

FINANCES

The ultimate goal of Catholic education is to nurture the growing Body of Christ, equipping the members of our young Church with the tools they need to be God's love in this world.

Accomplishing this goal requires the support of each Catholic in every parish of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.



THE GOAL:

To foster a spirit of collaboration that will ensure financial stability, continuity and growth for our family of Catholic schools.

“It is the responsibility of the entire Catholic community — bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and laity — to continue to strive towards the goal of making our Catholic elementary and secondary schools available, accessible, and affordable to all Catholic parents and their children, including those who are poor and middle class.”

Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium, 2005

Goal: Finances

PARISH & SCHOOL SUPPORT

Objective 1: Develop new methods of parish financial support for Catholic education.

Action Plan: The OCS will work with parishes to implement financial support initiatives. Tuition and fees shall be set for parish elementary schools according to the following levels:

Archdiocesan Level

- Registration Fee
- Parish Support Fee – Fee paid by parishes without schools for their active parishioners attending a parish elementary school (\$350, for PK4 through 7th grade, to be paid to the school)
- Minimum Home Parish Support Fee – Fee paid by the parish with a school to the school for each active parishioner attending the school (\$350 for PK4 through 7th grade) or the cost of the school's insurance, whichever is greater
- Clarion Herald fee - \$15 per family

Deanery Level

Each deanery will determine the criteria for defining an active/supporting parishioner. The definition should include the following:

- A minimum financial contribution or an expectation of regular offertory giving
- A level of participation in parish life

Parish/School Level

- Tuition
 - Other fees and discounts besides registration and parish support fees instituted in consultation with the Office of Catholic Schools. These fees must be included in the total cost of education figure submitted to OCS each year.
- In terms of acceptance for parish schools, the process will be:
 - Siblings of current students
 - Children of territorial parishioners who are deemed active by the pastor; children of alumni or legacy families as determined by the pastor
 - Children of territorial parishioners of a parish without a school or no room in their territorial parish school who are deemed active by their pastor
 - Children of non-territorial parishioners of a parish without a school or no room in their parish school who are deemed active by their pastor
 - Children of active parishioners who live outside the territorial parish in a parish with a school that has room.
 - All others – including inactive parishioners, non-Catholics, etc.

Goal: Finances

- By the 2014-15 school year, all Church parishes of the Archdiocese of New Orleans shall institute an Annual Second Collection to support the Archdiocesan Endowment for Catholic Schools.

Objective 2: Encourage Catholic school administrators to establish and grow an endowment for tuition assistance at the school level.

Action Plan: Each parish school shall consider instituting a \$25 per student contribution, capped at \$50 per family, to create or build their internal school endowment fund for tuition assistance.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

Objective 1: Create and publicize tuition and fees among Catholic schools.

Action Plans:

- All Catholic schools in the Archdiocese shall submit tuition and mandated fees to the Office of Catholic Schools to be published on the OCS website so parents know the real cost of attending each school.
- Catholic parish schools located in the same deanery will schedule annual meetings to discuss and define their various fees. Each school will submit its fee schedule to the OCS for approval from the Archdiocese. All schools will have the same non-refundable registration fee.

Objective 2: Present a yearly financial report to stakeholders to maintain accountability.

Action Plan: All parish schools shall present a financial report that includes the actual cost of educating a student, school tuition and fees, and actual and projected budgets.

Goal: Finances

CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION COLLECTION

Objective: Assist elementary and Archdiocesan high schools with meeting tuition collection benchmarks.

Action Plan: Catholic elementary and Archdiocesan high schools shall submit outstanding tuition reports on November 30 and April 30 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. The OCS will collaborate with schools in tuition collection strategies and processes.

TEACHER SALARIES

Objective 1: Create an Archdiocesan-wide minimum salary scale.

Action Plan: The Office of Catholic Schools, in collaboration with the Finance Office and Office of Human Resources, will work with administrators to develop a minimum salary scale.

Objective 2: Encourage Catholic school administrators to provide a tuition discount for children of Catholic school teachers, based on the financial circumstances of the teacher's family.

Action Plan: The Office of Catholic Schools, Finance Office and Human Resources office will work with parish schools to offer a percentage of their tuition assistance to those employees who are unable to afford Catholic education for their children.

FUTURE PLANS TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Objective: Research and establish additional creative means of fundraising for tuition assistance.

Action Plan: The OCS will collaborate with stakeholders to discuss the feasibility of fundraising initiatives for tuition assistance such as a "Sponsor-A-Student" program, working with individuals and corporations throughout the community. The Office of Catholic Schools will also work with the Catholic Foundation to increase the endowment for tuition assistance.