

St. Michael Catholic School
Home & School Association (HSA) Family Point System
SY: 2020 - 2021

History

St. Michael Catholic School has had a long tradition of offering families a Catholic education for their children at an affordable price. Many of our alumni recall the days when their parents paid \$50 or less in annual tuition when our school was under the direction of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. Unfortunately, over time, there became fewer religious sisters and those who were assigned to rural schools like ours were reassigned new duties in their home community of Victoria. The Catholic schools in rural communities would rely on laypersons to fill these vacated positions. Unlike the religious sisters who received little or no compensation for their assignments, the lay teachers and administrators required compensation for their work. The cost to operate the school increased with the need for additional pay for administrators and teachers. With the increase in the cost of living, comes an increase in the cost to educate students. The education cost per pupil for the 2020-2021 school year is set at \$9,930.00 based on an estimated enrollment of 90 students. Few if any families can afford to pay this tuition rate. Father Wayne Flagg and our parish community continue to provide a parish subsidy which helps increase income to cover the cost of operating expenses allowing administration to lower the rate of tuition. However, for many, even this lower tuition rate is not enough. In 2013 the St. Michael Catholic School Home & School Association created a point system to encourage participation in fundraising, alleviate the burden of fundraising which had fallen on the shoulders of the same families year-after-year, and prevent a drastic increase in the tuition rate, which was needed in order to cover the cost to operate the school and educate students. Families choosing to participate would agree to work fundraising events and sell items, thus earning credit points toward a tuition subsidy. Those who opted out of this system or who did not fully participate would be expected to pay a higher rate of tuition. The HSA Family Point System continues today.

Process

The HSA officers and board members receive their fundraising goal amount from administration which is the minimal amount of income needed for the operating budget to support a discounted rate of tuition. Administration, with advisement from the School Advisory Council and in consultation with the school finance committee, establishes tuition and fees based on expected enrollment and projected budget increases/decreases. During this first phase of the budgeting process, rates are approved and set; the HSA is informed of the minimal income amount needed from families to cover the difference remaining toward the total per pupil cost of tuition. The HSA Board then determines which fundraisers will be most lucrative, establishing the minimal amount needed for each and a fundraising goal for each. Then the number of workers are tallied for each fundraising event in order to set how many working points are needed by each family per semester. The board also establishes and administration approves the cash equivalent or dollar amount for each working point. To determine the HSA discount to families, calculate the fundraising goal /# of families on the point system. Then determine the annual sales per family by calculating: HSA discount – total working point cash equivalent. The annual selling amount will be divided into two semesters according to events and eligible selling opportunities. Any family who chooses not to participate in the Family Point System, will not receive the HSA discount; this amount will be added to the rate of tuition for one student.

Fundraising Start-up Funds

Each fundraising event has a chairperson who may be an HSA member. Each chairperson is responsible for requesting any start-up funds needed prior to their event. This amount should be submitted to the HSA board annually in the preceding school year after the income and expenses report is completed for the event, or by the end of the fiscal year, July 31. HSA will reserve funds from the preceding fiscal year as start-up funds for those fundraising events that occur at the beginning of the new school year/fiscal year, August 1.

Fundraising Income

Payouts are made as *donations* to the school throughout the school/fiscal year, typically one in the fall after the *Night on the Town*, one in the winter in late January or early February, and one in the summer prior to the July break, mid to late June. The amount remaining in the HSA account should reflect start-up funds needed for early school year fundraising events requiring a budget and other early payouts, i.e. volleyball or football uniforms, stipends for game officials, funds to pay the water bill for the football field.

Special Projects

Fundraising income earned in excess of the minimal goal and start-up funds may be used for special projects. The HSA board will discuss with administration those areas of need. These may include new equipment, curriculum, technology, etc. or improvements to facilities and grounds. Examples of each include but are not limited to the following: copy machine, laminating machine, Chromebooks, computers, printers, STEM equipment and supplies, landscaping, covered walkway, etc.