



MONTGOMERY  
**Catholic**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**FAITH. EXCELLENCE. SERVICE. THIS IS CATHOLIC.**

### **Frequently Asked Questions – Variable Tuition**

Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School (“MCPS”) is happy to offer Variable Tuition. Tuition at MCPS is not a “One-size-fits-all.” By applying for Variable Tuition, tuition rates are adjusted to meet your family’s unique financial position.

#### **What is Variable Tuition?**

Variable Tuition:

- is a need-based tuition assistance program similar to those used by many private schools, colleges, and universities.
- allows families to apply for reduced tuition that is right for their families’ unique financial situation.
- allows for a quality education to be affordable to many qualified students who could not otherwise join the MCPS community.

#### **How does Variable Tuition Work?**

Any family (current or new) who is concerned about affording the full tuition rate at MCPS may apply for Variable Tuition. Many factors are considered when determining the tuition amount a family is able to pay, including income, assets, unusual expenses, and the size of the family.

An application for Variable Tuition does not affect the re-enrollment or admission process. Regardless of financial need, parents should initiate the re-enrollment or admission process as early as possible. **Families *must first* apply for re-enrollment or admission to the school *and then* apply for Variable Tuition.**

Variable Tuition applications are confidential. The application is submitted directly to SmartAid, a third-party agency. SmartAid evaluates the applications based on criteria set in advance by MCPS, and Smart Aid makes a recommendation to the school as to the customized tuition rate. The MCPS business office then notifies families of the tuition level for which they qualify. MCPS works with its available resources to make the school accessible to as many students and families as possible.

#### **Do I still need to apply to MCPS for admission of my children?**

Yes, families must apply to MCPS before applying for Variable Tuition.

#### **Will a Variable Tuition request hurt the likelihood of acceptance?**

No. Determination of tuition levels is a separate function from the admissions process. Families should not hesitate to apply for admission.

#### **If I am applying for an SGO scholarship, should I apply for Variable Tuition also?**

Yes, it is recommended to apply for Variable Tuition when applying for SGO scholarships. Some SGO scholarships do not cover full tuition and fees.

St. Bede Elementary Campus  
Holy Spirit Elementary Campus  
Middle School Campus  
High School Campus  
[www.montgomerycatholic.org](http://www.montgomerycatholic.org)



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**When should I expect to be notified of the Variable Tuition amount?**

For existing/returning families, the deadline for applying for Variable Tuition is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Notifications are made during the first half of April and continue periodically until mid-July.

**Could Variable Tuition cover 100% of the tuition?**

All families are required to pay a portion of the standard tuition as an investment in their child's education.

**Will Variable Tuition lead to larger classes?**

MCPS has established grade-level appropriate teacher/student ratios for each class to ensure the highest level of classroom instruction and discipline. We will accept students that meet our standards within those ratios. If we enroll more students at a grade level than our ratio allows, we may open additional sections. However, we will not fill classrooms to the detriment of instruction.

**Who should I contact with questions about Variable Tuition?**

Questions about Variable Tuition should be directed to:

Jennifer Van Alst, Accounts Receivable  
[jvanalst@montgomerycatholic.org](mailto:jvanalst@montgomerycatholic.org)  
(334) 272-7220 extension 101

David Schwarz, Business Manager  
[dschwarz@montgomerycatholic.org](mailto:dschwarz@montgomerycatholic.org)  
(334) 272-7220 extension 102

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