

## **School Choice Scholarship Program "Vouchers"**

Early this year the state of Indiana passed Indiana's School Scholarship Act which is the most expansive school voucher program in the country which parents to make an independent choice to find the best school to meet their child's unique learning needs. In order to qualify for this program, the school had to make the decision if they wanted to participate in this program and if the school was willing to demonstrate the quality of our educational offerings through rigorous accountability measures.

Guidelines were then set by the Department of Education to determine the eligibility of students for the program. Students must live in the state of Indiana and attended a public school for the preceding two semesters or receive an SGO tax credit scholarship in the previous school year to be eligible to apply. Students who qualify for federal free and reduced price lunch program can qualify to receive a voucher of up to 90% or 50% of the tuition at the school.

Indiana's voucher program provides Indiana families with an opportunity to find an effective and challenging school that meets their children's unique learning needs. School Choice is an important part of improving school performance and student achievement. School Choice can play a vital role in increasing competition among schools and creating incentives for all schools to innovate and improve.

I am happy to say that St. Anthony School was accepted by the Department of Education to be a participant in the program. This year St. Anthony School accepted ten new students into our school community based on this new School Choice Scholarship Program. We are very happy that the students and their families have become a part of our school family. The students are doing very well and have adjusted to the routine of the school.

If you or anyone you know has questions about the program, please have them contact Mrs. Sheila Noon at 812-282-2144.