



The Bulldog Bugle

St. Bartholomew Catholic School

February 7th, 2025

LEGISLATIVE REACH OUT

Regardless of your political affiliations, non-public schools are facing a challenge this year with the budget cuts proposed by the Governor. The proposed cuts would cut busing, textbook aid, nursing, and counselor services to ALL non-public schools. Please read the attached document at the end of this newsletter and consider reaching out to your State House Representative, Senator, and Governor Walz to oppose this change. [CLICK - Here is an easy way to contact your representatives!](#)

NATURAL TRANSITION

I have heard many good comments from people about 6th grade. I want to clear up some misconceptions about our current lack of 6th grade. First, 6th grade is on pause as we currently do not have enough families that want to have their child here for 6th grade next year. I surveyed the families to see how many would be committed to being here. Please know that I will continue to evaluate the possibility of adding it back as we continue to grow. Benilde-St. Margaret has added 6th grade and many of our families are sending their children there. Wayzata begins middle school at 6th grade. Other Catholic, private and public schools also begin middle school at 6th grade, including Providence. When moving into a middle school program at 6th grade, there are a number of schools that feed into the program, and everyone starts on the same plane. It is a great time to make a change! We always encourage your feedback, participation, and thoughts as we continue to grow our school. Reach out to myself or Mrs. Jude any time. Wonderful things are coming for St. Bartholomew, and we are so grateful for every single family and child.

Yours in Christ,

Ginger Vance | Principal

Upcoming Events

February 14th - Wear your Valentines Colors & Bring Valentines for Exchange

February 17th - NO SCHOOL - President's Day

February 24-28 - Eagle Bluff Trip for 5th Grade

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Let's Go Bulldogs!

Our Spelling Bee champs continue their competition at Holy Family High School on February 10th at 10:00am



GLOW Party 2025

A huge success! Thanks to the many families who came and danced with us. Please send any suggestions for next year to Mrs. Jude!



SIGN UP - K-2 Activity Club Mondays!

Get the energy out after school in the Gym on Mondays - parachutes, obstacle courses, team games, yoga and more!



MINNESOTA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

STOP DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS



The Problem

The governor's proposed budget, released in January 2025, **defunds students by eliminating nonpublic pupil aid** that supports each student with funding for testing, textbooks, counseling, nursing, and busing.

The governor is backing away from the state's **commitment to fund essential services for all students**, not just those who attend his preferred provider.

The Solution

Protect these investments in nonpublic pupil aid and nonpublic transportation aid from harmful cuts.



Tell your state legislators to protect our students by opposing the governor's proposed cuts!

Minn. Statue 123B.40

It is the intent of the legislature to provide for distribution of educational aids such as textbooks, standardized tests and pupil support services so that every school pupil in the state will share equitably in education benefits and therefore further assure all Minnesota pupils and their parents freedom of choice in education.

Potential Impact of Cuts to Nonpublic Pupil Aid

- The governor's budget proposal **completely eliminates** nonpublic pupil aid and nonpublic transportation aid, **cutting more than \$50 million** dollars per year.
- The proposed cuts equal roughly **\$540 per student in lost assistance for nonpublic pupil instructional, nursing, and counseling aid** (based on July 2024 estimates). AND roughly \$540 per student in lost assistance for nonpublic busing aid (based on FY2023 reporting).
- These proposed cuts would increase the costs of nonpublic education and therefore **raises costs for families**, including likely tuition increases, potentially putting their school of choice out of reach.

Support Nonpublic School Students

Honor the choices of parents, save the state money in the long-term, and protect investments in nonpublic pupil aid and nonpublic transportation aid.



What is Nonpublic Pupil Aid + Nonpublic Transportation Aid?

Minnesota law requires the state to provide educational resources—such as textbooks, standardized tests, and student support services—to ensure all students have equal access to quality education, regardless of their school choice.

Nonpublic pupil aid helps fund essential services, including mental health support, healthcare, guidance and counseling, and instructional materials like textbooks and standardized tests.

Don't go back on the decades-long commitment of supporting nonpublic students.

Nonpublic pupil transportation aid ensures students have reliable transportation to school that they may not have otherwise. It also provides transportation for health and counseling services and ensures that students with disabilities can access special education facilities.

Why is Nonpublic Pupil Aid Critical?

- **Equal Access for All Students:** Nonpublic pupil aid ensures that every student has access to the tools they need to thrive, regardless of their school.
- **Support for Families:** Nonpublic pupil aid helps families afford the best education option for their children, ensuring they can choose a school that aligns with their values and meets their unique needs.
- **Cost Savings for Taxpayers:** Nonpublic schools save the state nearly \$500 million annually by educating students outside the public school system. Cutting aid undermines this cost-effective partnership.

Bottom line: Many nonpublic schools are ministries that serve low-income families. Each dollar helps families afford nonpublic school.

To learn more about the impact of cuts to nonpublic school children:

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