ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

4142 N. 61st Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68507 (402) 466-3710

J.M.J.

February 3rd, 2020

Dear Parents:

The Diocese of Lincoln was blessed to receive funding from a private foundation that provided the funds each year to pay for the technology, software and technical support personnel for our Catholic schools. This donation has averaged $1.5 million to $2 million per year. Their generosity and support of our Catholic schools cannot be under-estimated.

Thanks to their significant gift, a centralized Technology Department was created. Through the years, the Technology leadership team and their employees have been able to successfully guide the technical advancement in our schools and have kept our students and staff safe and secure in their use of technology and the Internet.

The donor funding will be winding down over three years and the financial support will end in the 2021-2022 school year. We are grateful for the donor's technical guidance and their steadfast support of Catholic Education. Moving forward, the funding of educational technology must increasingly be borne by the schools as part of normal operational costs. To that end, beginning in August 2020, the Diocese will introduce a fee to cover the expenses involved with providing educational technology to the schools.

The diocesan technology fee will be phased in over the next several years. A chart containing the fee structure for the next three years is below. To cover this cost, the $225 per student diocesan technology fee will be included in the cost of St. Patrick School tuition. Therefore, part of the increase in tuition the next three years will be to cover the technology fee. The chart below shows what part of our tuition is for the diocesan technology fee.

Education & Technology Office Three-year Fee Schedule

School Year:	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Education Office & Technology Fee	$385	$395	$410
Donor Support	-$160	-$65	$0
Final Fee – PER STUDENT	**$225**	**$330**	**$410**

We are continually focused on providing an excellent Catholic education to all of our students and a state-of-the art technology program that is safe and secure will always be an integral part of that effort. We are grateful for your continued support and for the sacrifices you make to send your children to Catholic school. Should you have any questions, please contact Fr. Troy Schweiger.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What does the Education Technology Department do and what does the fee pay for?

The role of the Education Technology Department is to provide equipment, guidelines and standards for school software, hardware, connectivity, security, safety, technical support and training for staff and students. The goal behind the technology initiative is to provide all diocesan schools with access to the same standardized technology and tools, rather than implementing programs and technologies that vary from one school to another. That's no small undertaking, as the initiative currently works to support and supply more than 8,600 users throughout 32 Catholic schools in the Lincoln Diocese with desktop and laptop computers, servers, SMART Boards, and iPads and other tablet computers. Specifically, the department is dedicated to these important areas:

1. **Training & Curriculum Integration** – More than 30 training sessions are offered to teachers throughout the school year and during the summer, helping teachers incorporate technology into the curriculum. There are two certified teachers, dedicated to staff training, available for on-site workshops. Schools have access to a school/student information system and electronic grade book software (PowerSchool), including implementation and support. In addition, new technologies are thoroughly vetted for educational impact before they are thoughtfully implemented into the local school curriculum.

2. **Internet Security & Child Protection** – The security of our students and staff is a priority. The Diocesan Wide Area Network (WAN) includes a firewall, anti-virus and spam protection and web content filtering as mandated by the Children's Internet Protection Act requirements (CIPA).

3. **Hardware** – Each school has at least one computer lab complete with workstations, Microsoft Office and all necessary client access licenses (some schools may receive iPad devices in lieu of lab computers) and electronic whiteboards. Teachers have their own computer, laptop or tablet for use in the classroom. Other hardware includes projectors, SMART boards, laser printers and iPads (carts, Apple TV, iPad).

4. **Software** – All schools are provided with Microsoft Windows, including necessary client access licenses, Internet connection with E-mail service and World Wide Web access.

5. **24-7 Technology Support & Maintenance** – All schools receive ongoing technical support and training in the effective use of hardware and software and around-the-clock support if technical problems occur.

The Education & Technology Fee will pay for: hardware, servers, tablets, lab computers and monitors, staff desktop upgrades, projectors, SMART boards, laser printers, iPads(carts, Apple TV), school software, network security, telecommunications, training and reference materials.

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How will the Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund help?

For families that apply and qualify for the Good Shepherd Scholarship based on financial need, the Education & Technology Office Fee would be added to the scholarship. Families will see a "scholarship" for the fee on their tuition statement.

Is the Technology Fee covered for the Family Tuition Cap Scholarship?

No, the Family Tuition Cap Scholarship does not include an additional scholarship for the technology fee. Families will be charged the technology fee for all students in grades K-12.