



Saint Joseph School

420 East Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



April 2020

Dear SJS Parents and Guardians,

During these unprecedented times, we want to do our best to keep in mind the struggles many families are currently facing. Therefore, we have decided not to increase tuition for the 2020-2021 school year, except to cover yearly FACTS and Home and School Association fees. Those fees equal a combined \$65.00 per year.

In April, the Finance Council of Saint Joseph Parish approved the budget of Saint Joseph School for the 2020-2021 school year. Based on this budget, the tuition rates for 2020 -2021 will be:

| <u>Catholic Parishioner Family (K-8)</u> | <u>Total Tuition</u> | <u>Monthly Payment</u> (based on 10 payments) |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| One child | \$4,923 | \$492.30 |
| Two children | \$8,858 | \$885.80 |
| Three or more children | \$12,257 | \$1,225.70 |
| <u>Non-Catholic (per child)</u> | \$7,389 | \$738.90 |
| | | |
| <u>SJS Preschool</u> | <u>Total Tuition</u> | <u>Monthly Payment</u> |
| 3-year-old program | \$1,161 | \$116.10 |
| 4-year-old program | \$1,696 | \$169.60 |

Please know that the actual cost of education per student this year is estimated at \$7,794.00 per student. Although we are able to offer reduced tuition cost to Catholic families, thanks to our generous parish subsidies, please keep in mind this “*cost of education gap*” must also be made up throughout the school year from fundraisers, activity fees, private donations, and most importantly the SJS Annual Fund. For active Catholic parishioner families, we are blessed to have generous subsidies of approximately \$1,000 per child from the sponsoring parishes of Saint Joseph, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Saint Katharine Drexel, and Our Lady of Lourdes. This generous subsidy is reflected in the current tuition rates shown above. Active parishioner families are those registered with a local Diocese of Harrisburg Catholic parish who attend Mass each Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation and who are stewards of their time, talent, and treasure in the life of their parish communities.

Please note: The tuition rates listed above include the annual Home and School Association dues and FACTS tuition management fee. Included in FACTS will now be the ability to pay EDP, ELP, and lunch. There will be no need for separate checks. All tuition payments for the 2020-2021 school year will be paid through FACTS. The first tuition payment will be due on July 20, 2020, with 10 monthly payments ending on April 20, 2021. In addition, these rates do not reflect any additional financial aid granted through the Neumann Scholarship Foundation, through the Saint Joseph School Tuition Assistance Program, or through the supporting



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parishes. Financial aid packages will be mailed separately, with tuition responsibilities adjusted accordingly.

We recognize that the tuition of Saint Joseph School represents a sacrifice for our families. We pledge to make every effort to work together with our families to provide opportunities for financial assistance so that no student is turned away from Saint Joseph School because of money. Please contact Mrs. Lori Beauduy at (717) 766-2564 with any financial assistance questions.

Thank you for entrusting Saint Joseph School to work with you to build the faith and the future of your children.

Tuition Policy

In order to provide a high-quality, Catholic education for all students, it is necessary for Saint Joseph School to charge tuition. Tuition rates are determined by the school administration on an annual basis in consultation with the Saint Joseph School Education Board. Active parishioners at area parishes receive a significant benefit off tuition for each child they have attending Saint Joseph School through parish subsidies. Active parishioners are people who participate fully in the life of their parishes, offering their time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of the People of God. This includes Mass attendance each Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation.

Based on our firm belief that a Catholic education should be available to as many children as possible, families with more than one child receive an even further reduction in tuition for the second and third children that attend Saint Joseph School. These reductions will be determined on an annual basis. If a family has four or more children attending Saint Joseph School, the family will pay tuition for three children.

The school uses FACTS tuition management system to collect tuition and offers a ten-month payment plan from July through April for the convenience of the families, in addition to other payment options. All tuition must be paid no later than April 20 of the current school year. Families who anticipate that they will be unable to meet the financial requirements should complete the Saint Joseph School Tuition Assistance Application posted by the school each spring for the following school year. All such assistance arrangements are strictly confidential. Registration fees are nonrefundable except in cases of need such as serious illness or a wage-earning parent becoming disabled. Tuition for students registering or leaving during the school year will be pro-rated based on the number of school days attended. Families are responsible for all tuition balances at the time of student withdrawal. Saint Joseph School will not forward academic records to another school until these obligations have been satisfied.

In order to cover the cost of additional bank fees, Saint Joseph School will assess a surcharge to any individual who submits a check returned for insufficient funds.



Policy for Overdue Tuition

Tuition payments are due no later than the 20th day of each month. Payments received after the 20th will be considered OVERDUE.

Any family overdue in tuition payment by more than 30 calendar days may have student(s) grades withheld and Rediker access blocked until the school receives payment.

Any family overdue in tuition payment by more than 60 calendar days may have the student(s) grades withheld and the student(s) may not be admitted for the next school year until the account is current.

No family may transfer to another Catholic school within the Diocese of Harrisburg until all debts, tuition or otherwise, have been cleared at Saint Joseph School.

Any request for any exception to the tuition policy should be addressed in writing to the principal.

In the event of accounts that are delinquent three or more months, Saint Joseph School reserves the right to pursue payment through local courts and/or collection agencies. In such cases, any court costs or agency fees will be added to the delinquent tuition.

It is through a portion of the Sunday collection from each of the sponsoring parishes, through EITC/Neumann Scholarships and support from other foundations, and through fundraising efforts throughout the year that tuition rates are kept as low as possible for our families. When there is a failure to be current with tuition payments, it falls back on the school or the sponsoring parishes to meet these educational costs, and that is why we need our parents to keep up with tuition payments.



Tuition Assistance Policy

Saint Joseph School offers a variety of scholarship and assistance options to families. Scholarships are granted through the following programs: the Neumann Scholarship Foundation, Saint Joseph Tuition Assistance Program, Parish Scholarship Programs, Tuition Angels, Diocesan FOCUS Assistance Funds, and the Bridge Educational Foundation.

The Diocese of Harrisburg has partnered with FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment to conduct financial need analyses for families seeking to receive assistance through the Neumann Scholarship Foundation. Applications should be completed online by the designated date issued each year. Saint Joseph School also issues a Tuition Assistance Application for interested families during each spring.

Catholic families who receive tuition assistance must support their parishes by attending Mass each weekend and on Holy Days of Obligation and by helping with other parish and school activities and projects.

All families receiving aid from the Saint Joseph Tuition Assistance Program are required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer service each school year. This can be completed by volunteering for the many school activities which take place, including: Home and School Association events, cafeteria and recess monitors, Race for Education Day assistance, and many more additional SJS opportunities.

Because tuition assistance from Saint Joseph School is generated in large part through the Grocery and Scrip Card Programs, families who receive tuition assistance must participate fully in these programs by purchasing a minimum of \$200.00 in cards each school year. These cards may be purchased directly by the SJS family, or by family/friends who apply the credit to your family.

This is a free way for families to reduce their tuition costs. These programs do not cost the parishes or school anything and benefit parents through a tuition scholarship program. Families with special circumstances that require exemptions must have the permission of the principal.

All assistance offered to families should remain confidential.

Failure to comply with these policies could jeopardize future assistance.