

TUITION Assistance

A NAVIGATION GUIDE

1

Mark your calendar

In order to maximize your award, you must meet the assistance deadline, which is typically the end of November. Miss that date and your assistance will likely be decreased.

2

Get familiar with SmartAid

Save the SmartAid 24-hour parent hotline: 1-800-360-8027. Information and support can also be found online at smartaidforschools.com. School Code: 12020.

3

First time applying?

Application help nights will be scheduled by Catholic Central High School usually in the fall and early winter. You can also contact SmartAid directly with any questions.

4

Complete your tax return

As soon as you have your W2s, **file your taxes**. This information is critical for your application. If you will not have your taxes filed before the March deadline, you may use the previous year's return.

5

Submit your application early

SmartAid may have questions about your application or need additional documentation. The sooner you complete your application, the more time you'll have

6

Apply for scholarships

The Grand Rapids Dioceses has Bishop Scholarships. Applying is part of the SmartAid application. **Learn more:** <https://grdiocese.org/>

7

Get you award notification

Your first award will be sent in April. If you are not eligible but are still in need of financial assistance, St. Paul the Apostle financial grants may be awarded in relation to your calculated need.

8

What if it's not enough?

If you have special circumstances making it difficult to pay your entire tuition bill, you may **apply for additional needs**. This process takes additional factors into account. Parish grants may also be allocated to families that are active at St. Paul the Apostle parish. Additional needs decisions are communicated by July.

9

I missed the deadline!

If you miss the November deadline, you still need to complete the SmartAid application. We will work as quickly as possible to evaluate and respond to your tuition assistance request.

10

Do I have to apply every year?

Because **circumstances change** from year to year, you must submit the most up-to-date information to assist in the calculation of the tuition assistance you need.