

February 2012

Advancing Toward the Future. Vandebilt has for many years been recognized for its excellence in education. Our students have not only excelled in academic competitions while in school, but also have used their strong foundation built here to drive them to success in higher education and in their careers. To continue to be a leader among fine high schools in the region and state, our school has made the decision to expand technology use in every classroom next school year. Our One-to-One iPad Program will enable us to issue a school-owned Apple iPad 2 to every student next year. These devices will greatly enhance the potential for learning in many subject areas, and they will enable our students to better prepare themselves for the higher learning environments that they will face as they leave high school. We see this device as a tool for learning that is permeating university and high school education, and we feel our students will be better prepared for higher education as they experience the enhanced learning levels that this device will bring.

We will begin in February with parent meetings to explain more fully how this program will work. Our team of professionals have researched similar programs in other schools, and we have begun issuing the iPad 2's to teachers this school year in preparation for 2012-2013.

In order for our school to move in this direction, the infrastructure of our school network must be rebuilt. We have already replaced our server, the backbone of the school's network. We are in the process of connecting to a fiber optic line to provide Internet to the campus, necessary to handle the great increase in "traffic" that will occur beginning in August. Additionally we are making plans to install a wireless network that will enable students and staff to connect to the school's server from most any point on campus. We have also added a full-time technology coordinator to our staff to oversee this program next school year.

This improved infrastructure, the iPads and directly related items, together with the other necessary increases in the cost of operating our school (salaries and benefits, utilities, insurance, etc.), increase our cost to educate each student next year. The rates for tuition and fees are listed on the Applications for Admission (or ReAdmission) included in this mailing. Despite these increases, what we spend per student is still less than that which is spent by the local public school system, and still has us near the bottom of the list of tuition costs for Catholic schools throughout the state.

APPLYING FOR ADMISSION. The **Application for Readmission** included in this mailing for returning students must be checked for accuracy, corrected, completed, and returned to Vandebilt by **Friday, March 2.** Students new to Vandebilt should have their **Application for Admission** returned to us by **that same date.** Prudent planning requires that we hire staff only for students we know we will have. Therefore, a student who has been with us for several years but does not apply for readmission by March 2, or a new student who does not apply for admission by March 2 will not be in our count as we begin hiring staff. Delays in applying for admission could result in a student being put on a waiting list or even being denied admission. Applications may be mailed in or hand delivered to the school office (we have a mail slot near the front door if the office is closed) or to **Brothers Hall** on the south end of campus.

REGISTRATION FEES. Along with the application, parents should send at least the first payment (1/3) on the registration fees ---\$125.00 (for one student). The second payment should be sent to school by April 1, and the final payment by May 1. Any fees paid to Vandebilt will be refunded if for any reason we decide not to admit a student. Parents who change their mind on enrolling their child after June 1, however, will not receive a refund of fees. If meeting the deadline of these payments creates a financial hardship on your family, please contact Mr. David Keife.

FINANCING TUITION. Parents who wish to finance all or part of their tuition should complete the Coastal Commerce Bank form (one per family) and return that form with the Application for Admission. Parents with current tuition loans with Coastal should have received a Renewal Form with this mailing. Parents whose loan was closed during a previous year due to delinquent payments are not permitted to apply for a loan without special permission of the school president. All tuition loans must be signed by May 4, with payments beginning in June. **Once a tuition loan is signed, the amount financed will not be changed. Parents who owe fees or who delay the loan signing will be required to make a 20% down payment on tuition and finance the 80% balance in order for their child to receive a schedule and an iPad in early August.**

REFUNDS. Our tuition refund policy, as outlined on the application form, states the parents' obligations with regard to tuition if a student withdraws from Vandebilt. The policy stipulates the financial obligation for a family who withdraws a student during the school year. The school reserves the right to withhold any academic records on any student whose parent fails to meet their financial obligation to the school. Review the policy on the application before signing it and returning it to us.

TUITION ASSISTANCE. Families who feel they have financial need are encouraged to apply for tuition assistance. Our budget includes money set aside to aid families in paying tuition, as well as need based scholarships from various sources. Applications for this program are available in Brothers Hall on campus. Those applications must be returned to Vandebilt by Friday, March 2, and will be confidentially reviewed by our Advisory Council Finance Committee. Tuition assistance is based on family financial need, and an attempt is made to assist as many families as possible. Preference is given to Catholic families who participate in their Church parish.