

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2012-2013
Tuition Assistance Frequently Asked Questions

What are the tuition and fee amounts for the 2012-2013 academic year?

Please click on the Tuition and Fee Schedule to see the schedule.

How is the tuition level determined?

The cost to educate one student is determined each year as the budget is set. The parish tuition and non-parish tuition amounts are then set based on this budget.

Parish subsidies provide tuition support for students belonging to any of our four supporting parishes. This support formula helps defray portions of the per pupil costs, thus reducing tuition levels.

What if my family cannot afford the full tuition amount?

Holy Family School System and the Archdiocese of Dubuque are committed to making sure Catholic education is available to students who desire it. Holy Family School cannot and will not become a school available to only those who can afford the full tuition. The *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future School Tuition Organization* (STO) sponsored by the Archdiocese of Dubuque combined with Holy Family School's local assistance program offer expanded opportunities to help qualifying families afford the Catholic School of their choice. This STO Program is available to both Catholic and non-Catholic families.

Does Holy Family School have a separate assistance program?

Holy Family does have its own tuition assistance program. It is open to members of our supporting parishes, not just those who qualify for the STO program. This program is in addition to the Archdiocesan STO funds and you can qualify for one or both.

How can my family apply for tuition assistance?

Both the STO program and Holy Family will be utilizing Private School Aid Services (PSAS) to assist in determining the level of assistance to be awarded. PSAS has developed an application that all families need to complete to be considered for assistance. Your personal information will be held in strictest confidence at all times. If you have a child at more than one Archdiocesan School or if you wish to apply for both types of assistance, you will need to complete only one application form. There is a \$22.00 non-refundable processing fee for the application, payable to PSAS.

The application will be available at the Holy Family School Business Office and online at www.psas.org beginning January 30, 2012. In addition to your completed application, you must include a copy of your 2011 federal tax return and copies of your 2011 W-2's. The application needs to be completed online or completed on a paper copy and postmarked no later than March 23, 2012. When completing the application, our school code is **1143** and the authorization code is **arch1 (arch one)**

To assist you in filling out the application, PSAS will have a call center available at 1-866-424-6443. The call center is open Monday-Friday from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 8:00 am-noon.

What type of information will I be asked on the tuition assistance form?

- Marital status of the parents
- Size of the family and dependency status
- Number of children in tuition-charging schools
- Age of the parents
- Total taxable and non-taxable income for parents
- Medical and dental expenses

- Child Care costs
- Housing information

You will also be given an opportunity to explain any unusual circumstances that may affect your financial situation.

What is the average amount of aid Holy Family School will award families?

Tuition assistance awards ranged from \$100 to \$600.00 per student for the 2011-2012 school year. This will vary from year to year.

What is the timeline for tuition assistance?

January 30 Applications are available through Holy Family and online at www.psas.org.

March 23 Completed applications must be post-marked or filed electronically.

May 21 Tuition contracts and award notification letters sent to all families who applied.

May 31 Families receiving assistance send confirmation they are accepting/declining the assistance back to the School.

Are there any other options to make Holy Family more affordable?

Parent Association SCRIP sales. Tuition assistance is available from SCRIP sales generated in our three schools and through St. Jude and St. Ludmila parishes. A tuition rebate of SCRIP purchased in the previous year would be applied to your tuition account in January of each year.

Where does the money come from for the Holy Family Tuition Assistance Program?

Money for the tuition assistance currently comes from the operations of the school and any donations that are received.

Where does the money come from for the Archdiocesan STO program?

The *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future STO* is funded by numerous generous donors from across the Archdiocese of Dubuque. All donors received an Iowa Tax Credit equal to 65% of their gift, with all donations qualifying for a federal income tax deduction for their 2010 returns. Donors interested in contributing to this program during 2012 can make a secure online donation or download a donor application at www.OurFaithSTO.org.

When is payment on my account due?

The first payment on your account is due by August 15th.

If you cannot pay the entire balance by August 15th, you may make two payments, one each on August 15th and January 15th, or ten payments using electronic funds transfer on the 3rd or the 18th of the month from August until May. Any other payment arrangement must be made specifically with the Business Office.

What does it mean to be a parishioner?

Each parish has its own guidelines to determine a parishioner. Generally, three things are required:

- be registered in the parish,
- participate in the life of the parish, and
- contribute financially to the parish.

The four parishes that financially support Holy Family School include:

- St. Jude
- St. Ludmila
- St. Patrick, CR
- John XXIII

Can I deduct tuition as a charitable donation?

Tuition does not qualify as a charitable donation because your student receives a service in return for the tuition. Contributions given to Holy Family School other than tuition are eligible for deduction as a charitable donation.

How will employer matching gifts be handled?

Any money given to Holy Family that is not for tuition will be eligible for matching by participating companies.

What if my family experiences financial difficulties during the year?

If at any time your family experiences financial difficulties, please contact Mindy Coleman in the Business Office at 319-390-6512. All conversations will be kept strictly confidential.