



St. Mary's Ryken

A College Preparatory Catholic High School

St. Mary's Ryken Financial Aid Policy and Guidelines

St. Mary's Ryken is committed to maintaining a diverse student body of academically qualified and mission-appropriate students. We understand and appreciate the investment that families make when they enroll at St. Mary's Ryken, and we do our best to assist families who apply for need-based financial aid. However, we have a limited amount of financial aid available to award each year, and requests for aid typically outnumber the awards we are able to provide.

Parents of SMR applicants and current students seeking financial aid must complete a TADS Financial Aid and Assessment Application. SMR partners with TADS to process applications and to keep confidential information secure. A common misconception is that TADS awards financial aid. Any aid awarded comes directly from SMR or the Archdiocese of Washington; TADS merely processes the applications.

Financial aid applications must be rated in "fair" or "good" status with TADS in order for families to qualify for assistance from SMR. If your financial aid application is in "poor" status when awards are determined, you will not receive financial aid. To confirm the status of an application, parents should call TADS directly at 800-477-8237.

The following guidelines should be considered when applying for SMR financial aid:

1. The primary responsibility for funding a child's education lies with the parents. Financial aid at SMR is based on each family's ability to pay. Our financial aid program is designed to aid families after they have considered all of their own resources, plus any opportunities to receive assistance from outside sources.
2. SMR will never make an award equal to 100% of tuition.
3. Financial aid is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Because financial aid funds are limited, SMR is under no obligation to provide aid to late applicants.
4. The SMR financial aid committee makes all decisions through an analysis of each family's specific financial situation.

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5. Our expectation is that both parents will contribute toward the cost of an SMR education. In the event of divorce, separation, or parents who were never married:
 - a. Each parent must complete a separate financial aid application.
 - b. Assets of both natural parents and/or legal guardians are considered.
 - c. If either parent is remarried, assets and income of the step-parent will be considered.
 - d. SMR will not be bound by separation or divorce agreements, or by the notion that one parent is unwilling to pay.
6. Families with multiple children enrolled at SMR will be awarded financial aid upon applying to TADS.
7. SMR does not consider discretionary spending in its evaluation of a family's need (e.g. luxury cars, multiple home mortgages, vacations, etc.).
8. Rising ninth graders are eligible to compete for merit-based scholarships. SMR may consider the value of merit scholarship awards in its calculation of a need-based award to a family.
9. If the gap between the parent's stated ability to pay and the school's available funds is too large, the school may not grant an award.
10. If a family's SMR financial aid award plus outside tuition assistance awarded subsequently is greater than SMR tuition, the SMR award will be lowered.
11. If at any time financial discrepancies are found in the financial information provided by a parent, the family's award may be withdrawn.
12. SMR maintains confidentiality and expects the same of parents and guardians. If a family discusses award amounts with anyone outside of the SMR admissions office or business office, the award may be withdrawn.
13. SMR may decline to honor financial aid awards to students with outstanding balances from the previous school year.
14. In the event that a student who receives financial aid and/or scholarships withdraws from SMR before the end of the academic school year, all financial aid and/or scholarships will be revoked and must be repaid to SMR before records or transcripts are released.
15. SMR does not discriminate in exercising its financial aid policies due to race, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, age, disability, or sexual orientation.

SMR reserves the right to change the financial aid policy and guidelines at any time at its sole discretion without notification thereof.