



“Where Catholic tradition is combined with academic excellence.”

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Do I have to be a Catholic to receive tuition assistance?**
 - It depends on the assistance program for which you qualify. The McMahon Parater Foundation for Education and the Virginia Tax Credits Scholarship are open to both Catholic and Non-Catholic students. The Catholic Diocese Parish Sharing Award is for those students who have been baptized in the the Roman Catholic faith. The Catholic parishes contribute to this scholarship program and one of the qualifiers is for recipients to have been baptized Roman Catholic. Local school assistance is a case by case basis and subject to pastoral approval.
- **Will I get enough tuition assistance to cover all of the tuition?**
 - No. The goal of the tuition assistance program is not to offer free tuition, but instead to offer a more affordable tuition rate to those who strongly desire a Catholic education and do not have the means to afford it alone.
- **I think my family income may be too much, how do I know if I qualify?**
 - The only way you will know is if you submit your family and financial information. Tuition assistance is not based on earnings alone. It is based on size of the family, what your average expenses are, earnings, unemployment, whether a spouse is a student just to illustrate a few. So, don't let earnings alone determine whether you apply or not.
- **If I qualify for assistance this year, do I qualify for the same amount next year?**
 - **Assistance award amounts.** Amounts awarded vary from year to year based on the family's financial situation. An award of \$1,500 does not guarantee the same amount next year; the award amount may increase or decrease.
 - **Qualification for assistance.** Families applying for assistance are not guaranteed to be qualified year after year **UNLESS** the student meets the criteria as indicated under the [Virginia Tax Credit Program](#). Students that meet the criteria for the Virginia Tax Credit Program are qualified to receive assistance from that program as long as the program remains funded. **It does not guarantee that the dollar amount will be the same each year.** It guarantees that the student will receive some amount of tuition assistance under said program as long as the program remains funded.
 - **It is important to remember that tuition assistance is based on assessment of family financial need as well as the ability to pay some portion of tuition.**
- **I have never applied for tuition assistance because I am so embarrassed that I have to ask for help, but I truly want my children to continue to attend St. John the Apostle Catholic School.**
 - There is no shame in asking for help. If I don't know that there is a financial issue, then I am unable to assist your family. Always talk to the business manager or the principal. **Do not let a sense of embarrassment take away an opportunity for your child(ren). Always apply! Please do not allow pride to stand in the way.**
- **Can't I just tell you that I am in need of assistance? Why should I go through a third party?**
 - Going through FACTS Grant and Aid makes you eligible for assistance through the Diocese that you may be unable to get through the school. There is no way to assess true need or ability of a family's financial situation based on someone's word. For legal and liability purposes, there must be documentation.

SJA Mission Statement

Rooted in the rich traditions of the Catholic Church, Saint John the Apostle Catholic School provides a Christ-centered learning environment where students are challenged academically, supported spiritually, and encouraged to embody high ethical standards essential to moral development.

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- **Will my personal information be kept private?**
 - Yes. St. John the Apostle Catholic School values your privacy. We ask all of our applicants to apply for tuition assistance online, so that personal and confidential information is not being carried around. FACTS Grant and Aid online assessment is on a secure website. Information is evaluated by persons on committees where Confidentiality Statements have been secured. At the school level, the information is reviewed only by the business manager, principal and pastor with regard to family name.

For further assistance, please do not hesitate to call Tracey Dooley at 757-821-1100, X213 or tdooley@sjavb.org