



# Our Lady of Grace Catholic School



Week 18

*The mission of Our Lady of Grace Catholic School is to provide an academically superior education in a secure environment focused on Catholic identity for creating educated, spiritual leaders for the future.*

## A Message from the Principal:

Dear OLG Families,

As we enter Week 18 and prepare for Christmas break, we are filled with gratitude for the many ways our school community has come together during this Advent season. We hope the upcoming break brings peace and joy to your family as you celebrate the birth of Jesus and spend special time together.

### Faith and Community

Thank you to all the families who joined us for Holy, Jolly Christmas. It was a joyful evening filled with fellowship, laughter, and faith, and we are grateful for your presence. We hope you had a wonderful time and already look forward to welcoming you back for our next Family Night in the new year.

### Academic Updates

As we close out Quarter 2, please note that grades will be captured this week to complete the grading period. When we return from Christmas break, students will participate in NWEA testing during the first weeks back. These assessments help us monitor student growth and guide instruction. Thank you for encouraging your children to do their best.

### Looking Ahead

We wish you a blessed and restful Christmas break filled with love, peace, and joy. Thank you for your continued partnership, support, and prayers throughout this semester.

May the light of Christ shine brightly in your homes this Christmas season.

With gratitude,

With gratitude,

Ms. Valdez, Principal

**Monday, December 15**

**Rock your Favorite Festive Socks!**

**Tuesday: December 16**

**Wear your bright and Merry Christmas Accessories!**

- Christmas Caroling- 3rd-5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Wednesday: December 17:**

**Wear a Festive Santa/Elf Hat or Reindeer Antlers**

- Ice Cream Incentive- Volunteer Hours 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

**Thursday: December 18**

**Wear a festive Red or Green Christmas Shirt or Solid Red or Green Shirt**

**Friday: December 19**

**Wear your Cozy pajamas and enjoy the Polar Express**

- No Mass today.
- End of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (Report cards will be distributed on January 9)
- Early Release @ 12:30pm- No After School Care



*Merry  
Christmas*



# Counselor's Corner

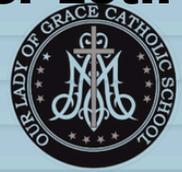
with Ms. Mani

As we wrap up the final week of school, I encourage students to finish strong and continue showing kindness to others. Wishing all our students and families a safe, joyful, and blessed Christmas break. We look forward to seeing everyone in the new year as we kick off guidance lessons in January!

Tuesdays-Wednesdays from 8:00 am-3:30 pm  
Thursdays from 8:00 am - 12:30 pm.



Due December 15th



CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE

## Catholic Life Incentives

- 2nd Bundle - Free Dress Day
- 3rd Bundle - Sweet Treat
- 4th Bundle - Lunch and a Movie with Ms. Valdez



As we enter Week 3 of Advent, we celebrate the gift of **Joy**. This week reminds us that true joy comes from knowing Christ is near and from sharing His love with others. May our homes and hearts be filled with gratitude, kindness, and joyful anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

## Student of the Week!

Garet Verette

We are excited to recognize Garet for demonstrating the virtue of Charity! Garet consistently shows kindness and love to those around him and is always eager to help his friends whenever they need support. His caring attitude, generous spirit, and willingness to lend a hand make our school a brighter and more welcoming place. We are so proud of Garet for living out the virtue of Charity each day!



WE WISH YOU A

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Holy, Jolly Christmas Pictures with Santa. Find your families pictures

here:

<http://fmpictures.com/olg>



## Uniform Update

Mass Uniform Update: To help us maximize instructional time, students will remain in their Mass uniforms on Mass Days. They may change their shoes and remove jackets or ties as needed.



Thank you!





**FEB 4TH 2026**  
Applications open

**MID MARCH 2026**  
Expected Application Close Date

# A GUIDE TO TEFA FOR FAMILIES



Senate Bill 2 established TEFA to help families access funds for approved educational expenses starting in 2026–27. With final rules released on November 25, 2025, families now have clarity on how the program will work.

## ELIGIBILITY

Any Texas resident **eligible for public school (PK–12)** may apply.

This includes:

- Children entering PK3–PK4 who meet Texas eligibility
- Students currently in public, private, or homeschool settings
- Students with TEFA qualifying disabilities

There is no income limit to apply, but awards are offered based on State priority groups.

## PRIORITY GROUPS

BASED ON THE FPL (FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL)

<b>1</b>	<b>≤500%+</b> Children with disabilities	<b>2</b>	<b>≤200%</b> <b>≥500%</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>200% – 500%</b>	<b>4</b>	(20% cap of total awards) <i>*Public School students may have priority in this group</i>

## FEDERAL POVERTY LEVELS

Household Size	200% of FPG Yearly Income	500% of FPG Yearly Income
2	\$42,300	\$105,750
3	\$53,300	\$133,250
4	\$64,300	\$160,750
5	\$75,300	\$188,250
6	\$83,920	\$215,750
7	\$108,300	\$270,750

## ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Tuition/ Fees	Books/ Materials	Tutoring	Therapies	Meals	Assessments	Technology	Transportation
Participating Private Schools			Therapies not covered by government or private insurance.	Provided at school for a fee		10% Cap	Commercial Only
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

\*All purchases must be through the TEFA portal from approved providers.

**\$10,800\***

Award per student (85% of public funding).

Additional funding may be awarded based on a student's IEP for disabilities - up to \$30,000.

\*TEA currently estimates this amount to be \$10,800, and the final amount will be released in January 2026.

## PARENT:

As defined by Education Code, §29.351(5), a resident of this state who is a natural or adoptive parent, managing or possessory conservator, legal guardian, custodian, or other person with legal authority to act on behalf of a child.

## PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

Families must:

- Use funds only for approved expenses
- Not withdraw cash or request reimbursement
- Keep receipts
- Ensure annual testing (Grades 3–12)
- Report public school enrollment
- Follow all TEFA rules

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Choose **ONE** item from each column

**1**

Proof of Residency

- Lease, mortgage, or utility bill
- Texas ID/driver's license
- Voter registration
- Government agency letter
- Notarized affidavit

**2**

Proof of Citizenship

- Birth certificate
- U.S. passport
- Naturalization certificate
- DHS documents

**3**

Proof of Income

- IRS transcript (if available)
- Most recent tax return (2024)
- Texas Workforce Commission income data

## WHAT IF FUNDS RUN OUT?

If funds run out, eligible students go on a state waitlist.

If more funds become available, awards may be offered mid-year, prorated, and begin the month after approval.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

When applications open on the Texas Comptroller Website, you will apply and select one approved school. Upon completion, eligibility will be determined. Awarding is expected to go out mid-April. If your child is selected, you'll receive instructions to accept the award in the TEFA portal. Your child's TEFA account is then created so you can choose approved schools, providers, and services.



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# A GUIDE TO TEFA

PRE-K, Siblings & Students with Disabilities



## PRIORITY GROUP #1

BASED ON THE FPL (FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL)

≤ 500% +

Children with qualifying disabilities

## FEDERAL POVERTY LEVELS

Household Size	2021 of FPL Yearly Income	2022 of FPL Yearly Income
2	\$14,320	\$16,750
3	\$19,320	\$22,250
4	\$24,320	\$27,750
5	\$29,320	\$33,250
6	\$34,320	\$38,750
7	\$39,320	\$44,250

\$10,800\* –  
\$30,000

Award per student  
(85% of public funding).  
Additional IEP-based funding for  
disabilities—  
up to \$30,000 total.

\*2022 currently estimates this amount to be \$10,800, and the final amount will be released in January 2023.

## PRE-K ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

PK ages 3–5 qualify if they meet Texas public PK eligibility criteria

(emergent bilingual, economically disadvantaged, homeless, military, foster, child of district employee, or Star of Texas).

## TEFA QUALIFYING DISABILITIES EXPLAINED

A student with special needs (Tier 1) is defined as a child age 21 or younger with a disability listed in Texas Education Code §29.003 that requires special services to be adequately or safely educated in a public school. Eligible conditions include visual or auditory impairment, physical disability, intellectual or developmental disability, emotional disturbance, learning disability, autism, speech disability, or traumatic brain injury.

## SIBLING PRIORITY

Siblings as defined by Education Code, §29.351(9), are: A brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, or a foster brother or sister who is a dependent of the participating parent and has been placed with the participating parent by an authorized placement agency or by judgment, decree, or other order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

## ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

One of the following documents is needed to prove a child with disabilities:

- A letter verifying the child's eligibility to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or
- A written diagnosis from a licensed physician verifying one of the listed disabilities, or
- An Individualized Education Program (IEP) issued by a Texas public school district or open-enrollment charter school.

## IMPORTANT:

A licensed professional evaluation can place your child in the top priority group, but the state can only calculate additional disability-based funding if your child has an IEP.

Families without an IEP will still be reviewed in the disability priority group but may receive the standard ESA funding amount.



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