

FEBRUARY 27 – March 5, 2023

Principal's Message

Wow! Almost March, conferences next week, only two weeks until Spring Break... Time is flying by faster than last week!

ESAs are a concern for all. There are so many unknown answers to all of our questions. To make matters even more complicated, tuition rates for K-12 have not yet been finalized for 2023-24 as we are still waiting for state guidance regarding Educational Savings Accounts. One of the most often asked questions in relation to ESAs is if tuition will be raised to the \$7,600 amount available in an ESA. The answer is no. You can expect more modest tuition increases. We have been told that the realistic increase will be similar to each previous year, between 3 - 5%. Again, no numbers have been finalized yet. As soon as we get the numbers from SCCS, they will be forwarded to all families.

Conferences are upon us next week. I am so sorry that we had the wrong month listed for the Sign-Up Genius. This has been corrected.

Unpredictable weather is once again a topic at school. With this quickly changing weather pattern, we wanted to send out a reminder to check the weather for the day and help your children with the appropriate clothing.

A friendly reminder about parking lot safety at dismissal...

ALL cars should turn right when exiting their parking spot and form a single file line to exit on the last row of the parking lot.

It might seem faster to pull straight through a row or just sneak out the opposite way, but the safety of our students and families is our biggest priority. Please help us to keep all of our students and families safe! The map has been added at the end of this memo.

Outreach Meal Basket Drive

Once again the Outreach Committee is providing hungry families in our community with a basket full of nutritious meals. Help is needed with food donations, packing, and delivering the baskets. Please use this link to sign up to help in any way:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054FA4AD28A1F85-febmar>

Food may be left in the Gathering Space beginning Saturday, February 25th. All food is needed by 8 a.m. Saturday, March 4 th for sorting and delivery.

If you prefer, drop off a check (please write “Outreach” in the memo) in the Parish Office. SCRIP will be purchased and the shopping will be done for you—this also benefits Lourdes Catholic School! Another option is to purchase Scrip after Mass and place the gift cards in the ‘Neighbors in Need’ box in the Gathering Space. Of course, monetary donations are always welcome and may be placed in the box any time.

Questions? Please call Angie Joers (563-505-5629) or Kelly Rashid (563-340-5619).

Thank you for your generosity!

Home & School

Teacher/Staff meals for Conferences:

HOME & SCHOOL Hospitality Committee coordinates meals for teachers and staff during conferences! Please help us feed them.

How to help - Signup to bring in food, drinks or paper goods below:

[Signup HERE - help feed our teachers and staff!](#)

Starry Night Committee

It is here!! Starry Night is this week!

How to help - Continue to sell your raffle tickets for a chance at one of the \$300 Visa Scrip Cards to help us reach our \$7000 goal! AND, attend the event on Saturday evening!

This Friday, March 3rd- Starry Night Raffle Tickets and Student Raffle Forms due by 1PM [Student Raffle Forms](#)

This Saturday, March 4 - *STARRY NIGHT EVENT* — 5PM Auction Opens and 6PM Event Doors Open [Starry Night Event - tickets here!](#) Tickets can be purchased until March 1st.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this event possible!

Our Weekly Scripture Verse

Please take a few minutes as a family to reflect upon this week's scripture verse for March 5, 2023:

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

~Matthew 17:5-8

Have a faith-filled week!

Mr. Michael Hughes



WEEKLY EMAIL

February 27th – March 4th

Monday, Feb. 27th

Spring Pictures

Tuesday, Feb. 28th

SCRIP for sale

Spring Pictures

Wednesday, Mar. 1st

9:00 AM All School Mass

2:30 PM K-8th Early Out

Thursday, Mar. 2nd

8:45-12:30 PM – 5th grade to AHS for Musical

1:30 PM – Battle of the Books, Library

Friday, Mar. 3rd

NUT day!

8th grade Career Fair @ St. Ambrose

2:30 PM Stations of the Cross (presented by 6A)

Saturday, March 4th

6:00 pm - Starry Night @ Tanglewood Hills Pavilion

Upcoming Events (Save-the-Dates):

March 7 & 9 ~ Conferences

March 10-17 ~ Spring Break – No School

Return to School - March 20

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs)

The “Student First Act” passed the legislature and was signed into law by Governor Reynolds. The following is a general summary of the bill:

Education Savings Accounts

Parents who choose to enroll their children in an accredited private school will receive the amount of per pupil funds allocated annually by the state to use for tuition, fees, and other qualified expenses. Funds are deposited into an education savings account (ESA) each year until students graduate or complete high school or turn 20 years of age. Educational Savings Accounts will be phased in over three years.

Effective for the 2023-24 school year, state per pupil funding will be \$7,598 per student, and ESAs will be available based on the following eligibility:

Year 1: School Year 2023-24

- All kindergarten students
- All students who were not in a non-public school the year prior
- Private school students with a household income at or below 300% Federal Poverty Level (FPL), currently at about about \$83,250 for a family of four but subject to change

Year 2: School Year 2024-25

- All kindergarten students (and first graders)
- All students who were not in a non-public school the year prior
- Private school students with a household income at or below 400% FPL, currently about \$111,000 for a family of four but subject to change

Year 3: School Year 2025-26

- All K-12 students in Iowa regardless of income

Other student funding generated by categorical funding formulas will remain with public school districts even for students who are not attending public schools any more. This amount is about \$1,202 per pupil for each student who will be attending a private school.

Next steps include the writing of the Administrative Rules at the state level and the development of processes to then be used in Scott County Catholic Schools. As you can imagine, there is a lot of work being done rapidly as enrollment processes for 2023-24 are set to begin sometime in February. More information will be made available when we have it.

