



ENHANCEMENT Donation for 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As you will all be aware, gaining funding for smaller and higher decile schools can often be difficult. Currently we gain funding from the Roman Catholic Diocese, Ministry of Education and Parent Teacher Association.

Choosing a Catholic education for your child means you pay attendance dues directly to the Diocese. This pays for St Thomas Aquinas' land and buildings.

The Ministry of Education(MOE) pays us money for day to day operations on a per-student basis. As our school is a decile 9 (second highest decile rating) we receive less MOE funding per pupil than a school with a lower decile rating. MOE funding covers the absolute minimum operational expense - the basics. Our strategic plan aims higher, providing an enhanced educational experience that enriches students' growth in and out of the classroom. We also have a high level of achievement across our school which relies heavily on skilled and experienced personnel supporting all our students, which in turn is costly.

This donation will give us the flexibility to continue to provide your child with rich and meaningful learning opportunities.

This Enhancement donation will be set at \$50 per individual student or \$100 per family for the year. As it is a donation you will be able to claim a 33% tax rebate from the IRD. A claim form (IR526) can be printed from the IRD website or obtained at the school office. The school will issue a donations receipt.

The only costs not covered by the donation are those for Education Outside the Classroom (Class Camps). These costs are paid separately and sent out ahead of the programme's delivery.

This amount requested aligns with other local schools and comparable schools nationwide. This is a voluntary donation, recognising that some families may not be able to pay the whole amount and that some may be able to pay more than the suggested amount. Families are welcome to pay off the donation throughout the year if they wish.

This year in particular will prove to be difficult in terms of fundraising given the climate. The PTA are in support of our families giving a monetary donation rather than their time if possible.

We are grateful for the financial support you give us in order to provide an enhanced education for your child. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Teresa.

Blessings,
St Thomas Aquinas School Board of Trustees