



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

April 1, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Grade School Families,

Earlier today, we had a rehearsal for the altar servers preparing for Holy Thursday Mass. There is much joy and excitement as our pastoral team gets ready to celebrate these high Holy Days leading up to Easter! As our students, teachers, and families transition into a much needed Spring Break, it is time to communicate the tuition schedule for the 2021-2022 academic year.

On behalf of our administration and teachers, I want to warmly welcome all of the new families that will be joining Saint Joseph Grade School next year. Welcome to our SJGS family! I look forward to meeting you in the upcoming months and working with your children as we partner in educating minds and forming hearts.

I know there is a lot of information in this letter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please know of my prayers for you and your family.

TUITION

The cost for Saint Joseph Grade School to educate each student next year is \$7,390. 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 and 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: \$1,765 ----- 24% of the cost of education for the 1st child enrolled
- 2 Children Subsidy: \$5,080 ----- 45% of the cost of education for the 2nd child enrolled
- 3 Children Subsidy: \$9,630 ----- 62% of the cost of education for the 3rd child enrolled
- 4 Children Subsidy: \$16,060 ----- 87% of the cost of education for the 4th child enrolled

The full tuition schedule is as follows:

<u>2021-22 TUITION SCHEDULE</u>				
# of Children:	1	2	3	4
Tuition:	\$7,390	\$14,780	\$22,170	\$29,560
Parish Subsidy for Active Parishioners:	(\$1,765)	(\$5,080)	(\$9,630)	(\$16,060)
Tuition for Active Parishioners:	\$5,625	\$ 9,700	\$12,540	\$13,500

In order to be eligible for the Parish Subsidized Rate of Tuition, a family must be active parishioners, regularly participating in stewardship of prayer, service, and sacrificial giving within the parish. An active parishioner:

1. Participates in weekly Sunday Mass at Saint Joseph Church (or virtually during the pandemic).
2. Is involved in parish ministries, events, and service opportunities through both the school and the church. Active parishioners would be easily recognizable by the Pastor or parish staff as being actively involved at the parish.
3. Participates in regular offertory giving using envelopes or [online giving](#), including pledging in any parish capital campaign and the Annual Bishop's Appeal. Your financial support of the parish should be in proportion to the way you have been blessed. Those receiving tuition assistance are also asked to contribute what they can on a regular basis.
4. Is current on tuition payments and all associated school fees. Individual circumstances will be accommodated as possible if they are brought to the attention of the Pastor and Principal.

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.

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.

FEES & FUNDRAISING

Enrollment Fee

The non-refundable Enrollment Fee for 2021-22 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 April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022. 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. In early 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, with income limits varying depending upon household size. 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 Mrs. 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: 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, April 30, so that we may make award decisions by mid-May.**

For questions about financial aid, please contact Mrs. 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 Mr. 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 our crosses and create wellsprings of love and new life.

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

