TUITION ASSISTANCE
Frequently Asked Questions

At Santa Margarita Catholic High School, it is our desire that every student have the opportunity to receive a well-rounded Catholic education. With the rising cost of education, SMCHS is committed to helping families provide a quality, faith-based education for their student(s). SMCHS offers awards to supplement some of the costs of enrollment in the form of tuition assistance. These are awards that do not have to be repaid. Tuition assistance awards are based on financial need.

UP TO
50%
of the cost of tuition at SMCHS can be provided by tuition assistance combined with privately funded and/or merit scholarships.

Who should apply for tuition assistance?
All families interested in scholarships or tuition awards should apply. Both new and returning students must complete a tuition assistance application annually. Returning families must re-apply each year to be considered for an award.

What does the award cover?
These awards are granted to supplement the cost of tuition only. All other optional programs, activities, and fees are at your own expense, and they must be paid in a timely manner.

What is the total of a typical tuition assistance award?
Tuition assistance awards are granted in order to cover up to 50% of the cost of tuition. These awards can be used in combination with any other scholarships received. The typical award is granted as a percentage discount on the tuition rate only. This discount is deducted after the full amount of any other scholarships have been applied to the account. Unfortunately, no other discounts -- such as pay in full or sibling -- can be applied if you receive tuition assistance.

Are there other criteria when awarding assistance?
This is a need-based tuition assistance program. There are several different factors that go into the committee's decision including income, expenses, employment loss/gain, changes to your family circumstances, etc.

No awards will be granted without a review of a completed Facts Management Grant & Aid application. All student recipients of tuition assistance must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA. Students must also abide by the rules in the Parent-Student handbook and remain on a non-probationary status.

Is tuition assistance automatically renewed each year?
Due to the limited number of budgeted funds, awards are distributed on a first come, first-served basis to those who qualify. Families are required to re-apply each year in order to be considered for an award. While we will do our best, there is no guarantee that your award will be the same as a prior year or exactly what you have anticipated.

How is a family's need determined?
An initial assessment and recommendation are completed by Facts Management Grant & Aid. These recommendations are then sent to our internal SMCHS Tuition Assistance Committee to add input and confirm awards. Final decisions are always based on the committee's assessment of an applicant's needs and the budgeted funds available.

Is there a maximum/minimum income level or range to be considered?
All tuition assistance is based on income and expenses. Major factors considered are income (both taxable and nontaxable) and expenses, assets (home equity, real estate, savings, etc.), family size, and additional application questions. Because many families have various levels of expense, income is not the only variable to review and currently there is no maximum income level set.

Does applying for tuition assistance influence the admissions decision?
The admissions team is unaware of who has applied for tuition assistance when evaluating applicants.

How to Apply for Tuition Assistance

STEP 1	Submit an online application through Facts Management Grant & Aid
STEP 2	Select the school term and click begin
STEP 3	Under School Section, Add Santa Margarita Catholic High School. If applying for multiple schools, or have already applied at another school, simply add SMCHS to your existing application.
STEP 4	After you pay the $45 fee, submit your supporting documents.

Click here for additional instructions

What if I already applied with Facts Management Grant & Aid at another school or for another child?
Return to your original Facts Grant & Aid application. In the "Schools" section, add Santa Margarita Catholic High School. This will immediately grant our school access to your existing application. You can update student information in the existing application, as well. This includes adding any siblings to your current Grant & Aid application.

Which supporting documents are required to submit?
- Recent Tax Return
- Recent W2
- Mortgage Statement/Lease Agreement
- Recent Pay Stub

*Additional information you should have readily available can be **found here.**

How will I know if my application is complete?
Upon receipt of your application, FACTS will contact you directly confirming receipt. Should any information be missing or incomplete, you will be advised by FACTS Management. The application review can take up to 2 weeks to process after you submit your application. At any point, you can log in to your account and view the status of your application.

When will we be notified that our family received an award?
Once your application is complete with all necessary supporting documents submitted, notifications are sent via email. All award notifications will be sent out on the 1st of the month beginning on December 1st only if you have submitted your complete application by the 15th of the prior month. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Example:
- Submitted application November 15th – notified December 1st
- Submitted application November 16th – notified January 1st

Do I have to pay the enrollment fee without knowing my award amount?
Enrollment fees are an expense to each of our families. Tuition assistance does not cover the enrollment fee nor affect any of the enrollment deadlines. If you need to make special arrangements for paying your enrollment fees, please contact the business office at **tuitionandfees@smhs.org**. All enrollment fees must be paid prior to the start of the school year.

What if I did not receive financial assistance or need more assistance than what was awarded?
If you would like to appeal a decision, please complete the appeal form located on the tuition assistance website. Please submit any supporting documentation promptly. This form will only be reviewed in the case of a significant change to your income, a loss of employment, or other extenuating circumstances/hardships.

When will the award appear on my Facts Management Payment Plan?
- Returning families will see the award applied within their re-enrollment payment plan sent in late February or early March.
- New families will see their award after they have accepted enrollment and the payment plan is finalized by Santa Margarita Catholic High School.

Need further assistance?
For assistance with the Grant & Aid on-line application and questions regarding tax documentation, W2s and other documents, contact Facts Management Grant & Aid at 1-866-441-4637.

For an overview of the tuition assistance program including the process, assessment, and awards, please email **smchstuitionassistance@smhs.org** or call the Business Office at (949) 766-6055

Visit **www.smhs.org/tuitionassistance** for more information.