

BUSINESS

ESTABLISHING TUITIONS

In addition to parish subsidy, an essential element in the financing of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg, a tuition charge is the other major source of funding for schools. It is understood that those who use the schools must be willing to make a sacrifice for the special benefits which their children enjoy. Development/fund-raising efforts will assist in keeping the tuition lower than would be necessary otherwise. Parish subsidy and tuition in addition to fund-raising as the means for financing Catholic schools applies to both elementary and secondary schools.

The following policy is effective and is to be observed by all elementary and secondary schools in the Diocese:

1. There is to be a tuition charge in all elementary schools of the Diocese of Harrisburg.
 - a. The tuition fee for parish members throughout the diocese is to represent a fair share of the operating costs of the school. This fee will be determined by the Pastor/Executive Director in consultation with the local Board of Education.
 - b. If a parish does not have a parish school and the Catholic parents/guardians want to send their children to a Catholic school, they will be expected to pay the same tuition rate as parents of the parish school.
2. There is to be a tuition charge in all secondary schools of the Diocese of Harrisburg.
 - a. This tuition fee for Catholic students of the Diocese of Harrisburg is to represent a fair share of the operating costs of the school. This fee will be determined by the local Board of Education.
3. Each parish should establish a Tuition Assistance Program to assist worthy and financially needy students. This is in addition to any assistance programs provided by the school.
4. Elementary and secondary schools should recognize the possible hardship on parents/guardians who have more than one child in an elementary or secondary school. The schools are encouraged to have a reduced, graduated scale for the amounts of tuition charged based on the number of children from the same family in the schools.
5. Parents are accountable for their active participation in their parish church in those areas that directly affect the transmission of the Catholic faith, such as weekly attendance at the celebration of the Eucharist. Otherwise, they may be classified as inactive Catholics.

6. Pastors may require a higher tuition rate for student parishioners who themselves or their parents/guardians are inactive Catholics.

7. Non-Catholic students or Catholic students from another diocese may be charged a higher rate of tuition, but the fee may not exceed the per-pupil cost for the current school year.

Policy

Revised: June 17, 1994

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Bishop of Harrisburg