

Dear St. Joseph School Families,

Thank you for continuing to trust St. Joseph Catholic School for the education of your children. It is once again enrollment season. We will use "Continuous Enrollment" as we have for the past few years. No action is needed at this time, unless your child will not be returning next school year, in which case, please notify the school in writing by February 9th.

If you have a child entering kindergarten next year, you will need to complete an application for your **new student only. Please** complete this process by Feb. 9th. You can do so by clicking on this link.

Registration Fee: An annual non-refundable registration fee will be charged to your TADS account, on or around February 15th for students who are enrolled at St. Joseph School. The registration fee will remain \$150 per student (\$300 max per family). Once the registration fee is charged and paid through TADS, a place will be reserved for each student. However, acceptance of the registration fee does not guarantee admission for the following year. Continued admission will be based on *the family's good standing in meeting financial obligations to the school as well as meeting compulsory attendance obligations*.

St. Joseph school board, the school finance committee, and St. Joseph parish finance council began evaluating the 2024-25 school budget this fall. We knew that we needed to address the increasing costs of operating the school while continuing to support our faculty and staff with just wages.

We will continue to offer a single tuition rate for the 2024-25 school year. Over the years we have noticed a number of our families have "left" their home parish and became a parishioner at St. Joseph so they would receive the in-parish rate. We do not feel that this is fair to our neighboring parishes, nor is it something that a family should feel that they must do. Our hope is that all families will support both their school and their home parish, and to that end, we hope that all families will register at the parish where they attend. We are updating our records on home parishes; we may reach out to you in the near future to ask for your help in ensuring that our information is accurate. Our tuition rate for 2024-25 will be no more than \$6,075 per student. Final rates are pending final budgets.

The school board has also recognized that families with multiple children may need tuition rate adjustments. For families with three children in the school, the 3rd child will receive a 10% discount. For families with four children in the school, the 3rd child will receive a 10% discount. If a family has a 5th child eligible to enroll in the school, we will discuss tuition rates in person.

We understand that the tuition may be a stretch for families, and we continue to be committed to find a tuition rate that every family can afford. Financial aid is available and it must be applied for each, and every year, and the due date is February 22nd. If you intend to apply for aid, the best thing you can do is apply early. If you have received financial aid in previous years, it is important that you continue to apply for aid in subsequent years, again by the Feb. 22nd deadline. If you have any questions regarding the enrollment process and or financial aid, please review the FAQ's included on the back or contact the school office at 952-442-4500.

Finally, thank you for enrolling your child at St. Joseph School. We know that your commitment to providing your child with highquality, Catholic education can be a financial sacrifice. Yet, we also believe that you are investing in their eternal future as we continue to strive to take steps toward heaven every day, and we are always striving to take others with us on that journey.

Peace,

Gibards

Bruce Richards Principal

41 East First Street Waconia, MN 5538 Phone: 952-442-4500 Fax: 952-442-3719 Email: schooloffice@stjosephwaconia.org



Enrollment FAQ's

When do I pay my registration fee?

Your registration fee will be charged automatically to your TADS account on or around February 15th.

How much is the registration fee?

\$150 per student (\$300 Max per family). If you have 3+ students, your registration fee is a flat \$300.

Can I change my tuition payment plan?

Yes. Tuition payment plans can be changed **PRIOR** to the first payment of that school year. To change your tuition payment plan, contact TADS at (612) 548-3320.

Do I need to sign into TADS to complete re-enrollment for each year my child attends St. Joseph School?

No. Students will "Auto-Enroll" each year.

Will I be able to view my tuition agreement each year?

Yes. To view your tuition agreement and payment plans, login to your TADS account.

If I update my contact information in TADS will the school be notified?

Yes. Our Educate Parent Portal system automatically updates when contact information changes in TADS. Both TADS and Educate sync together.

If my child is not returning for the next school year, what should I do?

Contact the school immediately or before February 9th so as not to be charged the nonrefundable registration fee.

If tuition changes when will I be notified?

Tuition will be communicated for each school year in January. Tuition is posted on our school website at school.stjosephwaconia.org. The weekly school newsletter is also a great source of information and updates.

How should I apply for financial aid or scholarships?

All applications must be completed through TADS. Once the application is completed, it may take several weeks through the audit process. Parents are responsible for communicating directly with TADS during this process to provide any documentation. Once completed, parents will be notified by St. Joseph School. We encourage all families to apply for the AIM Higher Scholarship by checking the "AIM Higher" box during the financial aid process. These scholarships help fund the awards granted by St. Joseph School. To learn more about these scholarships, visit our website – https://school.stjosephwaconia.org/.

Phone: 952-442-4500 Fax: 952-442-3719