



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

301 E. ADAMS O'NEILL, NE 68763

May 15, 2020

Dear Friends and Family of St. Mary's,

As we have wrapped up the 2019-2020 school year, we are also looking ahead to the 2020-2021 school year. We have been blessed by the generosity of so many people who have continued to support St. Mary's School and its faith-based education. Your financial support enables us to continue to provide a quality, Christian education at an affordable level, by assisting with tuition expenses for many of our students and families. As we strive to advance with the current times, we still work to maintain a tuition that will be affordable.

Today, we ask you to consider a financial contribution towards the St. Mary's Scholarship & Catholic Education Grant Program. Through this program, as well as two larger estates that were established several years ago, we have been able to offer tuition assistance to many of our families, both for academic excellence (scholarships) and for those who are in need of financial assistance (grants). Last year, over \$20,000 was given to students as scholarships, and nearly \$53,000 was given in the form of grants. In fact, 47% of our families receive some form of financial support every year.

You can find the details of the St. Mary's Scholarship & Catholic Education Grant program on the back of this letter. We have not yet determined how we will present the scholarships as it is normally done in May before school is out, but we will publicly recognize each student for their award as well as list the donors as we have in the past. It really is a wonderful way to honor a loved one through a gift to this program.

Will you help another student continue their education at St. Mary's? If you would like to direct your gift specifically to a certain academic area, please indicate that on the form below. We ask that this form and the money be in to the parish office **June 15**. Once again, on behalf of our school, administration, staff, and school families, thank you very much for your support of St. Mary's Scholarship and Catholic Education Grant Program. Your financial gifts are deeply appreciated by our students and parents.

In gratitude,

Jennifer Wallwey

Jennifer Wallwey

Director of Development

Father Bernard Starman

President

Donor(s) Name: _____

_____ I would like to give \$_____ towards **SCHOLARSHIPS** for St. Mary's students.

_____ I would like to give \$_____ towards **GRANTS** for St. Mary's students.

Given in honor of : _____

Given in memory of: _____

Other Notes: _____

Checks should be made to St. Mary's Scholarships & Grants.

Please submit all gifts for scholarships and grants to the Development Director. All gifts are tax deductible.

SAINT MARY'S SCHOLARSHIP AND CATHOLIC EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

A) SCHOLARSHIPS: The scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year are based on 2019-2020 grades. A 'Scholarship' by its definition implies *"a monetary gift from an institution or donor for a student in recognition of their academic excellence or achievement."* Scholarships will be awarded to our students in four categories outlined below:

- a) All students who have earned a place on the **Principal's Honors List*** receive: **\$500**
- b) A student from each grade level with the **Pastor's Highest Theology Grade*** receives: **\$350**
- c) All students who have earned a place on the **Alpha Honors List*** receive: **\$250**
- d) A student from each grade level with the **Highest Grade in a Subject Area*** receives: **\$200**
(Science, Math, English, Spanish, Fine Arts and Social Studies)

**Criteria for each of these categories is shown below.*

It is possible that one student could be awarded one or more scholarships. A student will only receive a scholarship if he/she has earned that merit. All students who have received scholarships will be recognized, along with the donor's name and the scholarship awarded.

B) CATHOLIC EDUCATION GRANTS: All students/families are required to pay the full tuition at Saint Mary's as stipulated in Saint Mary's School Registration Form - there is no free tuition! **But in order that no child/family is deprived the opportunity to receive the gifts and graces of our Catholic, faith-based education, in addition to merit-based 'scholarships,' we also offer "Catholic Education Grants" to those in need.** This 'Grant' money is made available to students/families, in financial need, who submit a written, sealed application to the Pastor/President for financial assistance towards tuition. The amount of Grant assistance offered to an individual or family is based solely on the discretion of the Pastor/President. Out of respect for privacy, the students/families receiving our Catholic Education Grants *will not* be listed in the program, but *all our generous grant donors will be named in the program.*

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

A) Principal's Honor Roll: Students must achieve a 4.0 GPA for the 2019-2020 school year with no grade lower than an "A" for all courses and exams.

B) Pastor's Highest Theology Grade: Must be an A or minimum 3.5 to receive a scholarship. Determination is based on the "percentage" grade received. A 'tie' will be resolved by splitting the awarded scholarship with the respective students.

C) Alpha Honor Roll: Students must achieve a minimum GPA of 3.5 for the 2019-2020 school year with no grade lower than a "B" and earn a passing grade on all semester exams.

D) Highest Grade in Subject Area:

- i) Must be an A or minimum 3.5 to receive a scholarship in any subject area
- ii) Number of courses taken in a subject area with the highest combined GPA in that subject area.
- iii) Determination is based on the "percentage" grade received.
- iv) A 'tie' will be resolved by splitting the awarded scholarship with the respective students.
- v) Each individual student can receive no more than two (2) total awards in this category. If a student is eligible for more than 2 awards, those awards will then be given to the student with the next highest grade.