## Saunders Catholic Schools

# TUITION POLICY, FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

## 2026-2027

**Saunders Catholic Schools (SCS)** are under the direction of the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska, and consist of **Bishop Neumann Jr/Sr High School** in Wahoo, **St. John Nepomucene Elementary School** in Weston, and **St. Wenceslaus Elementary School** in Wahoo.

**By enrolling your student in any of the three SCS schools, you acknowledge and agree to the policy guidelines presented in this document.**

# Tuition Policy

**2026 – 2027 School Year**

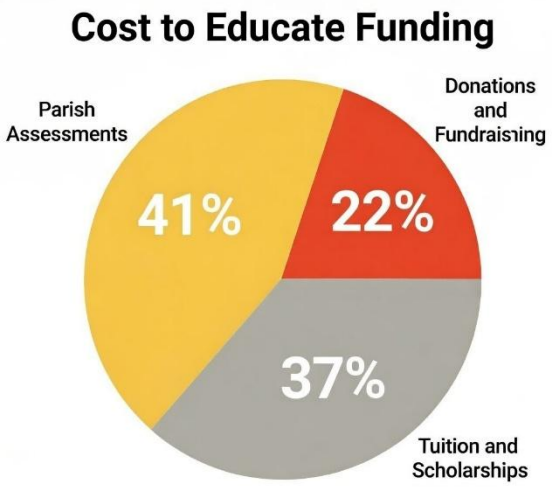
***No child will be refused a Catholic education because of a family's inability to pay, in accordance with the direction of the Bishop of the Diocese of Lincoln.***

Catholic families in Saunders County have long supported Catholic education because it fosters growth in their faith and prepares them to serve the Church and the world. Lincoln Diocese Catholic Schools also help foster vocations, **as 80% of priests in the Diocese of Lincoln received a Catholic education.**

80% of the Priests in the Diocese of Lincoln received a Catholic Education.

Supporting Catholic schools is a shared responsibility of parishes, families, and fundraising efforts. Tuition and fees help cover the cost of education and are part of a family's contribution to this mission. The policies below explain tuition payments, assistance options, late payments, and refunds.

The Wahoo Deanery parishes help cover a significant part of the cost of educating each Catholic student as a "parish assessment", but the remaining cost is made up through tuition, fundraising, grants, or scholarships. **Catholic families are expected to tithe to their parish an amount equal to or greater than the difference between the full cost of education and tuition.** This tithe is tax-deductible. **Families in need of financial assistance (in excess of the general assessment) are encouraged to contact their pastor to discuss options.**




*(The percentages listed in the graph are approximate due to variations across the three financial statements provided for each school. They remain close to the actual reported values.)*

# Participation Guidelines

SCS and families share responsibility for a student's education. **Parents are the primary educators of their children, especially in faith and morals.** SCS supports this by fostering strong Catholic values and lifelong learning in spiritual, academic, physical, and social growth.

**Catholic families are expected to abide by the five precepts of the Catholic Church.** Wahoo Deanery pastors and parishes will determine the parish participation status of families and will share this information with the school before annual registration. The term "parent(s)" includes guardians or others responsible for tuition. Enrollment at SCS is open to all students who meet Nebraska state requirements and the policies of the Diocese of Lincoln. Eligible students fall into the enrollment groups described below.

1) **Active Participants of Wahoo Deanery parishes are generally:**
   - A registered member of 1 of 11 Wahoo Deanery parishes.
   - Fulfilling their obligations and precepts as members of the Catholic Church.
   - 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.
   - Active participant families are eligible for parish tuition assistance.
   - Active participant families may be eligible for Good Shepherd, Guardian Angel, and other scholarships based on need.
   - **A Participatory Deanery Family will fall into the "Deanery" Category for tuition.**
   - A family that falls into the non-participating category will be required to pay the "Non-Participating" tuition.

2) **Active Participants of Non-Deanery parishes are generally:**
   - A registered member of a Catholic parish.
   - Fulfilling their obligations and precepts as members of the Catholic Church.
   - As a general rule, all parishioners are expected to contribute to the financial support of the parish.
   - **Families must present SCS Administration proof of parishioner and be in good standing from their pastor**
     **i) Catholic families from parishes outside of the SCS boundaries/Wahoo Deanery 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 non-deanery families are eligible for parish tuition assistance.
   - Active non-deanery families may be eligible for Good Shepherd, Guardian Angel, and other scholarships based on need.
   - **A Non-Deanery Family will fall into the "Non-Deanery" category for tuition.**
   - A family that falls into the non-participating category will be required to pay the "Non-Participating" tuition.

3) **Non-Participating families:**
   - Families who are not active participants in a Catholic parish, as defined by the parish participation guidelines above.
   - Non-participating families are not eligible for parish tuition assistance.
   - Non-participating families may be eligible for the Good Shepherd Scholarship based on financial need.
   - **A Non-participant Catholic family will fall into the "Non-Participating" category for tuition.**

4) **Non-Catholic families:**
   - If your family practices a faith other than Roman Catholic, please contact the school's administrative office to discuss enrollment details and tuition.

# 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.

| **Bishop Neumann Jr/Sr High School (Grades 7–12)** | **Full Tuition*** | **Parishes & School Support** | **Final Tuition** (after support) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deanery | **$14,000** | ($9,050) | **$4,950** |
| Non-Deanery | **$14,000** | ($7,550) | **$6,450** |
| Non-Participating | **$14,000** | ($5,250) | **$8,750** |

| **St. John Nepomucene Elementary School (K–6)** | **Full Tuition*** | **Parishes & School Support** | **Final Tuition** (after support) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deanery | **$9,600** | ($6,050) | **$3,550** |
| Non-Deanery | **$9,600** | ($4,550) | **$5,050** |
| Non-Participating | **$9,600** | ($3,750) | **$5,850** |
| **Pre-K Program** | **Tuition** | | |
| Tuesday and Thursdays | **$2,300** | | |
| Monday, Wednesday, Friday | **$2,500** | | |
| Monday through Friday | **$4,800** | | |

| **St. Wenceslaus Elementary School (K–6)** | **Full Tuition*** | **Parishes & School Support** | **Final Tuition** (after support) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deanery | **$7,410** | ($3,860) | **$3,550** |
| Non-Deanery | **$7,410** | ($2,360) | **$5,050** |
| Non-Participating | **$7,410** | ($1,560) | **$5,850** |
| **Pre-K Program** | **Tuition** | | |
| Tuesday and Thursdays | **$2,300** | | |
| Monday, Wednesday, Friday | **$2,300** | | |
| Monday through Friday | **$4,600** | | |

- ***** The **Full Tuition** is the amount it actually **costs the school to educate one student**. It is figured by dividing the school's total yearly expenses by the number of students expected to enroll. This amount shows what the school will need to charge per student to cover its costs, without any other support, to break even for the coming year.

## FEES

- **Bishop Neumann FCS:** per school year, per student - **$50**
- **Bishop Neumann Band/Chorus:** per school year, per family - **$50**
- **Bishop Neumann Show Choir:** per school year, per student - **$50**
- **SCS FACTS Payment Processing** (per school year, per family):
  Annual or Bi-Annual - **$25,** More than three payments - **$55**
- **SCS FACTS Scholarships Application:** per school year, per family - **$45**
- **SCS Bus/Transportation:** per school year, per family - **$600**
- **Lunch accounts and other transactions not related to tuition and enrollment are not in this document.**
- **All Credit Card or Debit Card transactions are assessed a 3.95% fee.**

## Payment Plan Options

- **Annually:** Pay in Full
- **Bi-Annually:** Two equal payments totaling the annual amount
- **Monthly 10:** ten equal payments totaling the annual amount
- **Monthly 12:** twelve equal payments totaling the annual amount

For more information on payment plans and school lunch accounts, please contact the Bishop Neumann Business Office at 402-443-4151. **All SCS tuition and lunch account transactions are managed through the Bishop Neumann Business Office.**

# Tuition Delinquency

Tuition is due in full on or before August 1 each school year unless a family has an approved payment plan. Families who choose a payment plan must make payments on the dates listed in their signed Tuition Agreement.
Each family is responsible for keeping the school business office informed of any needed changes to their payment plan or automatic withdrawal dates.
If tuition is not paid on time and no acceptable arrangements are made with the school, the following steps will be taken.

## Late Tuition Payments

1) **30 Days Past Due:**
   Families who are 30 days past due will be contacted by school administration to discuss the situation and possible payment options.
   a) If tuition is not brought current within 30 days, the person responsible for payment must meet with the Chief Administrative Officer to discuss acceptable payment options, such as an extended payment plan.
   b) School administration cannot reduce or forgive tuition or fees. Financial assistance may only be approved by the Advancement Committee after a recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer.
   c) Any changes to the payment agreement must be in writing and signed by the parent(s) and the Chief Administrative Officer.
   d) If a family does not contact the school to discuss payment concerns, the school will follow this policy for unpaid tuition described below.

2) **60 Days Past Due:**
   If a tuition account is 60 days or more past due and is not brought current before the start of the second semester, the student will not be allowed to return to school until the account is current or an approved payment plan is in place.

3) **120 Days Past Due:**
   Tuition that remains unpaid for more than 120 days may be referred to an attorney, a collection agency, or small claims court.

4) **Start of a New School Year:**
   All tuition accounts must be current by August 1 for a student to attend classes on the first day of the new school year.

# Tuition Refunds

Tuition refunds are issued on an academic quarter basis. Refunds apply only to quarters not yet in progress at the time of a student's written withdrawal. No refunds will be issued for a quarter once it has begun. **All withdrawals must be submitted in writing.**

# Graduation Eligibility

All senior tuition and fees must be paid in full prior to final exams. Seniors will not receive a diploma or participate in graduation ceremonies until all accounts are paid in full. Student transcripts will not be released until all financial obligations are satisfied. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

# Scholarships and Financial Aid

## One Application, Multiple Opportunities

Families may complete one online application through the FACTS Parent Portal to be considered for tuition assistance. FACTS charges a one-time, non-refundable $45 application fee, due at the time of submission.

**Apply Here: https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/4HMJ7**

**Scholarship applications are available beginning January 1, with a deadline of March 15 each year.**

**Good Shepherd Scholarship**

We are pleased to announce that the Lincoln Diocese will continue to offer Good Shepherd Scholarships for the 2026-2027 academic year for students who attend Diocesan Catholic Schools.

The **Good Shepherd Scholarship** for the 2026-2027 academic year will be $1,800 for grades K-8 and $2,100 for grades 9-12 and will cover families within 225% of the Federal Poverty Level. To be eligible for the Good Shepherd Scholarship, families must complete an application and upload tax documents through the **FACTS Scholarship Management** program. Any family may apply, regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, to learn how it works, go to www.goodshepherdscholarship.com.

*The Diocese publishes a deadline of March 31. We recommend completing all applications by March 15 to allow time for processing.*

**Family Tuition Cap Scholarships** – **The Diocese of Lincoln Good Shepherd Scholarship no longer applies to the family tuition cap.** Saunders Catholic Schools has established its own Family Tuition Cap, funded through donations. Families must apply through FACTS to qualify. Under this program, full tuition will be covered for the fourth child and any additional children enrolled in Saunders Catholic Schools, regardless of family income.

**Guardian Angel Scholarships**– The Saunders Catholic Schools Guardian Angel Scholarship is funded through family-named scholarships and a general Guardian Angel Scholarship fund supported by donors. Awards are based on adjusted gross income and demonstrated financial need and may also be granted due to a significant life-changing event.

Families who qualify for the Good Shepherd Scholarship may not be eligible for the Guardian Angel Scholarship, depending on individual circumstances. Students in preschool through 12th grade are eligible for Guardian Angel Scholarship assistance.

The application deadline through FACTS is March 15 each year. Families experiencing a life-changing event or unexpected financial hardship may request assistance at any time during the school year. To discuss eligibility, please contact the school to schedule an appointment with the Chief Administrative Officer.

**Parish Tuition Assistance** – If you wish to apply for parish tuition assistance, it is your responsibility to talk to your pastor before signing the Tuition Agreement. This assistance is beyond the assessment that the parishes are already contributing.

**All students at SCS are scholarship recipients in some form, thanks to our parishes, donors, and fundraising.**

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