

*John
Paul
Academy*



*John Paul II Academy
Tuition Assistance Information
For the 2010-2011 School Year*

What's Inside?

Information that explains how to apply for scholarships, and receive other financial assistance to assist you in providing a Catholic education for your child

This booklet is not intended to be all-inclusive nor does it contain all of the rules and/or instructions for each item. If a particular program or option is of interest to you, please contact Sister Helene, Principal of John Paul II Academy at 216-581-3080.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

A quality education is a life-long gift and an investment in your child's future. In today's society no child has the luxury of doing a year of instruction for "practice", and then repeating that same year "for real". In fact, research has shown that it takes two years of excellent teaching in an academically-focused environment to bring a child who experienced poor teaching or a disruptive classroom environment to his or her proper grade-level achievement.

John Paul II Academy has established a tradition of excellence for your child that is shared in the following manner:

- **First, your child is challenged to excel academically.** Children thrive in this learning environment where teachers truly invest themselves in the academic success of each and every student.
- **Second, your child receives a faith-based education that reinforces the values you teach at home.** We see our child's faith life grow through spiritual experiences in religion class, daily prayer, and throughout the school day. Stop by one of our school liturgies held each Friday or one of our seasonal prayer services to see the culmination of this spiritual experience.
- **Third, your child feels truly cared for in a learning environment with a sense of Christian community and security.** Within our loving community, students gain confidence, self-esteem, and a better overall sense of who they are. This sense of self-assurance is probably one of the greatest determining factors in a student's success in school and later on in life.

In this economy, all of us are experiencing financial difficulties. Therefore, it is very important for you – truly crucial – that you ***read about, access, complete, and submit a PSAS form preferably by the March or at least by the June deadline.*** Even if you do not feel you qualify at present for financial assistance, complete and submit a form just in case your financial situation changes before the new school year begins.

From time to time, people come to either the Pastors or myself with a desire to help fund a needy student's tuition. As the principal of John Paul II Academy, I receive a rank-ordered listing of families who have submitted their PSAS forms. For the past two years I was able to find emergency funding for a few needy families when their financial situation changed. Their submitted PSAS forms were the foundation to show how their financial situations had changed and why it was important to provide emergency assistance. ***Please understand that if you have not completed and submitted a PSAS form, you will not be considered for help until all other applicants who have requested financial assistance have been served.***

As always, I remain available to help you in any way I can so that you can continue your child's education at John Paul II Academy. Please feel free to contact me for information or tuition aid opportunities described in this booklet.

Sincerely,

The Diocesan Tuition Assistance (DTA) Program

If your child attends or will attend a Catholic elementary or Catholic High School in the Diocese of Cleveland, you are eligible to apply for Diocesan Tuition Assistance (DTA)

Donors across the Diocese have been generous in their gifts to tuition-assistance funds. In many cases the donor has designated the funds for a specific population, and the wishes of the donors are followed.

All awards, whether from restricted or non-restricted funds are based on calculated Financial Need, as identified through PSAS (Private School Aid Services).

Diocesan Tuition Assistance Awards are dispersed yearly to needy families through a structured distribution process. Every January, financial aid applications are available at the school. Although an independent company, Private School Aid Services (PSAS), is used for the financial review, the funding comes from diocesan donors, not from PSAS.

There are two deadlines in which to submit your PSAS application:

- Round 1: Postmarked by March 1, 2009 OR
- Round 2: Postmarked by June 1, 2009

PLEASE NOTE THAT 80% OF ALL FUNDS ARE DISPERSED IN ROUND ONE!!!

Private School Aid Service (PSAS) Applications

A PSAS application is a document that allows the Diocesan Committee awarding scholarships to have an objective evaluation of a family's ability to pay tuition. It also gives the Diocesan Committee a better picture of the needs of parents who elect to send their children to Catholic schools and what else needs to be done to raise funds for these scholarships. ALL of the scholarships describe in this booklet require a completed PSAS Application.

PSAS does not distribute scholarships. They are the agency that documents the level of need based upon the documents that you submit with your application.

A copy of this year's form is included with this booklet. You also can download this form from our website (johnpauliacademy.org) in PDF format. However, you cannot submit the form over the Internet because the documents that are part of this process must be included with your application for tuition assistance.

Guidelines for Applying for Diocesan Tuition Assistance (DTA)

All awards given by the Diocese are based on three primary factors:

1. Your family income
2. The number of children in your family attending tuition paying schools
3. The ability of our Parishes to support tuition assistance.

Some important facts in determining your chance of receiving a Diocesan Award*:

- The more students for whom you are paying tuition, the greater the likelihood you will receive an award.
- If your annual income is less than \$30,000 it is very likely that you will receive an award.

*Please keep in mind that these examples are only estimates. Individual circumstances apply in consideration of each award. It is always wise and beneficial to have a current application on file with PSAS in case your family's income status changes.

How to Apply

1. Complete **all parts of the PSAS form** and **include copies of all required documents** with the completed PSAS form. Mail the packet directly to Private School Aid Services along with the \$21 fee.
2. The PSAS form can be found and completed on our John Paul II Academy website. The form, however, cannot be submitted on line to PSAS because of the document inclusion and the fee requirement.
3. A paper copy along with the documentation and fee must be mailed. I recommend making a copy of your submission and sending it with a delivery confirmation form.

DTA Timeline

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| 1. March 1 | Round 1 applications due to PSAS |
| 2. End of May | Round 1 award and non-award notifications mailed to families |
| 3. June 1 | Round 2 applications due to PSAS |
| 4. End of July | Round 2 award and non-award notifications mailed to families |
| 5. October | Diocese mails the DTA award checks directly to the Catholic schools |

The statements in bold print are firm timelines. Please be assured that the Diocese may need to extend their deadline for notification two to three weeks, or as needed.

The Catholic Education Endowment Trust Special Scholarships

The Bishops' Scholarship for Excellence

Now in its eleventh year, this Scholarship program awards:

- Six (6) \$2,500 scholarships to current 10th and 11th graders applicable to their 11th and 12th grade years respectively;
- Sixteen (16) \$800 scholarships to current 6th and 7th graders applicable to their 7th and 8th grade years respectively.
- Both scholarships require well-written, comprehensively thought-out essays on a specific subject. PLEASE review your child's (or your) essay before it is written on the form or submitted as an attached document with the scholarship form.

The scholarship has a **separate application form** (available from the principal) and requires a **completed PSAS form**. The application must be returned to the student's principal by March 1, 2009, and requires the principal's signature and recommendation, a copy of the student's academic record, and **two letters of recommendation from the student's teachers**. It is your (or your child's) responsibility to ask for the letters.

M. Thomas Moore Family Scholarship Fund

This scholarship awards four annual \$500 scholarships in the elementary Schools in the Diocese of Cleveland. The scholarship will normally be a one-time award to a student, without renewal. However, special circumstances may warrant consideration for a renewal.

- Catholic elementary school students currently in the 1st through 7th grades who will be entering the 2nd through 8th grades are eligible.
- The criteria are as follows:
 - A financial aid scholarship is required for the student to attend the school
 - Student's family or relative(s) will provide a meaningful contribution to the tuition in relation to their resources.
 - Family must have a completed/submitted a PSAS application.
 - Achievement based on student's potential
 - Involvement of student in school life
 - Positive character traits

Please contact Sister Helene for an application if you feel your child qualifies for this scholarship.

Assistance with Diocesan Tuition Assistance (DAT), Special Scholarships, and PSAS Applications

If you need help or a second set of eyes to review your application forms, please do not feel that asking for help is an imposition. I am always here to help! If you feel a workshop would be helpful, the Office of Catholic Education is willing to arrange a time that will fit our schedule.

Education is one of the greatest investments you and the entire John Paul II Academy Educational Community will make in your child's education. **Other things we purchase come and go, but the gifts of quality academics, stimulating faith formation, and high self-esteem will always be there!**