

## Financial Aid / Scholarships

### **Financial Aid Program**

Online Application Information

Website: <http://www.nais.org/go/sss>

School Code: 4800

### **Financial Aid Program**

Students admitted to Blessed Sacrament Parish School (BSPS) may apply for the Financial Aid Program. This program is vital to attracting and retaining students. Parents seeking financial assistance for their children must complete a confidential form that highlights annual income, assets and liabilities.

To assist in this, we have contracted with School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS) which is available through the National Association of Independent Schools. SSS is a nationally recognized leader in financial need evaluation services for Catholic and private schools and comes highly recommended by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). SSS processes the financial aid applications and provides an objective evaluation of each family's financial need according to the information provided by the family. Summary reports and recommendations provided by SSS are then reviewed by the Financial Aid Committee to determine the amount each qualified student will receive. BSPS cannot guarantee aid to all applicants. Awards are based on overall financial need and timeliness of application.

### **Process**

The easy-to-understand financial aid application will be available in March each year. There will be a processing fee required to apply for financial aid which may be completed online or in hardcopy form available through the school office. The application deadline for currently enrolled school families is May 15<sup>th</sup> in any given school year. Financial aid award letters will be mailed by BSPS by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

SSS will require information from your current year's federal tax return, and if applicable, will require information from business tax returns. The information that you provide will allow SSS to accurately determine your family's need which remains the basis of our awards. Additionally, signed copies of your tax returns and W-2's must be provided to BSPS' Financial Aid Committee for verification. Using the data provided to SSS/BSPS and applying an objective needs-based process, the Financial Aid Committee arrives at the final award amounts for each family.

## **Financial aid and SSS FAQ**

### ***How is “need” determined?***

“Need” is defined as the difference between the total tuition amount and the greater of either the amount SSS or the parent states as being what they can contribute.

Example 1: Contribution per SSS = \$1,500  
Contribution per Parent = \$2,000  
Need = (Total tuition - \$2,000)

Example 2: Contribution per SSS = \$3,500  
Contribution per Parent = \$2,000  
Need = (Total tuition - \$3,500)

### ***Are there any income limits when applying for aid?***

There are no income limits to applying for assistance. Each family’s unique financial situation is considered when assessing need.

### ***Who decides how much financial aid a family receives?***

It is the responsibility of BSPS to decide how to best meet the needs of its students and families. This is accomplished through the combined prayerful efforts of the Financial Aid Committee which carefully evaluates each application based on SSS data and any extenuating financial circumstances.

### ***When will I be notified if my student has been awarded assistance?***

Financial aid awards will be mailed by July 31<sup>st</sup> for existing families. New families will be notified as soon as possible after applying.

### ***Why am I mailing my application to SSS?***

BSPS has contracted with SSS to process the financial aid applications and provide an objective evaluation of each family’s financial need. SSS is a nationally recognized leader in financial need evaluation services for Catholic and private schools.

### ***How do I fill out the application if I am a divorced, separated or single parent?***

If the dependents you list in the application will live primarily with you then you should complete the application form based on your income and household expenses. If there is joint custody, the application must take in to account assets and liabilities of both parents.

If you have remarried you will need to complete the application and include information about the stepparent’s income, expenses, assets, and debt.

***Who should I list in as Dependents?***

You should include all dependents currently living with you or for whom you are providing support. This includes older children attending high school or college or any other relatives who are currently living with you that you are providing support to.

***I do not have my current Federal Income Tax return available because I have filed for an extension. Will my application still be accepted?***

SSS asks that each family applying for assistance provide their current Federal Income Tax return unless you have filed for an extension. If you have filed for an extension we will need you to provide us with a copy of the extension request, a copy of your previous year's Federal Income Tax return, and copies of current W-2's.

***Is my personal financial information shared with any organizations other than SSS?***

All information is held strictly confidential and is not shared or disseminated in any way with any other organizations except for the BPS Financial Aid Committee which includes the administration, a current parent and an alumni parent, both appointed by the principal.

***How do I apply?***

Application forms, instructions and mailing envelopes will be available in the office by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Mail the completed application along with a check for the indicated fee made payable to SSS in the envelope provided by the due date on the front of the application; however, the BPS deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Applications may be also completed online. You will need the following:

1. Our School Code: 4800
2. A valid email address
3. A credit card (Visa or Mastercard) to complete payment processing
4. A complete copy of your Federal Income Tax Return with all schedules and W-2's from the previous year

To begin the on-line application process parents should go to:

<http://www.nais.org/go/sss>

and click on the "On-line Application" link. You can then create a user account using your email address and a password that you select. Once you have created a user account and signed in you will be able to complete the SSS application on-line.

Whether mailing or applying online, a copy of your current Federal Income Tax return must also be sent to the Financial Aid Committee via the school office.

***How will I know if SSS has received my application?***

If you submit your application via mail you will receive a postcard from SSS confirming receipt of your application.

If you submit your application on-line at <http://www.nais.org/go/sss> you will receive a confirmation page and a separate email confirming SSS has received your application.

**Sources of Financial Assistance**

**Brian Scholars Foundation**

In November of 2007, through the generosity of the Blickenstaff family, an endowment fund was opened with Bessemer Trust. Assistance through the Foundation is open to all current and new families to BSPS at all grade levels, Preschool through Grade 8.

Additional sources of Financial Assistance are designed to offer assistance to all current and prospective students who want to attend Blessed Sacrament Parish School and who are active members of Blessed Sacrament Parish. The following memorial funds are alternate sources for tuition assistance.

**Jim and Kathy Todd Memorial Fund**

In May of 2006, Blessed Sacrament Parish was endowed with a scholarship fund in memory of Jim and Kathy Todd for the benefit of the children of BSPS. Kathy and Jim were among the parishioners who began Bingo many years ago. Having no children of their own, the children of BSPS became their family. According to their wishes, a specified amount, per student, per year can be awarded by the pastor. These students are identified through the recommendation and request of the principal as based on family need and circumstances.

**Robert Snyder, Jr. Scholarship Fund**

Since 1987, the Snyder family has contributed to this fund in memory of their son, Robert, Jr., who was an alumnus of Blessed Sacrament Parish School. As there son was unable to live out his personal dreams, the Snyder's strive to assist other students to receive a Catholic education. Each year monies are available and awarded by the principal to families proportionately based on family need and circumstances.

**Parish Tuition Assistance**

It is important to recognize that we are a parish school and as such, our parish subsidizes the school in the amount of \$44,400 annually. The pastor has committed an additional \$20,000 specifically for tuition assistance to families who are active parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Parish.