

# Saint Michael School

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*Saint Michael, an accredited Catholic Elementary School, partners with families in the education of the mind, body, and soul of each child.*

Dear SMS Families,

We are at that point in the year where we are planning and budgeting for next year. This year, our \$10 a day (\$1,800 a year) tuition scale was something that initially had me a little nervous, hoping we could make it work and keep it going. I am happy to say that because of the sacrifice of a lot of people, we are able to let this stick for next year! As you can imagine, this is a *significant* discount to the 'True Cost to Educate' a child here. Roughly speaking, it costs over \$9,000 per year per child to educate! We are offering an 80% discount because we are able to tap into a myriad of financial sources through the parish and the Diocese that help make this possible. These sources, though, have **one new requirement**: that **everyone** fill out a financial aid application through the Diocese and through the school. Those are these forms.

Failure to apply for aid means you are forfeiting aid. Those who do not apply cannot receive any aid. Those that do not apply must pay the true cost to educate. Please, do not let that happen!

Each family is required to fill out **TWO** applications for Financial Aid: 1) for the STAR & Bishops Tuition Assistance Program (online), and 2) for all in-house aid and scholarships (attached). Again, if you do not apply, there isn't anything to award.

The in-house application is called **TUITION ASSISTANCE APPLICATION**. We use this application not only for beginning-of-the-year aid and scholarships but also for EITC scholarships that are available throughout the school year.

The one for the Diocesan Aid (*STAR & Bishop's Assistance*) is your responsibility to complete online for the Diocese and **by April 15, 2024**. I ask that you get the in-house application back by April 15, as well.

I thank you for your understanding in needing to slightly adjust to how this has been done in the past, but know it is all to serve a greater purpose of making SMS a viable option for any child in our community who desires the unmatched experience of a SMS education!

*Fr Brandon*