

What if I still have questions?

- Can I still afford Sacred Heart?
- How much scholarship assistance will my family receive?
- When can I expect to know the amount of scholarship funding available to my child(ren)?
- Why should I prioritize Sacred Heart when less expensive options are available to me?

Because of the personal nature of these questions, we invite you to make an appointment to discuss.

Does the church plan to close Sacred Heart School?

No. The enormous amount of energy that key leaders in the Pettis County Catholic Community and our Diocese are currently investing in Sacred Heart School should send a clear signal: Sacred Heart is highly valued, and we intend to see the school thrive far into the future. **Many, many Catholic schools successfully use the tuition and scholarship model to which we are moving.** If every family trusts us enough to keep its student at Sacred Heart and participate in the scholarship application process, we expect Sacred Heart School to not only survive, but to become stronger than ever over the coming decade.

What are the next steps?

- Sign up for an individual appointment by May 31st on SignUp.com: <http://signup.com/go/PzcNoMf> We will be deeply listening to your concerns and helping to educate you on the process, but will be unable to answer questions about your family’s unique financial situation until after the award process is complete in mid-June. We STRONGLY encourage you to complete the FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment (due May 23rd) prior to your meeting, as that will answer many questions you will likely have about the process. (See next point.)
- Complete your family FACTS account setup (if you don’t have one). All families must establish a FACTS account to pay tuition for Fall 2018-2019. Visit <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/4388X> If you already have a FACTS aid assessment account, there is no need to establish a new account to also use the tuition management service. There is a \$25 to \$50 annual fee (depending on the tuition plan you choose) payable directly to FACTS. If you are completing the aid assessment, that fee is \$30. If this is your first time completing the aid assessment, we will issue a \$30 credit on your tuition contract at your request.

Final Comments

We fully expect to show every concerned family a way to remain at Sacred Heart. We will work hard to understand your needs and help meet them.

We regret any stress the recent funding model change has caused you. However, we’re confident this tuition shift is a needed one for Sacred Heart. We understand the urge to believe that there had to be a better way, but we ask that you trust that our team thoughtfully considered and researched every possible scenario and have found the best path forward.

We firmly believe that if we all bring our best resources to bear on the challenges before us, the dividends of giving our children a quality, Catholic Christian education are truly immeasurable. Indeed, priceless.

As you navigate these changes, please remember you have our sincerest offer to help.

Peace and wisdom,

Father Mark Miller, Pastor

Dr. Mark Register, Principal

Strategic Growth Team

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT FUNDING & SCHOLARSHIPS AT SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Our administrators and other leaders have engaged in dozens of conversations with parents and others since early January and have identified a list of frequently asked questions about funding and scholarships at Sacred Heart School. Allow us to offer some information, perspective and **HOPE** as you determine what it means for your family.

Why was a significant change in the Sacred Heart financial model necessary?

Over many years, operational expenses outpaced Sacred Heart revenue, resulting in the depletion of Parish savings and the Foundation endowment, which we rely upon for interest income. In forecasting for future years, the Sacred Heart School Leadership Team realized that the previous funding model was simply unsustainable.

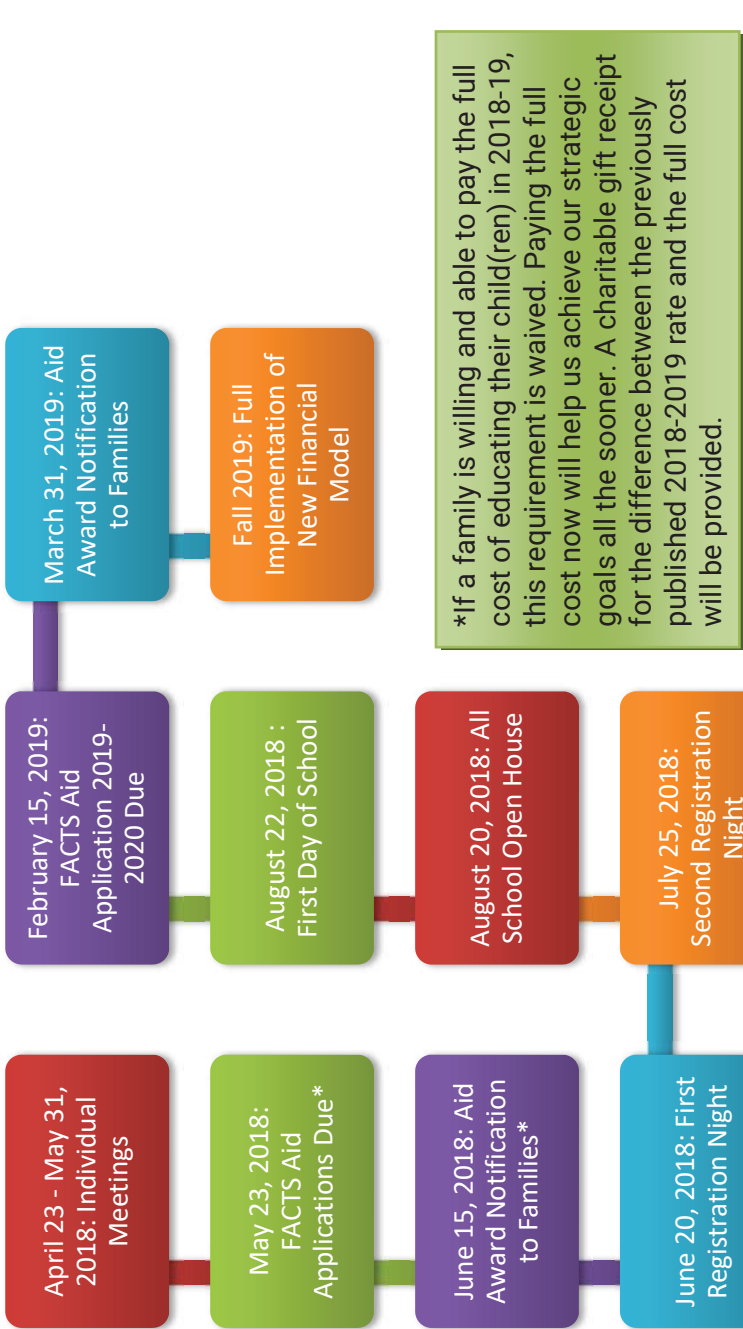
Was it because of a bloated budget? No, the Sacred Heart budget has always been lean. Since the vast majority of Sacred Heart resources (84%) cover personnel costs, there is minimal “budget fat.”

Doesn’t that suggest high salaries were a cause? Definitely not. The Sacred Heart School faculty & staff earn much less than their public school peers, ranging from \$4,000/year to over \$15,000/year. The gap is even larger for administrators. To ensure future quality, we will increase salaries to at least 90% of public peers.

What’s the long-term goal of this change?

An even better Sacred Heart. Sacred Heart leaders *often* hear the hopes and wishes of Sacred Heart parents regarding better technology, additional programs – but some of those dreams are totally unrealistic under the former tuition model. While there are no plans for major school initiatives at this time beyond fair and just faculty and staff pay, moving from an unsustainable financial model to a healthy one will eventually make it possible for Sacred Heart to dream bigger. That’s a very good goal that both the Pettis County Catholic Community and Sacred Heart School would like to see as a reality.

What is the timeline for implementation of the new financial model?



Who is accountable for Sacred Heart Finances?

The Sacred Heart Leadership Team provides organizational and financial oversight to Sacred Heart School. Father Mark Miller, Pastor
Dr. Mark Register, Administrator/Principal
School Advisory Council
Strategic Growth Team: Leadership & Governance
Finance Director (June, 2018): adding this position will allow school administrators to focus primarily on student and faculty development.

The parish and school were recently audited by Wilson, Toellner, CPA.

Was a more gradual approach to financial change considered?

Yes, a more gradual shift was given thorough consideration. However, a slower transition would not have allowed Sacred Heart to reach sustainability quickly enough. We firmly believe that this model is fair and just.

Was the impact on individual families considered?

Sacred Heart loves every family who participates in our school community and considers it an honor to help families educate and disciple their children. We have set aside over \$500,000 in need-based scholarship funds to ensure finances do not cause our school to lose a single family. We understand that many families operate on already-tight budgets. If this adjustment causes you to question whether you can still afford to send your child(ren) to Sacred Heart School, please apply for scholarship assistance through our confidential process called FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment.

Who will see my FACTS Application?

Confidentiality, privacy, and trust are of the highest importance. To that end, only the Administrator, Finance Director, and Pastor will have access to your FACTS data to determine aid awards.

Is it possible to appeal the aid award decision?

In rare cases, yes. If you feel the FACTS aid award determination did not fully capture your family’s unique financial situation, you may write an appeal letter to our Pastor. We will make every effort to work with you.

How is the \$500,000 scholarship fund generated?

This extraordinary fund is made possible primarily through a generous annual allocation of funds from Sacred Heart, St. Patrick, and St. John parishes, the Sacred Heart Foundation, and individual donors who believe in *Extraordinary Catholic Education. Through Christ. For All.*

Are full scholarships available?

No. Our goal is to assist as many families as possible. A Sacred Heart education is valuable and most families are capable of making a sacrificial financial contribution to attend.

What factors are considered when allocating scholarship funds?

Family need, school involvement, parish involvement, community involvement, student citizenship and effort.

Should our family apply for financial assistance?

The \$500,000 scholarship fund is not for under-resourced families alone. It is for families who are unable to make the new tuition model work. So, please do not make plans to leave Sacred Heart before testing the scholarship program. It is need-based, not exclusively income-based. If you fail to apply for a scholarship, you are guaranteed not to receive one.

When your children go to college, it is likely you will guide them to apply for every available scholarship! Nearly everyone does so. It is wise to do so. It is wise to do so at Sacred Heart, also. Remember, **you cannot know your *net* tuition increase until you know the amount of your scholarship award.**

Is it possible the scholarship will be insufficient to make it feasible for your child to continue at Sacred Heart? Perhaps. But Sacred Heart leaders have promised to prevent that from happening in most, if not all, instances. Our goal is to keep every student.

Can I receive scholarship assistance without completing a FACTS application?

No. Completing the application through our confidential, third-party system is the only means by which financial assistance will be awarded.

How do Sacred Heart per student costs compare to other area schools and Catholic peers?

Some parents have pointed out that the new Sacred Heart tuition rate makes Sacred Heart more expensive than some other peer private schools. That’s true. Here’s why it’s appropriate...

Genuine Value

Every family has *bottom line* financial realities it must consider. Still, every family should calculate the “value” of each expenditure, not just the raw cost. For example, few of us have opted for the *cheapest* available housing, the *least* expensive clothing, or the *lowest-priced* car on the market. Why not? Because we know price and value are balancing factors that must be considered together. Our goal is not for Sacred Heart to be the cheapest school of its kind in the state – our goal is for it to be the best overall value.

Individualized Instruction

Every teacher knows the aptitude of each student in every subject. This information is used to create a learning environment where students are offered instruction designed for their personal development- whether they need an extra challenge or extra help.

Sacred Heart Campus Minister and Religious Education

The role of Sacred Heart Campus Minister is to help cultivate and nurture the spiritual culture at Sacred Heart. Where other schools may include “religion” in part of their homeroom, we invest in the building of a Christian worldview in our students through daily instruction and engaging classroom and Mass celebration experiences.

Music and Art Programs

While many public and private schools have cut back in this area, Sacred Heart students enjoy a full range of fine arts programming. In addition, Sacred Heart students can participate in electives such as band, choir and art for more in-depth study.

High Quality Faculty and Staff

High quality staff is absolutely essential to the success of any school program. Nearly all classroom teachers have a bachelor’s degree and licensure or credentialing in their academic area and many possess an advanced degree in education.

How can I best help Sacred Heart to thrive in the years ahead?

Your help is important to ensure that future generations of students continue to receive the excellent Christian education provided by Sacred Heart.

- Pray for our school: staff, students and families.
- Invite those in your circle of influence to join the Sacred Heart School Community.
- Like, comment and share all God is doing through Sacred Heart via our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Apply for scholarship assistance, if you need it.
- Consider donating to our scholarship fund, if you’re able.
- Allow us to help by approaching us with any unresolved concerns.