



Tuition Assistance Program

We strive to admit all academically qualified students, regardless of their ability to pay, and are proud of the diversity of individuals within the student body. St. Joseph Academy is committed to helping make a Catholic high school education accessible to all those who are interested. Our need-based tuition assistance, which is supported by the school, helps to make an education at SJA affordable. Tuition assistance awards are based on the family's demonstrated need as determined by FACTS Grant Assessment program. FACTS is a third party agency that makes financial need assessments for SJA. Applications are submitted on line and must be completed by March 31, 2012. To be considered for financial assistance your student(s) must be registered at St. Joseph Academy. Submitting an application does not guarantee assistance.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How can I justify spending money on high school education that could be set aside for college? Studies show the impact and value of a secondary education on the intellect and character of a young person far exceed that of a college education and are more enduring. Our hope is that St. Joseph Academy graduates will have greater college choices as well as the maturity and motivation to take full advantage of what college has to offer them.

Can anyone apply for Tuition Assistance at SJA? Any student, who has completed the application *and registration* processes, including payment of the application fee, may apply for tuition assistance.

How do I apply for assistance? Applications must be made online, through the FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment, at www.factsmgt.com. The FACTS Company requires payment of a processing fee and documentation of income. The application procedure is very similar to that used by colleges and serves as a good introduction to that process.

When can I apply for tuition assistance? Applications become available online at www.factsmgt.com after the December 1, 2011. **The deadline for applications to be submitted is March 30, 2012.** We encourage you to apply as soon as possible and your student is registered or re-registered for the upcoming school year, allowing sufficient time to submit the required documentation of income prior to the deadline.

How are awards determined? The FACTS Company applies a standard, objective formula to every application to determine the amount of family income that should be available for Catholic school tuition, and makes recommendations to St. Joseph Academy regarding each family's need for assistance. The school uses the FACTS recommendations to rank each application according to need. Available funds are then awarded on a prorated basis, with the goal of making the cost of attending SJA as equally affordable as we can for each family.

Is there a maximum family income above which a student will not be awarded tuition assistance? Because funds are limited and available funds are awarded according to the needs of all the students who apply for assistance, it is possible that the least financially needy families will be awarded little or no assistance. Submitted information is held in strict confidentiality and not shared or disseminated in any way with any other organizations.

Can a student have 100% of the cost of attending SJA covered by tuition assistance? We require every family to make some financial investment in their student's education at SJA. The amount a family is required to pay is determined by both the family's financial needs and the funds available for assistance.

Where do the funds for Tuition Assistance come from? Tuition assistance is funded through donations and bequests from generous individual benefactors as well as our annual auction and fund raising each year.

When will I be advised whether I have been awarded assistance? No awards are finally determined until after the March 31st deadline. Awards are generally mailed within two weeks following the deadline date.

What if the award I am offered is not enough? We ask that you give prayerful consideration to the award, knowing that attendance at a Catholic school involves sacrifice for every family. If, however, the award is insufficient, we encourage you to submit a written request for review, detailing any special circumstances that may not have been considered in the standard application process. That request will be considered as additional funds become available.

Once a student is awarded tuition assistance, does he receive that assistance every year? No, families MUST reapply for assistance each year, and awards are dependent each year on the families' current financial needs and available funds.

Are there any other sources of assistance available to me? Each year there are additional SJA scholarships available based on different criteria. Applications are available by contacting the Admission Director at the school. In addition if a student attended a Florida public school the previous year, and the family income qualifies them, you may apply for the Fla. Step Up for Students scholarship program on line at www.stepupforstudents.org.