



216 North Hill Street • South Bend, IN 46617 • 574-234-0451 • www.stjosephgradeschool.com

April 3, 2020

Dear Saint Joseph Grade School Families,

It is a strange time in our world. Though it looks very different, Saint Joseph Parish continues its mission of worship, service, and education in the heart of South Bend. I celebrate Mass each day, but now in the rectory chapel. And I have enjoyed getting the chance to pray with our students each Wednesday in video morning announcements! Thank you to all of our teachers for working so creatively in their ministry as Catholic educators, and thanks to you for your patience and for your own efforts at home to provide a new learning environment for your children. I hold our school families and teachers in daily prayer.

While families stay at home and we practice social distancing, it is challenging to think ahead to “normal” times. With many things on hold it feels odd to be planning for next school year. On behalf of our school community, I want to welcome all of the new families that will be joining Saint Joseph Grade School next year. Welcome to our SJGS family! I hope you will introduce yourselves to me in the months ahead, and please know that my door is open if I can ever be of assistance to you.

TUITION

I write to you today to communicate the tuition schedule for grades K-8 for the 2020-21 academic year. The cost for Saint Joseph Grade School to educate each student next year is \$7,175. This cost, determined after careful review of the budget by school administration and the Parish Finance Council, establishes our standard per child tuition rate. This rate allows us to continue to offer the level of excellence for which SJGS is known, taking into account modest teacher and staff salary increases, curriculum and instruction improvements, utility and insurance costs, and facilities needs.

Each year, Saint Joseph Parish contributes a generous subsidy towards the SJGS tuition cost for registered active parish families that exercise good stewardship of prayer, service, and sacrificial giving. Next school year, this parish subsidy will provide the following tuition benefit:

- 1 Child Subsidy: \$1,650 ----- 24% of the cost of education for the 1st child enrolled
- 2 Children Subsidy: \$5,070 ----- 47% of the cost of education for the 2nd child enrolled
- 3 Children Subsidy: \$9,525 ----- 62% of the cost of education for the 3rd child enrolled
- 4 Children Subsidy: \$15,600 ----- 85% of the cost of education for the 4th child enrolled

The full tuition schedule is as follows:

<u>2020-21 TUITION SCHEDULE</u>				
# of Children:	1	2	3	4
Standard Tuition:	\$7,175	\$14,350	\$21,525	\$28,700
Parish Subsidy for Active Parishioners:	(\$1,715)	(\$5,070)	(\$9,525)	(\$15,600)
Parish Subsidized Rate of Tuition:	\$5,460	\$ 9,280	\$12,000	\$13,100

The parish is proud to invest in Catholic education for our active parishioner families, and to especially ease the burden for those with multiple children enrolled. We also encourage families to look into financial assistance options as detailed under the Financial Aid header below.

AFFIDAVIT FOR PARISH SUBSIDY

The diocese requires each parish to obtain an "Affidavit of Active Parishioner Status" from each family wishing to apply for the parish tuition subsidy. At SJGS, this affidavit will be generated as part of online enrollment in late April. For registered parishioners at Saint Joseph, I will review and sign off on the affidavit or send a letter inviting your family to greater participation in the parish. Consistent Sunday Mass attendance at Saint Joseph Church is foundational for subsidy eligibility. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Those registered at other parishes without grade schools will receive a request to have your pastor review and sign an affidavit.

FEES & FUNDRAISING

Enrollment Fee

The non-refundable Enrollment Fee for 2020-21 will remain at \$260 *per child*. Families have already submitted a \$260 *per family* registration deposit that will be credited towards the per-child Enrollment Fee, which is billed in May.

Scrip Fundraising Requirement

Families are also responsible to assist with fundraising through our Scrip Program. Each family is expected to earn \$300 of scrip *profit* from May 1, 2020, until March 31, 2021. Any amount short of that goal will be billed to families in April 2021. Families that earn more than \$300 in scrip are eligible to earn 50% of their profits over \$300 in a credit toward the following year's tuition (or receive cash back). More details about this program can be found on the school website.

"You Can Lend a Hand" Fundraiser

Our other required fundraiser is the diocesan-wide "You Can Lend a Hand" coupon book program. Each family will be billed \$30 in March, with an opportunity to sell coupon books to recoup this fee.

FACTS BILLING

Tuition and fees will be billed through the FACTS payment management system. By late May, families will receive an email with a link to create a tuition payment plan through FACTS. Several payment schedule options are available. Families will also be billed separately each month through FACTS for incidental expenses for optional programs and extra-curricular activities.

FINANCIAL AID

School Choice Scholarships & Indiana Tax Credit Scholarships

In past years, some families have been surprised to find they qualify for School Choice Scholarships (vouchers) or Indiana Tax Credit Scholarships (SGOs). We encourage families to explore this possibility. There are eight different "pathways" that enable a student to be eligible to participate in School Choice, each with different household income limits. More information on these guidelines and income limits can be found at www.doe.in.gov/choice under the "Student Eligibility" section. Families that expect they might qualify for these state programs should contact Pat Stockrahm (pstockrahm@stjoeparish.com or 574-234-3134, ext. 19) to complete an application.

SJGS Tuition Assistance

In addition to public scholarships, SJGS is able to provide some tuition assistance to families funded by proceeds from the SJGS Excellence Fund and associated fundraisers such as the annual “For the Kids” Golf Benefit. Families wishing to apply for this assistance should complete an application at: <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. This application is also used to give consideration for assistance from our SGO Fund and the diocesan Large Family Fund. **Applications are due by Friday, May 29, so that we may make award decisions by mid-June.**

For questions about financial aid, please contact Pat Stockrahm at pstockrahm@stjoeparish.com or 574-234-3134, ext. 19.

SUPPORTING SJGS

Our mission at Saint Joseph Grade School is educating hearts and minds in the Holy Cross tradition, making God known, loved, and served. I am proud of the way our school lives out this mission each and every day. SJGS earned National Blue Ribbon recognition for the second time in 2019, an honor that would not have been accomplished without the generous support of our families. Tuition and fees cover the minimum costs to operate our school, but it is additional gifts that allow us to innovate and excel in ways that make an SJGS education truly special.

If you would like to make a contribution to support the SJGS Excellence Fund, you may do so online at stjoeparish.weshareonline.org. Feel free to reach out to Sean Kennedy at skennedy@stjoeparish.com or 574-234-3134, ext. 17, with any questions. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

I pray that this unique time in our world helps each of us grow stronger in our faith and closer to Christ. *Ave Crux, Spes Unica* – Hail the Cross, Our Only Hope! As we enter into the holiest season of the year, we can trust that the power of Christ’s resurrection will transfigure what seems hopeless into wellsprings of love and new life.

On behalf of Principal Azar and our administration, I wish to thank you for all you do to support our school not just financially, but through your volunteer efforts and your support of our teachers and staff. We look forward to another successful year of educating hearts and minds here at Saint Joseph Grade School. Again, please always feel free to reach out if I can be of assistance to you and your family.

God bless,



Fr. Kevin Russeau, C.S.C.
Pastor

