November 12, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Financial aid applications for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year will be open for applicants beginning **December 1, 2018** online at the **FACTS** link: https://online.factsmgt.com/aid. Applications for the upcoming school year must be completed online. **The deadline for application submittal is March 1, 2019.** You will be required to submit **2018 W-2's and tax returns** with your applications, so please notify your tax advisor of this date.

The following forms of aid will be available:

1. *GRACE Scholars* – to be eligible for a GRACE award, a student must be a resident of the state of Georgia and demonstrate a financial need. The student is either entering a Catholic school for the first time at the second grade level or above from a Georgia public school **or** a child eligible to enter first grade, kindergarten or an accredited pre-kindergarten program, is eligible for GRACE. In addition to completing the FACTS Grant & Aid application, a GRACE Scholars Family Registration Form must be submitted to the school (enclosed) with supporting documentation. Additional information can be found on the GRACE website: www.gracescholars.org.

2. *The Diocese of Savannah* – provides partial tuition assistance awards (elementary, secondary & Catholic college) to families that qualify and make proper application. The Diocese of Savannah will be utilizing the services of **FACTS** to determine eligibility for tuition assistance. Again, this link can be found at https://online.factsmgt.com/aid.

The deadline for 2019-2020 applications is March 1, 2019. However, applications may be submitted at any time throughout the year. Late applications will be considered if additional funds become available for distribution.

Families that have not completed the application process to Blessed Sacrament School will not be eligible for any tuition assistance awards.

Please contact me at school you have any questions regarding financial aid. I will be happy to assist you in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

Kathy Fialkowski
Bookkeeper

cc: Lynn C. Brown, Principal

believe.

The mission of Blessed Sacrament School is to educate the whole child according to Gospel teachings, doctrines, and traditions of the Catholic Church; challenge all students to reach their academic potential; and prepare them to serve God, the Church, and the world.

	GRACE Scholarship Process **School Year 2019-2020**

Welcome to GRACE Scholars. GRACE Scholars is a Georgia student scholarship organization (SSO) serving Catholic school students in the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah through 34 participating Catholic schools. *All GRACE awards are made on the basis of financial need.*

1. **How do I apply?** Parents and guardians apply on behalf of their children by submitting the accompanying application form to the school of their choice. Please see the "Certification" section of the application about other required information.

2. **Is there a deadline?** March 1 is the due date for awards announced during the spring enrollment period. Applications may be submitted after March 1 but less funding is usually available.

3. **Are there other documents and information required in addition to the application?** Yes. Prior to applying for GRACE, families must submit an application to an outside financial aid company and provide tax documents. The financial aid company uses the information to calculate the student's/family's financial need. Additional documentation is also required and must be submitted with the application. *Parents/guardians should contact school personnel regarding documentation needed.*

4. **How is financial need calculated?** Calculated financial need is determined by an outside company using tax documents and other information provided on the application. The financial aid company reports the calculated financial need to the school.

5. **How are decisions made?** Each school reviews applications and makes recommendations to GRACE. The GRACE staff reviews applications for compliance and availability of funds. The GRACE executive committee makes the final decision on awards.

6. **To whom do I direct questions about the award process?** *The school is your primary contact.* You should direct questions to the school's principal or president or to a staff person designated by the principal/president. For your convenience, you can jot down below the school's designated person and contact information.

Blessed Sacrament School	Kathy Fialkowski
Name of school	*Name of contact person*
(912) 356-6980	kfialkowski@bss-savannah.org
Contact person telephone number	**Contact person e-mail address**

7. **How will I be notified if my child is selected for a GRACE award?** GRACE Scholars generates an award letter addressed to the parent/guardian and sends it to the principal/president. Included with the letter is an acceptance letter. The schools provide award letters to parents/guardians and collect signed acceptance letters and return them to GRACE.

8. **Will I be notified if my child is not selected?** The school is responsible for non-award notifications.

9. **How much is the award?** The size of the annual award depends on the availability of funds. The annual award will not exceed the lesser of calculated financial need, 80% of tuition, or a state index calculated by the Georgia Department of Education. Awards cover the student's career at the school as long as eligibility is maintained.

10. **Is there a maximum family income?** No. Calculated financial need is determined by an outside company based on several variables including family income, number of children, and the tuition rate.

11. **How and when are funds disbursed?** Checks are issued to the school in names of the parents/guardians in August. Schools notify the parents/guardians who are required to go the school to endorse the checks.

GRACE Scholars

Scholarship Application Form

COMPLETE ONE APPLICATION PER STUDENT. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY.

For School Year: <u>2019-2020</u>   **Grade in August 2019:** _____   **Gender:** ☐ Male   ☐ Female

Student Name: _____

Catholic school applied to: _____   **City:** _____

School attended in 2018-2019: _____   **City:** _____

Student's Address: _____
                         The address on the proof of Georgia residence must match the Student's Address.

City, State, Zip: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): 1. _____   **2.** _____
                              Please print or type clearly   *Please print or type clearly*

Parent/guardian #1 should be the parent/guardian with the best daytime availability to go to the school to sign documents.

Telephone: _____   **E-mail:** _____

CERTIFICATION

By my/our initial(s) and signature(s), I/we affirm and certify that the following statements are true and correct:

_____   **For all students.** I/we are the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the above referenced student. This student resides with me/us in the State of Georgia. I/we have attached *proof of residence which documents residency at the address given above*. (Acceptable proofs of residence include a copy of a parent/guardian's Georgia driver's license or other form of government issued photo ID card, a recent utility bill, rent receipt, or voided check with address.) *The address on the proof of Georgia residence must match the Student's Address.*

_____   **For all students.** I/we have submitted an application (including tax documents) to the financial aid company used by the school to determine calculated financial need, and the school has received *evidence of the financial aid application*.

_____   **For students entering 2nd grade or above and transferring from a public school.** The student referenced above is transferring directly from a Georgia public school. I/we have attached a copy of the student's public school transcript or latest report card as *evidence of public school attendance*. (Transcript or report card should show school's name and address and name of school system.)

_____   **For students entering 2nd grade or above seeking exemption from public school transfer rule.** The exemptions are listed below. I/we will cooperate with the school to provide information and documentation regarding an exemption for my/our child.

- Student is receiving assistance from GRACE or another student scholarship organization (SSO).
- Student has been home schooled for a year or more.
- Student is zoned to attend a low performing public school.
- Student was subject to physical violence and/or verbal abuse at a Georgia public school.

Signature of parent/guardian 1: _____   **Date:** _____

Signature of parent/guardian 2: _____   **Date:** _____

For school use. *Date received:*

_____ Proof of Georgia residence   _____ Calculated financial need
_____ Proof of public school attendance (2nd grade and above)
_____ Proof of exemption from public school transfer rule (2nd grade or above)
_____ Evidence that financial aid application has been submitted   **Revision date: 9/19/18**