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TO: St. Benedict Catholic School Parents
FROM: Martha Hartman
RE: School Choice
DATE: January 16, 2020

Recently, there has been a significant marketing and media push portraying School Choice as a detriment to public education. In reality the EdChoice program has been a positive force for many students and families in Ohio for nearly 15 years, and in particular, here at St. Benedict Catholic School. The program has also significantly expanded during this time to include many more deserving families, with the hope of additional expansion in the future.

- “Vouchers give parents a portion of the public funding set aside for their children’s education to choose private schools.”
- “State funds typically expended by a school district are allocated to families in the form of a voucher to pay partial or full tuition at a private school, including religious and non-religious options.”

Source: <https://www.edchoice.org/engage/fast-facts/>

These facts do not equate to the depiction of “highway robbery” that the public-school officials use to describe the scholarship program. In fact, these scholarships provide a family a voucher worth \$4,650/child at the K-8 level which in Ohio is about 40% of the allocation set aside to attend public school. A Catholic education is provided at a fraction of the public school cost due to the stewardship and sacrifice of parishioners and parish and school employees who have long known the “true value” of this education.

Giving a family the opportunity to choose an education that is in the best interest of the student, as well as in line with their family beliefs & values must be protected. Because our lawmakers are being pressured by public school officials, it is likely there will be changes to the current school choice laws, potentially affecting the 2020-2021 enrollment. As such, is a major concern for our families and could greatly impact St. Benedict Catholic School.

We are seeking your help in this matter! You may be wondering, “what can I possibly do?” PLEASE contact your state lawmakers TODAY and tell them to protect EdChoice.

Here are some ideas on what to say:

- Tell a personal story of how school choice, through EdChoice has made an impact on your child(ren).
- EdChoice is helping families in my community to access an education that best meets their needs and gives parents freedom they deserve to select where they want their child(ren) educated.
- Many families are benefitting greatly from their EdChoice selection. Justice warrants that their previous school choice is protected.

Let your voice be heard: <http://www.ccv.org/ohio-action-center/?vvsrsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f70229%2frespond>
Simply enter your address and your representative will be selected. We recommend personalizing your message by means of a brief, positive story about the opportunities the EdChoice program has provided for your family or a family you know at St. Benedict Catholic School.

Please contact me directly if you have suggestions or questions.

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