



# Making a Catholic Education Affordable for All

It has long been part of the mission of St. Hilary Parish to make a Catholic education at St. Hilary School affordable for every family. With the parish subsidizing the difference between tuition collected and the true cost to educate each student, plus providing scholarships and assistance that help families directly, the commitment of the parish has been evident for many years. Yet, some families have still felt that the gift of a Catholic education was out of reach. That is about to change in a big way.



## New Funding Expands Access for Every Student

In July 2023, every student in Ohio became eligible to apply for an EdChoice Scholarship. EdChoice Scholarships are available for use at participating private schools, and beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, St. Hilary School will join all elementary schools in the Diocese of Cleveland as an EdChoice participant. This means that all students registering, or re-registering, for enrollment at St. Hilary School for the 2024-2025 school year will have the opportunity to receive an EdChoice Scholarship to offset a portion – and in some cases, all – of their St. Hilary School tuition. This change will significantly expand access to a Catholic education at St. Hilary School for all children, which is a blessing beyond measure.

## Importance of Putting Catholic Education in Reach

One of the most important factors in a child’s life is his or her school setting. In the words of Bishop Edward Malesic, “As the largest youth ministry of the Church, our schools’ mission is to provide the highest quality education for academics, faith formation and holistic development. Catholic education is the heart and soul of what we do as the Church.” At St. Hilary School, in addition to a tradition of academic excellence spanning more than 60 years, faith makes the difference in ensuring that what is important at home is also emphasized throughout a child’s school life. Today’s world is fraught with aspects of society that often contradict the values parents practice and teach at home and threaten to undermine how children are raised. St. Hilary School works as a partner with parents to help provide continuity in exposure to faith-based principles throughout a child’s daily life. Now, every family can more easily avail themselves of this partnership to forge a foundation grounded in faith.

## Two Ways to Qualify

The EdChoice Scholarship has two forms: a traditional EdChoice Scholarship, based on the public school the student would attend, or an EdChoice Expansion Scholarship, which uses a sliding scale to award incremental amounts based on the percentage of the federal poverty level within which a family’s income falls. A listing of designated public schools for the

Federal Poverty Levels with Gross Annual Amounts								
Number in Family/ Household	200%	450%	500%	550%	600%	650%	700%	750%
1	\$29,160	\$65,610	\$72,900	\$80,190	\$87,480	\$94,770	\$102,060	\$109,350
2	\$39,440	\$88,740	\$98,600	\$108,460	\$118,320	\$128,180	\$138,040	\$147,900
3	\$49,720	\$111,870	\$124,300	\$136,730	\$149,160	\$161,590	\$174,020	\$186,450
4	\$60,000	\$135,000	\$150,000	\$165,000	\$180,000	\$195,000	\$210,000	\$225,000
5	\$70,280	\$158,130	\$175,700	\$193,270	\$210,840	\$228,410	\$245,980	\$263,550
6	\$80,560	\$181,260	\$201,400	\$221,540	\$241,680	\$261,820	\$281,960	\$302,100
7	\$90,840	\$204,390	\$227,100	\$249,810	\$272,520	\$295,230	\$317,940	\$340,650
8	\$101,120	\$227,520	\$252,800	\$278,080	\$303,360	\$328,640	\$353,920	\$379,200
For each additional person add:	\$10,280	\$23,130	\$25,700	\$28,270	\$30,840	\$33,410	\$35,980	\$38,550

Source: Office of the Asst. Secretary for Planning & Eval/US Dept of HHS

traditional EdChoice Scholarship is available on the Ohio Department of Education website. The previous table indicates the current federal poverty levels used to determine EdChoice Expansion Scholarship awards.

The sliding scale for 2023-2024 EdChoice Expansion Scholarship awards based on the income levels in the previous table is shown on the table to the right. The sliding scale for 2024-2025 is not yet published, but award amounts are expected to increase.

Federal Poverty Level	Award Amount for Grades K-8
0 – 450%	\$6,165
451 - 500%	\$5,200
501 - 550%	\$3,650
551 - 600%	\$2,600
601 - 650%	\$1,850
651 - 700%	\$1,300
701 - 750%	\$900
751% or higher	\$650

### Commitment to Affordability

With the announcement that St. Hilary School will become an EdChoice provider, tuition rates for the 2024-2025 school year have also been published, with only a moderate increase in the base tuition rate while maintaining discounts for parishioners at St. Hilary, Guardian Angels and St. Victor, and for multiple children in a family. **Under this tuition structure, the school-based traditional EdChoice Scholarship and the income-based EdChoice Expansion Scholarship for families at 450% or less of the federal poverty level will fully cover St. Hilary tuition, regardless of the number of children the family enrolls in the school.** For families in income brackets above 450% of the federal poverty level, other forms of assistance will complete the St. Hilary commitment to affordability by filling gaps between tuition and what is covered by the EdChoice Scholarship. These additional forms of assistance include the Angel Scholarship Fund, St. Hilary Parish Foundation scholarships, and tuition assistance provided by St. Hilary Parish and/or the Diocese of Cleveland. For all of these forms of assistance, the threshold for financial need will be altered as a result of having the EdChoice Scholarship program in place to cover families with the greatest levels of need, making these other assistance dollars available for families in other income tiers. Once the highest levels of need are met, assistance can be distributed to successive levels. Therefore, even families who previously assumed they would not qualify for a scholarship or assistance should apply in order to help fulfill the commitment to keeping a Catholic education at St. Hilary School as affordable as possible for all.

The table below illustrates how the tuition rates, discounts, and potential EdChoice Scholarship amounts will work together for families, with additional assistance outlined above available to help offset the remaining tuition balance.

ST. HILARY SCHOOL TUITION AND EDCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP FAMILY SCENARIOS						
	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	6 Children
24-25 Tuition	\$5,500	\$10,000	\$14,200	\$16,900	\$18,925	\$18,925
EC Traditional	<\$5,500>	<\$10,000>	<\$14,200>	<\$16,900>	<\$18,925>	<\$18,925>
EC 450% / -	<\$5,500>	<\$10,000>	<\$14,200>	<\$16,900>	<\$18,925>	<\$18,925>
EC 451-500%	<\$5,200>	<\$10,000>	<\$14,200>	<\$16,900>	<\$18,925>	<\$18,925>
EC 501-550%	<\$3,650>	<\$7,300>	<\$10,950>	<\$14,600>	<\$18,250>	<\$18,925>
EC 551-600%	<\$2,600>	<\$5,200>	<\$7,800>	<\$10,400>	<\$13,000>	<\$15,600>
EC 601-650%	<\$1,850>	<\$3,700>	<\$5,500>	<\$7,400>	<\$9,250>	<\$11,100>
EC 651-700%	<\$1,300>	<\$2,600>	<\$3,900>	<\$5,200>	<\$6,500>	<\$7,800>
EC 701-750%	<\$900>	<\$1,800>	<\$2,700>	<\$3,600>	<\$4,500>	<\$5,400>
EC 751% / +	<\$650>	<\$1,300>	<\$1,950>	<\$2,600>	<\$3,250>	<\$3,900>

THESE SCENARIOS USE EDCHOICE FUNDING BASED ON 2023-2024 AWARD AMOUNTS.  
2024-2025 AWARD AMOUNTS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE, LOWERING THE UNFUNDED AMOUNTS.

## Explore the School

If you would like your child and your family to experience the benefits of a Catholic education at St. Hilary School and the blessing of affordability, now is the ideal time to begin exploring all that the school has to offer. The school will host its popular Kindergarten Kaleidoscope program for prospective 2024-2025 kindergarteners and their parents on January 11, 2024 from 9-11 am. RSVP by December 28, 2023 to attend. An Open House on January 28, 2024 from 12-2 pm is open to all. Stop by to tour the school, visit classrooms and meet teachers. New Student Registration for 2024-2025 will begin online at [www.st-hilaryschool.org](http://www.st-hilaryschool.org) on January 11, 2024. For more information about enrollment, the EdChoice Scholarship and other forms of assistance, or to RSVP for Kindergarten Kaleidoscope, please contact Debbie Sinopoli, Director of Marketing & Admissions, at 330-867-8720, ext. 343 or [dsinopoli@st-hilary.org](mailto:dsinopoli@st-hilary.org).

