



Tuition Information

Reason for Tuition Fees

St. Joseph Elementary school is recognized by the Ministry of Education as a Group I Independent School. This means that we are able to have the maximum funding available to an Independent School (50% of the per student operating costs of the local public school district). These are partial operating costs only and do not cover costs for capital expenditures such as: buildings, computers, desks, transportation, etc. Other sources of revenue are required to operate the schools. There are three other sources of revenue for our operational budget: tuition fees, donations and fundraising.

Reason for a “Practicing Catholic” Tuition Rate

St. Joseph Elementary School accepts practicing Catholic (Category I), non-practicing Catholic and non-Catholic (Category II) students. Both Catholic and non-Catholic families pay tuition and indirectly support the school through government grants (we all pay taxes!). It is a fourth source of revenue, parish subsidies for capital expenditures, in which non-practicing Catholic and non-Catholic families do not participate. Because of this, a two-tiered tuition rate has been set which reflects that those already supporting the school financially through their own parish should enjoy some benefit from a lower tuition rate. Stated the other way, a family who is not active in a Catholic Church which financially supports our schools, should in fairness play an equally supportive role in the area of school finances by paying a higher tuition.

Fair Policy

There is a reason, therefore, for having a Catholic family’s pastor vouch that a family is an active parish family. This attempts to uphold an integrity to the policy of a two tiered tuition rate. A family requesting a Catholic rate must actually qualify for the lower rate, to be fair to three groups of people:

1. If a non-Catholic family pays a higher tuition rate it must be because the Catholic families are actually supporting the school through their own contribution in the Sunday collection on a regular committed basis. Otherwise, it would be blatantly discriminatory to charge people different tuition rates simply on the basis of religious denomination.
2. Parishioners of the Catholic parishes in Kelowna and area financially support Catholic schools to a total annual amount of approximately \$190,000. It would be unfair to expect the parishes to subsidize families who are not in turn sharing in the financial responsibilities of the parish.
3. The staff in our Catholic school accepts a lower salary than their public counterparts as part of their commitment to Catholic education. It would certainly be a double standard to expect one thing from the staff and, at the same time, not expect families to be offering such example to their children.

Catholic Rate Criteria

While the practice of the Catholic faith involves the sacramental life of the Church, moral living consistent with the gospel, responsible stewardship in supporting the Church, and prayer and bible reading, the focus of the Catholic tuition rate relates to financial stewardship.

1. Unless excused for an acceptable reason, the precept of the Church specifies that, on Sundays and other Holy days of obligation, the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass (see Catholic Catechism #2180).
2. The faithful should participate in the activities of the parish in a visible way so that, together, all parishioners may continue the mission of the Church, i.e., to make Jesus known to the community.
3. A Catholic makes regular, sacrificial contributions to their parish in the Sunday collection, which includes planned giving through the use of contribution envelopes.

***Therefore, in requesting the subsidized practicing Catholic parish rate, you are asking the parish to affirm the practice of your faith, as identified above.



2021 - 2022 TUITION FEE SCHEDULE

CATEGORY I – CONTRIBUTING MEMBER OF A CATHOLIC PARISH

1 st student (oldest)	\$438/month for 10 months
2 nd student	\$283/month for 10 months
3 rd student	\$185/month for 10 months
Maximum	\$906/month for 10 months

The Catholic Parishes in the Kelowna area subsidize the Catholic school system. Since active members of these parishes contribute to the schools through church contributions, reduced tuition is charged but must be applied for.

*For families that have children at Immaculata High School please contact the office for the blended school rate.

CATEGORY II – STANDARD TUITION FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA RESIDENTS

1 st student (oldest)	\$593/month for 10 months
2 nd student	\$318/month for 10 months
3 rd student	\$229/month for 10 months
Maximum	\$1140/month for 10 months

CATEGORY III – INTERNATIONAL AND OUT OF PROVINCE STUDENTS

\$15,840.00 for full year (10 months)

This tuition level reflects the cost of educating a student in the Central Okanagan. Government funding is available only for students who are Canadian citizens or landed immigrants, whose parents or legal guardians are residents of British Columbia. In addition to tuition, international students are responsible for uniforms costs, class fees, medical insurance and miscellaneous other fees.

CATEGORY IV – OTHER CANADIAN STUDENTS FUNDED FEDERALLY

Equivalent of current provincial funding plus tuition fees applicable to Category I or Category II funding as appropriate. Please contact the school for more information.

TUITION FEE PAYMENT OPTIONS:

New Families:

Annually: 1st month's tuition fee plus \$250.00 parent participation are due upon registration.

Balance of tuition (October – June) is due on or before September 15th.

Monthly: 1st month's tuition fee plus \$250.00 parent participation are due upon registration.

Direct withdrawal of tuition on the 6th of each month will follow October – June.

Returning Families:

Annually: 1st month's tuition fee is payable by July 6th. The \$250 parent participation fee is payable by August 6th.

Balance of tuition (October – June) is due on or before September 15th.

Monthly: 1st month's tuition fee will be withdrawn by pre-authorized debit on July 6th.

The \$250 parent participation fee on August 6th.

Direct withdrawal of tuition on the 6th of each month will follow October – June.

****Anyone who has prepaid tuitions and received a charitable donation receipt, and subsequently withdraws, is not eligible for any tuition refund.**