic abilities, learning styles, balanced class sizes, gender, and avoiding personality conflicts of the students in the class are all taken into account. Our student handbook states:

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“The main priority as we split classes for the upcoming year is to look for the right balance of personalities and academic levels that will create a strong classroom community. We will also take into account other requests that may come in and will try to honor your request the best we can. We ask that requests be made to the principal in writing no later than **April 1st** .”

Please respect the efforts of our staff in creating the class lists. The process is a task that is completed with a great deal of deliberation. We will try to honor class requests as much as possible, but sometimes circumstances prevent us from honoring every request. Once the class lists are finalized, we will not make exceptions in changing class placements. Your understanding in this endeavor is appreciated.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Spring Break.

Yours in Christ,

Adam Dobrowolski, principal

## 2024-2025 Enrollment

All enrollment forms are due to the office by May 1st. If you wish to apply for financial aid parents must be registered, active, contributing parishioners and have no past debt incurred with the parish for tuition or offertory contribution, and must provide proof of the child's baptism. You must be registered at St. Francis or your local parish, attend

mass regularly and contribute \$250.00 through the offertory each fiscal year (July 1st-June30th).

You will also see a \$150 enrollment fee charged to your FACTS account towards the end of the school year, unless you have already paid it.

The process for financial aid is online. Parents can log on to: [online.factsmgmt.com/aid](https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid) to complete the online application.

If you have never set up a FACTS account, please create an account. If you already have an account, sign in under your user name and password. After you fill out all your information, upload or fax supporting documentation (866-315-9264) or mail to: FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment, P.O. Box 82524, Lincoln, NE 68501-2524. You also must submit your payment before your application will be reviewed.

**Applications must be submitted prior to **May 15, 2024** in order to be considered for aid. If you have questions or concerns about the application process, you may speak with a FACTS Customer Care Representative at 866-441-4637.**

## LOOKING AHEAD...

- 3/21 3rd marking period ends
- 3/22 No School, Spring Break
- 3/29 Good Friday
- 3/31 Easter
- 4/2 Return to school
- 4/18 Pre-K, DK & Kindergarten Round-Up, 5:30-6:30 AND Middle School info night
- 4/19 1st Grade Raffle & all-school non-uniform