



February 2017

Dear Catholic School Parents,

First and foremost, thank you for the sacrifices you make to enroll your child in Catholic school. We know for many families this isn't easy, and we are truly humbled by the trust you have placed in us and by the commitment that we share to offer your daughter or son a quality academic, moral and religious education.

As part of that commitment, Bishop McElroy commissioned a special Task Force for Schools last year to propose ways we could improve the quality of our schools and to help make them an even more attractive option for families than they are now.

Two of their recommendations have been approved.

The first recommendation moving forward is to work with parishes without schools in creating ways for these parishes to make concrete financial contributions to Catholic education. These funds would be used for tuition assistance and other forms of direct support that reflect the benefit our entire Catholic community receives from the vitality and participation of Catholic school students in the life of the Church.

The second is a new \$25 per-student fee that will be collected in addition to regular tuition, starting next school year. That fee will be used for enhanced administrative training in marketing and enrollment management, development for schools, and far better data collection and assessment tools that will help us identify students and schools that could use extra help, thus giving them the targeted support they need in order to succeed. It will also help us to better identify top performers so that we can invest and grow these schools, as well as spread best practices throughout all the schools in our diocese.

We are excited by the promise that both of these initiatives hold for elevating the overall quality of our Catholic schools and we look forward to seeing your students in the next school year. Thank you for all that you do for Catholic schools. Know that you remain in my prayers daily.

In Mission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Galvan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Galvan
Director, Office for Schools