

Tuition Rate Change

Today's date: 1/20/16

The board of Christian school has established a 5 year financial plan. As part of that plan we are looking at the expected growth of the school, gaps that we need to close and things we need to do to ensure the long term success of the school, all while keeping tuition rates reasonable.

After careful evaluation of our school's situation we have decided to raise tuition 5% across the board which equates out to an increase of \$200 annually for K-8. This is a slightly higher increase than what we have raised tuition in the past.

Why did we need to take this step?

Three main drivers:

1. Our growth the last two years has led to larger class sizes, especially in the K-2 grades. We want and expect this growth to continue. The growth has helped us recognize a need for additional aids in those classrooms to help give each student additional focus in the areas of reading and math.
2. For almost a decade now, fundraising has been a budgeted income item used for the general budget. Our operating budget should be based on a more reliable/dependable income source. Additionally, fundraisers should get back to being dedicated funding for specific needs and wants of the school and teachers, over and above operating expenses.
3. Our pay scale for teachers has been slowly addressed over time but it still falls around 80% of Iowa District East guidelines for base pay. We need to continue to work to compensate our teaching staff more in line with district guidelines.

The tuition increase won't solve all of these but when combined with our enrollment growth, we believe we will be in a position to make a positive impact and take significant steps forward on all three.

Should we expect this type of rate increase going forward? While the future is impossible to predict clearly, we do not expect to need to raise tuition by this % rate again in the near future.