



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

HOME OF THE KNIGHTS SINCE 1960

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) – STMC Tuition and other fees

1. What is STMC's tuition rate and other fees for 2017-2018?

STMC tuition rates:

\$6,650 for BC residents

\$19,150 for international students

Application fee \$100

Registration fee \$175

Grade fee \$195-\$225

2. Does STMC offer a sibling discount for families with multiple children attending STMC?

STMC does not offer a sibling discount. Not unexpectedly, the cost to educate each child is the same i.e. it is not less expensive for the school to have 2 or 3 children from the same family in the school. In lieu of the sibling discount, families in need are encouraged to apply for bursaries. STMC is committed to ensuring no family in financial need is displaced from STMC. We want all our Knights to graduate from STMC.

3. Why is the tuition higher than other Catholic secondary schools?

Most Catholic secondary schools in the Lower Mainland are owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Vancouver. STMC is independent from the Archdiocese (as are Little Flower Academy and Vancouver College). STMC's funding comes from 3 sources – tuition, provincial grant and donations. Independent schools do not receive funding from the Archdiocese or feeder parishes.

4. Doesn't the Province of British Columbia pay 50% of the costs of STMC?

STMC receives a provincial grant equal to the 50% of the operating grant which the Burnaby school district receives. The money can only be used for operating expenses and not capital costs. The Province does not pay for or contribute to any capital costs of STMC. STMC will receive \$3,939 per student for 2016-2017. We expect to receive a similar amount for 2017-2018 but STMC does not control or influence that grant in any way. STMC's tuition contributes to the operating expenses and capital expenses of the school.

5. What are the tax implications?

Since STMC is a faith-based school, parents will receive a charitable donation receipt for a portion of the tuition. In the past, the charitable donation receipt was approximately 60% of the cost of tuition.

Each family's tax situation is different. Please obtain independent tax advice.

6. What is the criteria for getting a bursary?

St. Thomas More Collegiate is deeply committed to providing an affordable high-quality Catholic education to families of all financial circumstances. Bursaries (tuition assistance/financial aid) are available to families with demonstrated need for financial assistance.

Each family's situation is different. We understand that you may never have applied for a bursary and are concerned about having to disclose personal financial information. We have engaged a professional Canadian accounting firm, that specializes in assessing bursary needs, to receive and process applications. The firm receives your information and holds the information confidential. They make a recommendation to STMC regarding the amount of a bursary. The STMC bursary committee (2-3 people) reviews all the applications and makes the decision.

Please contact Mrs. Silveira 604-521-1801 ext 112 for more information regarding the bursary application process. The deadline for bursary applications is March 21, 2017.

7. What are the Grade Fees?

"Grade Fees" were introduced in the 2016-2017 school year at the request of a number of parents. In past years, at various times throughout the school year, each student had been asked to bring individual cheques to pay for workbooks, school trips (e.g. Bard on the Beach), grade retreat etc. which varies depending on the grade. There ended up being a lot of administration and a lot of follow up. The annual Grade Fees replaced all those cheques and administration. While Grade Fees do not include extracurricular activities in which all students are not involved (athletics, music, band, French trip etc.), the goal is Grade Fees will cover all the items for which all parents had to write additional cheques.

8. What impact will this have on the STMC Community?

STMC's has a long history of being a diverse community which contributes to that special STMC spirit. The Mission and Vision of STMC will not change nor will our commitment to the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Education. By accepting students from different elementary schools, different parishes, different ethnic backgrounds, different socio-economic classes and different communities, we are confident that the family oriented spirit of community will continue to flourish.