

## MIDDLE CLASS VALUE: PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION & THE ARKANSAS FOUNDATION GRANT

(March 2019) Critics argue school choice benefits only the wealthy<sup>1</sup> but records show most<sup>2</sup> Arkansas private schools serve the middle-class, charging annual tuition rates less than the \$6,781 state K-12 student foundation grant.<sup>3</sup>

Fayetteville Christian School	\$2,375 <sup>4</sup>
First Baptist Christian School (Rogers)	\$2,500-\$4,800 <sup>5</sup>
North Little Rock Catholic Academy	\$2,750-\$3,000 <sup>6</sup>
Miss Selma's School (Little Rock)	\$2,820-\$4,465 <sup>7</sup>
St. Paul Catholic School (Pocahontas)	\$2,920-\$3,800 <sup>8</sup>
St. John Catholic School (Russellville)	\$2,940-\$4,116 <sup>9</sup>
St. Joseph Catholic School (Paris)	\$2,956-\$3,576 <sup>10</sup>
Sacred Heart Catholic School (Morrilton)	\$3,150-\$3,600 <sup>11</sup>
West Side Christian (El Dorado)	\$3,450-\$4,779 <sup>12</sup>
Columbia Christian School (Magnolia)	\$3,600 <sup>13</sup>
St. Boniface Catholic (Fort Smith)	\$3,610-\$4,900 <sup>14</sup>
St. Joseph School (Conway)	\$3,800-\$5,350 <sup>15</sup>
Immaculate Conception (Fort Smith)	\$3,810-\$6,690 <sup>16</sup>
Providence Christian Academy (Rogers)	\$3,847-\$5,363 <sup>17</sup>
St. John Catholic School (Hot Springs)	\$3,965-\$4,635 <sup>18</sup>
Blessed Sacrament (Jonesboro)	\$4,000-\$5,850 <sup>19</sup>
Christ the King (Fort Smith)	\$4,010-\$6,580 <sup>20</sup>
DeSoto School (West Helena)	\$3,890-\$4,540 <sup>21</sup>
St. Theresa Catholic School (Little Rock)	\$4,040-\$5,450 <sup>22</sup>
Avilla Christian Academy (Alexander)	\$4,100-\$4,600 <sup>23</sup>
St. Vincent de Paul School (Rogers)	\$4,110-\$5,823 <sup>24</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Arkansas House of Representatives, floor debate on HB 1122, March 7, 2018

<sup>2</sup> The Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association lists 67 accredited and associated schools on its website. Forty-one (41) charge annual tuition rates less than the foundation grant.

<sup>3</sup> FY 2019. "Arkansas uses a specific formula to arrive at the per-student funding amount. This formula is known as the matrix." *Arkansas School Finance Manual, 2017-18*, pp. 8-9. Arkansas Department of Education. In FY2020, districts would receive base funding of \$6,883 per student. "Method of funding Arkansas schools scrutinized." *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. November 26, 2018

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fayettevillechristianschool.com/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fbcnsnw.org/admissions/tuition/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/222302/Tuition\\_2018-19.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/222302/Tuition_2018-19.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.missselemasschool.com/admissions.html#tuition>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.stpaulsabers.com/tuition-and-other-fees.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.stjohnscatholicsschool.com/admissions.html>, 2016-17

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.saintjosephsschool.org/school-forms>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.sacredheartmorrilton.org/Admissions/ProspectiveStudents/TuitionandFees.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.westsidechristianschool.org/faq>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.ccsrusaders.com/#three>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.stbonifaceschool.org/tuition-and-rates-for-pre-k---k-6>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.stjosephconway.org/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://icschoolfs.org/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.providence-academy.com/admissions/tuition-and-fees/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://sjschs.org/admissions/tuition-fees/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://catholicjonesboroschool.com/tuition-rates-fees/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://ctkparishfs.com/school-forms/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.desotothunderbirds.com/admissions>

<sup>22</sup> <http://stslr.org/tuition---financial-aid.html>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.avillachristian.org/admissions>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.svdpschool.net/Admissions/tuition-and-fees>

Crowley's Ridge Academy (Paragould)	\$4,135-\$5,595 <sup>25</sup>
St. Michael's Catholic School (West Memphis)	\$4,150-\$4,750 <sup>26</sup>
Community Christian (Russellville)	\$4,160 <sup>27</sup>
St. Edward Catholic School (Little Rock)	\$4,356-\$5,889 <sup>28</sup>
Immaculate Conception (North Little Rock)	\$4,395-\$6,884 <sup>29</sup>
Our Lady of the Holy Souls (Little Rock)	\$4,463-\$6,611 <sup>30</sup>
Christ the King School (Little Rock)	\$4,560-\$5,470 <sup>31</sup>
Agape Academy (Little Rock)	\$4,600-\$5,100 <sup>32</sup>
Immaculate Heart of Mary (North Little Rock)	\$4,675-\$5,450 <sup>33</sup>
Arkansas Christian Academy (Bryant)	\$4,500-\$4,800 <sup>34</sup>
Southwest Christian Academy (Little Rock)	\$4,500-\$4,800 <sup>35</sup>
Catholic High (Little Rock)	\$5,000-\$6,000 <sup>36</sup>
Abundant Life (Sherwood)	\$4,900-\$6,200 <sup>37</sup>
Ridgefield Christian School (Jonesboro)	\$5,385-\$6,060 <sup>38</sup>
Trinity Christian School (Texarkana)	\$5,280-\$6,780 <sup>39</sup>
Concordia Christian Academy (Jonesboro)	\$5,700 <sup>40</sup>
Life Way Christian (Centerton)	\$5,880-\$6,500 <sup>41</sup>
First Lutheran (Fort Smith)	\$5,950 <sup>42</sup>
Christ Lutheran (Little Rock)	\$6,475 <sup>43</sup>
Our Lady of Fatima School (Benton)	Undisclosed <sup>44</sup>

--Greg Kaza

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.crafalcons.org/tuition-and-fees/>

<sup>26</sup> <http://stmichaelwm.org/#>, 2016-17

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.ccsriverhawks.com/tuition-and-fees.html>

<sup>28</sup> <http://saintedwards.net/school/tuition-rates-fees/>

<sup>29</sup> [www.icsnlr.org](http://www.icsnlr.org)

<sup>30</sup> [www.holysoulsschool.org](http://www.holysoulsschool.org)

<sup>31</sup> [www.ctklr.org](http://www.ctklr.org)

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.agapeacademy.org/admissions/tuition-fees/>

<sup>33</sup> [www.ihmnlr.org](http://www.ihmnlr.org)

<sup>34</sup> [www.arkansaschristianacademy.org](http://www.arkansaschristianacademy.org)

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.swchristian.com/swca>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.lrchs.org/admissions/tuition-and-fees/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://alca-owls.com/>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.ridgefieldchristian.org/admissions.html>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.trinitycatholicjh.org/>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.concordiachristianacademy.com/enrollment.html>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.lwcsar.com/resources/student-parent-resource-page/>

<sup>42</sup> <http://1stlutheran.com/school/>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.cslr.org/admissions>

<sup>44</sup> "(We) work with our families individually to work with tuition costs." <http://ourladyoffatimaschool.com/>