



October 16, 2017

To: St. Anthony School Families

Re: 2018-2019 Financial Aid

Our mission at St. Anthony of Padua is to make Catholic education available and affordable for all families in our community. If you are in need of assistance, St. Anthony can help you attain financial support.

All schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids now use SMART Aid, a division of SMART Tuition Management. SMART Aid scholarship and financial aid applications are filed online at www.smartaidforparents.com. Electronic filing is encouraged and preferred, in cases where that is not possible, a paper copy of the application form is available upon request in the school office. St. Anthony staff is willing to assist families with online applications.

SMART Aid determines eligibility for both Diocesan assistance (The Bishop's Scholarship Fund) and St. Anthony of Padua Parish assistance (for parishioners only). This is available, to families in need, for students in developmental kindergarten through 8th grade. Need is determined by an evaluation of an applicant's tax returns, and information provided on the application form. Applications are available, and can be downloaded, by using the link indicated above.

Families applying for financial aid from either fund will need to 1) complete the application and 2) submit the necessary supporting documents to SMART Aid by November 20, 2017.

- **Missing this deadline greatly reduces** your chance of receiving financial aid.
- Preschool tuition is not eligible for financial assistance since it is an optional education program.
- Any type of paper application (while acceptable) processes at a much slower rate and can jeopardize the timelines outlined above, if at all possible electronic applications are the way to go.

Please complete the following:

1. On-line electronic application (see directions attached)
2. Many sections of this application should autofill
3. Please complete process **by November 20, 2017.**
4. Payment of a \$ 30.00 application fee payable to SMART Aid

If you have questions or concerns about the application process, you may speak with Lisa Barnum at 453-8229 x200, or Tamara Mason, at extension 453-8229 x104.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Whelan, Principal,

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