

Dear Families:

Catholic schools continue to have a tremendously positive impact on our students' growth academically, spiritually, and socially, as well as a strong and lasting presence in our communities through service and prayer. Our dedicated administrators, teachers, and staff are able to accomplish such goals as a result of the partnership with you, our parents and families, who choose to provide your children with a Catholic school education. Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to our Catholic schools!

As part of our commitment to planning for the future, we recently completed and shared the Strategic Growth Plan for the Catholic Schools within the Diocese of Scranton. The plan incorporates several key areas, each containing realistic goals and action steps to meet the mission of providing a Catholic education that is spiritually sound and academically excellent.

One of the goals within the Strategic Growth Plan includes the action step of providing ways to ensure transparency and accountability with school finances so stakeholders are aware of the actual cost of education as it relates to tuition and other key revenue sources. An additional goal of ours is to initiate and/or enhance our efforts to secure additional EITC/OSTC funding and educate and encourage new donors to use their funds for the benefit of Catholic schools within the Diocese.

With that in mind, as you begin the enrollment process, you will notice a new tuition structure. The tuition posted will display the Cost To Educate (CTE) your child at your school. Along with the posted CTE, you will see options that provide opportunities for families to decrease the CTE by applying for tuition assistance and/or participating in the PA Tax Credit Program. By doing either of these options, you will receive a <u>guaranteed scholarship</u> that will automatically be applied to your account. The guaranteed scholarship can be seen in the discounted rates provided in the charts on the tuition page for your school. Please note, if you decide not to apply for tuition assistance or participate in the PA Tax Credit Program, you will be charged the posted cost to educate for your school.

If you are interested in completing the tuition assistance application, you will be able to do so during the online enrollment process. Completing this step during the enrollment process will allow your family to automatically receive a guaranteed scholarship, as well as to be considered for additional tuition assistance.

If you are interested in participating in the PA Tax Credit Scholarship Program, you can learn how to do so by watching the video (link included in the enrollment email). We have partnered with the company RedefinED, who will be able to process your pledge form and walk you through the process of participating in the PA Tax Credit Program. If you have specific questions about becoming a participant in the PA Tax Credit Scholarship Program, contact Hayley Younkin at RedefinED at (814) 505-9835 or hayley@redefiningeducation.org. If you wish to participate, please send the completed RedefinED-BLOCS Pledge form directly to Hayley.

We will again offer our current families the opportunity to enroll first. Please pay particular attention to the deadlines below to guarantee your seat.

We are now beginning the **online** enrollment process for the 2025-2026 school year.

2025 - 2026 Online Enrollment Details are as follows:

- You will receive separate emails for each child in our schools with a link and directions on completing the online enrollment. Much of the information will be pre-populated. It should take around 15-20 minutes to complete. Please watch your inbox for the email(s) from your principal. If you don't receive the email(s) by **February 3**, please let the school know.
- To guarantee your child's/children's seat(s), you must complete the online enrollment materials and submit them along with the \$175 non-refundable family enrollment fee by the date indicated on the invoice. You will receive an email invoice for the online enrollment fee about a week after submitting your materials. After March 01, 2025, the online enrollment process will be open to any families on waitlists.
- If your elementary school student will be continuing on to a diocesan high school, you must go online to https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/register/ to start the process.
- To enroll, your account must be in good standing. Please refer to the **Tuition Policy** on our website at www.dioceseofscranton.org/catholic-schools/enroll-a-student-2.
- In an effort to make our schools affordable, additional resources are being dedicated to financial assistance. We also have opportunities in each school to reduce tuition through SCRIP, referral of new families, events, etc. Please talk with your principal and see the enclosed information on Tuition Reduction Opportunities.

Your timely online enrollment not only guarantees your family has access to one of the best educational experiences in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania, but also ensures we are prepared to offer the best educational experience for your student.

Please do not hesitate to call your school or the Catholic Schools' Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kristen Donohue

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Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education / Superintendent of Catholic Schools