



# DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



February 19, 2024

Dear Parents,

After recent prayer, consultation, and deliberation, I have decided that continuing toward our goal of combining business operations for our schools obliges us to move ahead by integrating another four schools into the regional model effective July 1, 2024: Christ the King, St. Luke the Evangelist, St. Augustin, and St. Anthony. The remaining five schools will be integrated in July 2025: Sacred Heart, St. Francis, St. Pius X, St. Theresa, and Holy Trinity.

A meeting was held on Friday, February 9, to discuss how this integration will be accomplished. The meeting included pastors from the four additional schools, members of the Regional Board of Directors and Dr. Dan Ryan, President of the Region. The conversation helped to clarify the role of the regional staff and board, the diocesan Catholic Schools Office, and other staff and volunteers helping to shape this initiative.

The diocesan Catholic Schools Office will continue to oversee day-to-day operations of all diocesan schools, including the Region schools, in the areas of faith formation, curriculum, instruction, assessment, application of diocesan policy, and hiring.

The Region is responsible for the business operations of the schools. Work will focus on both immediate issues and long-term strategies regarding the business model including tuition, cost to educate, technology, and employee compensation.

The budgeting process will be completed in the coming weeks, and we will announce tuition rates at that time. There are several factors being carefully considered through this process including teacher compensation as well as the out of pocket cost for families. Tuition increases will be used to increase compensation for the teachers at your school. We recognize the investment you are making, and we are committed to being good stewards of your tuition dollars. Also, please note that your \$100 registration fee has been appropriately applied to your account, regardless of which school your children attend.

I am encouraged by the commitment from all parties to collaborate for the good of our students, families, and schools. I believe this is a step forward for our schools as we work together to fulfill our shared mission. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to support you in the Catholic education and formation of your children.

Blessed beginning of Lent!

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.  
Bishop of Des Moines