



FIAT CLASSICAL

A C A D E M Y

November 25, 2024

Dear Parents,

Board of Directors

Brad Macke, President
Paul Rousseau, Chairman
Lisa Hardig, Treasurer
Joe Weisbrod, Secretary
Fr. John Hollowell
Adam Iadipaolo
Scott Summe

We are grateful to assist you in imparting a comprehensive Catholic worldview and way of life to your sons and daughters. As our mission states:

Inspired by the joy and hope of St. John Paul II, Fiat Classical Academy offers young men and women an encounter with the one, true, good and beautiful through a Catholic liberal arts education which cultivates communion with God as we seek together the face of Christ.

Advisory Team

Fr. Eric Boelscher
Brad Bursa, Ph.D.
Fr. Christian Cone-
Lombarte
Tony Ertel
Michael Hanby, Ph.D.
Scott Hermes, J.D.
Joseph Hollowell, Ed.D.
Kate Iadipaolo
Fr. Jacob Lindle
Emily Macke
Fr. Daniel Mahan
Cheryl McCann
Fr. Jonathan Meyer
Joseph Molitor, Ph.D.
Eva Roll
Jeff Schutte
Andrew Sodergren,
Psy.D.
Dan Teller
Jim Waldon
Paul and Linda
Weckenbrock
Matthew Wiseman, Ph.D.

While we have been diligent in implementing this educational mission in our inaugural year, we have simultaneously been hard at work to provide for the fiscal needs of our school. Tuition is one of the sources in covering the cost to educate a Fiat student. At our November meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously set tuition for the 2025-2026 academic year at \$8,375 per student.

Here are considerations in the Board's rationale and decision making:

- We aim to continue to have tuition that is affordable to all families.
- Additionally, we are working on a financial aid program to start the 2025-2026 academic year to assist families who are unable to pay the full tuition.
- In consulting with other Catholic high school leaders, we are working toward a sustainable, long-term financial model.
- We also aim to compensate our faculty with a just wage, and in time, to begin offering reasonable benefits.
- When the 2024-2025 academic year's tuition was set, we did not yet have certainty that we would qualify for the Indiana Choice Scholarship.
- Our Indiana families are now receiving approximately \$6,100-\$6,600 per child from the Choice Scholarship this current year.
- Our current 2024-2025 tuition is among the lowest of Catholic high schools across the Greater Cincinnati region.
- The average Choice Scholarship award amount has increased about 7.4% per year, over the past couple of years, and we expect a similar increase.
- Our 2025-2026 tuition is an increase of 8%, which is similar to the recent average annual increase of the Choice Scholarship.

In setting tuition for the 2025-2026 academic year, our Board of Directors took into consideration all of these important variables. Our tuition was initially set so modestly due to unknown variables, such as securing the Choice Scholarship for our school families. Current tuition only covers about 34% of the cost to educate a student at Fiat. Given that context, and since we *now know* our Indiana families are receiving the Choice Scholarship, which has continued to significantly increase each year, our Board found an 8% increase to be fitting for *this* year. That does *not* mean that our Board will continue an 8% increase *every* year.

As you know, the amount that is *not* covered by tuition this year is approximately \$15,000 per student. We project this number to drop over the next several years, as enrollment increases. However, our school community's fundraising work is essential to cover this gap each year. So I thank you for your participation in our family letter writing campaign this month, and in our future fundraising efforts, which will include a Spring Gala!

As we work toward a sustainable, long-term financial model for the families of our students and faculty, we will continue to watch closely the annual increase of the Choice Scholarship, stay in dialogue with parents and work to provide ample financial aid for families who need it. Our intention is offer the beautiful and profound classical, Catholic education at Fiat Classical Academy to every family who seeks it!

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me.

Gratefully in our Lord,



Brad Macke

Head of Mission

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