



# ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SCHOOL

WE LEARN. WE WORSHIP. WE SERVE.

January 24, 2025

Dear Parents,

This letter informs you of significant enrollment news for St. Charles Borromeo School that will take effect in Fall 2025. As a ministry of the parish, every year, our school operates at a substantial deficit to educate the children of St. Charles Borromeo. Parochial schools operate at a deficit, and parishes cover the gap between the cost of education and tuition as a means to fulfill the Church's mission to evangelize. For the last ten years, the parish has been operating with an average subsidy of 60% of the parish's collected revenue each year. For the 2023 - 2024 school year, this figure reached above \$700,000, over 70% of the parish's offertory collection revenue. For reference, the Archdiocese of St. Louis recommends 30% as a healthy subsidy rate for the viability of both parishes and schools. In December, Archbishop Rozanski informed pastors that parochial schools operating at that significant of a deficit necessitate involvement from Archdiocesan leadership. The following decree was communicated to pastors and principals shortly before Christmas:

*In a circumstance in which a parish has spent 5% or more of its unrestricted parish savings and/or in a circumstance in which a parish is spending 50% or more of its annual Sunday Offering for the sole purpose of operating its parochial school, the expressed permission of the Archbishop, in consultation with the Episcopal Vicar, is required before contracts may be offered to educators for the following academic year.*

*This decree is effective January 15, 2025*

To comply with this decree, the school must take action to move towards a tenable parish subsidy. One area of particular focus is the high cost of operating two classrooms per grade without enrollment to sustain revenue.

In consultation with the appropriate Archdiocesan officials, we have decided the school will enroll one kindergarten homeroom of 25 students for Fall 2025. The school may open another kindergarten homeroom if the enrollment for kindergarten reaches 40 students. The two current kindergarten homerooms will be combined into one first-grade homeroom for Fall 2025. If the first-grade enrollment reaches 40 students, the school may open another first-grade homeroom.

These decisions, while difficult, are necessary to ensure the viability of St. Charles Borromeo for years to come. We acknowledge parents' sacrifices to give their children a Catholic education and form them in the ways of faith. United in the Holy Spirit, we are committed to continuing our mission while striving to be good stewards of our resources.

Dr. Dan Mullenschlager  
Principal

Fr. James Theby  
Pastor