

Saint Joseph Catholic School
Tuition Town Halls (9/26 & 10/3/2019) Executive Summary

Introduction

Two tuition town halls were held recently at Saint Joseph Catholic School. The purpose of the town halls was to explain how all stakeholders have a role in making a strong present and secure future for Saint Joseph School. This paper provides a high-level summary of the issues discussed at those meetings.

Covenant Relationship exists between the parish and school families, with expectations on both sides

- Parish: offer a quality, Catholic, faith-based education, helping students grow into disciples of Christ
- Families: be active parishioners, offering your time, talent and treasure to support the parish
- Specifics can be found in the school handbook, with emphasis on pages 2, 9, 12-13

Many opportunities exist to support the parish with your time and talent

- First and foremost, attendance at Sunday Mass every week
- 60 distinct ministries currently exist in the parish – there’s something for everyone!
- Many ministry programs can be done as a family
- There is a particular need for assistance at Sunday Masses - VolunteerAsk form is attached; many returned completed forms, but many more volunteers are needed for our Sunday Masses.

A significant financial gap exists between the actual cost to educate a child at SJS and tuition paid by Catholic families

- This gap grows wider with each additional child from the same family enrolled in the school
- The gap is filled by a wide variety of revenue sources (private donations, EITC, Fundraisers, etc.)
- 40% of every dollar from the Sunday collection is allocated to Catholic Education
- “Non - Catholic” tuition, closely mirroring actual costs, is also offered
- SJS tuition compares favorably relative to other private schools in the local area

Financial Assistance is available for those who need it

- Neuman Scholarship Foundation – must be applied for to be considered for any other program
- SJS Scholarship Program / Grocery Gift Card/Scrip program
- Central PA scholarship fund – EITC Program / SPE Program
- Bravo / Bridge Foundation Tuition Angels & private donations
- Information on all programs is available at school office and on website

The key question: Is Saint Joseph School a part of your family’s way of life as a Catholic, or just another program to get through?

- SJS - not just a private school; a **Catholic** school that holds a covenant with its Catholic families
- Stakeholders beginning to ask – where are our children and their families on Sundays? Should other ministries get more resources, particularly our growing elderly community?
 - Questions that will need to be addressed as we move ahead

Conclusion

Our goal is a strong present and future for our Catholic school and parish. This is a call to all parents to reflect and pray on the covenant relationship they entered into, both at their child’s Baptism, and by enrolling in Saint Joseph Catholic School. Living the areas of Stewardship: time, talent and treasure is fundamental to ensuring that future and will be a consideration point for future tuition subsidies.