



**Holy Spirit**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Inspiring Minds* | Igniting Hearts

Mrs. Maureen Ashby,  
Principal

8800 Braddock Road, Annandale, Virginia 22003  
(P) 703.978.7117 (F) 703.978.7438  
[www.HolySpiritFlames.org](http://www.HolySpiritFlames.org)

December 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

As promised, provided with this letter are the tuition rates for the 2021/2022 academic year. Certainly planning the budget for the coming year presents a tremendous challenge given the number of “unknowns”, not the least of which is any restrictions we may face with regard to enrollment. Historically, we have always tackled the budget in as conservative a manner as possible, and we will continue to so do. We are blessed as a school community to have the level of financial support that we do from Father O’Donohue and the parish. Overall, tuition rates have been raised 3.5% for next year with no increase in either the book fee or technology fee. Both of these fees will continue to be non-refundable and will be rolled into the tuition collection. The activity fee (collected in full in August) and 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation fee remained static.

One of the biggest impacts on the school’s budget is faculty and staff salaries and benefits, including a significant annual increases in healthcare costs. We are blessed to have faculty who view their job at Holy Spirit as a vocation but we must provide a just wage to retain and attract quality teachers. The surrounding school systems offer salaries and benefits we cannot match and the Diocese as a whole loses a significant percentage of its state certified teachers each year. Currently we attempt to pay a nominal 5% above the Diocese of Arlington minimum for starting teachers. This pay scale does not keep up with what our teachers could be earning in the surrounding counties and I am indebted to each and every one of them.

As a parent with children who have both graduated from Diocesan schools, I fully recognize the sacrifices that many of you are making to provide your children with a Catholic education. I also recognize that many may be faced with the decision of whether you can continue to make this sacrifice. I ask that if you are considering withdrawing from Holy Spirit because of financial reasons that you let me know. During this school year with the combined efforts of the Diocese, school, PTO, parish and private donors we have been able to assist over one hundred students with over \$175,000 worth of aide. With the full support of Father O’Donohue, I am committed to the continuation of this assistance for our families in need.



Holy Spirit School inspires life-long learners and ignites servant-leaders through a program of academic excellence grounded in the traditions and values of the Holy Catholic Church.

***To be eligible for tuition assistance you must fill out the FACTS application. I strongly encourage you to do so. This is the first and primary source available to us for tuition assistance. The deadline is in January 2021 for families with students in both high school and elementary school and March 17, 2021 for families with only elementary school students. FACTS accounts may be created or accessed at <https://online.factsmgt.com>.***

As you have been apprised, current families will be considered re-enrolled for the upcoming academic year unless we receive an Intent Not To Return form by December 18, 2020. The \$100.00 non-refundable re-registration fee per child will be charged to each family's FACTS account with the January 2021 tuition draw.

I am always prayerful that this vibrant school community will continue to grow under the care and protection of our Lord! Thank you for your continued support of Holy Spirit School!

Blessings always,

*Maureen C. Ashby*

Principal