



Let our spirit shine through!

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Dear School Families,

7-27-23

We are writing to share exciting news with you that benefits ALL Catholic school students (K-12) in the Diocese. Thanks to the recent expansion of the Ohio Department of Education EdChoice Scholarship Program, every IHM student (K-8) now qualifies to receive a state tuition scholarship of up to \$6,165/year! Awards are based on a sliding scale, but regardless of income EVERY FAMILY can receive a scholarship.

Not only will this positively impact the lives of our IHM families, but our entire school community. Because this new legislation is so universal and beneficial to all private schools and Catholic parishes across the Diocese, we hope this removes any stigma that may have been attached to this scholarship in the past. Being in close communication with other parishes, Superintendent Frank O'Linn, Finance Council and Diocesan staff through the Keeping the Faith initiative, we are seeing many schools exploring these changes, if they haven't implemented them already.

So that your family can benefit from this opportunity, our school is currently completing the application necessary to become an EdChoice Provider this year. We will share further details with you as they become available. In the meantime, please continue to make your FACTS tuition payments as scheduled.

Please know, Immaculate Heart of Mary School will remain a "Catholic" school. Presently our enrollment for 2023-2024 is approximately 90% Catholic and 10% children of other faiths. While Catholic Schools are certainly an opportunity for evangelization, we are and will be taking this percentage seriously as we move forward with the benefits of receiving these scholarships.

Mrs. Seislove and I will continue to support a "Catholic's first" admission policy of small classroom size (ideally 20-23), appropriate academic records of student performance, and space availability. We will take advantage of receiving these scholarships while adhering to a strong admission policy. We are not changing who we are at IHM, we are simply making tuition more affordable!

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding this summer as, together, we navigate the steps necessary to maximize the potential benefit of the EdChoice Scholarship for your child, our school, and parish. We hope to have all applications turned in by mid-September and our goal is to make these next steps as easy for you as possible.

Lastly, and in anticipation of having more details and firm instructions from the Diocese to share with you, we will hold an EdChoice Scholarship Information meeting on Thursday, August 24th at 6pm in the GYM. Zoom meetings will also be organized for Parent Q&A sessions in the coming weeks (TBD).

More communication and instructions on how to complete the application will be forthcoming! Please keep our dedicated staff in your prayers as we work through this exciting opportunity.

Rev. James E. Singler,
Pastor

Bibiana Seislove,
Principal