



February 20, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Besides the gift of life, the greatest gift parents or guardians can give children is the gift of faith. We are very glad that you have chosen to send your child(ren) to a Catholic elementary school. It reflects both your commitment to raise your child(ren) in the Catholic faith, as well as your willingness to make the sacrifices associated with the financial obligations related to enrolling your child(ren) in a parochial school.

At its recent board meeting, the Quincy Catholic Elementary Schools Executive Board discussed at great length the issue of tuition and fees for the 2009-2010 school year. As a result, the board decided on a modest increase in tuition of \$100 for the single student rate and \$250 for the family rate. Please review the enclosed fact sheet for all tuition rates. There will be no increase, however, in the instructional fee, if it is paid by March 31, 2009.

In making their decision, board members took into account the current economic situation and balanced that concern with the anticipated increases in operating expenses for the four Catholic elementary schools (i.e., salary increases for faculty and staff established by the diocese, increased costs for benefits such as health insurance, increased utility costs, etc.). While the board recognized that any increase will impact our school families, such an increase is necessary to maintain the quality of our academic programs and to ensure the long-term viability of our four elementary schools.

Please be aware that it is the desire of all four pastors to have every Catholic child in Quincy enrolled in one of our four Catholic elementary schools. It is also our desire, along with that of each school principal, to work with every family to the greatest extent possible to make a Catholic education affordable and attainable.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with your individual financial need concerns. We realize every family's circumstance is different, and while we must establish general guidelines and policies, we want to do our very best to accommodate, to the greatest extent possible, any special needs that may exist for a family.

If, after reading this letter, you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to contact either your parish priest or your school principal, both of whom are partners with parents and guardians in providing a Catholic education to every family that wishes to enroll their children.

Thank you for choosing a Catholic elementary school education for your child(ren).

May God bless you and your family,

Fr. John Burnette
St. Peter Parish

Fr. Tom Hagstrom
St. Anthony Parish

Fr. Kurt Hartrich
St. Francis Parish

Fr. Mike Kuse
Blessed Sacrament Parish

Mrs. Janet Bick
St. Peter School

Mrs. Sue Kelley
St. Dominic School

Mr. Lee Hoffman
St. Francis School

Mrs. Chris Reichert
Blessed Sacrament School

Quincy Catholic Elementary Schools Financial Fact Sheet for 2009-2010

Quincy Catholic Elementary Schools Tuition Rates for 2009-2010

The cost to educate per child will exceed \$4,200 for 2009-2010

	<u>Registered Parishioner</u>	<u>Non-Catholic before 2005</u>	<u>Non-Catholic Enrolled after 2005</u>
One Child	\$1950	\$2550	\$3900 per Child
Family	\$2750	\$3350	

The 2009-2010 Instructional Fee for Quincy Catholic Elementary Schools

- The instructional fee will remain at \$175 per child if paid in full by the deadline of March 31, 2009.
- After March 31, the instructional fee will increase to \$275 per child.
- It is crucial that the **non-refundable** instructional fee be paid in full by the March 31 deadline, as it is the single best indicator of how many students each of the schools can anticipate in the fall, which then allows each school to make the necessary staffing decisions in a timely manner for both the staff and the school.

The Average Cost to Educate a Child in a Quincy Catholic Elementary School

- The average cost of child care for one school-age child in the Quincy area is ***\$21 per day**.
- The average cost to educate a child in a Quincy Catholic elementary school is approximately **\$24 per day**.
- The single student tuition rate of \$1,950, when broken down by the day, is **\$11 per day**.
- The daily rate for our family tuition rate of \$2,750 is **\$15.60 per day**.
- Catholic elementary school tuition is quite a bargain, and the value of this education is much more substantial.

Initiatives In Place to Help Offset the Cost of QCES Tuition

- Participation in the **Gene Grawe Education Fund** will provide direct assistance to families through a tuition credit to the Catholic school of their choice. *It is important to note that to be eligible to request financial assistance for the 2010-2011 school year when filing the PSAS form, a family will have to participate in the Gene Grawe Education Fund during the next program/school year (2009-2010).*
- The **QCES/WCU Tuition Assistance Fund** allows the four parishes to maintain their commitment to meet 100% of a parish family's tuition assistance needs, as determined by the PSAS.
- Parents of parochial school students in Illinois are eligible for the **Illinois Education Tax Credit for Private School Tuition and Fees**. This tax credit provision allows parents to write off 25% of their eligible education expenses for their own children, up to a maximum credit of \$500. Eligible expenses include tuition, book fees, and lab fees in excess of \$250.

*The average daily rate for childcare was based on weekly rates provided by Blessing Hospital Child Care Center, Caywood's Youth Center, and Kiddie Korner Day Care.