



Good Shepherd Charger News

“Here I Stand”

1 Corinthians 16:13

Twentieth Edition
January 12, 2018

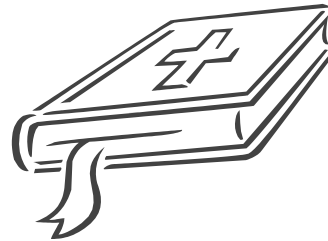
1300 Beltline
Collinsville, IL 62234
618-344-3153

Something to Consider:

Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”
John 15:13-14

One way God puts His arms around you is through your circle of friends. Whom has He brought into your life? Picture

their faces. Think of the ways God has shown His love to you through them. Then, do something to show that you love them in return. Pray for them. You can support your friends in many ways. You can join them in celebrating their victories, walk beside them when they need moral support, and just share a laugh to brighten up the day. But, taking time to ask God to



care for them, in ways only He can, is a true sign of friendship.

Charger Headlines:

Thank You for the Many Gifts
“Thank You” from the school office for the many gracious gifts, goodies, and cards that were received. Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated!

Prospective Student Open House

Good Shepherd Lutheran School announces that it will hold open houses on Sunday, January 21st, February 25th, and March 18th from 1-3 p.m. for Pre-Kindergarten—grade 8.

These events will focus on touring the facility and meeting with the teachers. This would be a great time for families to find out about a Christian education.

Invite your friends/neighbors to attend this Open House to help promote the 2018-19 school year. 2018-19 school year.

Open Enrollment 2018-2019 School Year

Registration is now open for new and returning families. We urge you to please register

NOW! Early registration will assure your student's placement and is vital to our ability to plan staff and materials for the upcoming year. The registration fee for: Kdg.-8th grade is \$220 Pre-School is \$100.00. Please note that for returning families enrolling by February 10th ONLY, the pre-registration fees can be split into 1 to 4 monthly payments. It is important to note that enrollment must be complete, non-refundable registration fee paid in full and tuition agreement submitted to secure your student's priority status for classroom placement.

Tax Credits For Non-public Schools

Website empowerillinois.org
The State of Illinois passed a comprehensive education funding bill this past August 2017 that was signed into law. The law includes a provision for tax credit scholarships—a 75% income tax credit to individuals and busi-

nesses—supporting non-public school scholarships for low-income students in the state. Illinois students from low-income families may use these new scholarships to attend a non-public school of their choice.

* Donors must apply for the credit via an application process that opens at midnight January 2, 2018; credits are issued on a first come, first served basis.

* Individual donors can designate that their donation be used to support scholarships at a specific school.

We encourage you to begin the process starting January 2, 2018. If you know of a corporation which may be interested, please notify your school. See the attached flier for more information.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMmD4YPO-wghIgbNDF1C_dFk_MB0xGiZwKiFRFyEE8X0jmQ/formResponse

A Look Ahead

Monday, January 15
-NO SCHOOL; Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday

Tuesday, Jan. 16
-GSLs Change Drive Through Friday 19th
-Boys AC Basketball at Bethalto 6:30pm

Wednesday, January 17
-GSLs Change Drive Continues

Thursday January 18
-Chapel 8:25am

-GSLs Change Drive Continues
-Boys AB Basketball at St. Boniface 6:00pm
-Girls AC Basketball Home vs Unity 6:00pm

Friday January 19
-GSLs Change Drive Concludes

Saturday, January 20
-GSLs Uniform Resale Shop 9:00am-Noon in the cafeteria



Charger Headlines Continues...

Charger Bucks - Scrip

Weekly orders will be on January 22nd, & 29th; February 5th, 12th, & 26th. The green order sheets need to be turned in to the school office by 9:00am on Mondays to be processed that week.

Walk-up sales will be after school on Fridays 3:00-3:30pm and will continue on Sunday mornings between services. If you have any questions please contact the school office 344-3153. Tell your family & friends about this program - anyone may participate!

GSLs Resale Shop

Mark your calendar for the GSLs Uniform Resale Shop that will be held on Saturday, January 20th from 9:00am to noon at GSLs. We are looking for volunteers to help with the event, donate standardized dress-clothing, and of course shoppers! Please contact Mrs. Rayburn at 618-520-9948 with questions or if you can volunteer to help.

Box Tops and Labels

Mrs. Krause's Kindergarten class has won December Box Tops and Labels Collection! The winning class for the Box Tops and Labels program contest for the month of December is Mrs. Krause's (K-1). Mrs.

Krause's students collected 1,494 box tops and labels with an average of 83 per student. We ended November with a total of 8,078 box tops and labels and added 2,831 more in December, for a total of 10,909 box tops and labels collected for the 2017-2018 school year so far. Way to Go Chargers!!

We no longer can accept any Campbell's Labels for Education. Unfortunately, the program has been discontinued.

The next collection date for the Box Tops for Education will be Tuesday, January 30th. Please continue to collect as many Box Tops to help support our wonderful school!

Team Up With Teachers

Partnership is essential in educating children. It's not easy to hear bad news from teachers, such as "Your child is misbehaving in class". But, try to keep a positive attitude. Ask for specifics. The problem may not be too serious. With team work, your family and the teacher can probably solve it.

GSLs Change Drive

The Good Shepherd Lutheran School Change Drive will be held Monday, January 8th through Friday, January 19th. Please consider donating your loose change to this cause. The money collected will benefit our

school auction.

Collection containers for grades preschool - grade 1 will be in the Early Childhood Center lobby. Grades 2-8 containers will be located in the school lobby. Students will be receiving special dress days for each level their grade reaches. See the attached flier.

Schnucks Bags 4 My Cause

We have some very exciting news! Good Shepherd has been chosen by Schnucks located on Belt Line Rd., Collinsville, as the latest beneficiary of the Schnucks - Bags 4 My Cause program! During the entire month of January 2018, every time the reusable Giving bag with the message "Giving is in the Bag" is purchased at the Schnucks on Belt Line Rd., GSLs will receive \$1!

This is truly a great opportunity for us to be chosen! Please go to the store, find the reusable bag rack and buy a few. Giving bags in support of Good Shepherd Lutheran School. And remember to spread the word - the more bags purchased, the bigger donation to GSLs. For more information about the Schnucks - Bags 4 My Cause program visit schnucks.bags4mycause.com.

In Our Prayers this Week:

Each week this school year, the faculty will be praying for the school families. Please remember these and others in your prayers.

The families of Mrs. Maske's homeroom: Claire G., Henry G., Ava I., Lizzie J., Elise K.; and Mrs. Batty's homeroom: Kaitlyn P,

Connor S., Jacob S, Autumn W, Ian W.

Auction Up-dates

Shopping for Auctions Donations

When out shopping, please keep the Good Shepherd Lutheran School Benefit Auction in mind. Many of those deals would make great auction donations.

Auction Volunteers Needed

GSLs Auction is scheduled on Saturday, March 17th to be held on campus. Volunteers are needed to help make this a great auction. Remember, if you can only do a small amount, that is valuable and needed! Please contact the school office.

Auction Donations

Yes! YOU can get involved by donating an item or service or attending the Good Shepherd Lutheran School Auction.

Everyone should be given the opportunity to contribute to this annual fundraiser. Your individual participation is needed for this event to succeed! Please participate for our students!

Homeroom Basket Themes

3 Yr. Old PK	Arts & Crafts for Kids
4 Yr. Old PK	We Love Our Pets
Kindergarten	Lego Boys & Lego Girls
1st Grade	In the Garden
2nd Grade	Summer Time Fun
3rd Grade	Games & Puzzles
4th Grade	Let's Go Camping
5th Grade	Get Grilling
6th Grade	Family Movie Night
Ms. Comb's Jr. H.	Spa Day
Mr. Rinker's Jr. H.	Restaurant Basket

The purpose of Good Shepherd Lutheran School is to provide each student with a quality Christian Education. We recognize that this begins with the premise that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and in Him we have eternal life. The curriculum and all activities are developed around this premise.

Retreads...

Emergency Closing

If school must be closed due to the weather, parents will be notified. In addition, you can listen to your radio or TV for:

Good Shepherd, Collinsville. Good Shepherd Collinsville's name will be listed.

Please do not call the school or teachers and other workers at their homes.

Listen to radio stations: KMOX (1120), KXOX (630), WIL-FM (92.3), WRYT (1080), & WIBV (1260). TV stations KMOV (4) or KSDK (5).

Good Shepherd Collinsville does NOT follow Collinsville Unit 10's plan for the late start or closings. At Good Shepherd, if school is in session it will start at the regular time.

Should parents decide to pick their child up early due to weather, please call the school office in advance.

Game Cancelled

The Boys AD Basketball game with Maryville Christian on Fri., January 19th has been cancelled.

Young Authors

Reminder, Young Author books are due Fri., Jan. 26th. Please feel free to ask for additional help from your child's teacher.

Tardy Slips

Students arriving late to school must have a tardy slip to enter the classroom after the bell has rung. When you sign in your child, the student will be given a tardy slip to take to the teacher. Arriving late due to an appointment, please bring an excuse from the doctor's or dentist's office.

Tardiness

School tardiness and absences can make a child fall behind. This can become a problem if the occurrence begins to become habitual.

So what is the impact of tardiness on school success? Students who are on time to school are more successful. Schools stress the need for students to get to school and class on time and with good reason. Studies conducted by the U.S.

Department of education on truancy, which is connected with tardiness, show that school attendance is a major factor when it comes to school and student behavior.

So what are the problems with tardiness? The most crucial learning hours of the school day are the morning hours, because they are when students are most attentive. Students who are tardy miss the beginning of their morning classes, and they also cause a distraction when they arrive late to class.

So how does this effect Academics and Achievement?

Students who are frequently tardy have lower GPAs, lower scores on standardized assessments, and lower graduation rates, Chronic tardiness in elementary and middle school is also linked to failure in high school.

It is our goal at GSLS to provide every child the opportunity to learn, but this becomes a problem when one is tardy or absent. We need to partner together so both parties see the importance. Questions are welcomed.

Box Tops Program

The next turn in date for the Box Tops and Labels program is Tuesday, January 30th. Please send the trimmed box tops and labels to your child's homeroom.

Just a quick reminder: December was the last month we can collect the Campbell's Soup Labels for Education. Unfortunately, they are discontinuing the program.

Recycling Bins

As a reminder, cardboard is not accepted in our recycling bins. Please continue to recycle your newspapers, aluminum and magazines. Thank you to those who have been participating in this program.

Schwan's Care's

GSLS is offering the opportunity for you to sign up to purchase Schwan's products while helping the class of 2018 earn funds for their class trip. Questions, please call Mrs. Dixon, 618-578-8480.

Parking Lot Driving

It is very important that when driving in the parking lot:

1. please drive slowly when arriving and departing
2. please drive without talking on a cell phone.

It is important as a driver, be aware that children/parents are walking in the parking lot.

Questions are always welcome. Mr. Mayhew.

Items Needed

GSLS is collecting various items for the new Learning Center. This will be used for students and teachers to integrate STEM into classroom activities. Items needed include: stencils, craft sticks, sealable sandwich bags, waxed paper, sewing trim, fabric scraps, sandpaper, wood scraps, Styrofoam, Christmas bows/ribbon, tissue paper, old game pieces, packaging materials, hardware items (nuts, bolts, washers), and scrap paper. We also need permanent and washable markers, liquid glue, glue sticks, and scissors. Items can be new or used. Collection bins are located in the ECC or school lobby. Items can be brought in throughout the school year. Please contact the school office with any questions. Thank you for supporting GSLS!

Coats, Hats, and Gloves

As the weather is getting colder, remind your children to wear warm outerwear including gloves, hats scarves, and boots. Please note hooded garments are for outdoors purpose only.

STUDENTS: HOW TO APPLY FOR A TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

FAMILIES OF K-12 STUDENTS CAN APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS BEGINNING JANUARY 24, 2018.

The Tax Credit Scholarship will cover up to 100% of private school tuition up to a maximum of the average Illinois cost to educate, which is roughly \$13,000.

Students with unique learning needs, including those who are gifted, English language learners, or those with special education qualifications, will receive larger scholarships — up to double— roughly \$26,000.

Tax Credit Scholarships are need based and do not take academic performance into consideration.

THE PROCESS

01. Families submit a complete application. See below for what an application requires.

02. Families are notified of their application status.

03. Students begin school admission and enrollment process.*

04. Scholarship award notifications are sent to families beginning in February and continue until available funds are used.

05. Funds will be distributed to schools at the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Empower Illinois will work directly with schools and organizations to distribute funds.

- The school admission process is separate from the scholarship process. A scholarship does not guarantee admittance.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- A copy of your family's 2016 federal tax return. If the family did not file a 2016 tax return, please contact us at info@empowerillinois.org
- Proof of Illinois residency, such as:
 - Current utility bill
 - Current driver license
- Documentation of the student's age, such as:
 - A copy of the student's birth certificate
 - Federal or State ID
 - A passport
- If available, a letter of acceptance or enrollment at an eligible, participating, non-public school.

empowerillinois.org

A proud participant in the



Scholarship Granting Organization

ABOUT THE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

INVEST IN KIDS ACT.

Illinois enacted the Invest In Kids Scholarship Tax Credit Program in 2017. This program offers a 75 percent income tax credit to individuals and businesses that contribute to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs). The SGOs then provide scholarships for students whose families meet the income requirements to attend qualified, non-public schools in Illinois.

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS.

The Tax Credit Scholarship will cover up to 100% of private school tuition up to a maximum of the average Illinois cost to educate which is roughly \$13,000.

Students with unique learning needs, including those who are gifted, English language learners, or those with special education qualifications, will receive larger scholarships — up to double— roughly \$26,000. Key information about the program and donating to these scholarships can be found below.

EMPOWER ILLINOIS.

Empower Illinois is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit SGO responsible for serving approximately 80% of participating private schools statewide; including all of Illinois' Catholic Dioceses, most area Jewish schools, Lutheran Schools, secular schools and many more. Empower Illinois is responsible for:

- Processing donations from individuals and corporations;
- Accepting scholarship applications from students/families; and
- Distributing scholarships to eligible students/families in accordance with the law.

TAX CREDITS.

Individual and corporate donors may receive a credit for their Illinois state taxes equal to 75 percent of donations to an SGO.

- A taxpayer donates \$10,000 to an SGO; they are eligible to claim a \$7,500 tax credit on their 2018 taxes.

Tax credits are capped at \$1 million per taxpayer per year; a donor can contribute about \$1.33 million to receive the maximum tax credit allowed. Donors cannot receive a federal deduction for gifts made through this program, but the net tax benefit to all donors is expected to be greater than ordinary charitable donations of an equal amount. Total tax credits are capped at \$75 million per year statewide, which equates to \$100 million in donations and scholarships. Please consult a tax professional to determine how such gifts will affect tax liability.

DESIGNATING DONATIONS.

Individuals may direct their donations to a particular school or subset of schools, but not to an individual student or group of students. Corporate donors cannot designate their donations to a particular school.

DONATION PROCESS.

Donors can begin the process by registering with mytax.illinois.gov. After the registration process, which can take up to 10 business days, donors will be ready to reserve their tax credit beginning January 2 on a first-come, first served basis. When reserving their tax credit, donors should select Empower Illinois as the Scholarship Granting Organization. Once their credit has been reserved, they have 60 days to make their donation to an SGO.

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.

To be considered for a 2018-2019 scholarship, K-12 students must come from a household with income below 300 percent of the federal poverty level (\$73,800 for family of four). Prior to April 1, priority will be given to:

- Students from households below 185 percent of the federal poverty level (\$45,510 for family of four)
- Students who reside in a "focus district" (low-performing public schools)





Southern Illinois District—LCMS

2408 Lebanon Avenue, Belleville, Illinois 62221 (618-234-4767)

<http://sidlcms.org>

Rev. Timothy J. Scharr, President

Rev. Dr. Alvin Kollmann, President Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr., President Emeritus

Mr. Jeffrey Fick, Schools and General Executive

LCMS Lutheran Schools in Illinois have the greatest opportunity in our time to plan and act in alignment with God's calling to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the children and families in our communities!

Tax Credits for Donations to Non-Public Schools

The State of Illinois passed a comprehensive education funding bill this past August (2017) that was signed into law. The law includes a provision for tax credit scholarships – **a 75% income tax credit to individuals and businesses** – supporting non-public school scholarships for low-income students in the state. **Illinois students from low-income families may use these new scholarships to attend a non-public school of their choice.**

The basics of the program are as follows:

- Beginning in 2018, Illinois donor residents and corporations are eligible for a tax credit equal to 75% of donations made to a qualifying Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), up to \$1 million.
- Donors must apply for the credit via an application process that opens at midnight on January 2, 2018; credits are issued on a first come, first served basis.
- Individual donors can designate that their donation be used to support scholarships at a specific school.
- Once approved for a tax credit, the donor must make their donation to the SGO within 60 days of their application date.

How Do I Make My Donation and Get My Credit?

Empower Illinois, a statewide Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) was created in 2017 to serve Illinois children through the state's tax credit scholarship program. Empower Illinois connects Tax Credit Scholarship Donations to Illinois students whose education opportunities may be limited by household income.

1. Begin the process by registering/activating your account with www.mytax.illinois.gov.
2. An ID letter will arrive in the mail (can take up to 10 business days). Sign-up/activate your www.mytax.illinois.gov account.
3. Reserve your tax credit beginning January 2, 2018. The opportunity will be on a first-come, first served basis. You are encouraged to reserve yours as soon as possible.
4. Once credit has been reserved, you have 60 days to make your donation Empower Illinois at www.EmpowerIllinois.org. Do not send your donation directly to the school.
5. Claim your tax credit when you file your 2018 Illinois State Taxes.

We encourage you to begin the process as soon as possible as donations can first be made starting January 2, 2018. If you know of a corporation which may be interested in this program, please notify your school leader. To learn more about how the State Tax Credit program works, please talk with your school leader or speak with Mr. Jeffrey Fick at the Southern Illinois District Office - LCMS. 618-234-4767 or email: sidlcmsmessage@gmail.org.

THIS GREAT LOOKING BAG
GENERATES A \$1
DONATION TO US
WHEN PURCHASED!

REALLY!



Thanks for all
your support!

SAVE THE DATE

34th Annual GSLS Benefit Auction

March 17, 2018

Doors open at 5:30pm

Silent Auction, Dinner, Live Auction

Come for food, fundraising, and fellowship!

\$30/person





Annual Coin Drive

January 8th — January 19th

Pre K—1st grade in ECC Lobby

2nd –8th Grade in Main lobby

The class that raises the highest dollar amount earns a pizza and ice cream party!

There are also special dress days as we reach each goal level.

Tier 1 Jeans or Pajama Bottoms with Standardized Shirt

Tier 2 Pajama Day

Tier 3 Free Dress day