



TUITION POLICY

2023-2024

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It is the desire of the Our Lady of Mercy School Advisory Board to create an environment which nurtures families' appreciation of the value of our Catholic faith, of attending Mass on a regular basis and of supporting the Parish with their time, talent, prayer, and offering. Toward that end, we have defined the criteria for granting in-parish status to families who prioritize faithful participation in parish life.

Those families who are registered, active and contributing parishioners will receive the in-parish tuition rate for their Catholic children. These three criteria are defined as follows:

1. **Registered:** A family must be formally registered with Our Lady of Mercy Church and meet the guidelines for parish membership set forth by the Diocese of Baton Rouge.
2. **Active:** The standard for this criterion is regular Sunday Mass attendance and active participation in the life of the parish. Families are encouraged to become involved in one or more of the many ministries offered through the school and the church. The parish holds an annual "Stewardship of Ministries" campaign where each ministry is explained and an opportunity to enroll is provided. It is also recommended that each family develop a daily prayer life which incorporates prayers for the Mercy community.
3. **Contributing:** The parish provides a substantial amount of financial support to the school on an annual basis. Without this support, the tuition rates would be considerably higher and the programs offered would be greatly limited. Families who contribute regularly to the church are therefore contributing to the operation of Our Lady of Mercy School. A family who makes a financial commitment to the church, giving in a regular and consistent manner, weekly or monthly, with a minimum of \$5.00 a week, will be considered a contributing family. The offertory envelopes provided by the church or other identifiable means should be used in order for the family to receive proper recognition for their gifts.

The family's tuition status will be based on their record of giving for the previous calendar year (January 1 - December 31). At the end of each calendar year, the pastor will receive a full offertory financial report on all registered school families. This report will detail how frequently and what amount each family has contributed to the church. After the pastor has reviewed this report and applies the criteria of this policy, the principal will be notified of those families who qualify for the in-parish tuition rate. In cases of extreme financial hardship, the pastor may provide a dispensation.