



Investing in Our Children

Making Catholic Schools Affordable for All Families in the Diocese of Richmond

All Are Welcome

In the 2013-14 school year, a record-breaking total of \$2,032,760 in tuition assistance grants and scholarships were provided to 2,491 Catholic school students in the Diocese of Richmond.



This represents years of contributions and commitments from individuals and businesses throughout the Diocese, inspired by Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo and his conviction that our Catholic schools welcome all children whose parents want them to receive a Catholic education.



As Pope Francis has proclaimed, Catholic schools join their work of education with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel. He says, "How much good has

been done by Catholic schools!"

Annette Z. Parsons, Chief Education Administrator of the Diocese of Richmond and President of the McMahon Parater Foundation, says "Our Catholic schools are communities of faith where the love of God and



service to others are engendered. Academically, our test scores continue to be among the highest in the nation for all school systems, public and private. Our graduation and college attendance rates are nearly perfect. We have worked

hard to provide a variety of tuition assistance opportunities so that all parents may have access to our Catholic schools."



Catholic Diocese of Richmond

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Three Types of Tuition Assistance from the Diocese of Richmond

Parish Sharing

The parishes of the Diocese of Richmond support Catholic schools through an annual assessment.

- This tuition assistance is available to children who have been baptized Roman Catholic and are registered in a Parish.
- The amount of support is determined by the student's calculated need.
- These awards are available to students attending Diocesan schools.



"It is the responsibility of the entire Catholic Community – bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and laity – to continue to strive toward the goal of making our Catholic schools available, accessible, and affordable to all Catholic parents and their children ..."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

McMahon Parater Foundation Scholarships

The McMahon Parater Foundation (MPF) was established in 2008 to make Catholic schools more affordable by providing tuition assistance to families seeking a Catholic education for their children. Gifts to MPF's Investing in Our Children campaign provide this tuition assistance.

- Both Catholic and non-Catholic students are eligible for these scholarships.
- The amount of support is determined by the student's calculated need.
- These awards are available to students attending Diocesan and private Catholic schools.

Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits Program (EISTC)

Through Virginia's new EISTC program, approved donations to MPF provide Catholic school scholarships for students who are Virginia residents.

- Both Catholic and non-Catholic students are eligible for these scholarships.

- Recipients of EISTC scholarships must come from families whose annual household income is less than 300% of the current poverty guideline (or 400% for children with disabilities).

Persons in Household	Federal Poverty Guideline	300% of Guideline	400% of Guideline
2	\$15,510	\$46,530	\$62,040
3	\$19,530	\$58,590	\$78,120
4	\$23,550	\$70,650	\$94,200
5	\$27,570	\$82,710	\$110,280
6	\$31,590	\$94,770	\$126,360

- Recipients must also meet one of these criteria:
 - * Are eligible to enter kindergarten or first grade, OR
 - * Attended a Virginia public school for at least half of the current or prior school year, OR
 - * Were not Virginia residents during the preceding school year, OR
 - * Were prior recipients of an EISTC scholarship.
- Scholarships cannot exceed the state's allocation for the division in which the student resides.
- These awards are available to students attending Diocesan and private Catholic schools.

St. Bridget School also provides tuition assistance.

How To Apply

To be eligible for tuition assistance, new families first complete the admissions process.

Re-enrolling and new families must complete the FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment online application at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>.



A \$30 application fee is required.

- Families with W2 income only will need to send their 2012 tax return along with their 2013 W2's.
- Families with income other than W2 income (such as rental income, business income, income from a partnership, or any other source of income) must send their 2013 tax return and 2013 W2's.
- Families who are not required to file a tax return must send documentation to reflect this, such as documentation for Social Security Income, Welfare, Child Support, Food Stamps, Workers' Compensation, and TANF.



Deadlines

- To apply for financial assistance from BOTH the School and Diocese, new and re-enrolling families must complete their 2014-15 FACTS applications by **March 1, 2014**.
- After March 1st, new families and families with income from non-W2 sources can apply for financial assistance from the Diocese and must complete their FACTS applications by **June 1, 2014**.

If you need assistance in completing your financial aid application, please contact Ann Allen, Finance Director at (804) 288-1994, ext. 303 or aallen@saintbridget.org.