



Muskegon Catholic Central

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President's Remarks

Important – Decision to Move to SMART Aid

As partners in the effort to make a Catholic education affordable and accessible, Muskegon Catholic Central and the Diocese of Grand Rapids are working in concert to offer opportunities that will provide scholarship and need-based tuition assistance to qualified families. With a November 1, 2016 application start date, the enrollment process for the 2017-18 school year has begun.

PSAS (Private School Aid Service) has provided the third-party needs assessment for the purpose of tuition assistance and scholarships for both the Diocese of Grand Rapids and Muskegon Catholic Central for many years. They were recently purchased and are unable to deliver the PSAS product for 2017-18 school year. As a result, along with the Diocese of Grand Rapids, we have decided to **transition to SMART Aid**, a division of SMART Tuition Management – yes, this is the same company which Muskegon Catholic Central uses to manage tuition payments. This move allows for greater integration of the SMART Tuition and SMART Aid products, providing the opportunity for an increased and efficient transition between the tuition assistance/scholarship and billing processes for qualified Crusader families.

Current families wishing to apply for Muskegon Catholic Education Foundation Scholarships and the Bishop's Scholarship from the Diocese of Grand Rapids for the 2017-18 school year are required to complete the SMART Aid application. The SMART Aid for 2017-18 is now available under the Admission menu on the MCC website by clicking on the [SMART Aid link](#). Please note that the link provides you the opportunity to complete the application and submit it electronically with all required documents. It is important that you create a SMART Aid account to begin the process. For those interested in completing the application on paper, a PDF version is also available.

The **deadline for the first round of applications for the Bishop's Scholarship is December 21, 2016** and initial Bishop Scholarship awards will be allocated in mid-January 2017. The **Bishop's Scholarship** will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis to eligible families. **If you are a member of a Diocesan Parish, it is IMPERATIVE that you complete and submit the application attaching all required documents prior to the December 12th deadline to be eligible in the first round!**

PLEASE NOTE: MUSKEGON CATHOLIC CENTRAL WILL CONTINUE TO PAY ALL FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SMART AID APPLICATION FOR ALL CRUSADER FAMILIES, BOTH FOR OUR EXISTING AND NEW FAMILIES. Because there is essentially no cost to completing and submitting the Smart Aid application, it is our hope that any family interested in receiving scholarship assistance will take the time to complete the application process prior to the December 21st deadline. The Round One MCC scholarship/tuition assistance awards are targeted to be mailed by February 15, 2017. Do not hesitate to contact the Muskegon Catholic Central Business Office at 231.755.2201 x 3400 with your questions or your need for help in completing the Smart Aid Application Form.

May God's peace be with you and your family!

Ken R. Rasp, President
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