



# PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1800 W. Lincoln Highway • New Lenox, Illinois 60451 • (815) 485-2136 • [www.providencecatholic.org](http://www.providencecatholic.org)

December 5, 2017

Dear Celtic Parents,

I want to thank you for choosing to be part of the Providence Catholic High School Family. We appreciate the confidence you have placed in our faculty and staff to help prepare your children not only for college, but also for life. Look forward to continuing on an educational journey together while we grow as a community in *Truth, Unity and Love*.

## PRE-PAYMENT RESERVATIONS FOR 2018-2019

For students who will be sophomores, juniors or seniors in the next school year, the pre-payment reservation deadline is **Wednesday, January 17, 2018**. Parents of all students must return the enclosed form with a down payment of **\$100** per student by January 17<sup>th</sup>, in order to reserve a place at Providence Catholic next year. The \$100 pre-payment is applied toward next year's tuition. We ask that the form be returned by this date so we can begin to schedule students with accuracy for the 2018-2019 school year. Please help us keep an accurate count by making a separate check for the pre-payment for each student. **Please do not include the pre-payment in your regular tuition payment.**

## FINANCIAL AID: YEAR 2018-2019

For the 2018-2019 school year Providence Catholic High School will once again distribute more than **\$1,400,000.00** in need-based scholarships, aid, grants, and discounts. Please study this letter carefully and apply by March 1, 2018, (incoming freshmen have an earlier deadline) if you wish to be considered for a financial aid next year! These grants are available to all Providence Catholic families who qualify.

FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment is currently accepting applications at [factstuitionaid.com](http://factstuitionaid.com). There is a \$30 application fee payable online. Families applying for financial aid will need to complete an **online application** and submit the necessary supporting documentation to FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment by March 1, 2018. Once an online application has been completed, the following information will need to be sent to FACTS to complete the application process:

- Copies of your most recent Federal tax forms including all supporting tax schedules;
- Copies of your most recent W-2 forms for both you and your spouse;
- Copies of supporting documentation for any other income.

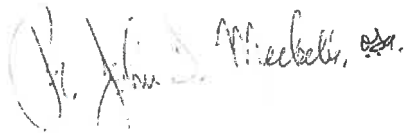
If you have questions or concerns about the application process, you may speak with a FACTS Customer Care Representative at 1-866-441-4637. All supporting documentation can be uploaded online. Documentation can also be faxed to 1-866-315-9264.

### NEW - ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS 2018

The State of Illinois has created a new way to fund scholarships for children who choose to attend Catholic schools through the "Invest in Kids Act." Scholarships offered through this program have the potential to cover **up to 100 percent of tuition and eligible charges for next school year.** The *Empower Illinois* Scholarship Granting Organization will be operational and will have application information around **December 15, 2017** and anticipates accepting applications **January 2, 2018.** These dates are subject to change. Visit [www.weteachmore.org](http://www.weteachmore.org) for up-to-date details.

I thank you for entrusting your children to us. We are working together to help them discover who they are, and to reinforce that they are loveable and capable in the sight of God and others. We appreciate your investment of treasure and of trust.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. John Merkellis, OSA." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Fr. John Merkellis, OSA  
Acting President



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## 2018-2019 Student Enrollment Reservation Form

We are looking forward to continuing our educational journey with our students while we continue to grow as a community in *Truth, Unity and Love*.

To confirm our student enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year, please return this form and payment to the attention of our Tuition Officer, Laura Ziesmer **no later than Wednesday, January 17, 2018**. If you have any questions, please contact her at 815-717-3176 or at [laziesmer@providencethecatholic.org](mailto:laziesmer@providencethecatholic.org).

Providence Catholic requires an enrollment reservation fee of **\$100 per student** which will be applied to next year's tuition. This fee is payable by cash, or check made payable to Providence Catholic.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST M.I. (Soph/Jr/Sr)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST M.I. (Soph/Jr/Sr)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST M.I. (Soph/Jr/Sr)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST M.I. (Soph/Jr/Sr)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

\*The enclosed payment is non-refundable. Should your student not return to Providence Catholic for the 2018-2019 school year, this payment will be considered a donation to the school.

\*Please note: Information re: enrollment for the Freshmen Class of 2022, may be found at [providencethecatholic.org](http://providencethecatholic.org) under our "Future Students" link.

## WHAT STEPS DO I NEED TO TAKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM?

To participate in the program the parent/custodian and student:

- must select a qualified school and apply for admission
- comply with the qualified school's published policies; and
- apply for a scholarship through the Scholarship Granting Organization
- authorize the Scholarship Granting Organization to access information needed for income eligibility determinations.

## WHERE DO WE GO TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?

The Scholarship Granting Organization is in the process of being created.

As soon as we have information on how the application process will work, we will let interested families know.

To be sure that you are notified when the application process is determined, you are encouraged to contact your local Catholic School and let them know to add you to their list of potential applicants.



[www.weteachmore.org](http://www.weteachmore.org)

## PRIVATE SCHOOL TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



2017-2018

## TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The State of Illinois recently passed the Invest in Kids Act to help provide families funding to attend the private school of their choice. The Tax Credit Scholarship Program begins in January 2018 and will automatically expire January 2023 unless it is extended by the legislature.

## WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP?

Initially, students whose families earn 300% of the federal poverty level or less are eligible for the scholarship. Once a student receives a scholarship, his or her family can earn up to 400% of the federal poverty level.

From January 1 to April 1, priority will be given to students from each of the following categories:

- Students who received a scholarship from a SGO during the previous school year;
- Students who are members of a household whose previous year's total annual income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level
- Students who reside within a focus district; and
- Students who are siblings of students currently receiving a scholarship.

After April 1, all other qualifying students will be able to receive scholarships.

### Current Level of Qualifying Income (2018)

Household Size	Max Annual Income 185%	185%-250%	251%-300%
1	\$22,311	\$30,150	\$36,180
2	\$30,044	\$40,600	\$48,720
3	\$37,777	\$51,050	\$61,260
4	\$45,510	\$61,500	\$73,800
5	\$53,243	\$71,950	\$86,340
6	\$60,976	\$82,400	\$98,880
7	\$68,709	\$92,850	\$111,420
8	\$76,442	\$103,300	\$123,600
9	\$84,175	\$113,750	\$136,500
10	\$91,908	\$124,200	\$149,040
11	\$99,641	\$134,650	\$161,580
12	\$107,374	\$145,100	\$174,120

## HOW DOES A SGO DETERMINE THE SIZE OF A SCHOLARSHIP A STUDENT RECEIVES?

In order to qualify for a scholarship, a student's family will have to give official documentation to the SGO of their ability to pay.

Based on how a student's household income compares to the federal poverty level, a student will receive the following:

- For students whose household income is less than 185%, the scholarship will be 100% of tuition and necessary fees;
- For students whose household income is between 185% and 250%, scholarships will average 75% of tuition and necessary fees; and
- For students whose household income is above 250%, scholarships will average 50% of tuition and necessary fees.

## WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP A STUDENT CAN RECEIVE?

Tuition and necessary fees or the statewide average operating expense per student, whichever is lower.

- For the current year, the statewide average operating expense per student is \$12,280.
- Students identified as gifted and talented can receive a maximum scholarship amount of \$13,508.
- Students identified as English Language Learners can receive a maximum scholarship amount of \$14,736.
- Students identified as eligible to receive services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act can receive a maximum scholarship amount of \$24,560.

## HOW WILL IT BE DETERMINED WHETHER STUDENTS ARE BENEFITING FROM THIS PROGRAM?

All students who receive scholarships will be required to take the state assessment.

ISBE will select an independent research organization to conduct an annual study examining the year-to-year learning gains of students receiving scholarships and a comparison of these learning gains to public school students with similar demographic backgrounds.

# TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FAQs



- 1 What is a Tax Credit Scholarship Program?**

It allows individuals and corporations to donate to scholarship granting organizations (SGO) and receive a credit on their state taxes in return. These organizations will then use this money to grant scholarships to qualifying students.
- 2 How much is the credit worth?**

An individual or corporate donor will receive a 75 percent credit on their donation. This means that if a donor donates \$10,000, they will receive a state tax credit of \$7,500. Donations by both individual and corporate donors are capped at \$1 million. Individual donors can direct their donations to the school or subset of schools of their choice. Corporate donors cannot designate. The credit is non-refundable, but it can be carried forward for five years.
- 3 Can a donor receive a federal tax deduction in addition to a state tax credit for the same donation?**

No. The legislation specifically prohibits this.
- 4 Is there program cap?**

Yes, there is a cap of \$75 million per year. The cap indicates the amount of tax credits that can be handed out; it does not cap the amount of scholarships that can be distributed under the program. In order for the \$75 million cap to be hit, \$100 million will have to be donated.
- 5 How does that donation process work?**

Beginning on January 1, 2018, individual and corporate donors will be able to reserve tax credits on an Illinois Department of Revenue website. They will then have 60 days to donate the amount they reserved to the SGO of their choice. After donating, they will receive a certificate of receipt from the SGO, indicating that a donation was made. The SGO will then notify the Department of Revenue that a donation was made. If a donor doesn't donate, rescinds their donation, or gives less than they indicated to the Department of Revenue, they will not receive ANY tax credit.
- 6 Will all scholarships go to Chicago?**

No. There is a requirement in the new law that the Department of Revenue ensures distribution of scholarships throughout the entire state.
- 7 What is an SGO?**

A scholarship granting organization (SGO) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose primary aim is to give scholarships to students attending non-public schools.



## 8 What are SGO regulations?

1. An SGO must be approved by the Illinois Department of Revenue before donors can receive a tax credit for donating to it;
2. An SGO must use at least 95% of donations during a taxable year for scholarships;
3. An SGO cannot be operated by an individual who has filed for individual or corporate bankruptcy in the last seven years;
4. An SGO cannot be operated by an individual who owns or operates a school that participates in the program or who has a family member who is a paid staff or board member of a school that participates in the program;
5. An SGO must abide by federal anti-discrimination provisions;
6. An SGO must distribute at least 75% of money raised in the form of scholarships each school year; and
7. An SGO must only give scholarships to eligible students attending participating schools.

## 9 Which students qualify for scholarships?

Initially, students whose families earn 300 percent of the federal poverty level or less (\$73,800 for a family of four) will qualify. Once a student receives a scholarship, his or her family can earn up to 400% of the federal poverty level (\$98,400 for a family of four).

From January 1 to April 1, priority will be given to students from each of the following categories:

- Students who received a scholarship from an SGO during the previous school year;
- Students who are members of a household whose previous year's total annual income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level (\$45,510 for a family of four);
- Students who reside within a focus district; and
- Students who are siblings of students currently receiving a scholarship.

After April 1, all other qualifying students will be able to receive scholarships.

## 10 How does an SGO determine the size of a scholarship a student receives?

To qualify for a scholarship, a student's family will have to give official documentation to the SGO of their ability to pay. Based on how a student's household income compares to the federal poverty level, a student will receive the following:

- For students whose household income is less than 185% of the federal poverty level, the scholarship will be 100 percent of tuition and necessary fees;
- For students whose household income is between 185% -250% of the federal poverty level, scholarships will average 75% of tuition and necessary fees; and
- For students whose household income is above 250% of the federal poverty level, scholarships will average 50% of tuition and necessary fees.

## 11 What is the maximum amount of scholarship a student can receive?

Tuition and necessary fees of the school to be attended or the statewide average operating expense per student, whichever is lower. For the current year, the statewide average operating expense per student is \$12,280. Students identified as gifted and talented can receive a maximum scholarship amount of 1.1 times the statewide average operating expense, or \$13,508. Students identified as English Language Learners can receive a maximum scholarship amount of 1.2 times the statewide average operating expense, or \$14,736. Students identified as eligible to receive services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act can receive a maximum scholarship amount of 2 times the statewide average operating expense, or \$24,560.

## 12 How will it be determined whether students are benefiting from this program?

All students who receive scholarships will be required to take the state assessment. The Illinois State Board of Education will select an independent research organization to conduct an annual study examining the year-to-year learning gains of students receiving scholarships and a comparison of these learning gains to public school students with similar demographic backgrounds. All unused tax credits will be put back into the program until the cap is hit.