

May 15, 2023

Principal's Message

Good Morning!

WOW! Can you believe it?? Less than 3 weeks of school! As of today, only 12 days remain. This has been a truly inspirational year. With all of the changes that we have gone through, the overall success has made this year fly by.

A huge thank you to everyone who has gone so far above and beyond the call to make Lourdes a loving and supportive environment for our students and families. From organizing Popsicles in the Park to teacher appreciation days to Starry Night, Lourdes is special because of each and every one of us!

As we begin to look at closing this year on an awesome note, please keep in mind that your help and support is needed as we start planning for next year. Please consider and encourage your LCS fellow friends and parents to be an active part of all of the events. This is not only a great way to support our children, it is a way to share our faith and model some of the tenets of the Catholic faith.

From Mrs. Blaine

As the 2022-23 school year winds down, I want to take a moment to share this news with our families at Lourdes. It is with a heavy heart that I share this will be my last year at Lourdes. As I plan on telling my students this week as well, I wanted to be sure that this news goes home to you as well.

The last twelve years have been an amazing opportunity. I have worked with wonderful staff members, families, and students. During my years at Lourdes, I have celebrated a number of milestones, both professional and personal. This time will always hold a special place in my heart.

Thank you for letting me be a part of your child's education. It has been an honor to work with you and your children to engage them and help them understand how to be lifelong learners.

Thank you for making my time at Lourdes Catholic School so memorable.

Many Blessings,

Cayleah Blaine

ESA UPDATE **(5/015/2023)**

The latest information from the Department of Education regarding Education Savings Accounts can be found at the following link: [DE's ESA Page](#). The Questions and Answers section was updated on May 4th and is very useful. It, for example, contains the 300% of poverty eligibility table, the definition of a household/members, and what line item will be used from one's Iowa tax form. (It's line 26, "Net Income," on the 2022 Iowa 1040 tax form.)

The application for those eligible for ESAs will open on May 31st and close on June 30th. The deadline is established in the law; there will be no extension. You will want to act quickly once the online application process becomes available.

Who is eligible for an ESA in 2023-24?

1. All kindergartners
2. Students who were not in a private school the year prior
3. All students whose family income is below 300% of poverty

Anyone interested in learning more about the parent/guardian application process can register to attend the training on one of the following dates and times:

- **Tuesday, May 23, 10 a.m.**
Registration Link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3Bd8mAs-TWGKMuJbhX4JJg
- **Thursday, May 25, 8 p.m.**
Registration Link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2DsfTNrtR06LL2uE4qrRjA
- **Saturday, May 27, 12 p.m.**
Registration Link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MUFIRiANRSm57AAwtcwUOQ
- **Tuesday, May 30, 2 p.m.**
Registration Link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iPsDoIBLTIWTNDMgJ9qxQQ
- **Monday, June 5, 11 a.m.**
Registration Link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9Mv08byQSD-SVvrRgP_kcA
- **Wednesday, June 7, 7 p.m.**
Registration Link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_F7EBpAMET0mCWBFWW4HKjw

The Students First ESA application will be available on May 31 and a link to the application will be provided on the DE's website.

ALSO:

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. \(LINK\)](#)

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

The 2023 - 24 school calendars have been updated with a couple of corrections for minor typos.

[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](#)

2023-2024 SCCS Current Student Tuition Rates

To All Current Parents:

You have probably heard of HB68, a bill passed into law earlier this year by the Iowa Legislature. Of particular interest to Catholic school families is the initiation of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program benefitting Iowa students attending certified K-12 non-public schools. Below is a brief summary of the new law, which phases in an ESA program over the next three school years:

2023-2024 school year: An ESA is available to all Iowa students entering Kindergarten, students transferring from a public school or home school within Iowa, and Iowa students living in a family with income of less than 300% of poverty.

2024-2025 school year: An ESA is available to any student who received an ESA in the previous year, plus all incoming Kindergarteners, and students living in a family with income of less than 400% of poverty.

2025-2026 school year: An ESA is available to all K-12 Iowa students regarding of family income.

In year one, the value of the ESA is \$7598 - an amount that will be placed into an account for the benefit of one named student. The account will remain active as long as the student continues their K-12 education in a certified nonpublic K-12 school. Funds left over after graduation or transfer are returned to the State.

As stated above, during the first two years of the program, there is an income qualifier that determines who (as a returning student) can receive an ESA. If you believe your total family income may fall below 300% of the federal poverty guideline, we encourage you to apply as soon as the application becomes available.

For families that will remain on private pay tuition for the next one or two years, we provide the following tuition schedule for the Fall of 2023:

K-8 tuition (active parishioner)	K-8 tuition (non-parish supported)
1 st student \$4380; 2 nd student \$3,725; 3 rd student \$2,850; 4+ student \$2,190	1 st child \$6,485; 2 nd child \$3,725; 3 rd child \$2,850; 4+ child \$2,190
AHS tuition (active parishioner)	AHS tuition (non-parish supported)
1 st child \$6,360; 2 nd child \$6,360	\$9,110 per student

If you have an incoming Kindergartener as well as other children attending K-8, we will consider your Kindergartener to be your 1st student.

As your students transition to the ESA program we will be eliminating the multiple student discount. We believe this will be an effective way to begin modestly reducing the amount of parish subsidy we request from our eight supporting parishes. (They are currently providing \$2.6M to the combined Scott County Catholic School budget.)

Scott County Catholic Schools were represented at the recent “Students First Summit” in Ankeny – which was attended by 225 nonpublic school leaders from across the State of Iowa. Attendees heard from speakers who have been involved with ESAs in other states as well as the new Director of the Iowa Dept. of Education. The summit was educational, and we learned a lot that will be helpful as we navigate this exciting new ESA program.

What we did not learn, was the date the ESA application will go live!

The company awarded the contract for implementing the application process is named Odyssey. We heard from their CEO, who believes he can have the application available

by mid-May . . . but by Iowa law it must be “live” by May 31st. **For those of you whose students may be eligible for an ESA this fall, rest assured - we will let you know just as soon as the application is available, since the absolute final date to apply is June 30, 2023. This is also Iowa law!**

We plan to have several opportunities for families to complete the application process in the Assumption computer lab. We will also try to let you know what pieces of information you will need to have near your computer when you complete the application.

Families that remain on private pay for the next one or two years may be eligible for a grant from MVSTO. Even though you have been able to manage your tuition payment in the past, if your total family income is less than 400% of poverty, (\$111,000 for a family of 4) we encourage you to consider submitting an application.

Our Weekly Scripture Verse

Seventh Sunday of Easter

The Ascension of the Lord

Please take a few minutes as a family to reflect upon this week’s scripture verse for May 21, 2023:

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.

When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.

Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have

commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

~ Mt 28:16-20

Have a faith-filled week!

Mr. Michael Hughes



WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 15th – 19th

Monday, May 15th

2:00 PM Rosary ~ presented by 7 th grade
7:00 PM Boy Scouts, library

Tuesday, May 16th

SCRIP for sale

9:15 – 2:00 PM – 5th grade to JA Biztown
6:00 PM Board of Education Meeting

Wednesday, May 17th

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM - Parents in Prayer
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM - All School Mass
2:30 PM K-8th Early Out
2:45 - 4:00 PM Variety Show Rehearsal

Thursday, May 18th

Last day of 2 day Preschool
1:30 & 6:30 PM Talent Show

Friday, May 19th

Last day of 3 day Preschool

3:00 PM Student Council Pie Toss

Upcoming Events (Save-the-Dates):

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

May 23rd - Last Day of PK

May 25th - Staff vs 8th Grade Volleyball Game @ 10:05 am

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.