



538 Church Street, New Monmouth, NJ 07748

To: MDHS Parents, Guardians, Alumni and Stakeholders:

Subject: NJS 2010 Budget – Nonpublic Technology Initiative Funding

Governor Corzine’s proposed 2010 NJ State Budget contains \$11M in cuts for nonpublic school funding. His budget recommendation includes the elimination of \$7M in funding for the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative. As our Governor is requesting the equivalent of a 10.5% decrease in funding for nonpublic schools, he is also requesting an increase of \$304M in funding for public schools.

Historically, the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative funding has provided Mater Dei HS and other nonpublic schools with \$40.00 per pupil per year to enhance their technology initiatives. The program has supported Mater Dei’s efforts to provide our students with computer learning initiatives through the purchase of electronic hardware and software tools that support classroom curriculum deliveries. Specifically, received funding has supported Mater Dei in purchasing PCs, monitors, servers, software, tablet projectors, digital camcorders and wireless network components (i.e. receivers, transmitters and routers), etc.

In its March 26, 2009 issue, the national magazine *Education Weekly* gave New Jersey a grade of “C” with respect to its “capacity for technology education”. This proposed budget cut and program elimination not only fails to increase that capacity, but also penalizes students whose parents have chosen to provide them with a faith-based education.

On behalf of the NJ Catholic Conference, the Diocese of Trenton and Mater Dei HS, we ask you to partner with us by contacting your NJS Assembly and Senate Legislators and ask them to restore full funding for the Non-Public Schools Technology Initiative. The contact information for Monmouth County’s representative to the NJ State Assembly Budget Analysis Committee is as follows:

The Honorable DeClan J. O’Scanlon
32 Monmouth Street, Floor 3
Red Bank, NJ 07701
Phone: (732) 933-1591
Fax: (732) 933-1598
Email: AsmOscanlon@njleg.org

Although Monmouth County does not currently have a Representative on the State Senate’s Budget & Appropriations Committee, we suggest that you direct your comments and concerns to:

The Honorable Barbara Buono – Chair
2 Lincoln Highway, Suite 401
Edison, NJ 08820
Phone: (732) 205-1372
Fax: (732) 205-1375
Email: SenBuono@njleg.org

The Honorable Paul A. Sarlo – Vice-Chair
Bank of America Building, Floor 2
207 Hackensack Street
Wood Ridge, NJ 07075
Phone: (201) 804-8118
Fax: (201) 804-8544
Email: SenSarlo@njleg.org

Attached for your reference are the following documents:

- Fact Sheet – Nonpublic Technology Initiative
- Nonpublic School Issues – 2010 NJS Budget
- Suggested template for E-mailing and/or sending a letter to your NJS Representative in Trenton

In addition, the following URL will bring you to the NJS home page for finding exact contact information for the NJS Assembly and Senate Legislators who represent your home district:

<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>

Thank you in advance for supporting our students and Mater Dei by contacting our NJ State Legislators regarding this critical issue.

Sincerely,

- Roger J. Harding – Principal
- Steve Sciarappa – Associate Principal
- Jeff Platenyk – Director of Technology