

St. Mark's School

7503 Northview

Boise, ID 83704

Phone: (208) 375-6654

Fax: (208) 375-9474

schooloffice@stmarksboise.org

Dear Parents:

Thank you for your interest in St. Mark's Catholic School. Your interest in Catholic Education reflects a commitment to providing your child with the best foundation for spiritual, academic, and social growth. As we move toward the 2012/13 school year, [there is a very significant change that is being made in the way that we fund this ministry of our parish](#). Beginning next school year, we will be instituting what we call **PARISH SPONSORED EDUCATION**. This concept is based upon the goal that St. Mark's Catholic Community has to provide Catholic Education to its members in order to nurture them in the practice of their faith. The parish will provide the majority of the financial resources necessary to operate our parish school, religious education programs and the parish subsidy for students attending Bishop Kelly High School.

There are several things that need to be in place in order for Parish Sponsored Education to be successful here at St. Mark's. **First**, we have the support of our Pastor and the Pastoral and Finance Councils in our parish as well as the endorsement of the St. Mark's School Board. **Second**, we need families to be active and involved stewards in our parish. Parish stewardship involves:

- Registered member of St. Mark's for at least one year
- Have a current annual Stewardship Commitment Card on file at the parish
- Regular attendance at Mass on Sundays & Holy Days of Obligation at St. Mark's Parish
- At least one adult member of the household is committed and active in at least one parish ministry
- Committed to biblical tithing with a goal of 5% of gross income to the parish, 1% to Annual Diocesan Appeal and 4% of gross to other charities
- Know that your commitment entails the respect and cooperation with those who provide Catholic Education – the priests, parishioners and teachers and their policies
- Resolute in fulfilling your annual commitment to St. Mark's Parish
- Complete Stewardship Reflection Form

Third, we need families to be knowledgeable about what it takes to properly fund the operation of our educational ministries in the parish. A sizeable portion of the funds necessary to operate the school comes from donations by parishioners to the parish offertory. It is imperative that families understand that the *increase* from the parish will be an estimated \$725K and we need families to look at the fact that the total cost of educating a student will be close to \$5,000 in 2012/13. Your contributions to the parish will go a long way in helping to make Parish Sponsored Education a long term reality for the families of St. Mark's Parish. Thank you to those families who are already leading the way through their increased level of donation to the parish. **Lastly**, we will continue to need families who see their child(ren) as a gift from God and who are absolutely committed to raising their child to be knowledgeable about their faith with a commitment to their fullest possible spiritual, intellectual, and physical development.

On the back side of our registration form is information regarding how eligibility is determined for those families requesting Parish Sponsored Education at St. Mark's and the process for enrollment. All registration forms should be submitted to the school office and necessary supporting documentation in place or returned to St. Mark's Parish office where eligibility for receiving this benefit will be determined. Please take the time to verify that the documents that are necessary for Parish Sponsored Education are current and on file.



If you have questions regarding the registration process, please contact the school office at 375-6654.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Maloney
Principal