



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

Mrs. Melissa Green | Principal • Mrs. Rachel Schroeder | Assistant Principal

TUITION & FEES

Saint Joseph Grade School tuition rates for the 2026-2027 school year are as follows:

Non-Parishioner Rate	\$8,850 per student
Parishioner/Teacher Rate	\$7,800 per student

“You Can Lend a Hand” Fundraiser Fee – \$30 per family

Each year, SJGS participates in the diocesan-wide "You Can Lend a Hand" coupon sale. Each family will be billed \$30 in March, with an opportunity to sell coupon books to recoup this fee and more if desired.

New Student Fee – \$100 per student

New to the school students are required to pay a \$100 registration fee (not included in tuition) that is paid at the time of application.

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

CHOICE SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, **all Indiana residents, regardless of income, are eligible for Choice Scholarships, which greatly reduces tuition for families.**

Choice Scholarships cover an amount equal to 86-97% of SJGS parishioner rate tuition, or 74-85% of SJGS non-parishioner rate tuition, depending on the school corporation of the student’s residence. The 2026-27 estimated awards by school corporation are as follows:

South Bend	\$7,531	PHM	\$6,574
Mishawaka	\$7,228	Union	\$6,686

There are two requirements to receive a Choice Scholarship:

- 1) The student must reside in the state of Indiana.
- 2) The student must be between the ages of 5 and 22 as of October 1.

More details about the Choice Scholarship Program are attached.

SJGS is able to provide a limited amount of tuition assistance to families not residing in Indiana or who need assistance beyond Choice Scholarships. This aid is funded by donations to the [SJGS Excellence Fund](#) and associated fundraisers such as the annual “For the Kids” Golf Benefit. We are grateful to Saint Joseph Parish and School families and friends for their generosity.

For any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Jennifer Fortener at jfortener@stjoeparish.com.



*Educating hearts and minds in the
Holy Cross tradition since 1854*





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2026-2027 SCHOOL CHOICE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FAQ

How do I apply for the Indiana School Choice Scholarship?

Saint Joseph Grade School is required to make the application to the state on the student's behalf. Students must live in Indiana to qualify for a Choice Scholarship. The student's legal settlement is based on the school corporation where the student's parents/guardians live. Addresses cannot be Post Office boxes unless specific legal circumstances require it. Contact Jennifer Fortener at jfortener@stjoeparish.com if your proof of residency is a PO Box.

The application process requires that proof of Indiana residency be submitted to the school. We accept the following (only one item is needed):

- Valid Indiana Driver's License or Indiana State Identification Card
- A bank statement or utility bill dated within 90 days of submission
- Current rental contract/lease agreement or mortgage statement
- Tax return form 1040 within the last two years (2024 or 2025)
- Contact Mrs. Fortener at the email above if additional options are needed

Once the application has been submitted and approved by the state, there is a document that requires parent/guardian review and signature to finish the scholarship process. This document will be sent via email (from agreements@stjoeparish.com) and can be electronically signed using DocuSign. If you wish to sign the document in person, please contact Mrs. Fortener.

Is the application process different for parents who are divorced, separated, etc.?

In certain circumstances, additional information may be required to substantiate the residency of the student. Additional documents will be emailed to you for completion, if required.

Do I need to apply for the School Choice Scholarship every year?

Yes, Indiana requires a new School Choice Scholarship application each year.

What if I don't qualify for School Choice and/or need additional assistance?

SJGS has a limited amount of assistance available for families that do not qualify for School Choice Scholarships. Please apply through FACTS. Alternatively, you may provide your 2025 Federal Form 1040 tax return to Jennifer Fortener at the parish office, along with a short explanation of any circumstances that may be helpful to understand your financial need as the Pastor reviews the requests for financial assistance.

How do I set up a tuition payment plan?

In June, parents will receive an email from FACTS asking to set up a tuition payment plan. Choice Scholarship awards and any other financial assistance will be included in your plan upon receipt of all required documents and approvals. It is important that you send your information to the parish as soon as possible. Information returned after the May 31, 2026, deadline will be updated upon receipt of the documentation and state approval. Please reach out to Mrs. Fortener if you are unable to meet this deadline.