Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **Can I use last year’s tax return in the Tuition Estimator since I do not have this year’s taxes completed?**
   Yes, in theory. As long as your family’s income level has remained generally the same, using last year’s tax return information is a start. However, to receive the best estimate of your tuition costs, the current year’s tax return is required to report Line 8b on the 1040 Form. Because the current year’s tax information is required for TADs, the most accurate estimate will be derived using that information.

2. **How was 7.5% determined to be the number for tuition?**
   Research shows that typically families contribute roughly 10% of their income toward non-profit organizations or charities. With this in mind families will spend 7.5% of their total income to send their children to Catholic school and still afford 2.5% of their total income in contributions to the parish or other charitable entities.

3. **What if the estimate I receive is very different from what I paid in tuition last year?**
   We always invite our families to have a conversation with us if the tuition rate is different than what was anticipated. Families are encouraged to come to the BHCS administration office to request a Tuition Appeals Form and meet with the Director of Finance, Director of Admissions or Director of Enrollment when there are questions about the calculated cost.

4. **What is the process for determining assistance if the estimated amount and results from TADS are very different?**
   The rate of 7.5% per total income has been found to be a solid measure of what a family can contribute to their child(ren)’s tuition. We can review the information that was submitted through the TADs application and compare that to the estimate. Families are encouraged to come to the BHCS administration office to request a Tuition Appeals Form and meet with the Director of Finance, Director of Admissions or Director of Enrollment when there are questions about the calculated cost.

5. **How can I find out my total cost, with all fees?**
   We make every attempt to let our families know about fees upfront and those are included to the degree possible on your family’s tuition statement. There are specific fees associated with activities, graduation, participation in youth programs, etc. which vary from student to student, program to program, etc.

6. **When can I expect to receive my tuition statement?**
   The first round of notifications is generated through the Diocese of Sioux City in early- to mid-June. This is not the full tuition assistance amount. The second notification including Monseigneur Lafferty Funds (MLTF) is typically distributed in late-June or early-July. This is when you will know your tuition costs including basic fees.

7. **How do I appeal my tuition amount if it doesn’t look right?**
   We encourage all families to reach out to us with questions about your family’s tuition costs. Families can appeal their tuition cost by completing a Tuition Appeals Form and calling Yvette Sitzmann or Jenny Pattee at 712.252.1350 to schedule an appointment to discuss tuition.

8. **What is a supporting parish in Sioux City?**
   Sioux City parishes providing BHCS financial assistance are: Cathedral, Holy Cross, Mater Dei, Sacred Heart.

9. **What is a non-supporting parish? Why are non-supporting parishes assessed a fee?**
   A non-supporting Catholic parish is any Catholic parish not listed above. Examples include St. Teresa’s in Dakota Dunes, St. Michael’s in South Sioux City, etc. The non-supporting parish fee is assessed because while a family may be contributing to their parish outside of Sioux City, those parishes do not contribute parish assessments to offset the cost of educating students at BHCS. The Sioux City parishes contribute nearly $2.6 million dollars toward BHCS costs. There is a $200 non-supporting parish fee per family.

10. **Why do I have to pay more as a non-Catholic?**
    The cost difference between registered Catholics and non-Catholic students is due to parish level support. The supporting parishes contribute close to $2.6 million annually toward the cost of tuition for our BHCS students through parish assessments. When families give to the Sioux City parishes, those dollars, in turn funnel, back to BHCS costs. **There is a non-Catholic fee of $500 for the first child, $250 for an additional child, and a maximum of $1,000.**
11. What if my child has special needs such as an IEP, 504 plan or limited English proficiency?
   What if my child has medical or mental health needs?
   We welcome the opportunity to discuss any circumstances or needs that may impact your child’s education. Please be sure
to communicate any information about your child when you initially contact the school or central office.

12. What are the requirements for participating in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program/Preschool Initiative?
   The family must reside in the state of Iowa and the child must be 4 years of age on or before September 15, 2020.

13. How is preschool assistance calculated?
   The preschool rate is different depending upon where you live because the state of Iowa provides funds to BHCS for
   participating in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. Therefore, the rate is higher for non-Iowa residents. Because
   our rate is competitive with other centers, some financial assistance is available, though it may not reach the minimum
   tuition rate.

14. Is Dual Language Academy more expensive?
   No. The same tuition rates apply for all students in grades preschool through eight throughout our system.

15. What other aid might be available to help me afford a Catholic education?
   **High School Scholarships**
   Bishop Heelan High School also awards over 50 scholarships to students for high school. For more information about these
   scholarship opportunities, please contact Bob Geary at 712.252.0573.

   **SCRIP**
   SCRIP is a national program that offers a simple way for you to earn rewards for your family and BHCS. When you shop at
   any of the 700 SCRIP brands like Target, Amazon and Starbucks you get everything you love at no extra cost—and the
   rebate goes directly to BHCS to reduce your tuition.

   The following parishes offer the SCRIP program.
   - Holy Cross Parish [https://holycrosssc.org/scrip-program](https://holycrosssc.org/scrip-program)
     Contact patty@holycrossSC.org
   - Mater Dei Parish
     Contact Kathy Weber: Kathy.weber@materdeisc.org
   - Sacred Heart: [https://www.sacredheartsiouxcity.com/scrip](https://www.sacredheartsiouxcity.com/scrip)
     Contact Jessica.taylor@bishopheelan.org

   **WIN-WIN family referral program**
   The WIN/WIN family referral incentive program is another great way to reduce your tuition costs. If you refer a new family
to BHCS and they attend for at least 6 months, both you and the family receive a credit toward your tuition. There is no
limit on the number of families you can refer and receive credit for! Here is the link:
   [bishopheelan.org/enrollment/win_win_referral_program](https://bishopheelan.org/enrollment/win_win_referral_program)

   *We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please don’t hesitate to contact us!*

**CONTACT**
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