



DIOCESE OF PEORIA

# Saint Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Parish

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## **NEW POLICY EFFECTING TUITION FOR SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL SCHOOL**

### **History**

Catholic schools in the United States have been part of the educational landscape of this country since the days of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Saint John Neumann. When immigrants began arriving in great numbers in the 1800s, our Catholic ancestors built schools as a means to hand on their faith, their culture, and in some cases even their language. Right here in Streator, three of the parishes supported a grade school. Saint Michael the Archangel School is the successor to those schools.

In the United States, Catholic grade schools have nearly always been heavily dependent upon their sponsoring parish for financial support. In some cases, students could attend their parish grade school for free or for what amounted to a token payment because the school was heavily subsidized by the parish. Currently, Saint Michael the Archangel Parish subsidizes the grade school by about a quarter of a million dollars annually. This translates to each of our students in grades K-8 being subsidized by the parish by well over \$1,500 per student per year! (Our pre-school is self-sustaining and is not subsidized by the Parish.) The understanding – at least on the part of the Parish – is the families who attend the school will meaningfully contribute their time, or their talent, or their treasure to the Parish in return for the Parish subsidizing the education of their children.

### **What is remaining the same?**

Nothing is changing in the way students apply for and receive financial aid. Families that can demonstrate a financial need will continue to apply for financial aid using FACTS. Financial aid is offered both in the form of Spalding Scholarships granted by the Diocese of Peoria and by the financial aid that our school makes available each year. As in the past, one must apply for the financial aid *each year* in order to receive it. The application does not automatically renew.

### **What is new?**

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish is changing the way it subsidizes the grade school. In the future, instead of the subsidy being given in lump sum, *individual families* will be subsidized. As part of the new policy, families will be classified as either *participating* or *non-participating* in St. Michael the Archangel Parish. In order to qualify as a participating family, you will be required to demonstrate your regular attendance and/or participation at Mass. Please note that it is not necessary to be Catholic to attend or participate in Mass. For the 2018-2019 school year, Kindergarten through Eighth grade tuition for participating families will be \$2,700 for one child, \$4,300 for two children, \$5,400 for three children, and the 4<sup>th</sup> child will remain free of charge. For non-participating families, Kindergarten

through Eighth grade tuition will be \$3,300 for one child, \$4,900 for two children, \$6,000 for three children, and the 4<sup>th</sup> child will be free of charge.

### **How can I participate?**

Attendance and participation in Mass will be tracked on a monthly basis through a ticketing and sign-in system. For attendance, students will receive personalized tickets that they will be required to submit directly to either Msgr. Halfacre or Father Ray at the conclusion of Mass. For participation, students or parents will be required to sign-in each time they participate in the Mass (ex. serving, singing in the choir, ushering). In order to qualify for the participating family rate during the 2018-2019 school year, you need to be thinking about your attendance and participation now. Some of the opportunities for families to participate in the Mass, outside of regular attendance, include:

Serving as an altar server	Singing in the adult choir
Singing in the children's choir	Usher at Mass
Serving as a lector at Mass	Passing out bulletins after Mass
Serving as a Eucharistic Minister (adults only)	
Assisting with straightening books, cleaning up the pews after Mass	

As time goes by, further opportunities may be added by the Parish.

### **Credits must be earned in advance**

The credits are earned *in advance* of the school year – not during the school year. Effective immediately, families can begin earning credits for the following school year. Credits can be earned up to the end of the fiscal year, June 30. At that point, the parish will inform the school of the credits each family has earned and that family's tuition will be calculated shortly after July 1 for the upcoming school year.

### **For the 2018-2019 school year**

For next year's school year, credits earned by participation in a Designated Parish Activity will be worth \$100 (one hundred dollars) and each family may earn up to a maximum of six credits. The following year (the 2019-2020 school year) the credit will be fifty dollars per event and the families will have twelve months to complete them.

These credits are only able to be used for tuition at St. Michael the Archangel School and they have no cash value beyond the tuition rebate described in this policy.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Attached to this letter is a set of frequently asked questions that we hope will address the points of this letter in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Monsignor Philip D. Halfacre  
Pastor

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Why is this policy being enacted?**

It is hoped that it will prompt our families to be more engaged in the life of the Parish and not simply in the school. For families that are already involved in the Parish, very little will change.

### **How often are people being asked to participate?**

To take full advantage of credit opportunities, approximately once per month.

### **What is the cut-off date each year for earning credits?**

June 30, which is the end of the fiscal year.

### **What happens on June 30?**

The Parish will send the information to the School indicating the number of credits each family has earned. At that point, their tuition for the upcoming school year will be determined.

### **Why can't credits be earned for pre-school?**

The pre-school is not subsidized by the Parish. It is entirely financially self-sustaining.

### **Can families earn credits during the year before their child enters kindergarten?**

Yes.

### **What is the maximum number of credits that can be earned by a family?**

For the 2018-2019 school year, the maximum number of credits is 6. The following year, that number will increase to 12, but their value will decrease to \$50 per credit.

### **Can a family earn more than one credit per month?**

Yes.

### **Can anyone in the family earn these credits?**

Credits can be earned by either the children or by their parents.

### **If two children participate in the same event, do they earn one credit or two?**

One. As the policy states, only one credit may be earned per event.

### **Can a family earn extra credits?**

No.

### **How will the Parish know when families have participated in these events?**

Attendance will be taken.

### **Will families be able to track their progress during the year?**

Yes. The school will have a way for families to see how many credits have been earned - either online or through information periodically sent home.

**Can a family earn credits for another family?**

No.

**Can credits be earned by participating in school activities?**

No.

**What effect does this have on Pride Hours that parents are required to earn?**

None.

**Do families have the option of simply paying the additional six hundred dollars rather than participating in these events?**

Yes.

**Why does the rate change between next year's school year (\$100 per credit) and the following year (\$50 per credit)?**

For next year's school year, families will only have approximately six months to earn credits rather than the usual twelve.

**What about families that do not belong to the Parish?**

Every family has the opportunity to participate. Even families that are not of the Catholic faith may earn credits by singing in the choir, passing out bulletins after Mass, or attending Mass.

**What about families that belong to a different parish, such as Sts. Peter and Paul in Leonore or Saint Mary of the Field in Grand Ridge?**

They too have the opportunity to earn these credits by participating at Saint Michael the Archangel Parish events.

**Can credits be earned by participating in events at some other parish?**

No.