

ST. STEPHEN R.C. CHURCH

2100 Baseline Road
Grand Island, NY 14072

Karen A. Sweet – Business Manager
Phone 716-773-7647 ext 104 Fax 716-773-5792
E-Mail: Businessmgr@ststephensgi.com

January 2019

Please Review This Packet Carefully !!!

Greetings St. Stephen's School current families and prospective School families!

A very unique component of our over-all comprehensive Tuition Package involves several items that we would love to take a moment to detail with you at this time!

We here at St. Stephen's Parish & School are very proud of our campus and our excellent school. We strive to continually offer as many features for our families as possible, features that you may not find in other private schools!

2019 – 2020 TUITION PACKAGE:

Our tuition package has multiple components beginning with the registration process which we will explain in this publication!

We have **One Contract for Kn. – 8th Grade** for Parishioners & Non-Parishioners combined. There is **One separate contract for Only Pre-K4 & Only Pre-K3** which will be for Parishioners & Non-Parishioners. **Please request the Pre-K3 or Pre-K4 Contract directly from the school office to enroll your Pre-K age child.**

REGISTRATION FEE: The Registration Fee not only secures your place in the upcoming school year, but is also a component of our supply and operating budget. It helps to ensure that we have all the supplies necessary to jump start each school year. Early Registration is \$100.00 per child if paid by Wednesday, February 28, 2019 this year. If you are a current school family and choose to register after February 28, 2019, that fee increases to \$130.00. Please avoid disappointment and secure your spot as we have multiple grade levels that have a waiting list.

TUITION OPTIONS: We have designed multiple options that are available for your family to choose from. One option is to pay annually by August 15, 2019 and with that option, comes a 2% cash discount! The other options involve utilizing the FACTS Tuition Management Program linked securely to the bank account of your choice.

With FACTS you can choose a 10 or 12 month payment plan so that you can select the program that works best for you. We can customize the plan to your needs and you have the standard options of the 5th or the 20th of each month as your payment selection dates. There is an annual fee of \$43.00 paid directly to FACTS.

SCRIP OPT-IN or SCRIP OPT-OUT (Pre-K3 – 8th Grade) Scrip is our Fundraising Component Linked to our Total Tuition Package.

Here at St. Stephen's we feel very blessed to be able to offer you an opportunity to earn this entire \$300.00 fundraising component or you can choose to Opt-Out and just Pay the \$300.00 in full with your annual tuition payment, spread it out as \$30.00/month with your 10 month payment plan, or only pay \$25.00/month with a 12 month payment plan. The Choice is 100% yours!

If you Opt-In, you agree to participate in the Scrip gift card program and earn a net profit of \$300.00 in Gift Card purchases.

Your Scrip portion of tuition will be added directly to your FACTS account for a June 2020 Payment Date. Not to worry, we will automatically credit your scrip earnings prior to the June Payment due date and if you fall short of raising the entire \$300, you only pay the difference. It's never been easier to save!

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about SCRIP

Q. What is Scrip?

A. Scrip is a program where you purchase gift cards/certificates at face value and use them for your regular purchases like groceries, gas, entertainment, dining out, gift giving, vacations, etc.

Q. Where can I purchase SCRIP?

A. At the Rectory office or right through your family envelope. The rectory is open Monday – Friday from 8am – 4pm except for holidays. Just stop in and fill out an order form and bring a check or cash for amount of your purchase. If the item(s) are in stock, it is a cash and carry purchase. If not, we will order them for you!

Q. How do I obtain an order form?

A. Simple, one will come home in the family envelope each week. Or you may pick one up in the rectory office and complete at the time of purchase. OR go online at www.ststephensgi.colldevl.com and download an extra form right from our website.

Q. What if I choose to Opt-Out?

A. If you opt out, you will be billed according to your payment selection method.

Q. Can my family and friends help me make my goal?

A. Absolutely! Have them come in and make purchases in your name and we will credit you. OR Take their orders and combine them into one big order!

Q. What if I earn more than \$300?

A. Great question and great news! The first 300 we give you 100% of the credit, after that, you can earn tuition credit for the 2019-2020 school year. After the \$300 goal is reached you earn 50% and the school earns 50% for tuition credit the next school year. This split helps us to offset the cost of running this program!

We will send you periodic statements throughout the school year to show you your progress! Give it a try!

Here is a perfect example of how the credit works for the first \$300.00 in net profit. A Tops \$100 gift card earns a 5% reward. Therefore each \$100 Tops card earns you \$5.00 in Scrip Credit! It's as simple as that! If you have questions, PLEASE ASK! If you do not check off Scrip-Opt In, you are automatically opted out!

BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICE (Niagara Falls Route) (Pre-K – 8th Grade):

Here at St. Stephen's School on Grand Island we have been blessed with the staff and vision that is always looking towards the future! We offer Transportation for our friends and families that are North of Grand Island, in Niagara Falls. Our bus is equipped with our very own licensed and trained driver(s), and we offer two stops for pick up and drop off in the Niagara Falls Area. The Transportation Fee is \$575.00 per school year regardless of frequency of usage. This fee is billed with your tuition package at an annual rate or a monthly rate linked with your FACTS tuition account. This service is available for Pre-K – 8th Grade! No tolls, no gas, no wear and tear your cost is only about \$3.00 per day! ☺

Additionally we have this School Bus available to our entire school for use for Field Trips and Extra Curricular activities!

CTGP FAMILIES (Kn – 8th grade):

If you are a family that is registered in a Parish that does not have its own catholic school, you are eligible to benefit from this program. The Diocese of Buffalo offers a program called CTGP (Catholic Tuition Grant Program). The way this program works is that we will offer you the benefit of our parishioner rate of tuition and you have your parish priest sign off on the CTGP forms 4 times per year acknowledging your membership in that parish. The Diocese will then provide payment directly to our parish on behalf of your child(ren). It is a rate that falls somewhere in-between the parishioner and non-parishioner rate of tuition. This helps both your family and our school!

SSSTAP 2019-2020 (Kn – 8th Grade):

A tuition assistance form is included in each registration packet. If you feel your family needs assistance in order to be able to provide this opportunity for your K-8 Child(ren), please do not hesitate to apply! Please Apply by May 17, 2019.

BISON FUND 2019-2020 (Kn – 8th Grade):

The Bison Fund is a private scholarship fund that you may also apply for. They too have income requirement for awards. If you are chosen for this award, it remains with your child(ren) from Kn – 8th Grade for all of your children. It is a blessing! Go to WWW. BISON FUND and you can register on line for this drawing. You must register on line by the end of February to be eligible.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE & BEFORE SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM:

We have an after school care program available at a modest daily fee for your child(ren), pre-registration is required. It is staffed by our very own teachers.

Before School care is available as well and that is a service that is offered at no additional cost, also staffed by our teachers. Check with the school office for additional details.

If necessary we can further customize your tuition payment options, and if help is needed during the course of the school year to change a payment date that better coincides with your pay cycle, we can work with you.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please NEVER hesitate to contact our business office if you need financial assistance or have questions of any kind. We will be more than happy to work with you! Our business office is located in the Rectory which is connected to the new church.

We certainly know that providing your child with a Catholic School Education is a choice, and a big choice! We do not ever take that decision lightly and always know we will help you in any way possible.

Help is only a phone call or e-mail away!

Many Blessings to you and your families and thank you for choosing St. Stephen School for your child(ren)!

Very truly yours,

Karen A. Sweet
Business Manager