

## St. Joseph School Fair Share Tuition Program

The mission of St. Joseph School, as an educational outreach of St. Joseph Parish, is to develop youth of the Rice Lake area in grades PK 3 through 8, to grow in faith, value family, excel in academics and follow Christ in service to others within the framework of our Catholic faith in a rigorous academic environment.

Here at St. Joseph School, we use tenets of the **Fair Share Tuition Model** used by many Catholic schools across the nation to allow our parents/guardians to determine what they can **honestly** pay toward the cost of educating their children.

The following are some commonly asked questions about our Fair Share Program.

### What is Fair Share Tuition?

A Fair Share Tuition program is rooted in **sacrificial giving** and long-held principles of **justice** and **honesty** and allows those seeking a Catholic school education to support their school of choice as one's financial means allows.

- Each year we let you know exactly how much it costs for our school to educate your child.
- There is a minimum amount required because based on the Diocese of Superior guidelines families must cover a minimum of 40% of the actual school expenses.
- Families are expected to look within their hearts and be honest in determining how much they can afford to pay toward their child's tuition, as close to that actual tuition amount as possible. For those who have been blessed in life with financial security, the greater their contribution toward the full cost is expected.

### Why don't you just give us a dollar amount for tuition, and we'll pay it?

We could--and in some ways we do! We tell you every year the full cost to educate your child and **we ask you to pay as close to that amount as possible.**

However, an **important part** of St. Joseph School's mission is committed to providing this quality Catholic school education, regardless of financial capabilities **to all who seek it.** By using the Fair Share Tuition Program, we look to YOU to determine, ***prayerfully and truthfully***, what you are able to afford to contribute to the all-important task of giving your child the quality Catholic education you desire.

## **Will others know what I am paying?**

No...tuition agreements are confidential.

## **What if I can't pay the minimum required tuition?**

Families who are unable to meet the required minimum tuition should apply for tuition assistance. St. Joseph School is blessed with gifts and grants from people and organizations, both locally and across the country, who want to make a Catholic school education possible for all. The Tuition Assistance Application is quick, easy, and confidential. We will make every effort to meet the tuition assistance needs of our St. Joseph School families.

## **Won't some people be getting off too easily?**

**TRUE** Stewardship, **TRUE** Fair Share tuition means that every family is making its **MAXIMUM** effort to support our school financially. If we all truly do this, we will have a **SURPLUS** of time, talent, and treasure! We are **ALL** required to do our fair share.

## **Is any portion of my child's tuition tax deductible?**

This is an excellent question. With tax laws constantly changing, it is important that each year, for parents to consult with their tax accountant for advice and guidance.

In terms of federal taxes, any amount paid above the minimum tuition amount set each year is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law and will be reported to you pursuant to section 170(f)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Beginning with the 2014 tax year, according to the state budget bill (2013 Wisconsin Act 20) a tuition tax deduction was established (see Wis.Stat.s.71.05(6)(b)49), so that Wisconsin families will be able to deduct religious school tuition expenses they have actually paid for that tax year (up to \$4,000). As always, consult with your tax advisor to consider your personal situation.

## **If I'm not able to pay the full cost of educating my child, how does it get paid?**

Our financial model is three pronged with at least 40% of expenses coming from tuition, at least 20% from fundraising and donations, and the remainder from parish support. Our school cannot survive without all of these components.

**Remember that if there is a difference between what you pledge and what the actual cost to educate your child(ren) is, that amount has to be made up somewhere. This is where your fundraising efforts, donations and volunteer time are absolutely imperative for the future success of our school. The future of our school depends on the support of EVERY single family.**

*If you have further questions, please contact Mr. Van Dyke, Principal at 715-736-3100.*