

## Fast Facts

### 1. Can I attend TFS 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. We are strengthened by our diversity.

### 2. Do you offer special needs learning programs?

TFS is committed to ensuring that all admitted students succeed. In the event that a learning style difference is identified through a psychoeducational evaluation within the last three years by a licensed psychologist, TFS will make reasonable accommodations for the student. However, TFS neither modifies its academic requirements nor alters its general course of study to meet special educational needs. A list of the reasonable accommodations that TFS offers is available for review from our School Counselor. For additional information on testing for possible learning style differences, parents should contact the School Counselor.

The TFS administrative team and teachers will collaborate with the parents/guardians of students with identified special needs. If a student cannot be accommodated within the school program, every effort is to be made to help with placement in another school program beyond TFS.

TFS has a professional working relationship with a number of psychologists, psychological services, tutors, and learning specialists.

### 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 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](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/stewardship-form)

<b>2018-2019 Tuition</b>		
Steward Rate Kindergarten	Out of Parish Catholic Rate Kindergarten	Full Tuition Rate Kindergarten
One Child \$6,986	One Child \$7,576	One Child \$9,550

\*The Kindergarten tuition rate reflects a \$1000 reduction in the normal 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"> <li>● One Child \$7,986</li> <li>● Two Children \$15,571</li> <li>● Three Children \$23,357</li> <li>● Four Children \$31,143</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● One Child \$8,576</li> <li>● Two Children \$16,752</li> <li>● Three Children \$25,129</li> <li>● Four Children \$33,505</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● One Child \$10,550</li> <li>● Two Children \$20,700</li> <li>● Three Children \$31,050</li> <li>● Four Children \$41,400</li> </ul>

- Multi-Child families receive a \$200 per student discount.
- Tuition totals include a \$150 Technology Fee.
- Tuition totals for 2018-19 reflect a 2% increase from 2017-18.

**Fees and Payment Options**

- Application Fee: \$60 non-refundable
- Registration Fee: \$400.00 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. Payments are drafted 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.

**Tuition Assistance**

We make a strong commitment to being able to serve all those in our parish who are seeking an education in a Catholic Environment with a Franciscan dedication to serving

others. To meet this commitment, the parish and TFS provide significant need-based financial aid for families to be able to attend our school. We do this in the desire to assure that there are no parish students not afforded this Catholic educational opportunity because of limited financial means. In the 2018-19 academic year, over \$370,000.00 in financial aid was awarded.

Should tuition costs, changing family circumstances, or the enrollment of a second or third child at TFS strain the monthly budget beyond its limit, parents are strongly encouraged to reach out to our Coordinator of Admissions, Lura Tysiac at [lura.tysiac@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:lura.tysiac@stfrancisraleigh.org), or the TFS Bookkeeper, Donna Sincock at [donna.sincock@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:donna.sincock@stfrancisraleigh.org), for FACTS information that will guide them through an online tuition assistance application process. The TFS need-based tuition assistance application process is straightforward and uncomplicated, and we are happy to help with that process.

**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 eligible children who choose to attend a participating nonpublic school. The open application period for the Opportunity Scholarship is February 1st through March 1st. 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 funds the Catholic Schools of the Diocese. Funding for the awards come from the Black & Indian Missions. For more information on how to apply, please visit the Diocese of Raleigh. Choose the item "Tuition Assistance Application for K-12 Catholic Schools". Contact Mrs. Lauren Green at [green@raldioc.org](mailto:green@raldioc.org) for further information on the African American scholarship. The open application period for the scholarship is January 28 – March 18.

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.

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5. Is there a multi-child discount?

For families with more than one child enrolled at The Franciscan School, each child receives a \$200 sibling tuition discount, including the first child.

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

Our students participate in weekly Masses in the Chapel, monthly and Holy Day community liturgies prepared by students, religion classes, and service projects and activities that coincide with the Catholic principles of social justice teaching.

7. When Can I Apply For Next Year?

Registration for 2019-2020 Opens

- January 28: Staff/Current Students and Siblings
- February 4: Alumni/TFS Siblings
- February 11: St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners
- February 20: Public

8. What Age May Children Start Kindergarten?

Children entering Kindergarten are to be five years of age on or before August 31st for enrollment in the current academic year. Children entering the 1st Grade are to be six years of age on or before the same date.

9. 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.

Field trip transportation will be provided by a commercial bus service. TFS does not allow parents to transport students on field trips. Refunds will not be given, as reservations are based on the expected number of students.

10. What Is The Maximum Class Size?

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

11. 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. The Catholic Schools Office facilitates the licensure process.

12. Is TFS Accredited?

The Franciscan School is accredited by AdvancED and the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation. TFS was last re-accredited in March 2017. TFS is 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.

13. Can Parents Volunteer At TFS?

Volunteers are central to our success as a school and community, and the school provides many opportunities for volunteerism. We greatly 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 talents to help our children and enrich our education programs.

All stewards are required to sign in at the Lobby Guard at the reception desk and receive a visitor badge. The tag must be worn during the entire stay on campus. Stewards should sign out and return their tags to the reception desk before departing.

14. How Are Lunches Handled?

There are two options for lunch: a brown bag from home or pre-ordered hot lunch (which must be ordered and purchased online.) Milk is available daily, using tickets that must be purchased in advance. A hot lunch is offered five times a week during the school year. As the school cannot provide lunch if a student has no lunch, it is critical that parents 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 TFS has peanut-free tables in the lunchroom.

Behavior in the cafeteria must conform to the norms of grace and courtesy. Students are expected to clean their places, use inside voices, and ask permission to use the bathroom. Lunch will conclude with a prayer after meals.

15. What Specials/Electives Are Available?

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

\*Grades 6th-8th Ele Grade Electives Only

\*\*Grades K-5 Grade Electives Only

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

16. When is standardized testing?

<https://www.franciscanschool.org/standardized-testing/>