



NATIVITY PARISH SCHOOL

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Dear Nativity Parish School Families,

Every one of us is acutely aware of the national and global economic meltdown currently underway. The deepening recession is affecting businesses across the spectrum, including non-profit organizations, parishes, public and parochial schools. Nativity Parish and School are no exceptions. I would like to share some information about how this situation is affecting our parish and school and the steps we have taken to protect this parish and secure its success for many years to come.

The Finance Council, Parish Council, Father Ron and I have spent several months wrestling with difficult decisions. The good news is, because of current and past financial decisions, our parish is in good financial condition thanks to the generosity of parishioners. However, adjustments need to be made as we have seen our expenses exceed our revenue over the last few years.

A detailed report of the current financial conditions will be inserted into the Church bulletin this weekend and posted on the parish and school websites. The website address for the Parish is www.kcnativity.org, and the school's site can be found at <https://kcnativity.eduk12.net/>. The reports are called *Nativity Financial Condition Memo*, *Nativity School Family Budget Letter* and *Nativity Parish Budget (PowerPoint file)*. I feel it is important to give the school families a preview and explain how certain decisions will affect the school.

Adjustments made specifically to the school for next year are as follows:

- In order to balance the school budget we are charging a \$350 per child surcharge not to exceed \$1050 or three children. This fee will be due by August 1, 2009. Next year, grades 4, 5 and 8 will consolidate from three classrooms per grade to two classrooms per grade.
- Many parents have expressed the difficulties with larger class sizes in the past at Nativity. The difference now is that we have four extra teachers as support staff for the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades as opposed to only one for the entire building in years past.
- Larger class sizes will result in a quality Catholic education only if the support systems are in place to accommodate different student's needs. These systems are in place, and we will add additional teacher's aides as needed.

- Our existing Student Support Team will remain intact, and they will continue to devote their time to assisting teachers with differentiating classroom instruction as well as assisting with small groupings.
- We will suspend the purchasing of textbooks for one year. (Typically we purchase a new set of textbooks each year rotating them among subject areas.) We will purchase consumable student workbooks as in previous years.
- Due to demographic changes in the area, class sizes for incoming kindergarten classes will be capped at 50 students. After 50 students, a waiting list will be developed and another class will be added only if we reach a number to sustain the cost of an additional teacher.
- Kindergarten, 1st and possibly 2nd grades will remain three classes, with the exception of next year's 1st grade class. Our current enrollment only supports two classes. It is essential that we have small class sizes for the younger students as they build the important foundations that support them while learning to read. Due to a healthy kindergarten enrollment, we will have three kindergarten classes in 2009-2010.
- Every line item in the school budget was scrutinized to reduce or eliminate any costs that do not relate directly to the education of the students.
- Some of the special teacher's schedules have been reconfigured to allow the same amount of student contact time in class, but reduce the number of hours the teacher is at school.
- All salaries have been frozen for the 2009-2010 school year.

Although this was a very difficult process, it was a healthy one for us to go through. In scrutinizing the existing budget, it became evident that there were areas that needed to be examined closely. I feel good about what we have done in light of this difficult situation.

On April 28th, in the parish hall, a town hall meeting is scheduled to answer questions you may have regarding this issue. Finance Council members, Parish Council members, Father Ron and I will be present.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this process. We wanted our communications to be clear and concise. I hope this letter and attached materials will help explain the process and the decisions made to insure the quality and financial stability of Nativity Parish School.

God bless,

Maureen Huppe
Principal