



## DeMatha Catholic High School

### Tuition Assistance Policy

#### 1. Purpose

DeMatha Catholic High School offers a faith-based, college-preparatory education founded on the pillars of faith, community, service, academics, arts, and athletics. We believe all families who embrace our mission should have access to this opportunity. The Tuition Assistance Program is designed to supplement, not replace, family contributions toward tuition. Assistance decisions are made in line with our commitment to fairness, transparency, and stewardship. Admission decisions are made without consideration of financial need (need-blind). The forms of tuition assistance consist of two categories.

- **Merit-Based Assistance**
  - Scholarships include the Fr. Cyprian Nusca O.S.S.T. Scholarship, the John Walker '65 Leadership Scholarship, the President's Scholarship, the John Moylan Music Scholarship, the Anthony Fotos Art Scholarship, the Fr. Paul Donovan Drama Scholarship.
  - Additionally, DeMatha awards several scholarships which have been established by benefactors to the school. These scholarships have designated criteria and are awarded based on the strengths of the admission application.
  - The majority of merit based assistance is awarded for newly enrolled students. The school does have a limited number of donor-designated scholarships for returning scholarships.
- **Need-Based Assistance**
  - DeMatha provides need-based support in the form of DeMatha Grants. **An application for tuition assistance via FACTS is required in order to be eligible for consideration.**
  - Some grants and awards are based on donor-defined criteria which include the financial need of the family. You will need to submit an application for tuition assistance in order to be eligible for consideration.

#### 2. Application Process

- Families seeking tuition assistance must complete the designated online application and submit required supporting documentation by the published deadline each year.
- The school partners with FACTS to conduct preliminary financial analysis, verify applications, and determine assessed need.
- Tax returns, W-2s (or equivalent), and other financial records must be filed on time, signed, and provided as part of the application.
- Late or incomplete applications may result in reduced or denied assistance, and are based on available funding at the time of the completed application.
- DeMatha Catholic High School is unable to guarantee aid, even in the event of need.
- All tuition assistance offers for incoming students are only valid when communicated by the Tuition Assistance Committee.

#### 3. Guiding Principles for Awarding Assistance

- **Parental Contribution:** Parents/guardians are expected to contribute to their child's tuition to the extent they reasonably can. If the gap between the parent's stated ability to pay and the school's available tuition assistance is deemed too significant, the school may choose to waitlist or deny the tuition assistance application. DeMatha requires all parents to honestly state in their tuition assistance application the amount they are able to pay for tuition. Sometimes, parents erroneously interpret this as an invitation to negotiate, which it is not. As such, it is important for all applicants to state what they can truly afford if they prioritize paying tuition.

- **Full Disclosure:** All sources of income, assets, child support, business ownership, farm ownership, and other financial information must be disclosed. Any outside scholarships or aid from organizations must be disclosed.
- **Separate Household Consideration:** In the case of separated/divorced parents or remarriage, the school will consider the income and assets of both the custodial and non-custodial parent(s) and any stepparents, unless documented proof of non-involvement is provided. If at any point DeMatha is made aware of an additional custodial parent, the school reserves the right to reassess the level of tuition assistance provided to a family.
- **Work Requirement:** Unless incapacitated or caring for a young child, parents/guardians are expected to be working if physically able. A parental decision to return to school for professional reasons is understood to be a voluntary choice, and DeMatha is unable to subsidize this decision for any family.
- **Home Equity & Other Assets:** Significant home equity or ownership of a business/farm may be factored into the evaluation.
- **Dependents:** The number of dependents in a household as verified by FACTS will be factored into assistance decisions.
- **Other Educational Commitments:** If siblings attend other tuition-charging schools, those situations will also be considered.
- **No Guarantee of Full Coverage:** Assistance awards depend upon the size of the available fund, number of qualified applicants, and the school's budgetary constraints. No award can be guaranteed to cover full tuition. All families are expected to contribute to their student's tuition.:

#### 4. Tuition Assistance Conditions

- Tuition assistance decisions are **not negotiable** once made. Appeals are only considered in cases where new, relevant information has emerged that was not part of the original application.
- Assistance may be **reduced or terminated** if a family's financial circumstances improve significantly or if required documents are not submitted on time.
- If the student withdraws from the school for any reason, the assistance award may be prorated based on the portion of tuition actually paid by the family at the time of withdrawal.
- Tuition assistance may not be used to cover fees associated with enrollment or attending DeMatha.

#### 5. Confidentiality

- All information submitted in connection with the Tuition Assistance Program is treated as strictly confidential. Access is limited to designated school staff. Families are expected to maintain the privacy of their award status. A breach of confidentiality may result in withdrawing the tuition assistance award.

#### 6. Duration & Renewal

- Assistance awards and grants are provided on a year-by-year basis. Families must reapply for assistance annually and reaffirm their continued need by the published deadline.
- Returning students who previously received assistance and maintain satisfactory academic and disciplinary standing are given priority for renewal, subject to budgetary constraints.
- Students who receive scholarships (such as the Nusca or Walker Leadership scholarships) do not need to apply for assistance, however they must meet the scholarship requirements each year. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct and failing to meet course and GPA requirements may result in a loss of scholarship.

#### 7. Important Disqualifications & Conditions

- Families with outstanding tuition or fees from prior years will not be considered until account balances are resolved.
- Falsification or omission of required financial information may result in disqualification of assistance or repayment of awarded funds.

- The school reserves the right to update or revise this policy at any time, at its sole discretion.

#### **8. Non-Discrimination Statement**

- Tuition assistance at DeMatha Catholic High School is awarded without regard to race, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, age, or sexual orientation. Families are evaluated on their financial situation, not on background or identity.

#### **9. Contact Information**

- Families with questions about the tuition assistance program or application process should contact the Tuition Assistance Committee. We're committed to assisting you through the process and clarifying any parts of the application or renewal.