



Our Lady Star of the Sea School
PO Box 560, 90 Alexander Lane
Solomons, MD 20688
Phone (410) 326-3171

Pastor: Father Ken Gill
Principal: Mrs. Jennifer Thompson

February 22, 2021

Dear Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

Through collaborative efforts of the finance committee, administration, and the advisory board, tuition and fees for our next school year have been discussed. Fr. Ken and I recognize that this past year has indeed been a difficult one, and we understand that many families are still impacted financially due to the pandemic. We have determined that a major increase in tuition at this time would negatively impact our school families, and apart from such changes as required by the ADW Catholic Schools Office, we will not be greatly increasing our tuition rates for the 2021-22 school year.

When determining tuition, we try to keep a balance between affordability for our families and the strategic needs of the school. Additionally, the Catholic Schools Office has required us to restructure our tuition to reflect one rate and to include the new Catholic Active Parishioner Grant (CAPG) to offset that rate. After careful review of all considerations, the new, one-rate tuition for the 2021-2022 school year will be \$7,400 per child (an increase of \$181.25). Please see the attached page for a breakdown of our tuition rate and the Catholic Active Parishioner Grant requirements. (In a nutshell: the new one-rate tuition of \$7,400 minus the CAPG of \$1,200 = \$6,200. The actual increase in tuition is only \$31.25). Each Catholic family will need to complete the CAPG form and have it signed by their Pastor to receive the Grant. The administrative fee will remain the same at \$200 per child (max \$400 per family).

We encourage our families to keep in mind that the actual cost to educate a student (approximately \$9,500/annually) is much greater than the tuition charged. We rely on support from our very generous Parishes, Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. John Vianney, our HSA, and other advancement efforts each year. Therefore, it is vital that families complete their required volunteer hours and participate in the life of the school as much as possible.

Additionally, I strongly recommend that families take advantage of the additional financial assistance and scholarships available by applying annually for the Archdiocese of Washington Tuition Assistance Program <https://adwcatholicschools.org/tuition-assistance/> and the Maryland BOOST Scholarship <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/boost/index.aspx>
Parents/Guardians are required to apply for both before any further tuition assistance will be considered.

Our goal is - and always has been - to provide the highest quality of faith based education for your child. If you have any questions regarding financial assistance and/or tuition programs, please feel free to contact the school office.

Grace and Peace,

Jennifer Thompson, Principal
Our Lady Star of the Sea School
principal@olsss.org