



**SPECIAL BILLS
DRESS DOWN DAY
FOR PASS HOLDERS!**

FRIDAY, JAN. 9TH

**PLAY-OFFS, HERE
WE COME!**



REMINDER

FOR THOSE FAMILIES WHO OPTED
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OCTOBER
CALENDAR PLEASE BE AWARE THAT
THE BALANCE THAT IS REMAINING
IS BEING ADDED TO YOUR FACTS
ACCOUNT.

COMMUNITY HELPERS DAY 2026

Dear Parents,

During Catholic Schools Week, we would like to have a "Community Helpers" presentation for students in grades Pre-K- 8. We need your help to make it happen! We are looking for parents to volunteer their time to come in and give a short 3-5 minute presentation about their job, on Monday, January 26th, from 9 - noon. If you would like to be a part of our Community Helpers Day, please click the link to fill out the [Google Form](#) by Thursday, January 22nd. Once we have a list of volunteers, we will send further instructions.

Thank you,
Mrs. May



St. Stephen's Got Talent

Friday, January 30th

Do you have a talent you would like to share with the school community?

We are having a talent show and students in grades 4-8 are encouraged to try out and show off their amazing talents!

Student try-outs will be Thursday, January 22nd after school until 4:00pm. Location is to be determined. If you would like to try out, please sign-up on the sign-up form outside Mrs. Calato's classroom with your name and the type of act you will be performing.

Students will be notified if they are selected on Friday, January 23rd. There will a mandatory dress rehearsal **before** school at 8:00am on Wednesday, January 28th for all students who are selected.

The final show will be at 1:30pm, January 30th, students & parents of performers will be able to watch during a Catholic Schools Week talent show production.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM



JANUARY 2026



Each month our school mental health professionals push into classrooms to discuss a social-emotional skill. This month all grades will be focusing on Perspective. Perspective is understanding that people may think, feel, or see things differently than we do. When children learn perspective taking, they become better at problem solving, empathy, and building positive relationships.



Topic of the Month:

PERSPECTIVE



How This Helps in the Classroom:

Learning and practicing perspective taking helps students share their thoughts clearly while also listening to others and understanding that people may think or feel differently. These skills encourage respectful conversations and help children build empathy and stronger relationships.

Things To Try At Home:

- Discuss conflicts - What that may look like and how to resolve them if/when they arise.
- Use characters from books or movies to discuss perspective.





MEAT RAFFLE



**SATURDAY,
MARCH
14, 2026**



**ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL
2080 BASELINE RD,
GRAND ISLAND, NY**



Raffles



Meats



Drinks



Fun!

**All proceeds go to
St. Stephen School**

**Join us for a sizzling night of fun,
friends, and fantastic meat prizes
and support a great cause!**

**Bring your friends, grab a drink, and enjoy
a night full of excitement!**

 **716-773-7647 opt. 2, principal@ststephensi.org**



ststephensi.org



<https://www.facebook.com/ststephensi>



[st.stephenschoolgi](https://www.instagram.com/st.stephenschoolgi)



BISON

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Giving Parents a Choice • Giving Children a Chance

The **BISON Children's Scholarship Fund** is a private scholarship fund providing tuition assistance for low-income families throughout the 8 counties of Western New York who want to enroll their children in private K-12 schools. Funding now available for grades K - 8.

STEP 1

Complete a pre-application online at bisonfund.org between **January 1, 2026** and **March 31, 2026**. Call BISON with questions at (716) 854-0869 ext. 1.

STEP 2

Watch for notification after the BISON Lottery is held on **April 1, 2026**. Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application to receive the scholarship. If you're not chosen, you will automatically be placed on the BISON waitlist.

STEP 3

If selected, complete the full application online. Enroll your child(ren) in the school of their choice and ask the school to complete the school commitment form.

STEP 4

Once all the steps are completed, BISON will notify you of your scholarship amount. Watch for email notices to annually renew your BISON Scholarship in February of each year and add siblings.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY AMOUNTS*

Household Size	Total Income (Based on 2024 household income)
2	\$ 57,105
3	\$ 71,955
4	\$ 86,805
5	\$ 101,655
6	\$ 116,505
7	\$ 131,355
8	\$ 146,205

*Updated income tables
February 1, 2026.*



WHO QUALIFIES FOR A BISON K-8 SCHOLARSHIP?

Residents of the 8 counties of Western New York (WNY) with children entering K-8th grade with a total family income within the income eligibility scale on the reverse side. You may only apply for your biological or legal guardian children.

HOW DO NEW FAMILIES APPLY?

New families must complete a pre-application form electronically (online) on our website at bisonfund.org. The new family deadline is **March 31, 2026**. Preference is NOT given to early applications; however you must apply by 3/31 to be considered for the lottery. Families applying after the **March 31, 2026** deadline will be placed on our waitlist.



HOW ARE BISON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CHOSEN?

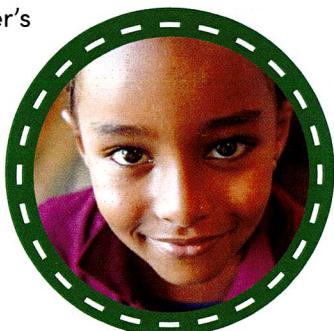
Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-application forms on **April 1, 2026**. Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application in order to receive the scholarship.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I WON THE LOTTERY?

All applicants will be notified of lottery results by email on **April 1, 2026**. If you're not chosen in the lottery, you can always reapply for the next school year.

I RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP AWARD EMAIL ... NOW WHAT?

In your award email, there will be a link to complete your full application. Click on the link and follow the application steps. **The deadline to complete the application is April 30, 2026**. Please be sure to include all your income sources including your Federal 1040 tax return, child support, business income, public assistance, food stamps, Social Security income, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation and financial assistance from family & friends. Select your school (a complete list can be found on our website) and contact the school to complete the school commitment form. After receipt of all the required documents, your scholarship will be calculated based on your household size and income, as well as tuition amount. You must renew annually to continue with BISON.



I RECEIVED NOTICE I'M ON A WAITLIST ... NOW WHAT?

Unfortunately, there are always more applicants than available funding. We keep waitlist names for the academic year hopeful that additional funding becomes available. If you are not taken off the waitlist, you will need to resubmit a pre-application next year to be considered.

WHY DO FAMILIES HAVE TO PAY PART OF THE TUITION?

One key component of educational success is parental involvement. Making a financial sacrifice is a strong incentive to becoming and remaining, involved. BISON families are required to pay a minimum of \$500 each year.



BISON

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND



SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE

The BISON Children's Scholarship Fund is a tuition assistance program for families who want a private education for their children but are unsure if they can afford it.

- K-8 scholarships available for the **2026-27 school year**.
- Maximum award of **\$3,000 per student for private school**
- Maximum award of **\$500 per student for homeschool**.

Apply at www.bisonfund.org or
call 716.854.0869 ext. 1





Athletics
2025-2026



JANUARY SPORTS GAMES



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NO SCHOOL	1 NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL	3 JV Boys Basketball Tournament
4 JV Boys Basketball Tournament	5 Varsity Boys Basketball 7pm	6	7 Varsity Boys Basketball 6pm	8	9	10 JV Boys Basketball 10am
11 	12	13	14 Varsity Boys Basketball 7pm	15	16	17 JV Boys Basketball 11am
18	19 NO SCHOOL	20	21 Varsity Boys Basketball 6pm	22	23	24 JV Boys Basketball 10am
25	26 Varsity Boys Basketball 5pm	27	28	29	30	31 JV Boys Basketball 11am

To participate in any sports you must fill out a permission slip and pay the fee!



Athletics
2025-2026



JANUARY SPORTS PRACTICES



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NO SCHOOL	1 NO SCHOOL Varsity BB 5-7:30	2 NO SCHOOL	3
4	5 Varsity BB 6-7:30	6 JV BB 3:30-4:45	7 JV BB 3:30-4:45	8 Varsity BB 5:30-7	9	10
11 	12 Varsity BB 6-7:30	13 JV BB 3:30-4:45	14 JV BB 3:30-4:45	15	16	17
18 	19 NO SCHOOL	20 JV BB 3:30-4:45	21 JV BB 3:30-4:45	22	23	24
25	26	27 JV BB 3:30-4:45	28 JV BB 3:30-4:45 Varsity BB 5-6:30	29	30	31

To participate in any sports you must fill out a permission slip and pay the fee!

COACHES NEEDED

SPRING SPORTS



COACHES ARE NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING LEVELS AND SPORTS!

- CO-ED FLAG FOOTBALL (GRADES 5 AND UP)
- SOCCER
 - PRE-K
 - MITES- GRADES 1-2
 - PEEWEE - GRADES 3-4
 - JV - GRADES 5-6
 - VARSITY - GRADES 7-8
- BASEBALL- JV AND VARSITY
- SOFTBALL - JV AND VARSITY
- SPRING BOWLING
- TRACK - MULTIPLE ASSISTANT COACHES NEEDED

**PLEASE EMAIL DANIELLE DUCK AT DUCKD@STSTEPHENSGI.ORG
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COACHING ANY OF THE ABOVE!**

GIRLS BASKETBALL

JV and Varsity

Sacred Heart Academy Basketball Team is hosting a free basketball clinic on Saturday January 10th.

7th and 8th graders (varsity) are welcome from 9 am till 10:30 am

6th and 5th graders (JV) are welcome from 11 am till 12:30 pm.

Clinic will take place at Sacred Heart Academy located at 3860 Main Street, Buffalo 14226 in the Athletic Center behind the school.

Please use this [link](#) to register!



BOYS BASKETBALL

JV INFO

For game schedules please click [here](#).

VARSITY INFO

The league fee will be coming out soon so
please be on the lookout for that!

For game schedules please click [here](#).

Please email Danielle Duck at
duckd@ststephensi.org for any questions.





Keep up to date on
HSA News by joining
[REMIND](#)

Text @ssshsa to
81010

Next Meeting: 1/7/26

HSA Contact Email:
ststephenhsa@yahoo.com

**Tickets for the
Carnival 1/24/26 are
now on sale!
See Flyer in eblast!**

We are looking for chairs for
many of our events.

Please contact
ststephenhsa@yahoo.com if
interested

**Please contact us if you
or anyone you know may
be interested in
sponsoring one or more
of our fundraising events!**

HSA SPOTLIGHT

*In this season of shopping,
remember that all families are
to contribute at least \$50 towards
silent auction items for the gala.
If shopping isn't your thing, an Amazon
GC is welcomed to allow for the
purchase of larger items for
the gala silent auction.*

[View Here](#)

**Gala/Carnival Meetings
Wednesdays starting 1/14
6PM at the Welcome Center
HSA Meeting/Mixer
Come meet other SSS parents, share
ideas and learn about upcoming
fundraising opportunities!
Date: January 7th
Location: Fattey's @ The Wurlitzer**

**Gertrude Hawk
Chocolate Bar sale!
Help us sell out our remaining inventory.**

**\$1 per Bar or \$48 for a whole box!
Please send in cash or check to main office
or you are now able to pay online:
[Gertrude Hawk Online Payment Link](#)**

JOIN US WEDNESDAY AT FATTEY BEER CO. FOR A
SAINT STEPHEN SCHOOL HSA MIXER



Wednesday
January 7th, 2026
6:00 PM

Fattey Beer Co.
@ the Wurlitzer
908 Niagara Falls Blvd.

ALL
WELCOME

4-7 PM

JANUARY 24TH

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL CARNIVAL

GAMES
BALLOON ANIMALS
FACE-PAINTING
FISH BOWL TOSS

TICKET REQUIRED FOR ENTRY
KIDS - \$30
ADULTS - \$15
2 and UNDER - FREE



ENTER PROMO CODE
“SAVE5”
FOR TICKETS PURCHASED BY
1/22/2026



Jesus is Here!

TRIALS AND RESURRECTION

Conference

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

10:00 AM — 3:00 PM AT ST. STANISLAUS
389 PECKHAM ST., BUFFALO, NY

Enjoy a day filled with presentations, interactive small-group conversations, music, and a lunch with fellow participants.

\$25 PER PERSON
LUNCH INCLUDED

Keynote Speaker: FR. CARL GALES, SVD



Father Gales, who was born in Baltimore, was a musical prodigy. In his youth, he performed as a concert pianist at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In 2021, he professed Final Vows with the SVD and was ordained to the priesthood in 2022.

Current pastor of Our Lady of Africa, Fr. Gales helped merge together five parishes through the Archdiocese of Chicago's Renew My Church process.

REGISTER AT



**DEADLINE TO REGISTER
BY JANUARY 14**