

Financial Aid Resources for the 2020-2021 Elementary Program at SSCD School

A few notes regarding financial aid:

This summary is compiled based on financial aid resources typically available to families with children enrolled the elementary program. Financial aid is not guaranteed. Families of registered students will be apprised of all new financial aid opportunities that become available.

Currently, nearly all scholarships that we offer to our elementary students are administered through agencies affiliated with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. As such, these scholarships adhere to the income guidelines listed below.

Additional financial aid resources (Scrip, FACTS, pre-pay discount) are available to all families.

Some of the resources listed below have limited funding available to students enrolled in our preschool program. We encourage you to check with the school office for more information.

EITC Income Guidelines for the 2020 – 2021 School Year

Dependents	1	2	3	4	5	6
Maximum Income	\$105842.00	\$121684.00	\$137526.00	\$153368.00	\$169210.00	\$185052.00

The STAR Foundation Scholarship (STAR) Preschool & Elementary Grades

- The STAR Foundation is a non-profit initiative of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie. EITC scholarships are made possible through the generous support of local and regional businesses.
- **STAR is one of the primary resources for financial aid for our elementary students. Everyone is encouraged to apply.**
- *See EITC income guidelines above.* Awards are based on the needs of all applicants and the total funding that is available for distribution.
- Applications for the scholarship are generally available with student registration packets at the school office, the rectory office, and online at the diocesan website: www.eriecd.org (type “star” in the search box).
- Completed applications are processed by the scholarship agency and are totally confidential.
- Families will be notified before June 1, 2020 of their award status for the new school year and credit will be applied to students’ accounts before mid-June 2020.
- There is a \$20.00 application fee levied by the administrators of the scholarship.
- Families who meet the generous EITC income guidelines for this scholarship must apply before **April 15, 2020**.

The Children's Scholarship Fund of Pennsylvania (CSF) **Preschool & Elementary Grades**

- The Children's Scholarship Fund of Pennsylvania is a non-profit foundation based in Clarion, PA. EITC scholarships are made possible through the generous support of local and regional businesses.
- **CSF is one of the primary resources for financial aid for our elementary students. Everyone is encouraged to apply.**
- *See EITC income guidelines on page 1.* Awards are based on the needs of all applicants and the total funding that is available for distribution.
- Applications for the scholarship are generally available after March 1 at the school office, the rectory office, and online at www.csfofpa.org
- Completed applications are processed by the scholarship agency and are totally confidential.
- Families will be notified of their award status toward the end of the fall term (December 2020) or at the beginning of the spring term (early 2021).
- Since this scholarship is distributed mid-way through the school year, families must make their tuition payment arrangements prior to being notified of their scholarship award status; refunds will be issued as applicable.
- There is a \$25.00 application fee levied by the administrators of the scholarship.
- Families who meet the generous EITC income guidelines for this scholarship must apply before **July 31, 2020**.

BRIDGE Educational Foundation Scholarship **Elementary Grades** *(availability will be announced)*

- The BRIDGE Educational Foundation is a non-profit agency based in Harrisburg, PA that awards EITC scholarships to qualified families across the state of Pennsylvania.
- *See EITC income guidelines on Page 1.* Awards are based on the needs of all applicants and the funding that is available for distribution.
- Families who are awarded a BRIDGE scholarship must fulfill a volunteer service hour requirement. Adult members of the student's family must commit to performing a specified number of hours to volunteering (40 hours total for elementary awards; 10 hours total for pre-K awards) at any non-profit entity – including our school – before the end of the school year.
- Completed applications are processed by an independent firm and are totally confidential.
- Applications for the scholarship will be available at the school office when announced.
- There is no processing fee.
- The application deadline for BRIDGE scholarships will be announced when available.

The Knights of Columbus Scholarship **Elementary Grades**

- The local chapter of the Knights of Columbus sponsors this scholarship, which is available to assist families whose needs extend beyond the assistance awarded through the various EITC programs.
- Families must first apply for tuition assistance through all of the EITC scholarship programs for which they qualify.
- There are no application forms for this scholarship; families who are interested in applying must schedule a meeting with the pastor or principal to discuss their needs.
- There is no application fee and the application deadline is **December 31, 2020**.

Pre-pay Tuition Discount: 10% **All families**

- Families who opt to pay their tuition in full by the published due date can take advantage of a 10% discount on their base tuition rate. (Registration and Activity Fees are exempt from the discount.)
- The Pre-pay Tuition Discount is superseded by any subsequent financial aid awards. For example, if you pre-pay and receive the 10% discount and then subsequently receive a scholarship through one of the EITC programs, the 10% discount will be reduced by the amount of the EITC scholarship award.
- EITC scholarship awards that exceed the amount of your pre-pay discount will replace the discount entirely.

FACTS Tuition Management Program **All families**

- The FACTS program is a valuable budget management tool. It allows families to spread their tuition payments over a period of months to accommodate their budget.
- Families can choose either the two-installment payment plan (\$10.00 annual processing fee) or the plan offering up to ten monthly installments (\$42.00 annual processing fee).
- If you participated in FACTS for the previous school year, there is no need to complete a new on-line registration – you will be able to take advantage of Automatic Reenrollment.
- If you would like to enroll in the program for the new school year, you will need to register online at <https://online.factsmgt.com> by **May 8, 2020**.
- The FACTS program is a safe, convenient, and totally confidential way to manage your tuition and academic expenses.
- Additional information is available on the school's website and at the school office.

SS. Cosmas & Damian School Scrip Program All families

- **The Scrip program is open to everyone – even extended family members, friends, and neighbors!**
- Through the use of gift cards redeemable at local and national merchants, the Scrip program allows participants to earn credit toward educational expenses without impacting their budget in any way.
- The Scrip program offers optional “PrestoPay” services that allow you to download merchant credit directly to your mobile phone as you need it. No cards or certificates necessary!
- The dividends that you earn through the program during the year can be directly applied to your tuition and fees the following year.
- There is no charge for enrolling in the Scrip program.
- **Registration packets are available at the school office, the rectory office, and online at www.sscdschool.com throughout the year. We strongly encourage you to explore the possibilities of this great program!**

A final note regarding Budget Payment Plans...

We are happy to help you to find a payment solution to fit your budget. As a supplement to the convenient installment payment plans offered through FACTS, we will work with you to arrive at a monthly payment amount that you can afford until all of your financial aid is in place. Please note that this option does not reduce your overall tuition obligation, it simply allows you to defer a portion of your monthly payments until financial aid is awarded. Contact the school office or the business manager for more information.

*If you have questions about financial aid, please call
Principal Heather Serian Kunselman at 814-938-4224
or Tony Bofinger, Business Manager at 814-938-6540 x214*

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