



Blessed Sacrament Catholic School

Education for Living. Faith for Life.

Why we are moving to a tuition supported model? Why now?

After significant consideration and discussion among Parish Leadership and Finance Council including a thorough review of school and parish finances a tuition funding model will be implemented for the school, beginning in the 2020-21 academic year. The key factors for this decision are a) declining participation by school parents in the stewardship/pledge model b) declining number of contributions to Blessed Sacrament resulting in lower parish revenues, which impacts the school c) increasing the shared financial responsibility among all families with students enrolled in the school. The Parish will continue to provide significant financial support to the school. A tuition model is more equitable and will increase school revenues needed to help offset program deficits. It is important to note that a tuition model is in place in all other Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Saginaw.

How is the tuition model different than the existing funding model?

The stewardship/pledge model in place today is not a set payment model but rather embraces sacrificial giving. It is the expectation that every family at the school, regardless of income, will pledge and contribute what they can afford. Tuition on the other hand is a payment model and sets out the amount families are expected to pay to educate their child. Blessed Sacrament will not turn away an eligible child from coming to school because of financial circumstances. The tuition amount by family will vary depending on the number of children enrolled and financial assistance provided by the Parish. It's important to note that tuition assistance will be available to all families depending on Midland Area Catholic Community (MACC) or non-MACC membership and on family financial need. An independent company will provide a thorough financial need assessment for any family wishing to apply to the school.

What is the cost to educate a child at Blessed Sacrament School?

The five year annual average cost to educate a child at our school is \$7,800 per year. Currently no families pay the full cost of the tuition because of the Parish subsidies being provided. The Parish currently covers 75% of the cost. Our goal is to achieve a more equitable balance. Tuition together with an increase in school fundraising efforts are needed to reach our goal. Non-MACC families do pay a higher tuition than Parish and MACC families.

What other sources of funding are provided to the school?

In addition to tuition, school is funded with parish giving, donations to the school, and fundraising activities undertaken by the school. Parish support remains a significant element of school funding.

Who sets the tuition rates and why is there a difference in tuition for families?

The Business Manager establishes tuition rates based on the school's budget requirements. The rates are presented to the Finance Council and approved by the Pastor. Because the parish subsidizes the school, the tuition rate for students (K-5) who are members of MACC is less than for the students who are not members of a Catholic parish. The plan is have our tuition rates in line with St. Brigid Catholic School over the next two years.

Preschool is not subsidized. All families regardless of parish affiliation pay the same tuition rate for preschool.

How much does tuition cost?

You can find tuition rates for 2020_21 on the school website. Information will also be sent to families during school enrollment. Families will have the option to pay tuition in one or two installments at discounted rates or over 10 monthly equal installments.

Do you offer tuition assistance / financial aid? How do I qualify or apply?

Yes. All K-5 families are eligible to apply for tuition assistance through the FACTS Financial Assistance system. Assistance will be based on need. FACTS is an independent company providing administration and financial management solutions for schools. FACTS is used by many other schools in the Diocese.

Families seeking aid must complete an application through FACTS. Application forms will be available our website. There will be a FACTS training session in early February.

What if I still cannot afford the tuition, even with tuition assistance?

If, after prayerful consideration and in light of your unique family circumstances, that you are unable to pay the standard tuition even with tuition assistance based on FACTS, we ask that you contact the Parish Business Manager. We will work with you in determining an affordable amount. A copy of your FACTS Financial Assistance application will be required.

What happens if circumstances change and my family is unable to pay the tuition after school starts?

We ask that you contact the Parish Business Manager and together with the Pastor will work with you in determining an affordable amount. A copy of your FACTS Financial Assistance application will be required.

Will my family receive a tuition refund if our child or children change schools before the school year is complete?

If your children change schools before the school year is complete, tuition amounts will be prorated and the unused portion refunded to you (this applies to amounts paid in advance). Registration and application related fees are not refundable.

Is the school closing?

Our school will operate for the 2020_21 school year. We remain confident in the long term success of the school.

Are families still expected to make a Sunday contribution to the church in addition to the tuition?

Yes, as parishioner of Blessed Sacrament stewardship of time, talent and treasure is expected.

Do you offer extended care before and after school?

As a service to the parents of our students enrolled at Blessed Sacrament, the school operates a Extended Care program. At this time only afternoon care is available to preschool and K-5 students until 5:30 p.m. It is offered every full school day and most half days. Care is not offered on holidays, Christmas vacation, Spring Break or during the summer. Our Extended Care program is certified and inspected by the State of Michigan.