



## SCS Advancement Committee

2023 Strategic Plan & School Update

Open Forum – March 14, 2023

### Agenda

- † Opening Prayer & Introduction
- † Strategic Plan Review and Pillar Team Updates
  - Distinctly Catholic – Gery Kenney
  - Exceptional Academics – Bob Sullivan
  - Committed Families – Hillary Ahrens
  - Support Thriving Parishes – Andrea Woita
  - Finance & Facilities – Dan Gruenes
- † 2023-2024 Budget
- † 2023-2024 Tuition
- † Scholarships
- † Development & Fundraising

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### SCS Advancement Committee Members

Fr. Douglas Dietrich

Fr. Jeff Eickhoff

Fr. Gary Gross

Fr. Lee Jirovsky

Fr. Carson Kain

Fr. Cole Kennett

Fr. Matthew Vandewalle

Fr. Matthew Zimmer

Hillary Ahrens–Committed Families Pillar

Jennifer Benes

Sophie Custer

Eva Fujan

Dan Gruenes

Bob Jurgensmeier – Finance & Facilities Pillar

Gery Kenny – Distinctly Catholic Pillar

John Kreikemeier

Ryan Mascarello

Mark Sanders

Kevin Stuhr – Building Committee

Bob Sullivan – Excellent Academic Pillar

Mike Weiss

Kam Wiese

Andrea Woita–Supporting Thriving Parishes Pillar



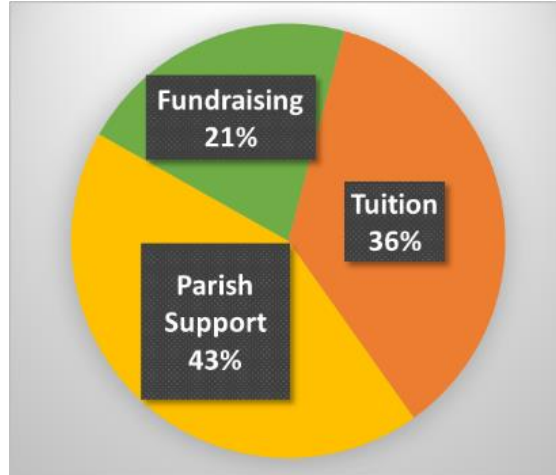
# Tuition Policy

2023-2024 School Year

*It is the policy of the Diocese of Lincoln to deprive no child of Catholic education because of an inability to pay.*

The Catholic faithful of Saunders County in each generation have embraced the apostolate of education with dedication and sacrifice, recognizing that Catholic schools are the best means of sharing the faith with Catholic children and preparing them for service to the Church and the world.

The financial support of this work is a relationship that involves Catholic parishioners, parents, and fundraising efforts on an annual basis. The assessment of tuition and fees for a child's education is understood as a necessary and integral component of the financial management of the school and of a family's share in the gift of Catholic education received from the Church and the greater community. The policies that follow detail the guidelines for qualification and the procedures for payment of tuition and fees to the school, as well as the policies and procedures that address tuition assistance, delinquency, and tuition refunds.



The Wahoo Deanery parishes subsidize each Catholic student's educational costs each year, but there remains an unsubsidized cost which must be covered by the parents, fundraising, or scholarship. For this reason, each Catholic family is expected to tithe to their parish an amount that is equal to or greater than the difference between actual cost of educating their child/children and the tuition. This tithe is tax-deductible. Therefore, any family who is in financial need, but wishes their child to be educated in Saunders Catholic Schools (SCS), is encouraged to contact their pastor to see about financial assistance.

## Participation Guidelines

While parents have certain expectations of their child's educators, SCS has certain expectations of students and their families, families with children enrolled in SCS are expected to be the primary educators of their children, especially in faith and morals. For our part, SCS will fulfill our vision to *"Foster strong Catholic Values and successful life-long learning for the 21st Century and hold high expectations in a person's spiritual, intellectual, physical, and social growth."* For Catholic families, it is expected that the family attends Mass each Sunday and each holy day of obligation which does not fall on a Sunday. It also includes being an active member of your parish which not only includes regular Mass attendance, but being active stewards in their parish. It is the responsibility of the Catholic parishes to determine the participant status of its parishioners and to communicate this information to the school prior to the annual registration date. It is understood that any reference to "parent" in this policy includes parent, guardian, or individual assuming the responsibility for the student's tuition. Enrollment in SCS is open to all students who meet the eligibility requirements of the State of Nebraska and the policies of the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln. Eligible enrollees in SCS fall into three groups with corresponding attributes:

### **1) Active Participants of Wahoo Deanery parishes are generally:**

- A registered member of a parish.
- Fulfilling their obligations as members of the Catholic Church, including Mass attendance each Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation.
- Participants in the stewardship program of the parish.
- Providing some financial support to the parish through their weekly, monthly, and or annual contributions at Mass. As a general rule all parishioners are expected to contribute to the financial support of the parish.
  - i) This expectation can be modified, based on demonstrated need, by written agreement of the family and their pastor. Contact your pastor for more information about assistance from the parish.
  - ii) Families from parishes outside of the SCS boundaries are asked to pay \$1500 above the regular tuition rate to compensate for the fact that your parish does not financially support SCS schools.
- Active participant families are eligible for parish tuition assistance
- Active participant families may be eligible for Good Shephard, Guardian Angel, and other scholarships based on need

### **2) Non-participant Catholic families:**

- Catholic families are not active participants of a Catholic parish based on the attributes of parish participation described above.
- Non-participant families are not eligible for parish tuition assistance
- Non-participant families may be eligible for Good Shephard Scholarship based on need

### **3) Non-Catholic families**

- SCS schools readily welcomes all students to enjoy the benefits of a Catholic education. Because tuition is based on the expectation that Catholics are assisting at their local parish, Non-Catholic families are asked to assume the full per pupil cost of the education of their child. Additional tuition assistance is outlined below.
- Non-Catholic families may be eligible for Good Shephard Scholarship based on need

## Tuition Rates

Tuition rates will be established annually by the school administration at the recommendation of the SCS Advancement Committee and in cooperation with the Wahoo Deanery Pastors.

	Deanery Student	Non-Deanery Student	Non-Catholic Student
<b>St. John Nepomucene Elementary School</b>	2,500.00	4,000.00	4,800.00
Diocesan Technology Fee (K-6th graders Per Student)	420.00	420.00	420.00
SJ Pre-K T-TH Session	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
SJ Pre K M-W-F Session	1,850.00	1,850.00	1,850.00
SJ Pre-K M-F Sessions	3,350.00	3,350.00	3,350.00
<b>St. Wenceslaus Elementary School</b>	2,500.00	4,000.00	4,800.00
Diocesan Technology Fee (K-6th graders Per Student)	420.00	420.00	420.00
SW Pre-K T-TH Session or M-W-F Session	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
SW Pre-K M-F Session	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00
<b>Bishop Neumann Jr/Sr High School</b>	3,800.00	5,300.00	7,400.00
Diocesan Technology Fee (Per Student)	420.00	420.00	420.00
Band/Chorus Fee (Per Family)	50.00	50.00	50.00
Show Choir Fee (Per Student)	50.00	50.00	50.00
FCS Fee (Per Student)	50.00	50.00	50.00
Bus Fee (Per Family)	500.00	500.00	500.00

Scholarship applications are available January 1<sup>st</sup> and the deadline for applying is March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**Good Shepherd Scholarship** - Offered by the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln, this scholarship is for families up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is verified through a third party application. We utilize FACTS Management for scholarship applications which helps us ensure fair and equal treatment, and also helps to keep financial information secure.

**Family Tuition Cap Scholarships** – Families in the Lincoln Diocese pay tuition for up to 3 students, the rest are eligible for a full tuition scholarship.

**Guardian Angel Scholarships**– All three Saunders Catholic Schools have funds set aside for families that may not qualify for the Good Shepherd Scholarship but have need of additional tuition assistance. They are awarded annually based on available funds and the number of families that apply.

**Other Scholarships** – Saunders Catholic Schools has other scholarships available through our generous donors and benefactors.

**Parish Tuition Assistance** – If you wish to apply for parish tuition assistance, it is your responsibility to talk to your pastor prior to signing the Tuition Agreement.

## Tuition Delinquency

Tuition is due in full on or before August 1<sup>st</sup> prior to each school year unless the parents enter into a payment plan. If the parents enter into a payment plan, tuition is due on the dates identified in the Tuition Agreement plan. It shall be the responsibility of each school family to keep the school business office informed of their need to make any changes in their preferred tuition plan and dates for their automatic withdrawal. The following action will be taken for school families who have been unwilling or unable to make suitable alternative arrangements with the school.

1. Any family who is **30-days delinquent** on their tuition payment or tithe and/or who has ceased to be active members of a Catholic parish will be contacted by the administration or their parish to discuss alternative arrangements, and/or to arrange a meeting.
  - a. If payment of tuition and/or tithe cannot be brought current within 30-days of becoming delinquent, the person responsible for payment will make arrangements to meet with the Chief Administrative Officer to discuss viable and acceptable payment alternatives, such as extended payment plans.
  - b. If a Catholic family is not active in their parish, the pastor will work with the family to work out a plan to restore participation in parish life.
    - i. If a Catholic family does not provide a Confirmation of Active Membership from their parish, the family will be required to pay the same full tuition paid by non-Catholic families.
  - c. If a non-Catholic family is not following the moral teachings of the Church the CAO will contact the family in an effort to work out a plan to resolve the issue.
  - d. The administration may not waive tuition payments or fees or provide financial relief for tuition payments for those who cannot pay.
    - i. Relief may only come from the Advancement Committee after recommendation by the CAO.
  - e. Any changes made to the original payment agreement will be documented and signed by the parents and the CAO.
  - f. If the family has not discussed with school administration their inability to make tuition payments and/or return to active parishioners, and/or to follow the moral teachings of the Church, the school administration will implement the procedures outlined in this policy regarding non-payment of tuition.
2. The student of anyone who is **60-days or more delinquent** regarding tuition or tithe at the time school recesses for Christmas break and who has not brought their tuition or tithe account current by the time school resumes in January, will not be re-admitted on the first day of classes in January.
3. All tuition accounts and tithing must be current by August 1st if a student is to be readmitted on the first day of class for the new school year.
4. Any unpaid tuition which remains **delinquent for more than 120 days** may be referred to an attorney, a collection agency, or small claims court. No such referral will be made regarding tithing.
5. If the issue is not financial in nature and is not brought consistent with this policy by August 1 of any year, the student/students will not be readmitted on the first day of class for the new school year.

## Tuition Refunds

Tuition refunds will be made on an academic quarter basis. For example, if a student withdraws during the second week of the third quarter, the family will be refunded the tuition for the fourth quarter only. If a student withdraws during the first week of the second quarter, the family will be refunded the tuition for the third and fourth quarters. All withdrawals must be made in writing.

## Graduation Eligibility

All senior tuition and fees must be paid in full prior to final exams. Seniors will not receive a diploma nor participate in the graduation ceremony until all accounts are paid in full. Transcripts of student records will not be prepared nor sent until accounts are settled. There will be no exceptions to this policy.



# Saunders Catholic Schools New Program Application



Many ideas for new programs are brought forth to the Saunders Catholic Schools with great intentions and enthusiasm. And, while the staff, communities and families that support the schools want to see progress and new innovations, there are many things to consider when adding new programs or enhancing current ones. This Decision Criteria Outline can be used to determine if introducing a new program for consideration meets a few basic criteria. New programs must help the schools to live their mission as a Catholic educational system, they must be good for the students and there must be a plan for sustainable staffing and funding for the program.

Suggested Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of the Program: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Names of the Champions of the Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Decision Tree Criteria:

a. **MISSION:** How does this program help the SCS schools live their Catholic Mission?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. **STUDENT BENEFIT:** How does this program help our students?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. **STAFFING & FUNDING:** How would this program be staffed and funded, sustainably?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_