



Our Lady Star of the Sea School
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Pastor: Rev. Robert Kilner
Principal: Mrs. Jennifer Thompson

March 1, 2023

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. Bob and I recognize that this difficult economy has impacted many families. We determined that a major increase in tuition would negatively impact our school families, and therefore we will not greatly increase our tuition rates for the 2023-2024 school year. The Advisory Board suggested a 5% tuition increase to accommodate teachers raises and the overall rise in school operations costs. After careful consideration, Fr. Bob and I have determined that a 3% increase will suffice to meet our needs for next year.

We will continue to post our tuition in a manner that reflects the one rate required by the Archdiocese of Washington's Catholic School's Office and to include the Catholic Active Parishioner Grant (CAP Grant). The tuition rate for 2023-2024 will be \$8000. (When broken down over the 10-month payment plan, this reflects an increase of approximately \$23 dollars a month.) The CAP Grant will continue to be \$1200 per student. Each Catholic family will need to complete the CAP Grant application and have it approved and signed by their Pastor to receive the Grant. The Administrative Fee will remain the same at \$200 per child (max \$400 per family) and will be due at the signing of the tuition contract.

Families must keep in mind that the actual cost to educate a student (approximately \$10,200 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, as well as from our HSA, and other advancement efforts each year. Therefore, it is vital for families to complete their required volunteer hours (returning to 40 hours for 2023-2024 school year) and participate in the life of the school as much as possible.

Families have been encouraged to 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 <https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/boost/index.aspx>. Parents/Guardians are **required** to apply for both assistance opportunities before further tuition assistance will be considered. Please be aware of deadlines.

Our continued goal is to provide the highest quality, affordable, 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,
Mrs. Jennifer Thompson
Jennifer Thompson, Principal
Our Lady Star of the Sea School

AN ISLAND OF LEARNING...A SEA OF FAITH