



ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

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To: Parents & Guardians

From Mr. Munz

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2020

RE: 2020-2021 Tuition Aid Process

For the fourth year, our Tuition Aid application / award process will be through FACTS Management, accessed through the Diocesan website. Some Basic Information about the 2020-2021 Tuition Aid Process includes the following:

- The Family Application Fee has been frozen at \$25.00.
- All applications must be completed online. The FACTS support team will provide any assistance needed to families using the online application process for the first time.
- The application deadline is March 16, 2020. If individual families have extenuating circumstances in meeting this deadline, the Diocese will be as flexible as possible in accommodating your needs.
- *The 2020-2021 Pastor Signature Sheet is required for the Bishop's Education Fund Grant. Once families secure their pastor's signature, the form will instruct you to present them to the principal. The principal will then log into FACTS and check that the form has been received.*
- Families will again be notified by email to log into their account to view their aid awards.
- If emergencies arise after initial grants are disbursed, families are free to email the Department of Catholic Schools at budplan@diopitt.org.

As in past years, the following aid funds will be available to families, depending upon your eligibility:

- Bishop's Education Fund – For Catholic Families with students in grades K-12. Must complete Pastor Signature form.
- Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) – Open to any student in grades Pre-School to 12 from families who meet the EITC income guidelines.
- Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC) – Open to any student in grades K-12 who meet the EITC income guidelines and would be attending a low achieving public school as defined by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

DIOCESAN WEBSITE LINK

- All information needed to apply for aid, including the Pastor Signature Sheet and a link to the FACTS online application is on the Diocesan Website under the "Schools" section and "How Can I Afford Catholic Education?" sub section. The direct link is <https://diopitt.org/affordable>. Please contact the school office with any questions.

Many Blessings,

Mr. Munz

**2020-2021 Pastor Signature Sheet
Diocese of Pittsburgh**

**For Catholic Families Applying to the
Bishop's Education Fund ***

Parent/Guardian Name (Last, First): _____

Students (Last, First)

School

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Parish Name: _____ Parish City: _____

Pastor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pastors: Your signature only confirms that the family is Catholic based on the following canonical criteria: a) the child is baptized; b) the family is registered in the parish; and c) the family attends Mass regularly and uses parish envelopes. Signing the form does not commit a parish to any financial obligation for aid.

Families: Please complete the form and request your pastor's signature. Once the completed form is signed, please submit it to your school principal. If you have children at multiple schools, please submit a copy to each principal.

* *The Bishop's Education Fund (BEF) is a grant program for Catholic students in grades K-12 attending eligible schools and registered in eligible parishes within the Diocese of Pittsburgh.*