

**May 8, 2023**

## **Principal's Message**

Good Morning!

### **A message from Saint Ambrose regarding an opportunity for middle school students:**

We are delighted to announce the 15th Annual SAU Health Career Adventure Camp for 2023 middle school students that will take place (mostly) on our campus! The camp will run from July 10th - July 14th, from 9:00-4:30 Monday-Thursday, and 9:00-1:30 on Friday.

We have planned a vast array of interactive and exciting activities from departments of Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, Nursing, Exercise Science, Physician Assistant Studies, and others! We will take a day-long excursion to the University of Iowa and engage with their Colleges of Dentistry and Pharmacy as well!

If you could please pass this information along to potentially interested parents, students, teachers, or staff, we would greatly appreciate it! I am available to speak with interested students as well.

Included in registrations are many things, including: Access to all camp activities, on-site supervision, daily lunches and snacks, bus transportation to and from Iowa City on 7/13, a camp certificate, team bag, and camp T-shirt, and many others! Students who participate in the free/reduced lunch program are eligible to attend camp with the assistance of a scholarship. A limited number of these scholarships are available, so please apply soon! Links for registration are below:

[Health Careers Adventure Camp 2023-Faculty/Staff Registrations](#)

[Health Careers Adventure Camp 2023-Scholarship Free/Reduced Lunch Registrations](#)

**Kyle M. Bennett, Ph.D., MSW**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Saint Ambrose University School of Social Work**

## **[NEW ESA LETTER!! \(5/08/2023\)](#)**

### **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR** **Governor Kim Reynolds ★ Lt. Governor Adam Gregg**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, May 4, 2023**

**CONTACT: Kollin Crompton, (515) 745-2840, [Kollin.Crompton@Governor.Iowa.gov](mailto:Kollin.Crompton@Governor.Iowa.gov)**

### **Gov. Reynolds announces application start date, administrative rules for Students First Education Savings Accounts**

DES MOINES – Governor Reynolds has announced that applications for Students First Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) will be accepted starting May 31, 2023. The Students First Act was signed into law earlier this year and will provide state funding for eligible students who attend accredited nonpublic schools starting in the 2023-2024 school year.

Additionally, the State Board of Education today adopted administrative rules that specify definitions for the program, eligibility requirements for participation, parameters for the application process, and program administration and accountability.

“As we prepare to accept applications later this month for Iowa’s landmark Students First ESA program, the rules approved today will provide families with the details they need to consider their options and prepare to apply,” stated Governor Reynolds. “We are one step closer to providing choice in education for Iowa families regardless of income or zip code.”

All incoming kindergarteners and all K-12 students currently enrolled in a public school district are eligible for the ESA program. Families whose children currently attend an accredited nonpublic school are also eligible for ESAs based on their annual income during the first two years of the program. For the 2023-2024 school year, income eligibility is 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL); and 400 percent FPL for the 2024-2025 school year. Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, all K-12 students in Iowa will be eligible for an ESA regardless of income.

The following rules specify some eligibility requirements for students currently attending an accredited nonpublic school:

- Parents or guardians of students currently enrolled in an accredited nonpublic school will verify their income eligibility using “net income” from their 2022 state tax form.
- Household size will be determined by the number of people who reside together and are related by birth, marriage, adoption, legal guardianship, or by placement in the home through a state agency. “Household” includes parents, student applicants, and other children who share at least one parent by birth, adoption, a parent’s current marriage, or placement in the home through a state agency.
- Students must be enrolled full time at an accredited nonpublic school.

The [administrative rules](#) are posted in their entirety on the Iowa Department of Education’s [ESA webpage](#), along with answers to [frequently asked questions](#) about the program. Parents interested in

applying for an ESA are encouraged to sign up for notifications when information is updated on the website.

Parents will complete and submit applications through an online system which the Department of Education, Office of the Chief Information Officer, and other state agencies are now implementing with Odyssey, the vendor selected to administer the ESA program. Webinars will be offered to assist parents with the application process when the system launches on May 31.

Applications will be accepted from May 31 through June 30, 2023, for the 2023-2024 school year.

## **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. \(LINK\)](#)

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## **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!***

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# 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](#)

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## **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:

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

If you have in incoming Kindergartener as well as other children attending K-8, we will consider your Kindergartener to be your 1<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup>. **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.

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## Our Weekly Scripture Verse

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

Please take a few minutes as a family to reflect upon this week's scripture verse for May 14, 2023:

**Whoever has my commandments and observes them**

**is the one who loves me.**

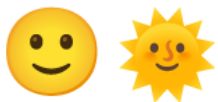
**And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father,**

**and I will love him and reveal myself to him."**

~ John 14:21

Have a faith-filled week!

Mr. Michael Hughes



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**May 8th – 12th**

**Monday, May 8th**

10:30 AM Rosary

7 PM - Boy Scouts, Library

**Tuesday, May 9th**

**SCRIP for sale**

### **Wednesday, May 10th**

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

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

**2:30 PM K-8<sup>th</sup> Early Out**

2:45 - 4:00 PM Variety Show Rehearsal

### **Thursday, May 11th**

1:30 PM LCS Musical Dress Rehearsal

6:00 PM - K-8 Musical "Compose Yourself"

### **Friday, May 12th**

9:30 AM Staff vs 8th Grade Volleyball Game

### **Upcoming Events (Save-the-Dates):**

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 18th - LAST DAY OF 2 DAY PRESCHOOL

May 19th - LAST DAY OF 3 DAY PRESCHOOL

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

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### **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.