Saint Joseph CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Dear Current and Prospective Parents,

If you need to apply for financial assistance for the 2027 – 2028 school year, please read the following information regarding our financial aid options and deadlines.

1. General School Assistance through FACTS:
    - The school offers a tuition assistance program open to all families. ***The application must be submitted online to FACTS by Monday, February 8, 2027***. To apply, simply log in to the FACTS Family Portal account of the family member who is listed as being financially responsible (this should be the person who completed the enrollment/reenrollment and set up the FACTS tuition payment). Once logged in, choose FACTS from the menu options on the left side of the screen. You will then choose "Apply for Grant and Aid". You will be redirected to the FACTS website and will need to follow the instructions there for completing the application. You should already have a FACTS account that you created for your tuition payment plan so use the same log in credentials. You will need the following documents to complete the application process:
        - copies of your most recent Federal tax forms including all supporting tax schedules
        - copies of your 2026 W-2 forms
        - copies of supporting documentation for social security income, welfare, child support, food stamps, workers' compensation, and TANF.
    - The school will review all FACTS Financial Aid applications after the February 8, 2027, deadline. We will notify families electronically of their award status and amount on or before April 1, 2027.
    - All information submitted during this process will be confidential and only reviewed by the school's bookkeeper and principal.

2. Diocese of Charleston's Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Tuition Assistance Grant:
    - This tuition assistance grant is for Catholic families in good standing with their parishes. ***The application, along with a completed FACTS financial aid application (see instructions above for completing the form through FACTS Family Portal), is due to the school by Monday, March 8, 2027***. Please note that the application will not be accepted by the Diocese of Charleston unless you have completed the online FACTS financial aid application as well.

3. Exceptional SC Scholarship:
    - Through tuition tax credits and scholarships, Exceptional SC helps students with special needs attend credentialed private schools. To be eligible for the scholarship or tuition tax credit from Exceptional SC, you must have one of the documents listed below to prove eligibility. The eligibility/reevaluation determination date on the document must be within the past three years.
        - Independent Medical Professional Form
        - Multi-Disciplinary Team Report (MDTR)
        - Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
        - Individualized Service Plan (ISP)
        - Eligibility Determination Letter
        - Other Letter or Document from a South Carolina public school district.
    - If you have any questions regarding eligibility, please contact the school's Director of Student Support Services, Mrs. Heather Edwards, at hedwards@stjosdevine.com. You can obtain more information regarding the scholarship and the application process at www.exceptionalsc.org.

4. Tuition Assistance for Parish Families in Need:
    - Saint Joseph Catholic Church offers a tuition assistance program. Click HERE for more information.

5. Education Scholarship Trust Fund
    - The Education Scholarship Trust Fund Program is administered by the South Carolina Department of Education that allows qualifying South Carolina families to apply for a scholarship.
    - **Should an ESTF scholarship be awarded**, school-based financial aid and discounts will only be considered for the portion of the family's **FACTS Grant & Aid–determined need** that **exceeds the amount awarded through ESTF.**
    - Please note: **Applying for ESTF does not guarantee an award.** Due to the growing popularity of the program and limited legislative funding, there are often more applicants than available scholarships. Families are encouraged to apply early and plan accordingly, recognizing that final award decisions may impact their ability to access additional aid or discounts.
    - Application:
        - Returning ESTF Families can apply on November 1, 2026.
        - New ESTF applicants can apply on January 15, 2027.
        - On February 16, 2027, the general application window open for all eligible families with income up to 500% FPL.
        - If a family does not receive the ESTF scholarship, they remain eligible for all applicable tuition discounts and may be awarded school-based financial aid based on their **FACTS Grant & Aid–determined need**, subject to available resources.
        - The school will base aid decisions **solely on determined financial need**, not on how a family chooses to allocate their ESTF scholarship.
        - All scholarships are applied to the **full published tuition rate first**, then any applicable discounts are applied to the remaining balance.

If you have any questions regarding financial assistance, please contact me at bjones@stjosdevine.com.

Sincerely,
Brenda Jones, Bookkeeper