

October 27, 2009

Dear Parents,

Every time you turn around, the administration, teachers, St. Ambrose Church, H.S.A., Student Council, and fundraising committees are asking you to donate your time, talent, and/or money. J.E. Cosgriff, like most Catholic schools across the country, desperately depends on parents to supplement and add to the yearly budget in addition to paying tuition and fees. First of all, "Thank you" for your continuous generosity with your time and money. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated by the administration, faculty and staff. What do you get for your money at Cosgriff? How does a basic accredited school compare with one where programs, classes, and a curriculum are designed to specifically accommodate student needs and abilities, and where teachers are carefully chosen to provide the most challenging education possible?

Please read carefully:

In order for Cosgriff to maintain a basic accredited status with the state of Utah, the following classes/courses must be provided at the school.

1. 1 Kindergarten teacher
2. 1 First grade teacher
3. 1 Second grade teacher
4. 1 Third grade teacher
5. 1 Fourth grade teacher
6. 1 Fifth grade teacher
7. 1 Sixth grade teacher
8. Seventh and Eighth grade teachers with level two endorsements in Math, Science, English, Social Studies and Foreign Language
9. Preschool is optional, however the ratio of students to teachers and aides must comply with state regulations
10. 1 part-time certified Foreign Language teacher for middle school
11. 1 part-time social worker
12. 1 part-time accredited librarian to oversee and keep track of the required number of library books
13. A Catholic teacher must be responsible for teaching religion in grades K-8 (not required by the state)

What are the extras? Why are there constant demands for time and money placed on parents?

In addition to the mission of the school which guides us, the administration, faculty and staff are working diligently to move Cosgriff in the direction of a "Good and Smart School." **Smart Schools** develop with high expectations for each and every student. The academic programs must meet the needs of different types of learners while fostering the unique talents, gifts and abilities of each student.

The **goodness** of a school starts and grows in the heart of each teacher, parent and child as they work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect, tolerance and love.

Please read the following list of "Extras" which strengthen and enrich your child's education at Cosgriff.

1. A certified Music instructor
2. A certified Art instructor
3. A certified P.E. instructor
4. A certified Computer teacher and technology specialist
5. A certified Librarian who oversees the number of books in the library and also teaches library and research skills to K-8 grades
6. A certified special education teacher

7. Two Kindergarten, First and Second grade teachers-allowing class size to remain under twenty students
8. Part-time aides in Kindergarten and Third grade
9. A certified teacher/literacy coach serving K-8 grades
10. A certified Spanish teacher for PreK-5 grades
11. 5 part-time reading aides (two of which are certified teachers, one is a volunteer) serving K-8 grades
12. 3 Americorp volunteers who assist with remedial math and reading
13. A Music and Liturgy Director and choir instructor
14. A Development/Admissions Director
15. Monthly community service learning projects for grades K-8
16. Science Fair, Mock Trial, State contests in writing, art, science and math
17. PARA volleyball, basketball and baseball
18. Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
19. "The Circle of Life" initiative created to welcome and utilize the talents of parishioners (especially "seniors") into the school
20. School families-students from different grade levels join together as a school "family" once a month to complete a community service project
21. On-going professional development for teachers to stay current in their field with the latest research
22. A very professional, safe and moderately priced extended day program

It is not easy to constantly support fundraisers, volunteer requests and the rising cost of tuition and fees. It is the administrations hope that you will understand the valid reasons for the ongoing requests for your time and financial support. **The exchange for your child is an outstanding liberal arts education grounded in Catholic teachings and values, and taught by highly qualified and dedicated teachers.**

Please consider the "extras" at Cosgriff School the next time you are asked to give of your time, talents or personal treasure. Note that these extras will quickly diminish if we do not raise enough money to balance the budget.

With that said, also remember we did not receive Diocesan scholarship support for the 2009-2010 school year. We awarded \$50,000 in scholarship support to families in need. Fortunately the student enrollment has increased which helps with operating costs.

#### **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:**

- The SCRIPT program request that you purchase grocery, gas and other cards that you would need for your family each month – Please make the effort to utilize this service.
- All families received the annual appeal brochure – Contributions of any amount are welcomed and needed.
- Every Parent, (receiving or not receiving financial aid) is capable of doing one or more of the following to support the Mardi Gras
  1. Personally contact business owners until you procure at least one or more item(s) for the live/silent auction
  2. Sell one advertisement for the program
    - \$500.00 full page
    - \$250.00 half page
    - \$150.00 quarter page
  3. Just ask for donations from Cosgriff supporters to underwrite the general expenses of the Mardi Gras

**Please read the following:**

- Thank you to Mrs. Paoletti and her team of volunteers for their efforts and hard work putting on the Book Fair. It was fun and very successful.
- Thank you goes to Heather Simonson for chairing the Fall Festival. It was very well attended by Cosgriff School and St. Ambrose Parish families. Heather and her volunteers hosted a very exciting evening for the whole family.
- Seventh grade will host the 11:00am Mass on Sunday, November 1. All seventh grade students are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the Mass and other hosting duties.
- A Mardi Gras work meeting is tonight at 7:00pm in the library.
- New “TIGER” logo t-shirts are available to buy in youth and adult sizes for \$15. These t-shirts may be worn in P.E. class. Purchase yours in the school office.
- Innisbrook netted approximately \$15,000 for our school. Thank you to Jenny Maffuccio for chairing this successful fundraiser, and Chanteel Ballard for assisting. Top sellers were Jared Maffuccio, Robbie Hanlon, and Ian Gorrell Brown. Just a reminder, you may order from Innisbrook throughout the year online. Cosgriff will get credit by putting in our school number (110688).
- Thank you to Mr. Huntzinger and the several students who sang the morning prayer service for the superintendent CASE convention on October 26. The students performed beautifully and were very well received. [Click here](#) for the name of the choristers.

Thank you for your continued support.

Betsy Hunt  
Principal