

2014 Catholic School Marathon for Education
Saturday October 4: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Marathon for Education? The Catholic School Marathon is a Catholic School tradition. And at St. Vincent de Paul School it is our largest fundraising event of the year. 100% of the funds go directly to the school budget. Your children collect donations for walking, biking, or running in the school marathon. It is our chance to celebrate the fabulous school community we are a part of. This year's event will be held at Elm Creek Park Reserve - Deer Pavilion.

Where does the money go? 100% of the funds are used for budget basics. The school relies on the marathon to raise \$73,500. As part of the tuition contract, every family is expected to raise a minimum of \$100 per student (i.e. 2 students in the school, \$200, 1 student in the school, \$100). Even though every student's contractual minimum donation is \$100, \$175+ per student is what would be needed to reach our \$73,500 goal. Much discussion has been raised regarding increasing tuition to raise this money in an alternative way but the school continues with the marathon tradition as this allows families an option to seek tax deductible donations from family/friends/corporate matching, etc....

What happens if we do not meet our goal? The goal being met is not a guarantee each year. In 2009, the marathon goal was not met. Consequently, additional fundraising was needed during that school year. In 2012, and 2013 the goal was met. The marathon goal of \$73,500 is part of the school budget and is needed to operate the school.

And if we exceed our goal? We celebrate! Any money above \$73,500 that is raised goes toward additional needs at the school..

Do I have to collect donations? Your tuition contract requires each family to turn in a minimum of \$100 per student. You can write the check or your children can call your friends and family to solicit donations. To reach our goal, every family would need to turn in \$175+ per child. You can get donations for the entire amount or many families provide the contract obligation (\$100 per student) then get grandparents, aunts, uncles, and neighbors to donate additional financial support. Check with your employer to see if they have matching funds available. That is an easy way to turn \$100 into \$200. We have even heard of families having their kids earn this money by extra chores, lemonade stands, selling toys, etc....

How do Matching Funds Work? Matching funds are "free" money for the school. It is an easy way to turn \$25 into \$50 or, \$150 into \$300. We would not have met our goal over the past few years without matching funds. Please ask all of your donors if they have matching funds available at the companies they work for. The most common ones

we see have received in the past are: Ameriprise Financial, Medtronic, Wells Fargo, US Bank and Graco but many, many more companies have them. If you are submitting for matching funds, please write that on the designated spot on the outside of your pledge envelope. Matching funds do count towards classroom prizes.

Are monetary donations tax deductible? Yes they are. You can find a tax donation receipt on the marathon website.

Are there prizes? Yes! Non uniform passes, extra recess passes-just to name a few!

When and how do I turn in my donations? Turn in donations beginning with the Open House Early Bird Raffle on August 27th and then weekly once school begins to qualify your student(s) for weekly homeroom competitions. Donations turned in by end of school each Friday will count for the Monday's drawings and homeroom prize announcements). Write your donations on the outside of the donation envelope. The donation envelope should be turned in weekly if you have **new** donations to add.

What if I have more than one child in school? Do I have to have a check for each student? No you do not. Unless otherwise indicated with the donation, all donations received will be credited evenly among each of your students. For example, if you have 3 students enrolled in school and one check is received for \$600, all three students will get credited with a \$200 donation. If you wanted to break it up differently, you would indicate that on a note along with the donation check.

Do I have to use the Minnesota Marathon for Nonpublic Education Pledge Sheet? No you do not. The Minnesota Marathon for Nonpublic Education Pledge Sheet is required to be provided to everyone who participates in the marathon program (which St. Vincent de Paul School does). There is no requirement that the pledge sheet be used or returned with your marathon donations. It can be used for your own personal tracking if you find it useful.

Marathon – does that mean I have to run? Absolutely not! You can run, bike, walk, or do all three. Bring a stroller, wagon or trike so the entire family can enjoy the beautiful Fall morning. But do plan on wearing blue and gold to show your school spirit. There will be a marked route to follow but you are welcome to keep going as far as you would like or turn around when little legs get tired.

Will Scrip have a special order for the marathon again this year? Yes! You are able to purchase gift cards – which will be used for prizes and/or supplies for this year's marathon. Simply order SCRIP through the normal ordering procedure (online) and once you receive the gift card you would like to donate, put it in the marathon donation collection box in the school office.

Where can I go for more information on the Marathon? All information will be available on the Marathon page. Please visit the Marathon page at:

<http://www.saintvdp.org/school/fund-raising/marathon>

How can you help? We have committee member openings if you would like to join our team. We also have hourly volunteer shifts needed the day of the event and office help needed weekly (see the web site for specific times/shifts). We also have a donation wish list. These donated items will be used for prizes throughout the weeks leading to the marathon.

See you at the Marathon!