



## Sacred Heart School Admission Policy

It is important to recognize that Catholic individuals and families participate in parish life to varying degrees. Each case is, in many ways, unique, being a function of many personal and social factors.

There are contexts, however, in which it is important to clarify a family's degree of participation. The tradition of offering "active participants" a reduced tuition at Sacred Heart School is one of those contexts. The history of the Parish and School are intimately connected. Over the years there have been many examples of a mutual sharing of support and resources in service to the ultimate goal of building up the Catholic community in this area. The tradition of a lower tuition for people who actively support Sacred Heart Parish Community represents recognition by the School of the spiritual support given to it by the Parish. From the Parish's perspective, it is important to us that those who benefit from this policy are indeed actively helping us nurture and support a community of faith at the Parish.

### **The following is a list of criteria by which to determine whether a family qualifies as "Practicing Catholic Family Active in the Parish".**

1. A "Practicing Catholic Family Active in the Parish" is known by the Pastor to be active and consistent participants in the life of the parish, and the family must be registered at the Parish. Ultimately, attending Mass weekly is key, but so too is a wider involvement in activities in the Parish including its financial upkeep.
2. The family must, in some combination, be sharing with the Parish its Time, Talent, and/or Treasure.

**Time:** Time is a gift from God. The questions for us are: how will we use that gift and will we use it to build up our community? The most basic way is returning to God a portion of that gift by responding to the Catholic guideline that we make every effort to join our community in prayer at a weekend Mass. Sometimes shift work for single parents makes scheduled weekend Mass attendance impossible; in such an instance time could be set aside for a Family prayer time which unites the Family in spirit to the greater Faith Community. Time can also be shared by attending parish functions or helping in the many chores and simple tasks that make up Parish life.

**Talent:** There is a whole array of special tasks in a Parish that need people with a special interest in doing them. They can range from taking on a special role at Mass, to serving in various leadership roles, or simply offering one's expertise when there is a special project, i.e.: Parish Pastoral Counsel, Parish Finance Counsel, Parish Education Committee, Weekly Flower Arrangements, Seasonal Decor, Grounds Upkeep, St Monica's Guild, Knights of Columbus, Parish Picnic, Pancake Breakfast, etc.



**Treasure:** One of the guidelines given us by the Church is that we accept responsibility for the financial support of our local Parish. This can be done by using the parish donation envelope, pre-authorized debit, and contributing to the best of one's ability. To what extent a family can do this will vary with individual circumstances.

Practicing Catholic Families Active in the Parish will be those who achieve a combination of all of these criteria, who help build up this Catholic community in whatever way is possible for them.

To recognize the need for limitations on the enrolment at Sacred Heart School, admission rules have been established to prioritize application for admission. For the purpose of this policy **“Practicing Catholics”** shall mean:

- Those families who are registered at Sacred Heart Parish
- Those families who attend Sunday Mass weekly

**“Active in the Parish”** shall mean:

- Family uses Sunday envelopes or preauthorized payment from Sacred Heart Parish on a weekly basis
- Family Participates in the volunteer activities required by Sacred Heart Parish/School

\*It is the pastor's prerogative and responsibility to determine who is a **“Practicing Catholic Family Active in the Parish”**. This determination will be reviewed annually. Families eligible for Category 1, **“Practicing Catholic Family Active in the Parish”**, are required to meet with the pastor each year for and receive his signature on the Pastor's Authorization Form.

Admittance will be given preference in the following order:

1. Children presently enrolled in the school if they and their families meet the expectations of the school
2. Siblings of children already in the school, whose families are practicing Catholics active in the parish.
3. Children whose families are practicing Catholics active in the parish.
4. Siblings of children already in the school, whose families are practicing Catholics active in other parishes.
5. Children whose families are practicing Catholics coming into the parish, who have been attending Catholic school elsewhere.
6. Children whose families are practicing Catholics active in other parishes.
7. Children whose families are either not practicing Catholics or not active in their parishes.
8. Non-Catholic children.

\*Administration reserves the right to exercise decisions for admission based on the best interest of Sacred Heart School.



**Financial Arrears:** Children of families registered at Sacred Heart School that are delinquent in their fees and/or participation may not be accepted for re-registration.

**Financial Assistance:** If your family is experiencing financial hardship, you should contact the pastor to discuss financial assistance in helping you meet your tuition payments. The pastor, on an individual case basis, will determine the assistance to needy families.

**Category Rate Change:** Due to budgetary constraints, families may not change from one category to another, in order to receive a reduced rate, during the school year.

**Class Assignment:** Sacred Heart School is thoughtful and resourceful in providing a Catholic education and learning opportunities to families of our parish. Each year administration, along with the Parish Education Committee, assesses the needs of our students and determines the best educational environment for our students. Sacred Heart School offers a creative, personalized learning approach to determining class size needs which may include but not limited to class size, class make-up, combined classes and teacher selection.