

The community you feel. The lessons you love.

January 19, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The National Catholic Education Association's logo seen above proclaims the accomplishments and the ongoing goal of all Catholic schools: to strive continually to create school communities that nurture faith, knowledge, and service. Our own SSJ mission statement reflects the same as we seek to form leaders who will serve with compassion, courage, and competence. Since it's opening in 1962 countless students, (many who are parents of our present SSJ students) have received a quality, Christ-centered education which has equipped them with the values and knowledge enabling them to make a positive contribution to Church and society.

However, while a Catholic school education is a "priceless" investment, it does come with costs. The projected cost to educate a child at Saints Simon and Jude in the 2017-2018 school year is \$6,213. Because our parish maintains a steadfast commitment to providing a high quality faith-based education, families who desire a Catholic school education for their child do not have to shoulder the financial burden on their own. As you examine the tuition numbers provided in this correspondence, you will see that the parish provides "scholarship" assistance to all children. This is possible due to parishioners' weekly tithe, as well as by donations given to support our school.

Our goal is to continue to balance our parish financial resources across all ministries by keeping the amount of parish subsidy to the school at the lowest possible rate and yet still keep tuition at a reasonable level. It is in the context of that goal that next year's tuition schedule was developed. To assist you in meeting the tuition payments within your family budget we are pleased to make available several options for payment and tuition assistance which you will find **delineated below and on the reverse side of this letter.**

Financial supports available to help with the tuition costs:

1. Families who need financial support to meet the tuition cost should complete an application for BLOCS funding and/or for assistance through the SSJ Catholic Education Fund (CEF). For BLOCS, you can access the online form either at www.blocs.org or go directly to www.smartaidforparents.com. The CEF form is on the school website under Admissions. **For repeat BLOCS applicants, forms were due in late 2016, but can still be completed in early 2017. New applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible in early 2017. The CEF application deadline is July 1, 2017.** For additional information, visit the school website or contact Sr. Regina.
2. **The SCRIP program** is available online with no limit to the amount of money a family can earn towards tuition credit. Many businesses offer SCRIP and a percentage of your purchases will be credited directly toward your child's tuition. Details for this program are available from school personnel and on the school website www.simonandjude.org (click on parish school).
3. Any family who brings a new family to the school for grades 2 through 6 will receive a **\$500 tuition credit**. We encourage families to help market our excellent school and so we extend this offer as a token of appreciation for introducing a new family to our school community.

We extend our thanks to you, our parents and guardians, whose cooperation and support have been a significant factor in our school's excellence these past 50+ years! May the Lord bless you and the Holy Spirit help you in every area of your parenting - most especially in the passing on of the great gift of our Catholic faith.

Respectfully yours in Christ,



Rev. Michael Gerlach
Pastor



Sr. Regina Elinich, IHM
Principal