



March 15, 2018

Dear Parents and Perspective Families,

After careful review of our financial forecast, our 2018-19 base tuition has been set at \$5,500. This compares quite favorably to the state average of \$9,969 for private high school tuition. The increase over last year is part of our plan to have tuition cover at least sixty percent (60%) of our cost to educate. Currently, only twenty-five percent (25%) of our budget is covered by tuition. We meet the balance of our budget by fundraising, grants and a loan from the Diocese of Gaylord. In effect, every family receives tuition assistance. We are proud that no family has ever been turned away due to an inability to pay full tuition. Please review the attached page for tuition payment and assistance options.

We are committed to keeping tuition reasonable. Thrift is a Christian virtue and we keep our expenses to a minimum. We believe this is an important learning opportunity for students to see they can do a lot within our limited budget.

There are two important factors in keeping our tuition low and affordable:

1. Deep involvement by parents, teachers and volunteers who assist in a myriad of ways in supporting all of our activities.
2. Increased enrollment so we can spread our costs over a larger student body. Our current student/teacher ratio is 4/5 to 1. We can handle two and a half times our enrollment with minimal increase in our costs, while still maintaining a student/teacher ratio under 10. (Public schools typically have 25 to 1 range in student/teacher ratios.) A low student / teacher ratio is key to our policy of providing extra tutoring assistance to any student who has difficulty in any subject.

We would like to express our deep appreciation to our parents, volunteers, faculty and staff for their generous efforts that make St. Michael such an outstanding educational choice. Parental involvement makes a significant impact in all areas of our school community. With your continued support and partnership with SMA, our 2018-19 plan will allow us to achieve the spiritual and educational goals for our children in fulfillment of the school's mission.

If you have friends, neighbors, or colleagues with high school children, we encourage you to share the gift of our school with them. Growing our enrollment is one of the most important ways of ensuring an active, vibrant future for St. Michael Academy. We greatly value your help in encouraging friends and neighbors to consider St. Michael for their children.

James L. Hatch, Executive Director

TUITION SCHEDULE 2018-19

Tuition and Fees

- **Tuition:** The base tuition for 2018-19 is \$5,500. A ten percent (10%) discount will apply to each additional student in the same family.
- **Other Fees:** Each family is responsible for purchasing any required school books / material (varies per student), pay-to-play athletic fees (\$75 per SMA sport, Co-op sports fees based on the fee charged by the Co-op school), mission trips and standardized testing fees. Other miscellaneous fees may arise during the school year.
- **Tuition Down Payment:** A \$500 non-refundable deposit is due by April 16, 2018. The deposit will be applied to your tuition. A 10% DISCOUNT WILL APPLY TO ALL STUDENT APPLICATIONS/REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED BY APRIL 16, 2018.

Tuition Payment Options

The remaining tuition of \$5,000 is due by August 15, 2018.

An optional monthly payment plan is available from St. Francis X Credit Union. All SMA families are pre-qualified for a low-interest loan, and the duration may be set for a maximum of 12 months with a rate of five percent (5%). Monthly payments will depend upon the amount borrowed. If you are interested in an education loan, please contact Joni Hosler at 231.348.7690.

SMA expects that all families who have children enrolled in the school, will pay their tuition and fees promptly when due. Tuition must be up-to-date for a student to participate in extra-curricular activities, receive a report card, participate in graduation, enroll in the following school year, or to have permanent records transferred to another school.

Tuition Assistance

While every possible effort is made to maintain affordable tuition rates, we recognize that education costs can be a financial hardship. Tuition assistance is available for school families, and the application for assistance is available on the school website. All applications will be processed through FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment, a third-party provider, who confidentially analyzes and calculates financial need indexes from information families provide. Please do not hesitate to contact SMA if you have any questions about the financial assistance process or if you have any extraordinary financial considerations. All information and conversations are held in strict confidence. Participation is open to all families in the school. Application forms must be submitted by April 15, 2018, along with the application fee, paid directly to FACTS.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteerism supports our school in many ways – most noticeably by helping to develop a school community and culture of support, service and family. It also helps financially when school parents contribute time and talent to support school activities, fundraising events, etc. Each school family is required to contribute a minimum of 25 hours of volunteer service to the school each year. This can be accomplished by joining a school committee, contributing talent towards the upkeep of the school, helping plan & execute fundraising events, or assisting with “back office” type activities.