

St. Catharine School

Tuition Assistance Information

Academic Year 2012-2013

Overview

The goal of the St. Catharine School Tuition Assistance Program is to provide financial aid to families who desire a Catholic education for their children but may not have the financial means to do so. Tuition assistance is not a loan, but rather forgone tuition that is paid for by the Parish. This cost to the Parish is partially offset by awards through the Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program. In recent years, 100% tuition assistance has been awarded in several cases

Eligibility

Registered parishioners who have children currently enrolled in St. Catharine School are eligible to apply for tuition assistance. The evaluation process is based on many factors such as income, assets, debt and number of children enrolled in SCS as well as in the Catholic high schools. There is no specific income level at which a family is no longer eligible for aid. If you feel that you cannot afford to pay all of your tuition costs, you should consider applying. All financial information provided is kept in strictest confidence. Tuition assistance is not generally available for new students until they are enrolled in the school for one year

Award Determination Process

The Parish uses a two-step approach to determine tuition assistance awards. Evaluations are performed by two independent third party providers, based on financial and tax return information provided by the family. Each firm provides a fair and independent analysis of what portion of SCS tuition each family can afford to pay. The tuition assistance application process coincides with the school registration process, beginning at the end of January. Families must apply for tuition assistance for each year in which assistance is sought. Families who apply for tuition assistance should receive an award letter in June. In the past several years, the Parish has been able to provide all tuition assistance recommended by SSS. We will make every effort to continue this practice going forward.

Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program

The Diocese of Trenton awards tuition assistance to families with children in Diocesan schools in grades K-8. Families who apply can receive up to one-half (50%) of the school's in-parish tuition rate. The Diocese uses the services of Private School Aid Service, Inc. (PSAS), a third party provider to process financial aid applications. Awards are determined based on information contained in the application along with supporting materials provided by the applicant. The formula utilized by PSAS is specifically geared toward families with children attending Catholic school. PSAS performs a comprehensive review and verification process to determine the ability

of a family to pay for private education.

Once the Diocese has received the evaluation from PSAS, they will calculate the awards, and qualified applicants will be notified in writing. The Diocese does two rounds of awards, one in March, and one in June. Only one application is required to be considered for both rounds of awards. Tuition assistance awarded by the Diocese based on the PSAS evaluation is sent to the school to be applied to each qualified applicant's tuition account.

Parish Tuition Assistance Program

The Parish uses School and Student Services (SSS), to provide an objective, third-party financial needs assessment for each family that applies. SSS utilizes information contained in the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) as well as supporting documentation provided by each family to determine the amount of tuition each family can afford to pay. Based on this information, the Parish allocates available funds from its financial aid budget to qualifying applicants.

It is important to understand that the awards from the Diocese are actual cash payments to the school, whereas the awards granted from the Parish come from parish operating funds, and represent forgone tuition, either in full or in part. The funds received from the Diocese offset this forgone tuition, and allow the Parish to provide assistance to a greater number of qualified applicants. Applications for both PSAS and SSS are required. **No SSS applications will be considered by the Parish unless an application for the Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program (PSAS) has been submitted.**

Diocesan Tuition Assistance (PSAS) Application

Application (with documentation) deadline is March 30, 2012

Application Fee: \$24.00; School code: 5865; online authorization code: TRN1

The PSAS application may be completed in two ways:

1. The application can be completed online at www.PSAS.org. The online authorization code is **TRN1**. Required documentation must be mailed in.
2. Get a paper application by calling the Rectory Finance Office at (732) 449-5765, x107. Completed application forms (except online submissions), supporting documentation, and processing fee should be mailed to:
Private School Aid Service
PO Box 89434
Cleveland, OH 44101-643

Parish Tuition Assistance (SSS) Application

SSS Application deadline is March 30, 2012.

Application Fee: online: \$37.00, mail-in \$49.00; school code: 6373

The SSS application can be completed in two ways:

1. Complete the SSS application online at www.sss.nais.org. St. Catharine's does not require supporting documentation. If SSS needs tax return documents to complete your application they will contact you directly.
2. Get a paper application by calling the Rectory Finance Office at (732) 449-5765, x107. Paper applications, including application fee are to be mailed to:
School and Student Services
PO Box 449
Randolph, MA 02368-0449

Please note that preferred method for completing both the PSAS and SSS applications is the **ONLINE APPLICATION**. SSS reports that 95% of applicants use the online application, with a reduced application fee of \$37.00. In addition, processing and reporting time is significantly faster using the online applications, thereby expediting the entire financial aid process.

Keep in mind that tax returns from the previous year are the basis for completing each application, and must be submitted with the PSAS application. Therefore it is advisable to prepare your tax return as soon as possible to facilitate the tuition assistance process.

Questions about any of the material contained in this brochure? Please call the Rectory Finance Office at (732) 449-5765, x107. The websites for both PSAS and SSS are also valuable tools for understanding the financial aid process.