St. Barnabas School Financial Aid & Scholarship 2025-2026 School Year



Agenda

- Tuition
- Scholarship Opportunities
 - EdChoice Scholarship
 - Diocesan Tuition Assistance (DTA)
 - Angel Scholarship
 - Fund A Dream
 - Parish Grant
- Next Steps and Action Items

Tuition & Fees: 2025-2026

- Tuition rate for K-8 is \$6,780 (4.3% increase)
- This tuition level allows us to:
 - Continue to reduce the parish subsidy
 - Continue to play "catch up" with Nordonia and increase salaries for teachers and staff
 - Take advantage of increases in Diocesan Tuition Assistance and EdChoice
- Non-refundable re-registration fee of \$195 per student will be charged to each FACTS account on March 18th with a due date of April 1st unless you choose to unenroll by March 15th.

Tuition & Fees: 2025-2026

- SBS Educational Services fee of \$335 per child (same price as this year) will be charged to FACTS accounts in late June and will be due on July 15th.
 - Covers technology expenses, internet security, FACTS fees, PTU membership and event fees, school capital fund

What Scholarships Are Available for the 2025-2026 School Year?

- EdChoice Scholarship
- Diocesan Tuition Assistance (DTA) via FACTS Grant & Aid
- Angel Scholarship Fund
- Parish Grant
- Fund A Dream Scholarship

EdChoice Scholarship - New Applicants

- You are a family new to St. Barnabas or did not yet apply this year.
- Students whose family income is at or below 450% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are eligible to receive the current full scholarship amount.
- Approximately 40% of our students received the maximum scholarship from the State (\$6,166) to attend St. Barnabas this year.
- Every student is eligible for a minimum amount (\$616.60 for the 24-25 school year)
- Family will complete an income verification process via the State portal
- Option for Minimum Scholarship Award Affidavit (no income needed)
- If a student is an incoming Kindergartener but other members of the family received EdChoice this year, the Kindergarten student requires a new application but does not require the income verification step.

EdChoice Scholarship - Renewal

- Renewal window opened on February 1st for families who currently receive the EdChoice Scholarship for the 2025–2026 school year.
- Fill out, print and sign the the Scholarship Renewal Form and obtain proof of current address (utility bill with matching service and mailing addresses preferred. Bill must be less than 90 days old.)
- Drop-off dates and times will be announced shortly
- We would prefer all current families return renewal paperwork by the end of March if not sooner

EdChoice Scholarship - Snapshot

EdChoice Breakdown 24/25 School Year Average Award ~ \$3,700		
Students	FPL Level	Population %
75	<300%	19%
73	301% - 450%	18%
62	451% - 550%	15%
30	551% - 650%	7 %
41	651% - 780%	10%
83	>780%	20%
11	Traditional EC	3%
20	Non-Participating	5%
10	Jon Peterson Special Needs	2%
405		100%

EdChoice Calculator

Estimate your scholarship amount with our EdChoice Calculator

EdChoice Calculator Form

Disclaimer: This is an informational tool to be used only for an unofficial estimation. This tool is not a guarantee of an EdChoice award. Actual EdChoice award amounts are calculated and determined solely by the State of Ohio, which administers the EdChoice program and Income Verification system. Students must apply for either the EdChoice Traditional or the EdChoice Expansion scholarship; students cannot receive these scholarships simultaneously. For more information about the EdChoice Scholarship Program, visit our website.

Enter Your Adjusted Gross Income (Found on 2023 Federal Form 1040, Line 11)

\$115,000

Enter your Household Members

3

Household Members (including yourself)

With an entered value of \$115,000 in Annual Gross Income and 3 household members (including yourself)

Your FPL% is 445% and your estimated EdChoice award will be \$6,166.00 per student for the 2024-2025 school year.

Diocesan Grant and Aid

Why Should You Apply?

- Diocesan Tuition Assistance (DTA) is available to students attending a school within the Diocese of Cleveland. Funds are awarded based on financial need.
- For this academic year, the Diocese awarded \$3,500,000 million dollars to over 4,000 students.
- Families receiving DTA dollars help us stretch our Angel dollars to more families.
- After completing all the paperwork and uploading the required tax documentation, the Diocese hopes to award dollars to families up to 600% of the federal poverty level.
- Families above 600% of the FPL will also be considered based on remaining funds
- Ultimately, qualifying award amounts will depend on the volume of applications.
- St. Barnabas students received over \$65,000 in Diocesan Assistance this year.

Diocesan Grant and Aid

- There is a \$35 application fee payable to FACTS.
- The deadline to apply for aid is March 15th.
- To be considered, the application must be complete including the upload of W2 and 1040 information. New this year: To make the March 15th deadline, families may use their 2023 tax forms if 2024 is not yet available.
- Reminder: You must list and include both parents' incomes if you are living under the same roof regardless if you file taxes separately.
- Award amounts will be "fluid" again for the 25–26 school year. This means that the school will have the ability to adjust your award amount up or down based on the other aid you are receiving.
- Families apply through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at online.factsmgt.com/aid.

What is the Angel Scholarship Fund?

- The Angel Scholarship Fund provides tuition assistance for students to attend Catholic school in the Diocese; and allows donors to receive a 100% Ohio income tax credit of up to \$750 (\$1,500 for married couples filing jointly) against their state tax liability.
- In other words, the state of Ohio allows you to "spend" some of the state income taxes you must pay anyway to provide tuition assistance for students seeking an education in our Catholic schools. The Angel Scholarship Fund is a win-win-win for taxpayer donors, scholarship recipients, and our diocese!

How Does It Work?

 Donors can make a contribution designated to benefit students at a particular school. The Angel Scholarship Fund, like any Scholarship Granting Organization or SGO, is required to prioritize "low income" (under 300% of the federal poverty threshold) recipients, but otherwise does not place limits on which K-12 students can be served or the number of scholarships that can be awarded.



Turning taxes into tuition

St. Barnabas School had the **MOST** donors in the Diocese of Cleveland and raised the highest dollar amount which was **276K**! Thank You!

Angel Scholarship Referral Program

- Offering a chance to win \$2,500 toward your 2025–2026 tuition, fees, and/or school lunch account.
- We encourage all students to secure referrals from family members and friends
 —parents, grandparents, neighbors, Godparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, even
 coworkers are eligible.
- For every \$100,000 raised, we will pull one winner's name let's get to \$400,000!
- Deadline to contribute is April 15, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year!

What does this mean for you?

 Every family at our school is eligible to receive Angel dollars to reduce tuition but you need to apply!

How do you apply for Angel Scholarship funds?

- Fill out the online application by March 15th (one per child).
- Families must also complete the FACTS Grant and Aid application.
- Awards will be announced before the release of tuition bills for next year (early July).

Angel Scholarship Fund Distribution

How are Angel Scholarship dollars awarded?

- ASF is needs based and is applied after EdChoice and DTA dollars
- The school makes recommendations but the Catholic Community Foundation gets the final say (aka, they can reject any or all of our spreadsheet) because they are the Scholarship Granting Organization
- As previously mentioned, we must prioritize, by law, anyone at 300% or below of the Federal Poverty Level first; we also prioritize anyone under 450% FPL
- Dollars are then allocated in ascending order of FPL
 - Families between 450 500% get x
 - Families between 501 550% get y
 - Trend continues all the way to families getting the minimum EC award

Angel Scholarship Fund Facts

Current school year:

- Total distribution = \$248,007 (remember, ASF dollars can only be used for tuition, not fees)
- 276 children applied (68%)
 - 76 children had their tuition gap completely covered by DTA
 - 36 children had their tuition gap covered by DTA + Angel
 - 112 children = 28% with no tuition out-of-pocket
 - 164 children received an average Angel Scholarship ~ \$1,400

Fund A Dream Scholarship

- Fund A Dream is a special tuition assistance scholarship program crafted through the Catholic Community Foundation to support Catholic education. Through this initiative, donors are paired with deserving students.
- Each awarded student is granted a \$2,500 scholarship, significantly reducing their annual tuition for one school year. To be eligible, you must be a family in good standing and your child's anticipated out-of-pocket tuition cost must be greater than \$2,500 after other financial aid has been awarded.
- In a change from this current year's process, each school can nominate up to 12 students for the 25–26 school year. This year, we had six students receive scholarships. If your family is chosen to apply, you will receive more information from the office in mid-February. The deadline for completed applications is March 15, 2025.

Parish Grants

- Each year, the Parish Finance Council sets aside a limited amount of money to be used as Parish Grants. These grants are applied to tuition invoices in July.
- Parish Grants are available to:
 - Eligible Pre-Kindergarten families who need financial assistance as determined by a FACTS Grant & Aid application
 - Current K-8 families, as needed, only after all Angel Scholarship Funds have been distributed

Parish Grants

- For the 25–26 school year, the Finance Council has committed to assisting current families, if necessary, by using parish grants, to keep the tuition increase to no more than 3% with the following exceptions:
 - Only applies to children currently in grades K-7
 - We cannot close the gap that results from a reduction in outside assistance (EdChoice, DTA, Fund a Dream, other scholarships, etc.)
- To be considered for a parish grant, you need to fill out a FACTS Grant & Aid application as well as an Angel Scholarship Application
- We hope to not need to use parish grants for K-8 as we would much prefer to use Angel Scholarship Funds instead; every dollar we distribute as a parish grant is a dollar we don't have to spend on our school

Next Steps

- Apply/Renew EdChoice Scholarship
 - EdChoice Renewal Application
 - Drop off your EdChoice renewal paperwork at the school office during TBA scheduled drop-off times
- Apply for Diocesan Tuition Assistance via the <u>FACTS Grant</u> and Aid application portal (Due 3/15).
- Fill out the **Angel Scholarship Fund** application (Due 3/15).

It's important to know that as long as families successfully apply for EdChoice, DTA, and Angel Scholarship no family will pay the listed tuition rate.



Questions?



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