

Dear Parent/Guardian,

School Tuition Organization of Southeast Iowa (STO) and Holy Trinity Catholic Schools are pleased to announce a program that provides tuition grants to qualifying families. The School Tuition Organization (STO), combined with our local grant programs, offers expanded opportunities to help qualifying families afford Catholic education.

STO tuition grants are available to students entering K-12th grade, who live in an Iowa household, and whose total income does not exceed an amount equal to four times the Federal poverty guideline.

Tuition awards over and above the STO program, thus providing more supplementary tuition grants. **Our local grant program is open to all qualifying families, not just those who qualify for the STO grants. In order to be considered for additional grants the STO application must be filled out and returned by April 15, 2024.**

Both STO and Holy Trinity will be utilizing the Southeast Iowa STO office to evaluate the applications. The STO office determines the amount each family is eligible for. **The application form is a (two sided) document that all families need to complete to be considered for any award, including HTC Foundation and tuition grants. You must include a copy of your 2023 Federal income tax return (specifically the first two pages of your Federal 1040 form).** Your personal information will be used only by STO and will be held in the strictest confidence at all times. If you have a child at more than one Catholic school, you will only need to complete one application form.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN APRIL 15, 2024 to be considered for STO funding for the 2024-25 school year. **Applications postmarked after April 15th will not be considered for STO funding.**

An application form is enclosed with this letter, available at Holy Trinity school offices (including HTC ECC), and downloadable from the Holy Trinity School website at www.holytrinityschools.org. If you have any questions you are welcome to call Nicole (319-837-6131) at the school for assistance. Completed applications and copies of pages 1 and 2 of your 2021 Federal tax return are to be submitted to the Holy Trinity Business Office in West Point Attn Nicole, 413 Ave C, West Point, IA 52656.

Award notification letters will be mailed from the school by the first part of July.

We require every family who wishes to receive tuition assistance to complete an application. The School Tuition Organization of Southeast Iowa (STO), coupled with our local tuition grant program, will be able to help families with demonstrated need.

If you have questions about the tuition grant program, call Nicole Holtkamp (319-837-6131). This is a wonderful opportunity intended to help qualifying families afford high quality Catholic education.

Sincerely,

Nicole Holtkamp, Business Manager
nicole.holtkamp@hollytrinityschools.org
319-837-6131 option 4



Financial Assistance Opportunities:

**STO of Southeast Iowa~ Holy Trinity Educational Foundation~ Scholarships
& Grants~ Scrip**

Families must apply each year to be considered for assistance

**HTC is committed to making tuition affordable for students from all
economic backgrounds through need-based tuition assistance
grants.**

Holy Trinity Catholic Schools offers financial assistance to students whose families demonstrate financial need. Based on available funds and the number of applicants each year, HTC makes every effort to provide assistance to those families who need help. Currently, 67% of students receive some type of financial assistance.

All HTC families in need of financial assistance are encouraged to complete the STO application. **Families applying for financial assistance must submit their most recent Federal tax returns. You must include pages 1 & 2 of your Federal form 1040.** All financial information is held in the strictest confidence by our Business Office.

If you are applying for any grant or scholarship, you must complete the STO application to be considered. Grants, Scholarships and/or Financial Aid will not be provided for those who do not complete the STO application.

Families are required to reapply for financial assistance each year. Every attempt is made to provide ongoing assistance to those returning students that demonstrate continued need. Financial assistance decisions are made separately from the admissions process and have no impact on a student's eligibility for admission to Holy Trinity Catholic Schools.



HTC offers a number of ways to make Catholic education affordable to our students.

- ❖ **STO~ DUE EACH YEAR BY APRIL 15th.** The application form can be found on the Holy Trinity school website (www.holytrinityschools.org) under the admissions tab. Or you may pick up a paper copy at HTC High School, Elementary or ECC buildings.
Completed applications must include a copy of pages 1 & 2 of your 2023 Federal Income Tax Forms 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ. IF you were not required to file a tax return, submit W-2 and 1099 forms with your application. All information is then forwarded to the STO Administrator in the Quad Cities for evaluation and are not reviewed locally. We do not keep copies of your tax information.
- ❖ **Holy Trinity Educational Foundation~** All families who apply for STO grants are eligible for an additional grant from the HTC Educational Foundation. Foundational grants are based on need not met through an STO Award.
- ❖ **Scholarships & Grants~** These are created and funded by private donations and benefactor memorial gifts. The criteria used for each scholarship is specific to each fund. Scholarships vary from year to year. The deadline for grants and scholarships is April 15, 2024.
- ❖ **Scrip~** All Holy Trinity families can lower their tuition costs by taking advantage of our Scrip program, regardless of their eligibility for financial assistance. Friends and relatives are welcome to name your child as the recipient of their earnings for additional savings for you. Scrip credits are applied to tuition statements in May. For more information about our Scrip program please visit the website (shopwithscrip.com), download the app (RaiseRight) or contact Kim Fraise at 319-837-6131 option 5.

With a fixed financial aid budget our goal is to do what we can to make an exceptional education affordable for our families.

Timeline

Now	Applications available through all school offices and on-line at www.holytrinityschools.org
April 15, 2024	Application Deadline
Early July	Award notification letters sent to all families who applied.
July 20th	Families receiving assistance must notify the Business Office if they are accepting or declining the grant(s).

Program Information

The *School Tuition Organization of Southeast Iowa* is funded by numerous generous donors from across Southeast Iowa. Donors receive an Iowa Income Tax Credit equal to 65% of their gift, and a federal tax deduction if they itemize. Donors interested in contributing to this program during 2024-2025 can go to <http://stoseiowa.org> for more information.

Families residing in Iowa are eligible for STO grants if their total gross income for 2023 is at or below 4 times the poverty level. The poverty level is set by federal guidelines. The level of STO grant funds will be based upon family income, number of dependents, and the total K-12 tuition bill for the family.

*STO Qualifying Levels 2024-25

Family Size	*Maximum Income	**Family Size	***Maximum Income
Two	\$81,760	Six	\$167,480
Three	\$103,280	Seven	\$189,360
Four	\$124,800	Eight	\$210,880
Five	\$146,320		

* STO qualifying levels are based upon 400% of 2023 Federal Poverty Levels as required by Iowa law.

**Family size includes parents/guardians plus total number of dependents claimed on 2023 tax return.

*** Families are eligible for STO grant if their total income is at or below the above listed income levels.

Local assistance is not based upon the above. Falling within these guidelines does not necessarily guarantee a tuition grant.

**** For each additional dependent add \$18,880.

**All families who want to be considered for a tuition grant
(STO grants as well as local scholarships and HTC Foundation grants)
must fill out the STO application.**



Sylvan and Joan Nichting 2024-2025 Scholarship Application

Sylvan Nichting believed in the importance of Service. He grew up in a community where he witnessed service to family, community, school, church, and country. He also understood the need for strong leaders. He believed that the young leaders of today can impact the lives of people in their local communities, as well as the entire nation. Lastly, character was extremely important to Sylvan as he understood that a person's character is instrumental to his/her success. He believed that having a good character foundation was not just important in the working world, but also in a person's personal life.

Joan is also a strong believer in Catholic education and adheres to the same qualities as Sylvan. Together they have established a scholarship fund that shall last for decades to come and will provide \$500 awards for hundreds of students attending Holy Trinity Catholic Schools.

Because Sylvan valued happiness, which he associated with the right career path, this scholarship fund is built upon the subsequent guidelines of Service, Leadership, Character and his strong belief in "The Pursuit of Happiness."

Requirements:

1. Pre-registered for the 2024-2025 school year at Holy Trinity Catholic Schools **(Grades 4-12)**
2. A United States citizen
3. A recommendation from your church pastor
4. A brief summary of family stewardship
5. Please also include a "Thank you" letter that can be given to the Nichting Family thanking them for their generosity.

Please submit all applications no later than April 15, 2024 to either the Holy Trinity Catholic High School or Elementary School.

2024-2025 Financial Aid Application

1 Application Instructions

- You must include copies of pages 1 and 2 of your 2023 federal income tax return (Form 1040) with this application. If you were not required to file a tax return for 2023, you must sign the non-filer affidavit in Section 8 and submit all Forms W-2 or 1099 received by members of your household.
- Submit this application directly to your school's business or financial aid office by April 15, 2024. Only applications received by that date will be considered for funding by the STO of Southeast Iowa. Late applications will be processed only for purposes of determining your qualification for other financial aid.
- Your financial need is determined by reference to your household's size and income. The term "household" refers to all individuals who live in the same dwelling place, regardless of age, legal relationship, or dependency status. Your household may include different people than those in your family.

2 Household Members

- Starting with yourself, list the name and birth date of every person who lived in your home on December 31, 2023.
- Include everyone who lived with you, regardless of relationship, even children in college and those not in school.
- For each student (including those in college), enter their 2024-2025 school name and grade level.

Full Name (First/Middle/Last)	Relationship to Applicant	Birth Date	For Students Only		For Office Use	
			School Name	Grade	Tuition	Award
01	Applicant					
02						
03						
04						
05						
06						
07						
08						
09						
10						
11						
12						

3 Household Address

- Enter the complete street address of your primary place of residence (your home) as of December 31, 2023.
- Include your apartment number, unit number, or lot number if applicable.
- Do not enter a post office box or the address of any property other than your primary residence.

Street	City	State	Zip Code

4 Contact Information

- Your contact information is needed to help us resolve any errors or omissions on this application.
- Provide all phone numbers (including area code) at which you may be reached for additional information.
- Provide your primary email address. In the event we can't reach you by phone, we will send you an email.

Work Phone	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address

2024-2025 Financial Aid Application

5 Unreported Income

- Report below any income that your household received in 2023 and which is not included on a tax return. All household income, whether taxable or nontaxable and regardless of source, must be disclosed. Enter monthly or yearly amounts, whichever you prefer. If none, enter a zero.

Type of Income	Monthly	Yearly	Type of Income	Monthly	Yearly
Child Support Received for All Children	\$	\$	Supplemental Security Income (SSI, SSD)	\$	\$
Housing Assistance (HUD, Section 8)	\$	\$	Veterans Benefits and Combat Pay	\$	\$
Public Assistance (Food Stamps, Welfare)	\$	\$	Workers Comp and Disability Benefits	\$	\$
Social Security Benefits of Dependents	\$	\$	All Other Unreported Household Income	\$	\$

6 Affordable Tuition

- Enter the total amount of tuition that your household can afford to pay.
- This should be the total amount you can pay for all students in grades K-12.
- Enter a monthly or yearly amount, whichever you prefer. Do not leave blank.

Monthly	Yearly
\$	\$

7 Additional Information

- Use this section to explain any unusual circumstances that may affect your household's financial situation.
- You may also use this section to explain or expand upon any entries made elsewhere on this application.
- This information will not be used for STO purposes; your school may use it in considering other financial aid.

Additional Information

8 Nonfiler Affidavit

- Skip this section if anyone in your household was required to file a federal income tax return for 2023. If no one in your household was required to file a tax return for 2023, you must sign the following affidavit and include all Forms W-2 and 1099 received by members of your household.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, no member of my household earned enough taxable income to be required to file a federal individual income tax return for the year 2023.

Applicant Signature	Date
X	

9 Applicant Certification

- All applicants **must** sign this section.
- Before signing, verify that **all** sections of this application have been completed in accordance with the instructions.
- Verify that **all** members of your household have been listed and that **all** income received has been disclosed.

I hereby certify that: (a) this application is true, correct, and complete; (b) I have submitted true copies of all tax returns filed by members of my household; and (c) I have disclosed all household income received.

Applicant Signature	Date
X	