

GENERAL

Our Mission

Inspired by our patron Francis of Assisi, we seek to proclaim the reign of God by growing in Holiness through our experience of Christ in word, sacrament and one another, offering Hope to those who hunger for human dignity and extending Hospitality to all.

Our Vision

In reflection of our patron, St. Francis of Assisi, The Franciscan School fosters a Christ-centered way of living that celebrates the building of the Kingdom of God on Earth.

Our History

The Franciscan School opened its doors in August of 2000. The campus was founded in part of a 35-acre Catholic parish and is a ministry and testament to the Franciscan tradition.

Today, TFS is not only one of the largest private schools in Raleigh, North Carolina, but in the United States, serving grades K-8. We nurture our students in a prayerful environment with Catholic traditions and Christian values where self-discipline, sensitivity, respect, and personal responsibility are taught and practiced. Our students graduate with a knowledge of self, rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, and genuinely responsive in service to others.

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Present Day	TFS is not only one of the largest private schools in Raleigh, North Carolina, but in the United States, serving grades K-8.

FAQS

Layout examples:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/>; <https://www.spx.org/admissions/faq>; <https://modg.org/resources/faqs>; <https://faq.pinecrest.edu/>; <https://about.underarmour.com/investor-relations/resources#submodule-4>; <https://www.honest.com/faq>

General

1. Are The Teachers Certified?

A classroom teacher in the Diocese of Raleigh is required to be licensed or in the process of being licensed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Teachers with less than three years of verifiable experience must participate in the Initial Licensing Process (ILP) coordinated by the Catholic Schools Office ILT coordinator.

In maintaining a continuing license, all teachers are required to follow the guidelines of The Diocese of Raleigh License Plan (Appendix/Licensure Renewal), approved by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

2. Is The Franciscan School Accredited?

The Franciscan School is accredited by AdvancED, approved by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh and is a member of the National Catholic Educational Association. Additionally, TFS complies with the North Carolina Guidelines for Non-Public Schools.

*TFS was last re-accredited in March 2017.

3. Can Parents Volunteer?

Volunteers are central to our success as a school and community, and the school provides many opportunities for volunteerism. We appreciate the services of our dedicated stewards and recognize the invaluable benefits that come to our school community through their investment of talent and time. We encourage mothers, fathers,

grandparents, and members of St. Francis of Assisi parish to offer their many skills to enrich our children and education programs.

4. Does the school provide transportation or bus service to/from school?

No, please arrange a carpool or ensure that your student has an approved walking pass.

A commercial bus service will provide field trip transportation. The Franciscan School does not allow parents to transport students on field trips. We also cannot provide refunds, as reservations are based on the expected number of students.

Admissions

1. When Can I Apply For Next Year?

Registration for 2020-2021 Opens January 28th.

2. Can I attend The Franciscan School if I am not Catholic?

The Franciscan School does not discriminate based on race, color, national or ethnic origin, religious background, or gender. We welcome families of all faiths who are seeking an education in a Catholic environment.

3. How Much Is Tuition? Is tuition assistance available?

All families agree to pay the Full Cost Tuition Rate per child unless notified of eligibility for the Steward Rate as approved by the Pastor.

- **Full Cost:** A non-Catholic family.
- **Catholic Participating Member of a Parish (other than St. Francis) in the Diocese of Raleigh:** A Catholic family registered in another parish, who has submitted a signed Pastor Recommendation Form.
- **St. Francis of Assisi Parish Steward Rate:** The Parish Steward Rate is available to registered parishioners who support our community with their time, talent, and tithe. This

discount is available after a review by the Pastor of the annual Family Stewardship Form.

The Family Stewardship Form can be accessed and submitted on the parish website at www.stfrancisraleigh.org/stewardship-form.

2019-2020 Tuition		
Steward Rate Kindergarten	Out of Parish Catholic Rate Kindergarten	Full Tuition Rate Kindergarten
One Child \$7,143	One Child \$7,745	One Child \$9,758

*The Kindergarten tuition rate reflects a \$1000 reduction in the standard tuition rate as the initiation tuition into The Franciscan School.

Steward Rate Grades 1-8	Out of Parish Catholic Rate Grades 1-8	Full Tuition Rate Grades 1-8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One Child \$8,143 ● Two Children \$15,886 ● Three Children \$23,829 ● Four Children \$31,772 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One Child \$8,745 ● Two Children \$17,090 ● Three Children \$25,635 ● Four Children \$34,180 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One Child \$10,758 ● Two Children \$21,116 ● Three Children \$31,674 ● Four Children \$42,232

- Multi-Child families receive a \$200 per student discount.
- Tuition totals include a \$150 Technology Fee.
- **Tuition** totals for 2019-20 reflect a 2% increase from 2017-18.

Fees and Payment Options

- Application Fee: \$60 non-refundable
- Registration Fee: \$400 per child

Payment Options

- Annual – payment made directly to TFS on or before July 20th. A 1% discount applies to this option.
- Trimester – FACTS Tuition Management administers the trimester payment option. **Payment** draft dates are July 20th, November 20th, and February 20th.

- Monthly – FACTS Tuition Management administers the monthly payment option. The first payment is July 20th; final payment is April 20th.

We are committed to serving all those in our parish who seek a Catholic education that's rooted in a Franciscan dedication to helping others. The parish and The Franciscan School provide significant need-based financial aid for families to assure that there are no parish students not afforded a Catholic educational opportunity because of limited financial means. In the 2018-19 academic year, we awarded over \$310,000.00 in financial aid.

If tuition costs, changing family circumstances, or the enrollment of a second or third child strain the monthly budget, parents are encouraged to contact the Coordinator of Marketing and Admissions, Lura Tysiac at lura.tysiac@stfrancisraleigh.org.

In addition to our funds for tuition assistance, we encourage families to access Scholarship & Tuition Assistance available through the Diocese and outside agencies as well, including the:

- **North Carolina Opportunity Scholarship and Disabilities Grant Programs:** The Opportunity Scholarship Program expands school choice in North Carolina through scholarship grants for eligible children in Kindergarten through 12th grade. This program provides funding of up to \$4,200 per year for children who choose to attend a participating nonpublic school. The open application period for the Opportunity Scholarship is February 1 through March 1. For more information regarding the program, please visit Opportunity Scholarships.
- **The Diocese of Raleigh Office of African Ancestry Ministry & Evangelization (AAMEN) and Native American Catholic Community:** The AAMEN office provides funds to the Catholic Schools of the Diocese. Funding for the awards come from the Black & Indian Missions. The open application period for the scholarship is January 28 – March 18. For more information on how to apply, contact Mrs. Lauren Green at green@raldioc.org.

4. Is there a discount offered if I am an active member of a Catholic Church?

Yes, as determined by after a review by the pastor of the annual Family Stewardship Form.

- **Full Cost:** A family who is non-Catholic.
- **Catholic Participating Member of a Parish (other than St. Francis) in the Diocese of Raleigh:** A Catholic family registered in a Catholic parish, who has submitted a Pastor Recommendation Form, signed by their pastor.
- **St. Francis of Assisi Parish Steward Rate:** The Parish Steward Rate is offered to Catholic registered parishioners who support our parish community with their time,

talent, and with identifiable financial contributions at a level commensurate with their means through a parish tithe. This discount is determined after a review by the pastor of the annual Family Stewardship Form.

The Family Stewardship Form can be accessed and submitted on the parish website at: www.stfrancisraleigh.org/stewardship-form

5. Is there a multi-child discount?

Families with more than one child enrolled at The Franciscan School receive a \$200 sibling tuition discount per each child, including the first child.

6. What Age May Children Start Kindergarten?

Children entering Kindergarten must be five years old on or before August 31 to enroll in the current academic year. Children entering the 1st grade must be six years old on or before the same date.

Student Life

1. Do you attend Mass regularly during the school year?

Students attend weekly Mass, student-led Holy Day community liturgies, religious classes, service projects and activities that coincide with the Catholic teachings of social justice.

2. How Are Lunches Handled?

There are two options for lunch: a brown bag from home or a hot school lunch (which are pre-purchased online). Milk is available daily, using pre-purchased tickets. As the school cannot provide lunch if a student has no lunch, parents must make arrangements for food for their children at school. Repeated need for TFS to call a family regarding its failure to provide food will result in a parent-teacher conference. If your child has any food allergies, please notify the school nurse. Please note that The Franciscan School has peanut-free tables in the lunchroom. Lunch will conclude with a prayer after meals.

3. What Special Electives Are Available?

Fine Arts	Special classes (K-5):	Athletics (Grades 6th – 8th):	Extra-curricular Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art Club ● Choir ● Drama Class* ● Jazz Band* ● Orchestra* ● Strings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art – 45 minutes once per week ● Media – 45 minutes once per week ● Music – 45 minutes once per week ● P.E. – 45 minutes twice per week ● Spanish – 30-45 minutes twice per week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseball ● Basketball ● Cheerleading ● Cross Country ● Lacrosse ● Soccer ● Softball ● Ultimate Frisbee Club ● Volleyball ● Tennis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic Decathlon* ● Chess Club ● Computer Programming*** ● Creative Writing* ● Drama Production ● Forensic Science *** ● Model UN* ● Public Speaking*** ● Running Club** ● Spelling Bee ● STEM*** ● Study Skills * ● Techsploration* ● Yoga*

*Grades 6th-8th Grade Electives Only

**Grades K-5 Grade Electives Only

***Grades 7th-8th Grade Electives Only

Academics

1. Do you offer special needs learning programs?

The Franciscan School is committed to the success of all admitted students. If a licensed psychologist identifies a student with a different learning style, the administrative team and teacher will collaborate with the parents/guardians to provide students with a holistic network of support.

However, the school cannot modify its academic requirements nor alter the general courses. If we cannot accommodate a student within the school, every effort is made to place students in a program that is better suited to meet their needs.

Parents should contact the School Counselor, Laureen Wacenske, for additional information on testing, a list of available accommodations, and referrals for psychologists, psychological services, tutors, and learning specialists.

Laureen Wacenske
School Counselor
919-847-8205 ext. 255
laureen.wacenske@stfrancisraleigh.org.

2. What Is The Maximum Class Size?

Grades K-5 – maximum of 27 students per class
Grades 6-8 – maximum of 29 students per class

3. What standardized test do students take and when?

Students take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) test in the mid-fall semester.

PROGRAMMING

Course of Study

Our teachers are responsible for curriculum-driven instruction, knowledge of grade-level curriculum, and awareness of the total Diocesan curriculum.

Methods of Instruction

The Franciscan School focuses on the needs of the individual student and the basic philosophy of Catholic education. These methods include:

- small and large group instruction,
- cooperative learning, and
- hands-on activities.

Textbooks

The Franciscan School selects textbooks based upon the recommendations of the Catholic Schools Office. Each text supports the Diocesan-defined curriculum and Catholic Christian teachings.