



# ***Saint Joseph School***

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## ***K-6 Information Booklet*** ***OUR MISSION***

*St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School,  
serving children preschool through sixth grade,  
strives for spiritual, academic and social excellence  
within the framework of God, family and the community, and  
through Catholic teaching and devotion.*



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***Faith, Knowledge, & Service Since 1890***

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# Why Attend St. Joseph School?

Thank you for your interest in St. Joseph School.

Outside of the family, school is the most important influence on a child. Therefore your school choice is critical in shaping who your child will become. The world needs a future rooted in the values of a St. Joseph's education. Are you ready to give your child this best advantage?

Established in 1890, we serve children in preschool through sixth grade. Rich in Catholic tradition, St. Joseph School provides for the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical, and social growth of its youth through prayer, instruction, fellowship, and play within the framework of God, family and community.



This resource includes valuable information which allows you to learn about our wonderful school through our parents, alumni, and more. Our committed staff promotes academic and spiritual growth with a variety of activities for the betterment of children.

We encourage you to tour our facility which was built in 1995 and set up an interview for a complete understanding of our school. If you have any questions, please feel free to call. St. Joe's is an option for every family, not just Catholic families. We welcome children of all faith backgrounds. We'd love you to be part of our St. Joseph School Family!

Sincerely,

Keila Drout, Principal



## Fair Share Tuition Model FAQs

We are fortunate to have a **Fair Share Tuition Model** in place since 1989 in an effort to ensure the affordability of a Catholic education. Fair share is based on setting a cost to educate per student, and asking families to pay as much of that cost as possible toward their child(ren)'s education. You are asked to pay your fair share.

### Overview

*We provide a rich and rewarding education that prepares students for lives of excellence. Our goal is to fill our classrooms with **families who believe in our mission and want an education rooted in faith, challenge, and leadership**. We want families to feel St. Joe's is an option for them without feeling intimidated by the cost of tuition.*

### What is a Fair Share Tuition Model?

- *Tuition is set based on a sliding scale.*
- *Flexible tuition philosophy that allows St. Joseph School to be fiscally viable while being accessible for families who want a Catholic education.*
- *Families determine the maximum amount they can honestly afford after taking into account the cost to educate and their families' income and personal circumstances.*
- *School determines the cost to educate each student by dividing anticipated total expenses by anticipated enrollment.*
- *Using this number, full tuition is set at 60% of that.*
- *Fair share is set at 50% of the full tuition.*

### What is the difference between tuition and cost to educate?

- *Cost to educate is \$3313 more than the full tuition rate.*
- *Cost to educate is \$5809 more than the fair share tuition rate.*

### How is the difference made up between the cost to run the school and tuition received?

- *Tuition (those who pay more than fair share)*
- *Parish subsidy*
- *Fundraising (Walk for Virtues and Calendar Raffle)*
- *SCRIP sales*
- *Donations*

### What if I pay more than the published tuition rate?

- *Any amount over the tuition is considered a donation to the school.*
- *Tuition and donations are tax deductible in the State of Wisconsin.*
- *We are grateful to families who are able to pay some or all of the 'gap', or the difference between the 50% and the actual cost to educate.*

### **What do people actually pay to attend St. Joe's?**

- *Our statistics show about 2/3 pay the fair share amount or more*
- *1/3 pay less than the fair share amount*
- *Not all families are paying the same amount*
- *All tuition information is kept strictly confidential*

### **How is a family's tuition amount determined?**

- *Families determine their pledge*
- *Tuition conference with the principal is required if you:*
  - *Are a new family*
  - *Pledge less than the fair share amount*

*We never want families to feel we are burdening them with a financial commitment that is greater than their means. Research shows that typically a family can allocate 7-10% of their income to private school tuition and that often begins a starting point in determining tuition. This is not a hard and fast rule though—circumstances may dictate that a family can pay a higher percentage or even a lower percentage. Every case is unique.*

### **Will others know what I pay?**

*No, the administrator is pledged to confidentiality and there is trust that you will keep your tuition pledge confidential as well.*

### **Why make the investment in St. Joe's?**

*Outside of the family, school is the most important influence on a child. Therefore your school choice is critical in shaping who your child will become. At St. Joe's, our mission calls us to prepare our young people for lives of excellence. We can't possibly predict what knowledge, skills, or abilities students will need to be successful, contributing members of society in the future. The world needs a future rooted in the values of a St. Joseph's education. Are you ready to give your child this best advantage?*

### **What if I can't meet my pledge?**

*We all make pledges to pay for things we value whether it's your home, your car, or cable television. This is no different. It is understood that family situations can change- income levels change, jobs change, unexpected expenses happen. There is no difficulty in formally increasing or decreasing your pledge as you honestly see fit. What is encouraging is that families sometimes give more than they pledge and we usually come very close to collecting 100% of the pledges.*

### **Will my children be excluded if I can't pay the full cost?**

*No. Your children are wanted at St. Joseph School. The school genuinely appreciates what you can honestly afford to pay.*





## What our alumni have to say about our school



*"I enjoyed how much the teachers cared about me as an individual. They really cater to your needs and work with you to give you the best chance to become successful. The staff really cares about their students past St. Joe's as well."*  
Trey, 2004

*growing faith, and all the friends I made who are always there for me. I realize how incredibly lucky all my classmates and I were to have gone to St. Joe's, and I couldn't imagine my life without it."* Kayla, 2012

*"St. Joe's has influenced my life so much. I don't know where I would be without the everlasting support of the teachers and staff, my constantly*

*"I am incredibly thankful for my experience at St. Joe's! My relationship with God, personal connections, and set of principles were strengthened through my time there. In addition, the work ethic and enthusiasm for learning I gained from going to St. Joe's has been valuable in helping me be successful."*  
Anna, 2010

*"I was taught how to work hard. We were taught manners, respect, and the guidelines to our faith."*  
Josh, 2002

*"My experience at St. Joe's has stayed with me through 7th and 8th grade, and I will probably still remember it when I graduate from college. The teachers are so supportive, and they care about every one of their students on an individual basis. I really learned a lot about my faith, with going to mass every week and having religion class every day. I am so glad that I got to attend St. Joe's, and I appreciate the wonderful education that I got there."* Katharine, 2014

*"I had a wonderful experience at St. Joe's. All teachers were caring and dedicated to giving all students the best possible learning environment. Along with a strong education, St. Joe's taught me many other important life lessons to help me succeed in life."* Kayla, 2011

*"St. Joe's is dedicated to giving children a better education along with a strong set of principles. My experience at St. Joe's has been nothing but positive and I am so fortunate that my parents made the decision to send me there!"* Chantal, 2002

*"St. Joe's has helped me build great time management and organizational skills as well as gaining great friendships that last through high school. The teachers are very good at helping you when you don't understand something or if you need a more advanced lesson. I loved going to St. Joe's; my memories that I have made there will never be forgotten."* Tanya, 2012



## We asked our *parents* why they send their child(ren) to our school.

"It feels like my children are with family. It is a place I trust 100% with their minds and spirits."

"In this world, a foundation of good moral values is becoming harder to find. At St Joe's my children are (were) taught responsibility, respect, and how to live with faith as a guiding principle. The foundation that St Joe's built in my children will serve them well for the rest of their lives."



"I love the community feeling at St. Joe's. I am always so happy every time I'm in the school for an event. The staff are all friendly and know my family by name, often before I've even met them myself! Everyone cares for everyone and the educational quality for each grade is outstanding!"

"The academic rigor and academic reputation of St. Joe's is what initially drew me to the school. If the school wasn't the best elementary school in Menomonie we probably would not attend."



"To instill values along-side education, give them opportunities to grow in a loving school family, and continue our family tradition of parochial school."

"One of the best choices I made as a parent."

"For the great value system and outstanding results that I have seen in my children. Because this school has fostered the perfect mix of Religion, Education, and Personal Growth needed to provide the framework for children. These principles help them understand what it means to be Catholic. Their education they receive at St Joe's sets them up for success as they enter their latter years. (My older children have been successful in their studies as they were ahead of the curve on the



National Tests offered each year). The fundamental way of speaking to each other, respecting each other, and providing a nurturing environment helps shape our children into the adults that they will become. It is evident at St Joe's that this is a priority. I would not send my children anywhere else!"



## How do St. Joseph Students Perform?

Testing is just one way we measure student performance. Teachers use classroom tests, assessments, and classwork as well. See the chart below that shows our scores on the **Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)**. We take this summative assessment each fall. It is designed to show what students know. Testing provides a snapshot of what students have learned.

### ITBS COMPOSITE Scores Fall 2016

Grade	Stanine	Percentile Rank School Norms	Grade Equivalent
2	6	72	2.4
3	6	61	3.6
4	6	78	4.9
5	6	81	6.3
6	6	79	7.4

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Norm-** compares a student performance to a representative sample of the population of the same grade at the same time of the year

**Percentile rank (PR)-** student's relative position or rank in a group, more than ½ should fall between 25 and 75

**Stanine-** grouping of percentiles (1-3 low; 4-6 average; 7-9 high)

**Grade equivalent (GE)-** not grade level mastery, grade level at which a typical student would obtain the same score



## Questions? Notes?

*Here's some space to make a list of the questions you have. Feel free to call or email anytime with these questions. You have an important decision to make regarding your child's future.*

*I am also available for tours, and can schedule a shadow day while school is in session, if you and your child want to see what a day is like at St. Joseph. We'd love to have you be part of our great school!*

*Keila Drout, Principal*

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