



Dear Families:

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic schools continue to have a tremendously positive impact on our students' growth academically, spiritually, and socially, as well as a strong and lasting presence in our communities through service and prayer. Our dedicated administrators, teachers, and staff are able to accomplish such goals as a result of the partnership with you, our parents and families, who choose to provide your children with a Catholic school education. Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to our Catholic schools!

As we continue to implement the Strategic Growth Plan, presented in January 2025, we are working toward achieving the outlined goals that lead us to providing a Catholic education that is spiritually sound, academically excellent, and financially sustainable. With your support, we have made significant steps toward these goals and look forward to your continued partnership.

As you are aware, one of the goals within the Strategic Growth Plan includes the action step of providing ways to ensure transparency and accountability with school finances so stakeholders are aware of the actual cost of education as it relates to tuition and other key revenue sources. An additional goal of ours has been to enhance our efforts to secure additional Educational Improvement Tax Credit/Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (EITC/OSTC) funding, while encouraging new donors to use their funds for the benefit of Catholic schools within the Diocese. These goals play into the ultimate goal of our school system working with an annual balanced budget and maintaining a sustainable approach to operating our Catholic schools.

I am pleased to report that the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System presented a balanced budget for the 2026-2027 school year and remains on track to continue operating in this manner. While there are multiple factors that contributed to the outcome of a balanced budget including providing you with the true cost of education for our schools, one major factor has been your commitment to both contributing to EITC and your willingness to complete tuition assistance applications. With an increase in EITC scholarship funds and a better opportunity to access funds through the Economically Disadvantaged School Funds Tax Credit statewide program, we are better financially situated to fund the scholarships we distribute to our families who show need. Knowing these changes supported such an outcome, we ask for your continued support!

With that in mind, as you begin the enrollment process for the 2026-27 school year, you will once again see the Cost To Educate (CTE) your child at your school as the posted tuition. Along with the posted CTE, you will see options that provide opportunities for families to decrease the CTE by completing the tuition assistance application and/or participating in the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. By doing either of these options, you will receive a guaranteed scholarship that will automatically be applied to your account. The guaranteed scholarship can be seen in the discounted rates provided in the charts on the tuition page for your school. Please note, if you decide not to apply for tuition assistance or participate in the PA Tax Credit Program, you will be charged the posted Cost To Educate for your school.

## **Tuition Assistance**

If you are interested in tuition assistance, you will complete the tuition assistance application during the online enrollment process. Please note the application process has been simplified. Hearing that many families found the process time-consuming, requiring uploads of multiple documents, we worked with FACTS to address this concern. When applying for tuition assistance, FACTS will now use a more streamlined approach that should minimize the time and effort needed to complete the tuition assistance application. Completing this step during the enrollment process will allow your family to automatically receive a guaranteed scholarship, as well as to be considered for additional tuition assistance.

If you qualify to receive an EITC scholarship award, you will receive a guaranteed minimum scholarship of \$500 per eligible student at the elementary school level and/or \$1,000 scholarship per eligible student at the high school level, which will be applied to the discounted rate. The EITC scholarships are need-based and the PA Department of Community and Economic Development determines the household income guidelines. For more information about eligibility thresholds, please visit [www.dced.pa.gov](http://www.dced.pa.gov).

## **Educational Improvement Tax Credit Scholarship Program**

If you are interested in participating in the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Scholarship Program, you can learn how to do so by watching the video (link included in the enrollment email). We have partnered with the company RedefinED, who will be able to process your pledge form and walk you through the process of participating in the PA Tax Credit Program. If you have specific questions about becoming a participant in the PA Tax Credit Scholarship Program, contact Brooke Sheesley at RedefinED at (814) 270-1871 or [brooke@redefiningeducation.org](mailto:brooke@redefiningeducation.org). If you wish to participate, please send the completed RedefinED-BLOCS Pledge form directly to Brooke.

If you participated in the EITC program for the 2025-26 school year and will be doing so again for the 2026-27 school year, thank you! Considering your ongoing commitment to the EITC program for the upcoming year, your tuition will reflect the discounted rate. Should you decide not to continue participating in the EITC program, please let Brooke at RedefinED know and your tuition rate will be adjusted to reflect the Cost To Educate.

## Online Enrollment Process

The online enrollment window for the 2026-27 school year is now open. We will again offer our current families the opportunity to enroll first. Please pay particular attention to the deadlines below to guarantee your seat.

The 2026 - 2027 Online Enrollment Details are as follows:

- You will receive separate emails from your school for each child in our schools with a link and directions to complete the online enrollment. Much of the information will be pre-populated. It should take about 15-20 minutes to complete. If you don't receive the email(s) by **February 6**, contact your school principal.
- To guarantee your child's/children's seat(s), you must complete the online enrollment materials and submit them along with the **\$175 non-refundable family enrollment fee by the date indicated on the invoice**. You will receive an email invoice for the online enrollment fee about a week after submitting your materials.
- After **March 02, 2026**, the online enrollment process will be open to any families on waitlists.
- If your elementary school student will be continuing on to a diocesan high school, you must go online to <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/register/> to start the process.
- To enroll, your account must be in good standing. Please refer to the **Tuition Policy** on our website at [www.dioceseofscranton.org/catholic-schools/enroll-a-student-2](https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/catholic-schools/enroll-a-student-2).
- In an effort to make our schools affordable, additional resources are being dedicated to tuition assistance. We also have opportunities in each school to reduce tuition through SCRIP, referral of new families, events, etc. Please talk with your principal about school specific tuition reduction opportunities.

Your timely online enrollment not only guarantees your family has access to one of the best educational experiences in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania, but also ensures we are prepared to offer the best educational experience for your student.

Please do not hesitate to call your school or the Catholic Schools Office if you have any questions.

Thank you for your choosing our Catholic school to be part of the educational journey for your child/ren. I pray you and your family enjoy continued health and happiness!

Sincerely,



Kristen Donohue

Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education / Superintendent of Catholic Schools