

As head basketball coach at Monroe, I get asked a lot of the same questions and figured it might be a good idea to answer them for those who may be looking to make the decision on where to send their son to school. Here are some of those questions. Keep in mind, if you have a question and do not see it listed here, please contact me anytime.

**1. *Do you offer scholarships?***

No. I cannot tell you how many times I have been asked this question. The Catholic Schools of Fairbanks does not offer scholarships based on academic or athletic prowess. The Catholic Schools of Fairbanks do have a tuition assistance program. However, to qualify for the tuition assistance program, a family must first apply to Monroe, be accepted and then request financial assistance. A parent will then need to provide tax documentation to demonstrate their need for assistance. It should be noted, assistance does not mean your tuition will be completely paid for. Everyone pays to attend the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks.

**2. *Wouldn't my son be better off playing 4A basketball, as opposed to 3A?***

No. For those who do not understand the designation of 3A and 4A, let me explain. 4A is the level of the biggest high schools in Alaska. This level encompasses all schools from 501 students and above. The 3A level encompasses all schools with a population of 151-501.

At Monroe, we have typically played the toughest schedule in the state for a 3A team. While most 3A teams would not be able to schedule quality games with 4A teams, we do not have that issue. Having coached for 23 years within the state and through the relationships developed running the Alaska Basketball Academy Team Camp, I can schedule pretty much any 4A team. Twice in my tenure at Monroe, we were clearly the number one team in the state at any level and a third time we were in the discussion as best team in Alaska. In the last six years, we have lost one game against a local 4A team.

Monroe has always been the little school who took on the big schools. We have been blessed with young men who would rather play at a school with 125 students and beat schools of 1000-2000 students. Our students love this challenge. Our students love accomplishing the unimaginable.

The question you should ask yourself is, where will my son reach his potential as a person and a basketball player? Our ability to teach skill and develop our players is second to none. Also, I will have the ability to place your son on a quality AAU team if you should so desire.

**3. *Why pay for an education when I can send my child to a public school for free?***

Great question. As someone whose son attended the Catholic Schools from kindergarten through graduation, I know the sacrifice required to send a child to school at Monroe. I can also tell you this is a special place. In life, we pay for quality. We are

willing to pay more for a better home, a better car, a better steak, pretty much a better everything. While we all love a deal, we have learned you get what you pay for. I am amazed when people are willing to take a different approach to their child's education.

At Monroe, our students receive the most challenging education in our community. The education of our students both academically and as human beings creates well rounded young men and women who will possess the skills to succeed in life and ultimately be leaders in whatever community they choose to call home. Over the last three years, the Monroe Catholic graduating classes have been offered, on average, 2.5 million in scholarship money.

Pretty much all of us as parents are going to pay, in one form or another, for our child's college. You can pay for it now or pay for it later. Tuition at Monroe is a lot less than tuition at most universities across America. As I said, you get what you pay for.

**4. *How long do you plan on staying at Monroe?***

Boy, I get this one a lot. Ever since I arrived at Monroe I have heard of coaches of other schools or parents whose child plays for a rival program trying to dissuade others from sending their child to Monroe by telling them I would not be here for long. Alas, I am the only coach who is still here eight years later. I have not made any plans to leave. Someday I will move on, but it won't be anytime soon.