



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Diocese of Salt Lake City

Frequently Asked Questions - Financing Our Catholic Schools

- 1. Who establishes the tuition rate for the Catholic elementary schools?**

The Bishop sets the tuition rates each year with input from pastors, principals and the Finance Committee of the Diocesan School Board. Tuition for all elementary/middle schools in the Diocese of Salt Lake City is the same.
- 2. Who establishes the tuition for the Catholic high schools?**

The Bishop sets the tuition rate for each school after input from the local School Board. Tuition for each high school in the Diocese of Salt Lake City may be different.
- 3. What is the cost per year to educate one student in the elementary schools?**

The cost per student for 2008-2009 is \$4,125. This cost is an average of common factors in the schools' budgets and does not include costs of individual schools that may vary from school to school because program offerings are different.
- 4. Are the Catholic schools private schools?**

NO. The elementary schools are parochial schools. They are connected with one or more parishes and are given financial and spiritual support by the parishes. The pastor is ultimately responsible for the well-being of the school. The Catholic high schools and St. John the Baptist Schools are Diocesan schools and are directly under the Bishop. Catholic parishes also give financial and spiritual support to the diocesan schools. Private schools are usually owned and operated by a Board of Trustees.
- 5. Why do schools have fees if the full cost of elementary/middle school is \$4125 for 2008-2009?**

The fees reflect the expenses not figured into the full cost (see #3). Fees are different for each school and are set by each school with the approval of the superintendent.
- 6. Why do Catholics pay less than non-Catholics?**

Catholic tuition is less because Catholics also help support the parish that in turn supports the school, non-Catholics pay about 10% more than the cost.
- 7. How much money is given to the school if I make a parish commitment?**

The parish pays \$275-290 per student to the school the child attends. This parish support assists the schools with the financial shortfall from tuition.

8. What if I can't pay the tuition rate?

All parents can apply for tuition assistance. Each school has resources for tuition assistance but the amount varies from school to school. The school tuition assistance application form must be submitted with a copy of your tax forms to FACTS, an outside company. These are reviewed with criteria and guidelines to determine need and the amount of assistance that can be offered. Each pastor and/or principal informs the family if they qualify for assistance and the amount that will be granted.

9. Why do the schools have fundraisers?

Fund raising covers the difference between actual cost and the deficit created by tuition assistance and individual school costs not included in the actual cost per pupil.

Fundraisers, such as auctions, dinners and shows, also help to build community. Fund raising will always be necessary to some extent. As we improve and increase our advancement / development efforts, less fund raising will be needed.

10. What are the "advancement / development efforts" the schools need to have?

Each school is asked to have an advancement director and / or committee. Advancement (Development) has been common in high schools and universities. In the last fifteen years it is growing in elementary schools. The Diocese of Salt Lake City sees it as essential for all the Catholic schools.

Advancement / Development efforts address the future needs of the school (through annual fund, building endowment funds, seeking grants, etc.). Fund raising is for the short term, for the present needs and budget and is usually done by the Home and School Organization (parent organization).

11. Why are Catholic school costs so much lower than the public schools?

The schools are site based managed with very little administrative staff, usually the principal, secretary and a bookkeeper who may be full or part time. The central office with a superintendent, associate superintendent and secretary are partially supported by the DDD and the schools themselves.

Teacher salaries are lower than those given to public school teachers.

The salary schedule is 80% of the school districts in which we have schools.

Resources are used wisely. The most valuable resource is the parent population of the schools. Parents volunteer to do fundraising, act as teacher aides, do playground supervision, tutoring, and a variety of other tasks. Schools couldn't manage without the parents who volunteer so generously.

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