

Making Catholic School Affordable

Did you know?

TUITION

Like everything of value, there's no getting around the fact that a Catholic education costs money. Here are some recommendations about how to make it possible.

1. **ASK FOR HELP.** There should be zero shame in asking for assistance if you need it. This is why diocesan offices, generous donors and parishes set aside money for assistance, so as many children as possible can receive a Catholic education if they want it. We encourage all of our families to apply for both diocesan and parish aid. This is done annually by filling out the online application through a third party FACTS (www.online.factsmgt.com). The diocese and the parishes make decisions in the spring and notify the school. Awards are posted to your FACTS account. Awards are not renewable; families must apply each year by February.
The earlier you apply the better!
2. **Ask to pay your fees over a period of time.** Payment plans are available. Payments can be spread out over 10 monthly payments and can be made electronically through your FACTS account.
3. **Reach out to relatives or close friends.** Perhaps they would prefer to give your children monetary assistance rather than a tangible gift for events like birthdays or Christmas? Some might prefer that money go into something life-changing then another toy.
4. **New Rules about 529 Plans.** Ask your accountant about key changes to 529s. It would allow families to use up to \$10,000 in savings from **529** college savings plans for K-12 expenses, such as private school tuition, as well as for higher **education**.

UNIFORMS

1. **Uniform Exchange:** The school offers a uniform exchange throughout the year. Its win-win because you can turn in uniforms that no longer fit and take what you need. The uniform closet is here at school and we encourage everyone to visit before you order through Donnelly's.

EXTENDED DAY AND CAMPS

1. **Extended Day Package Pricing:** Msgr. Clarke offers an exceptional extended day program for working families. Students may come as early as 7:30am and stay as late as 5:30pm. The program is run by our teachers and offers homework time, snack and plenty of outdoor play. Most importantly peace of mind for you, knowing that your child is safe and happy. Package pricing is available to make it an affordable option.
2. **Summer Camps and School's Out Days:** Need help during school vacation or some of the random days off throughout the year? Camps are offered here at school and are run by our teachers. Summer Camps include themed weeks and in-house field trips.

FUNDRAISERS

Anyone that's been in Catholic schools knows there are always fund raisers to offset the cost of running the school. Its one question we hear often: *Why doesn't the school just charge what it really costs?* Well, because if you're trying to make it affordable to as many people as possible that cost difference may prevent someone from applying. If you can give to the school financially, in great amounts, then you should be doing it. If you can't, then here's some food for thought:

1. **Don't feel obligated giving to every school fund raiser.** Support what you love and do what you can. There are so many ways to support the school.
2. **Choose to give of your time and talent.** Maybe you are a graphic designer, who wants to offer a gift of time and talent by offering services, pro-bono. Maybe you're a master planner, a great organizer, a stellar photographer or an IT whiz. Or, perhaps your company can gift something in-kind to the school. Find the connection and give freely of the gifts God has bestowed upon you.
3. **See if your company participates in a matching gifts program.** You might be able to double, even triple, your gift to the school.