

Dear Bishop Machebeuf High School Community:

As a school, we are continuously strengthening our program so that we offer a program that promotes:

- Catholic Formation: Our students grow in their love of God through the heart of the Church so that they live as life-long disciples.
- Academics: We offer rigorous academics that emphasize critical thinking and prepare students for college and life as a Christian.
- Community: Machebeuf is a diverse and tight family where students are connected to each other, faculty, and our community.

It is through these three principles that we live out our mission of forming the hearts, minds, and souls of our students in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the living Tradition of the Catholic Church, so that our students can live lives of holiness in their post-secondary education and careers.

As part of this continuous process of strengthening our program, I was pleased to announce last Thursday three initiatives focused on expanding the opportunities for living out our mission. These three initiatives are:

1) A Classical Track Beginning with the Incoming Freshmen

- While Classical Education has its roots in centuries of Church history and education, there is a growing resurgence of this educational approach within our country.
- This initiative came about out of a request from the Denver Catholic community and is fully funded through the private donations of the Denver Catholic community.
- This initiative, while very distinctive from our current practices, in many ways aligns with the mission and visions for our school.
- The program will feature a cohort targeting approximately 20 students who will take a double-block humanities class, Latin, and the Trivium (grammar, logic, and rhetoric). In addition to these classes within the cohort, the students will take theology, math, and science, integrated into the BMHS program.
- Students successfully taking this four year program will graduate with a BMHS diploma and a Classical Education certificate.
- BMHS is currently accepting applications for incoming freshmen who might be interested in being part of this cohort. Interested families should contact Kristen Dieterich.
- Additional information about the Classical Education track can be found on our website. Additional general information on classical education can be found on the following website: <https://www.catholicliberaleducation.org/what-about-classical-education.html>

2) Additional Course Opportunities for Upper Classmen

- Being a small school has many benefits; one of the challenges is we are limited in the courses we can offer to students.
- Students have expressed a desire to have greater opportunities for course offerings, especially greater offerings, for electives and Advance Placement courses.
- Bishop Machebeuf High School is pleased to announce that beginning in August of 2017, we will be partnering with the Catholic Virtual School to provide 200 seats for online courses for our students.
- Catholic Virtual provides access to over 150 accredited high school courses. These courses are self-paced, online, but taught by a teacher. The students take assessments. Students are required to take part in online discussions with the teacher throughout the semester.
- Students will take these classes in lieu of a traditional class at the school. The grade received in the course will be accepted on the child's transcript. The cost of these courses will be covered through the student's tuition, with the exception of any books the child may need.
- These seats will be primarily offered to next year's Juniors and Seniors, allowing at the minimum, each Junior and Senior to take one semester class through the virtual school if they so desire.
- Additional seats will be utilized to offer upper classmen full year courses, or to help underclassmen receive courses that their schedule, or our offerings, do not permit.
- Additional information about this partnership and our implementation will be available as we move through the scheduling process.

3) Transparent Tuition Assistance Model

- While sending your child to a Catholic High School always has been and always will require a sacrifice on the part of a family, Catholic High School must be an option for all families in the diocese. At the same time, the school must function within the funding available.
- We have developed a tuition assistance model that is...
 - Consistent and Objective
 - Transparent
 - Provides more access to Catholic education
- The tuition model is consistent with the vision for the diocese around tuition assistance.
- The model is based upon every family paying the same percentage of their Gross Adjusted Income, or the full tuition whichever is lower.
- All incoming families will be on this model. Current families will have the option of continuing their current tuition assistance model, or moving to the new model.
- To participate in the program, families can either apply through the FAIR program, or families can avoid the fees through FAIR by providing their current tax return to the school. Families without a tax return can provide a letter from their employer.
- Additional information can be found on our school website.

Last Thursday, a video announcement was made regarding all these initiatives. The video of this announcement, and additional information about each initiatives, can be found on our school website.

These initiatives come out of our need to continue to strengthen our program, enhancing our Catholic Formation, our Academic Excellence, and our Community. I thank you for your continued support of our school. We have an incredible ministry that I am honored to serve. May God bless you and your family.

God Bless!

Deacon Marc