

As parents, you want the best for your child. You work hard to provide for the necessities of life for your entire family. As your child's first teacher, you instill in him/her the values that you were taught as a child and by which you live your life. You share with your child your faith by talking about God and Jesus Christ. You bring them to Mass on Sunday to reinforce what you have taught them about their faith.

When it comes to the education of your child, you want the best environment that will prepare your son and/or daughter academically. You also shop for an environment that will support the family values and beliefs by which you live your life and strive to instill in your child. In short, you are seeking an educational environment that will prepare your child for the rigors of the academic life as well as the formation of your entire child; intellect, spirit, and body. You are searching for an academic environment that shares your same values. If you attended a Catholic school when you were in school you probably are looking for that same faith-based experience for your child.

In assessing your current financial situation, you may conclude that a Catholic school education for your child is not in the realm of possibility and opt to look elsewhere for a school. This brochure is provided to let you know that a Catholic school education is a viable option and to share with you the Financial Aid for Tuition Assistance Program sponsored by the Diocese of the St. Petersburg.

Financial Aid Opportunities

There are several options available to you to assist you in providing a Catholic school education for your child. The first option is the school itself. Many schools provide financial aid to those families who have a demonstrated need. Each school has its own application procedures so you should inquire at the school in which you are interested. The second sources of financial aid comes from through the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

The Diocese of St. Petersburg, through the continued generosity of Bishop Robert N. Lynch, provides financial aid to Catholic families who desire a Catholic school education for their child and who have a demonstrated need. This source of financial aid was established by former Bishop John C. Favalora. The parents' active participation in their child's faith formation is their primary responsibility. As a member of the Church, there is an expectation that you would model the Catholic faith for your child through daily prayer, attendance at Sunday Mass, parish involvement and a moral lifestyle.

Who is eligible for Financial Aid from the Diocese?

There are requirements that must be met in order for a family to be eligible to receive financial aid through this program:

1. The family must be a registered and participating member of a Roman Catholic parish within the Diocese of St. Petersburg.
2. The child must be a baptized Catholic who regularly attends Sunday Mass and, if possible, is active in some aspect of parish life.
3. The family must have applied for admission to or (re)registered a child in grades K-12 for the 2008-2009 year in a Catholic school in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.
4. The family must not be receiving financial assistance through participation in a state voucher program.
5. The gross family income must not exceed the established limits per household. The gross income is determined by the number of dependents declared on your 2007 Income Tax Return.
6. The family must meet the deadlines.

Allowable Income Limit

Household Size as listed on 2007 Income Tax Return	Gross Income
1	36,000
2	42,000
3	48,000
4	54,000
5	60,000
Each Additional Dependent	add 6,000

How to you make application?

The application process is very easy....

You must complete a FACTS Grant-in-Aid application either on line (www.factstuitionaid.com) or you may obtain a paper copy at your local Catholic elementary or high school. *Be advised that the evaluation time required by FACTS Grant-in-Aid personnel to evaluate an application takes between five to ten working days from receipt of all supporting documentation.*

You are required to complete and submit an Applicant Information Form to the Office of Catholic Schools and Centers by the deadline. You can submit the information electronically (www.dosp_ocsc.catholicweb.com) or complete the form on the back page and mail it to the Office of Catholic Schools and Centers.

Notification of Awards

The awarding of financial aid is done as soon after the close of the current academic year and before the beginning of the next. If you qualify for financial aid, you will receive a letter from the Office of Catholic Schools and Centers informing you of the amount of tuition assistance you will receive. The financial aid award is a calculated percent of your child's tuition rate.

Reasons for not receiving Financial Aid...

The most common reasons why a family is denied financial aid from the Diocese are:

1. failure to meet established deadlines
2. failure to submit the Applicant Information Form
3. failure to complete the application process by providing FACTS Grant-In-Aid with the required correct documentation
4. Income exceeds allowable income

What is the deadline?

Your application must be received and evaluated by FACTS Grant-in-Aid by **April 30, 2008.**

The Applicant Information Form must be received by the Office of Catholic Schools and Centers by **April 30, 2008.**

