

May 1, 2023

Principal's Message

ESA Administrative Rules Are Out.

The administrative rules are ready for action by the Iowa State Board of Education at its May 4th meeting. With the additional information, a letter from SCCS was distributed via email to current families on Friday regarding ESAs and tuition rates for those that will still be paying tuition. As anticipated the tuition rates for those not eligible for ESAs increased by about 5% at the elementary level and 3% at Assumption. Please note that the actual cost to educate a student in SCCS is over \$8,000. Tuition covers just over about 50% of the cost. Parish subsidies and fundraising cover the rest. The letter can be found here: [ESA Letter and Tuition Rates for Paying Families Letter](#)

Scott County Catholic School tuition rates for preschool, with or without wraparound care, are in the linked document: [Preschool Tuition Rates](#)

[Click on the link for more information about the ESA Administrative Rules. \(LINK\)](#)

The following information is taken from the Iowa Department of Education website in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section:

Q: My daughter is in a private Pre-K program this year. Will she qualify for an ESA as an incoming kindergartener this fall?

*A: Yes. **All incoming kindergarteners** are eligible for an ESA in the 2023-2024 school year regardless of income. ESA funds must be used for an accredited private (nonpublic) school in Iowa.*

Q: My kids are currently in a public school. Do they qualify for an ESA next school year even if we are above the income level?

A: Yes. All students who currently attend a public school and choose to enroll in an accredited private school for the 2023-2024 school year are eligible regardless of household income.

Pennies for Peru

Pennies for Peru will be running from MAY 8 - 12. Lourdes has a partnership with Our Lady of Reconciliation Chapel in Arequipa, Peru.

For several years, we have been partnering with this community in Peru through prayer, and support. There are usually a couple church collections each year during the weekend Masses. And as a school, Lourdes has done an annual collection that we call "Pennies For Peru". Your support and participation is welcome and greatly appreciated.

OLOL - 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:

www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054FA4AD28A1F85-may2023

Food may be left in the Gathering Space beginning Saturday, April 29th. All food is needed by 8:30 a.m. Saturday, May 6th 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 AND SCHOOL INFORMATION

Starry Night 2024 Idea Sharing

You're invited to attend 1 of 2 sessions to share your ideas for fundraising and overall event planning for Lourdes Catholic School at our Starry Night 2024.

Attending one of these sessions does not obligate you to take major volunteering roles - but we want your opinion and your ideas!

We will take all the volunteers as well :)

Friday, May 5th at 2pm - Rectory Conference Room (enter on Brown Street)

Monday, May 8th at 6pm - Lunchroom/PAC

Call/text Megan Stopulos 563-650-7918 or email meganstopulos@ruhlhomes.com, if you have questions, would like to talk through ideas outside of these times, or would like to be involved.

SCRIP Program

The money earned through Lourdes SCRIP program is used to help with the Home & School events and functions. The more money we raise through SCRIP, the fewer donations needed throughout the year.

Purchase SCRIP gift cards through the RaiseRight App, the orange forms in the school office, or after Mass! We also could use weekday and weekend volunteers! ***If you have time in your day and would like to help with this important fundraiser for the school please let us know!***

General Information and Recent Links

[2023 - 2024 K-8 School Calendar Link](#)

[2023 - 2024 3YO 2 Day School Calendar Link](#)

[2023 - 2024 3YO 3 Day School Calendar Link](#)

[2023 - 2024 4YO PreK School Calendar Link](#)

[Links to ESA information are listed below:](#)

[Information about the ESA](#)

[ESA Frequently Asked Questions Link](#)

[Iowa Department of Education EAS Website - FAQ](#)

Our Weekly Scripture Verse

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Please take a few minutes as a family to reflect upon this week's scripture verse for May 7, 2023:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you know me, then you will also know my Father.

From now on you do know him and have seen him."

~ John 14:6-7

Have a faith-filled week!

Mr. Michael Hughes



May 1st – 7th

Monday, May 1st

7 PM - Boy Scouts

Tuesday, May 2nd

SCRIP for sale

Wednesday, May 3rd

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM - Parents in Prayer

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM - All School Mass

May Crowning @ All School Mass (Students should bring a flower to school.)

2:30 PM K-8th Early Out

Staff Meeting

Thursday, May 4th

3rd Grade Field Trip to Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City (Please bring in Pop Tabs the week before!)

6:30 PM - Band/Choir Concert

Friday, May 5th

NUT Day

Cinco de Mayo

Saturday, May 6th & May 7th

First Communion Masses

Upcoming Events (Save-the-Dates):

Week of May 8th - Pennies For Peru Collection

May 8th - Starry Night Meeting @ 6pm

May 8th - Boy Scouts @ 7pm

May 10th - All School Mass @ 9am

May 10th - Early out Wednesday @ 2:30 pm

May 11th - LCS Dress Rehearsal @ 1:30

May 11th - Musical @ 6 pm

May 14th - Mother's Day

May 15th - Boy Scouts @ 6 pm and 7 pm

May 16th - BOE Meeting @ 6 pm

May 17th - All School Mass @ 9 am

May 18th - K-8th Talent Show @ 1:30 & 6:30 pm

May 19th - LAST DAY OF 3YO PS

May 22nd - Boy Scouts @ 6:15 pm & 7 pm

May 23rd - Last Day of PK

May 25th - 8th Grade Graduation @ 6 pm

May 26th - K - 7th Field Day

May 29th - Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

May 31st - Last Day of School

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.

