



2550 Millville Ave. | Hamilton, Ohio 45013 | 513-863-8705

Grace

Mercy

Virtue

Love

Dear Families,

There are three main types of financial aid for the 2025-2026 school year:

### 1) Catholic Education Foundation (CEF)

The information on how to access the CEF application portal is attached to this memo. These grants are needs-based and will include families up to 750% FPL. Families will complete a FACTS Grant and Aid application to be considered for this assistance. **The deadline for applying is February 16th, 2024.**

Eligible: Preschool through 8th Grade

### 2) EdChoice

Eligible: Kindergarten through 8th Grade

#### **A) If you are RENEWING an EdChoice Scholarship.....**

\*\*\*\*First off, you do NOT need to go through the income verification process again. That is a one-time experience UNLESS you *want* the state to reevaluate your income because it has fallen and could place you in a higher scholarship award bracket.\*\*\*\*

**You can provide your application materials to me as soon as you have them ready.** The **best way** to provide the application materials is to send a STAND-ALONE email directly to me with the required materials attached as two separate PDF or JPG files. To be more specific, you should send me the following:

- 1 file with the EdChoice Renewal Form for 2025-2026 (blank form attached)
- 1 file with most recent utility bill

\*\*\*If you have more than one student applicant, send a separate email for each.\*\*\*

Again, please send this information in a stand-alone email (not a reply to this one). The subject line should read "EDCHOICE APPLICATION MATERIALS FOR [insert student name]".

While an email with scans is best, you may also hand-deliver hard copies of the three required pieces of info.

**B) If you are REQUESTING an EdChoice Scholarship for a student who did not apply for one in the 2024-2025 request window.....**

You can provide your application materials to me as soon as you have them ready. The best way to provide the application materials is to send a STAND-ALONE email directly to me with the required materials attached as three separate PDF or JPG files. To be more specific, you should send me the following:

- 1 file with the EdChoice Request Form for 2025-2026 (blank form attached)
- 1 file with a recent utility bill
- 1 file with a copy of birth certificate

\*\*\*If you have more than one student applicant, send a separate email for each.\*\*\*

Again, please send this information in a stand-alone email (not a reply to this one). The subject line should read "EDCHOICE APPLICATION MATERIALS FOR [insert student name]".

While an email with scans is best, you may also hand-deliver hard copies of the three required pieces of info.

**C) If you live within the boundaries of Fairwood Elementary School or Bridgeport Elementary School, you are eligible for a Traditional EdChoice scholarship and should indicate this on your REQUEST form. If not, you are applying for an EdChoice Expansion (income-based) scholarship.**

**D) For the full, unabridged version of all things EdChoice, go here: <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Scholarships/EdChoice-Scholarship>.**

### **3) St. Stephen Assistance Fund**

This assistance is available to K-8 families who do not receive the maximum level of EdChoice Scholarship. If you are a new EdChoice applicant, we will have to wait and see what your award is before we determine your eligibility for St.

Stephen assistance. If you received St. Stephen assistance last year, you will receive it again this year. The exact amount of your assistance will be determined in March.

**If you have any questions whatsoever about anything related to CEF, EdChoice, St. Stephen, or financial aid in general, please let me know! I want to help you out as best I can!**

Sincerely,

Josh Mears

Principal

[jmears@qphamilton.org](mailto:jmears@qphamilton.org)