

Opening Prayer

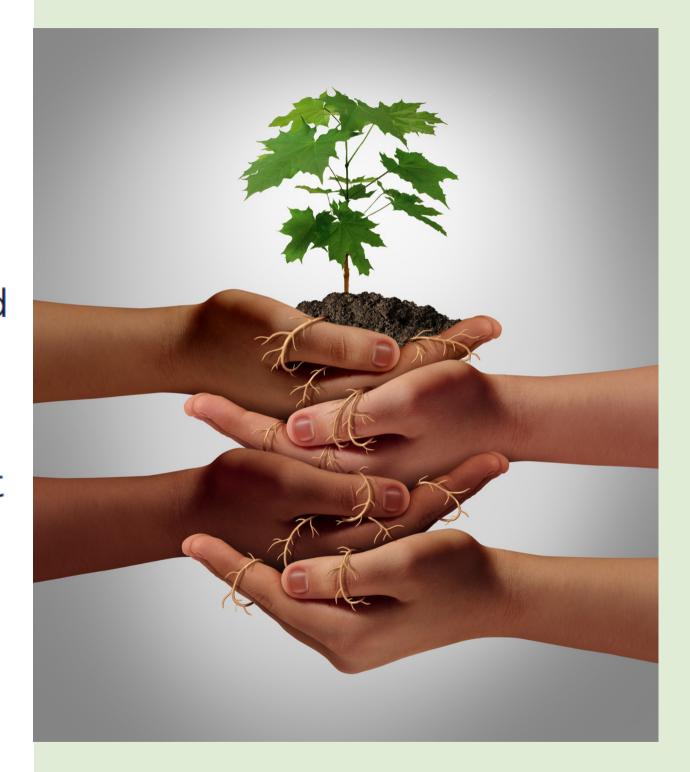
We give thanks for the generosity of many in our communities, who every day share their gifts and talents with others:

We give thanks for the opportunity to come together daily, to learn, share, and grow in a common ministry of peace and love.

We give thanks for the school choice opportunities in Ohio, and the legislators, advocates, and constituents that made it possible.

We give thanks for the leaders, teachers, students and families in Catholic school communities, for the prayers, work, and the service of all those in Catholic education.

Lord, we thank you for the bountiful love and divine providence, through your Son, Jesus, now and forever. AMEN





Welcome & Introductions:

Fr. John Singler, Pastor Mrs. Lisa De Core, Principal Mr. A.J. Volpe, Parent

Today's Purpose.....

- Provide Updates on EdChoice/EdChoice Expansion
- Support families with the application process
- Review the restructuring of
 St. Mary School tuition & impact on families
- Discuss the impact of state scholarships for SMS.
- Answer questions and clarify potential misconceptions

EdChoice Updates

- Universal Choice all families eligible on a sliding scale
- Full award amounts increased
 - o K-8: **\$6,165**
 - 9-12: \$8,407
- Expansion open to all families
- Cleveland scholarship remains, updated amounts, no geographic limitations.
- Those who qualify for Traditional and Expansion can choose (i.e. can get the higher amount, if applicable).

2023-2024 EdChoice Eligibility & Awards

Household 2022 Adjusted Gross Income (Line 11 of Form 1040)								
Household Size	450% FPL	500% FPL	550% FPL	600% FPL	650% FPL	700% FPL	750% FPL	Above 750% FPL
2	\$88,740	\$98,600	\$108,460	\$118,320	\$128,180	\$138,040	\$147,900	\$147,900 +
3	\$111,870	\$124,300	\$136,730	\$149,160	\$161,590	\$174,020	\$186,450	\$186,450 +
4	\$135,000	\$150,000	\$165,000	\$180,000	\$195,000	\$210,000	\$225,000	\$225,000 +
5	\$158,130	\$175,700	\$193,270	\$210,840	\$228,410	\$245,980	\$263,550	\$263,550 +
6	\$181,260	\$201,400	\$221,540	\$241,680	\$261,820	\$281,960	\$302,100	\$302,100 +
7	\$204,390	\$227,100	\$249,810	\$272,520	\$295,230	\$317,940	\$340,650	\$340,650 +
8	\$227,520	\$252,800	\$278,080	\$303,360	\$328,640	\$353,920	\$379,200	\$379,200 +
Per Child Award Amount	K-8: \$6,165 9-12: \$8,407	K-8: \$5,200 9-12: \$7,050	K-8: \$3,650 9-12: \$5,000	K-8: \$2,600 9-12: \$3,550	K-8: \$1,850 9-12: \$2,500	K-8: \$1,300 9-12: \$1,750	K-8: \$900 9-12: \$1,250	K-8: \$650 9-12: \$950

*Percentages based on 2023 Federal Poverty Levels (FPL)

EdChoice Updates

- Families who qualify for low-income status (at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines) do not have to pay any tuition that is not covered by the scholarship. Fees are permissible.
- Income verification is not required to apply for a Traditional EdChoice Scholarship. Families may qualify for low-income status in the Traditional EdChoice Scholarship program if they choose to have their income verified.
- The vast majority of St. Mary School families will be applying for the EdChoice Expansion program.
 - What is the difference between the two scholarships?
 - Who Qualifies for EdChoice Traditional Scholarship vs. EdChoice Expansion Scholarship: <u>EdChoice FY24 Fact Sheet</u>

Important Dates....

August 29 - Provide SMS the Following Scholarship Documentation:

- EdChoice/EdChoice Expansion Request Form
- Copy of Child's Birth Certificate
- Recent Utility Bill Within 90 days

August 29 - On the ODE Site:

- Create OH-ID
- Complete Income Verification
- Upload Required Income Support Documents
 Oct. 14th ODE Deadline For Apps.

Continue....Important Dates:

Open Office Hours - Scholarship Assistance:

August 1st - 8 am to 12 pm

August 3rd - 3 pm to 6 pm

August 8th - 8 am to 12 pm

August 10th - 3 pm to 6 pm

Summer Office Hours:

8/14 to 8/28 from 9 am to 12 pm

Regular School Office Hours:

Begins 8/29 - from 7:30 am to 4 pm

Cont...Support Options:

Live Meeting - August 2nd - 7 pm - St. Mary Church (Live streamed through parish website)

Live Meeting - August 27th - 12 pm - Discovery Hall

<u>Additional Support:</u>

- Email Mrs. De Core at ldecore@smsberea
- Email Fr. John at frjsingler@stmaryberea.org
- Email A.J. Volpe at ajvolpe1@gmail.com

ODE and SMS Communications

- Two different portals ODE and SMS
- Look for communication from both offices
- Don't panic: The ODE and SMS are busy at inputting and reviewing all scholarship applications
- Be understanding: We are giving great attention to each and everyone's questions, concerns, and applications
- Work together: We will get through this process together!
- SMS can't see the parent portal it is confidential

Restructuring Tuition:

Cost to Education - The per pupil expenditure

Tuition - The rate charged per pupil to attend

Parent Commitment - The amount parents pay toward tuition

Scholarship - An awarded amount that is posted toward the tuition amount

Next Steps Regarding Tuition Agreements:

- No one will pay any more than what was agreed upon on the initial 2023-24 Tuition Agreements
 - See handouts
- A good majority of families will have a reduced Parent Commitment
- Families will meet with SMS office staff to walk through the restructure of the new Parent Commitment based on Scholarship amounts awarded.

Cont...Next Steps Regarding Tuition Agreements:

- FACTS: July 1st was the first tuition payment
 - Payments made through FACTS will be part of the tuition restructuring. Reimbursements will be made to families accordingly based on the scholarship amounts awarded and parent commitment
- Reimbursement Time Frame: The time frame will be based on when scholarships are awarded and funds are received by the state.

Answer Previously Asked Questions:

- Why did the announcement of the scholarships and change in the tuition structure happen so late?
- What will St. Mary School/Parish do with the extra revenue generated by the state scholarships?
- Will state scholarships be around in the future?
- Will the school/parish honor keeping education affordable in future years?
- How will the opportunity of scholarships impact enrollment at St. Mary School?

<u>Answer Previously Asked Questions:</u>

- During the school year, families were informed that tuition would be raised \$100.00 per student. Why the drastic increase in tuition since the new Ohio laws regarding scholarships?
- When applying to EdChoice Expansion, do we have to complete the income verification process?
- How do parents complete the income verification process?
- What forms need to be turned into the office?
- Is the EdChoice Traditional/Expansion renewable?

<u>Answer Previously Asked Questions & Clarifying Points:</u>

- EdChoice checks are made out to the parent and sent to the school each month after attendance has been entered into the EdChoice system. Ordinarily parents will need to sign the check for the school to deposit. Some schools are using a limited power of attorney for parents to sign which allows them to deposit the checks into the school account for the parents, without their signature on each check.
- EdChoice scholarships can only be applied towards the posted tuition rate up to the scholarship amount. Any surplus would return to the State and not to the parent.

Additional Questions:

Email to Fr. John, A.J. Volpe and/or Mrs. De Core Keep communication open Prayer THANK YOU