



AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TUITION POLICY

School Year 2025-2026

Since 1961, Aquinas Catholic Schools' mission is to form students spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically, in partnership with parents, and in harmony with the specific gifts given by God to each student. To fulfill this mission, we are committed to integrating the best programs and means of education with Catholic faith and moral values.

Financing Aquinas Catholic Schools involves the support of Catholic parishioners, parents, and community donors using a variety of means, including tuition and fees. The average per-student cost at Aquinas Catholic for the **2025-2026** academic year is **\$10,987**. The thirteen Catholic parishes provide 47% of this cost or **\$2,038,101** assistance to the education of the children at Aquinas Catholic Schools. The chart below outlines all revenue sources for the 2025-2026 school year. The assessment of tuition for a child's education at Aquinas Catholic is understood as a necessary and integral component of the financial management of the school and of a family's share in the gift of Catholic education received from the Church and the surrounding community. The policies that follow detail the guidelines for qualification and the procedures for payment of tuition and fees to the school, as well as the policies and procedures that address delinquency, tuition assistance, and tuition refunds.

Aquinas Catholic Schools Revenue Sources 2025-2026		
Parish Assessments (13 parishes)	\$2,038,101	47.4%
Tuition and Fees	1,394,401*	32.5%
Fundraisers & Endowment		
Annual Appeal	150,000	
Endowment Interest	279,368	
<u>Gold Rush, Miscellaneous</u>	<u>434,260</u>	
Fund Development	863,628	20.1%
Total Revenue	\$4,296,130	100%
Aquinas Catholic Schools Expenses 2025-2026		
Total Payroll Expenses for Salaries & Benefits	\$3,446,917	80.4%
Total Administrative and Instructional Expenses	319,460	7.5%
Total Property Costs, Transportation and Misc. Expenses	518,590	12.1%
Total Expenses	\$4,284,967	100%

Aquinas Catholic Enrollment & Cost per Student 2025-2026	
Projected Enrollment	390*
Average Cost Per Student	\$10,987*
Average Parish Scholarship to the Family per Child	(\$5,226)*
Average School Scholarship per Child	(\$2,214)*
Average Cost per Child to Family (Tuition/Fees)	\$3,575*
Total Scholarship of Parish and School per Student	\$7,440*

* Does not include Preschool or Pre-K

Tuition Rates

Tuition rates will be established annually by the school administration, financial advisors, and Aquinas Catholic Board of Advisors. Payment of tuition at Aquinas Catholic Schools is a necessary expression of the commitment of a family to the personal, spiritual, and intellectual formation of their child(ren) through Catholic education. Aquinas Catholic recognizes that not all families are able to afford full tuition and fees and therefore offers scholarships.

Tuition Scholarships (one application)

The Good Shepherd Scholarship	Diocese of Lincoln Scholarship based on Adjusted Gross Income
Family Cap Scholarship	4 th & additional children's tuition is free (<i>does not include preschool students</i>)
Aquinas Guardian Angel Scholarship	Based on need

Tuition Scholarship Applications can be found online at <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/43NG4> or via the link on the school website <https://aquinas-catholic.com>. FACTS will charge a non-refundable \$45 Application Fee due at the time of submitting the application. All applications are due **March 31, 2025**.

It is the policy of Aquinas Catholic Schools to deny scholarships for past due tuition. This policy is in place to encourage a proactive approach to the need for tuition scholarships. Tuition scholarships are available for all families. It is the policy of Aquinas Catholic Schools to not deny a Catholic child a Catholic education based upon an inability to pay. However, the school community has determined that as a matter of justice and appropriate school management the determination of an inability to pay should be made by contacting the Chief Administrative Officer.

The Good Shepherd Scholarship 2025-2026

Guidelines:

- Good Shepherd Scholarships (GSS) are for students below 225% of Poverty Level
- GSS applications start January 1, 2025 and the deadline is March 31, 2025
- To be eligible for Good Shepherd Scholarships, applications must be complete and the Federal 1040 and W-2 Tax Forms must be uploaded in the FACTS Management system by March 31, 2025
- 2023 or 2024 Tax documents can be used to complete the application
- The Good Shepherd Scholarship program does not grant exceptions for applications that miss the deadline
- Good Shepherd Scholarships will be paid via a check from the Lincoln Diocese, 50% in the first semester and 50% in the second semester, after student enrollment has been verified in FACTS

2025 – 2026 School Year Federal Poverty %	
Family Size	225%
2	\$45,990
3	\$58,095
4	\$70,200
5	\$82,305
6	\$94,410
7	\$106,515
8	\$118,620
9	\$130,725
10	\$142,830

Fees

Late Registration Fee

After **March 31**, a late registration fee of **\$150** will be charged, after **June 30** the late registration fee is **\$250**. This applies to families who submit their online registration after the deadline stated on the school website and FACTS Tuition Management Registration page. Online registration will not be finalized by Aquinas Catholic Schools for any delinquent accounts from prior school years.

The total tuition costs will be paid according to the payment option chosen by the family. All other incidental fees that accrue during the school year will be billed by the school as incurred and are due within 30 days. School supply lists are sent to school families before the start of school and families are responsible for the purchase of school supplies.

Scholarship Application Fee

There is a \$45 Scholarship Application Fee charged by FACTS Tuition Management to process all tax documents and perform the verification of application information submitted.

Methods of Tuition Payment

All families will make tuition payments via check sent to the school or ACH (automatic withdrawal) using the FACTS Tuition Management Program. In unique and extreme circumstances, the ACH requirement may be waived for Options 1 or 2. The ACH requirement will not be waived for Option 3 and 4. Special tuition payment plans may be set up on a case-by-case basis. To be considered for this families must contact the school Business Manager annually prior to March 31st. **Changing payment frequency after registration will incur a \$20 fee along with the applicable FACTS fee.** The following tuition payment options are offered:

- **Option 1: Full** Payment due by August 5, processed by FACTS Tuition Management.
- **Option 2: Semi-Annual** Payment Plan where two payments are processed by FACTS Tuition Management. The first payment of one-half of the tuition and fees will be paid on August 5, and the second half will be paid by January 5.
- **Option 3: Ten** equal monthly payments will be processed by FACTS Tuition Management beginning in August.
- **Option 4:** Twelve equal monthly payments will be processed by FACTS Tuition Management beginning in August.

At the time of registration, all families will electronically sign a yearly tuition agreement that will outline the expectations for tuition payment for that academic year and sign up in the FACTS Tuition Management Program.

Late Payments

It shall be the responsibility of each school family to keep the school business office informed of their need to make any changes in their preferred tuition plan and dates for their automatic withdrawal no less than 10 business days prior to their original payment withdrawal date. The automatic withdrawal dates available are the 5th or 20th of each month. The school administration can change the family's payment plan upon request. **A change in planned payment frequency will result in a \$20 fee along with the applicable FACTS fee.** The school administration will not waive tuition payments. The following consequences will apply when tuition payments are received late:

- When any payment is missed due to insufficient funds or any other reason, a \$30 missed payment fee will be charged. A similar penalty from the family's own banking institution may also be charged. After being informed of the missed tuition payment by FACTS, the missed payment will be re-attempted on the next available payment date three (3) times until tuition is considered delinquent. The automatic withdrawal dates available are the 5th and 20th of each month.

Tuition Delinquency

Tuition becomes delinquent 30 days following the due date specified by the payment plan the family agreed to at registration. For example, if a family has chosen the annual payment option, tuition becomes delinquent on September 5. The school business manager can change the family payment plan. Special tuition payment plans may be set up on a case-by-case basis. To be considered for this families must contact the school business manager no less than ten (10) business days prior to tuition due date. The school administration will not waive tuition payments or provide financial relief for tuition payments for those that cannot pay as agreed upon at registration until the family has communicated their inability to pay to the school Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and/or business manager. The CAO, business manager and the family will discuss modified payment terms. If the family has not discussed with school administration their inability to make tuition payments, the school administration will implement the procedures outlined in this policy regarding non-payment of tuition.

- If tuition is delinquent as of the last week of the student's first semester, **students will not be able to return for 2nd semester until tuition account is brought current.**
- If tuition is delinquent as of the last week of the student's second semester, the student's grades will be withheld, and if the student is a Senior, will not be allowed to graduate, until payment has been made.
- If an emergency has occurred, suitable arrangements must be made with the Chief Administrative Officer or Business Manager at least ten (10) business days before a scheduled payment date.
- If the school has made reasonable attempts to collect tuition but the family has failed to pay, legal actions will be pursued by the school.

Delinquent Tuition/Activities/Lunch from Previous Year(s)

All previously unpaid tuition/activities/lunch balance(s) must be paid by June 30th if a student is to be readmitted on the first day of class for a new school year. Payments are to be made directly to the school.

If a family has not met their financial commitment for tuition/activities/lunch accounts at the end of each school year or June 30th they will not be able to return for the upcoming school year. If accounts have not been made current by June 30th any on-line registration received for the new school year will not be finalized and the families will receive a letter stating their child is no longer enrolled at Aquinas Catholic Schools. In order to re-enroll all balances will have to be paid in full by July 31st. If balances have not been paid in full by July 31st the families will be notified their children will not be allowed to return to Aquinas Catholic for the new school year. If the school has made reasonable attempts to collect monies owed for tuition/activities/lunch accounts but the family has failed to pay, legal actions will be pursued by the school.

Tuition Refunds

Tuition refunds will be made on an academic semester basis. For example, if a student withdraws during the first semester, the family will be refunded the tuition for the second semester only. If a student withdraws during the second semester, the family will be refunded the tuition pro-rated by the number of months remaining in the school year. All withdrawals must be made in writing and no sooner than ten (10) business days prior to tuition withdrawal for payment to be stopped by FACTS. Refunds are for Tuition only; no Fees will be refunded.

Graduation Eligibility

All senior tuition, fees, and lunch bills must be paid in full prior to final exams. Seniors will not receive a diploma or final grades until all accounts are paid in full. Transcripts of student records will not be prepared nor sent until accounts are settled. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Tuition Rate per student for 2025-2026

Grade	Total Tuition (actual cost)	Parish Scholarship	Family Tuition	Diocese Tech Fee	Total Family Tuition	10 monthly payments
K-5	\$8,770	\$5,707	\$2,625	\$440	\$3,065	\$306.50
6-8	\$12,829	\$8,919	\$3,500	\$440	\$3,940	\$394.00
9-12	\$12,829	\$8,067	\$4,385	\$440	\$4,825	\$482.50

Grade	Days	Parish Scholarship	Tuition Total	10 monthly payments
Preschool	T/Th (half day in mornings)	\$0.00	\$1,300	\$130.00
Pre-Kindergarten	M/W/F (half day in mornings)	\$0.00	\$1,425	\$142.50
Pre-Kindergarten	M-F (half day in afternoons)	\$0.00	\$1,550	\$155.00