



# Good Shepherd Charger News

“Here I Stand”

1 Corinthians 16:13

## Something to Consider:

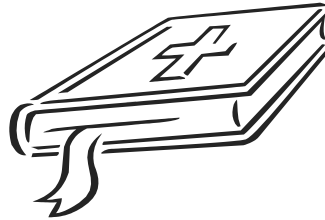
**There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of Life set me free from the law of sin and death. –**

**Romans 8:1-2**

If you break your favorite vase, no amount of glue can return it to its original beauty. The cracks will always show. By choosing your own way over God's, breaks your relationship with Him. But, God offers something that will

not only mend this relationship, but make it as good as new....His forgiveness.

All you need to do to receive God's forgiveness is ask for it. It sounds easy, but acknowledging your deep need for God means putting aside your pride. It means getting down on your knees physically or mentally and reaching up to the One who is reaching down to you. Take time to do



that now. Do it as often as you need to. God's forgiveness knows no end and His love endure forever!

## Charger Headlines:

### Scholarships for 2018-2019 School Year

Please note that if you are applying for a scholarship for the 2018-2019 school year you will need to select "Lutheran Elementary School Association" (LESA) Building Blocks Scholarships on the online application. It is through this selection that the application information will be made available for LESA's review and award consideration. Without this selection, LESA will be unable to view the application, and as a result, students will not have access to LESA funding.

\*Remember, all TADS financial aid applications must be submitted with all documentation submitted prior to March 15th to have the best possible opportunity for scholarships.

### Invest in Kids

Additionally, this year you may be eligible for the Invest in Kids Scholarship. Initially, students whose families earn 300% of the federal poverty level or less for the

previous year before he or she initially receives a scholarship under the program (\$73,800 for a family of four) 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). For more information about this new scholarship opportunity, please see the following pages or visit: [empowerillinois.org](http://empowerillinois.org)

### Financial Aid

Scholarship forms are available on the school website. Students entering Kindergarten-Full Day, and Grades 1 - 8 are eligible for financial aid. Financial Aid may be available to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church members from GSLC. If you are a member of GSLC, please include your preschool students on your application. Remember, early submission of financial aid applications afford you the best possible opportunity for financial aid. All applications should be complete prior to March 15, 2018. For questions please

contact the school office.

### Kindergarten Open House

Tuesday, January 30th, we will be hosting a Kindergarten New Enrollment Open House for prospective students at 7:00pm. Please invite your neighbors, family and friends who may be looking for a great Christian education for their kindergarten child.

### Papa John's Pizza Night

Papa John's Pizza night is Mon., Jan. 29th. Thank you for supporting GSLC at Papa John's Pizza.

### Emmis School Spirit Award

The Emmis School Spirit Award is back and it's our chance to get five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for our school! The school with the most votes will win five thousand dollars (\$5,000). Log on to register and begin voting today!!! Please note that participants must accurately complete all required fields or entry will be deemed invalid. Each participant/user is allowed to vote EVERY 15 MINUTES. Register by clicking the link: <http://www.971talk.com/content/5th-annual-school-spirit-award>

Twenty-second Edition  
January 26, 2018

1300 Beltline  
Collinsville, IL 62234  
618-344-3153

### A Look Ahead

#### Saturday, January 27

-Boys Pee Wee Basketball  
8:00am  
-Girls & Boys A Basketball  
Regional Tournament  
Concludes

-Boys C Basketball Prairie-  
town Tournament Concludes

#### Sunday, January 28

-Cherub Choir 8:00am  
-Christ's Kids Choir 10:30am

#### Monday, January 29

-Charger Bucks—Scrip  
Orders Due by 9:00am  
-Papa John's Pizza Night

#### Tuesday, January 30

-Boxtops and Labels Pick-up  
-Kdg. New Enrollment Open  
House 7:00pm  
-Girls and Boys A Basketball  
Conference Tournament at  
GSLC Through Feb. 3rd;  
Girls 5:00 & Boys 6:30pm

#### Thursday February 1

-Chapel 8:25am  
-Preschool Spring Pictures,  
(for PS students that  
attend on Thursday)

#### Friday, February 2

-Mid Quarter Point  
-PS – Gr. 8 Spring Pictures  
-Winter Sports Pictures  
Before School 7:00am  
Team Pictures will be taken  
first



# Charger Headlines Continues...

## Charger Bucks - Scrip

Weekly orders will be on January 29th; February 5th, 12th, & 26th; March 5th & 19th. 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!

## Thank You

God BLESSED us with a GREAT 2018 National Lutheran Schools Week. We thank the following people for their efforts to plan and help make this week special:

- \*NLSW Committee Chair: Mrs. Bedard
- \*Opening Devotions: Teachers, students, Mr. Sengele, and board members
- \*Hallway Decorations: Mrs. Lingafelter, Mrs. Rincker, and the student body
- \*Rock Service Project: Mr. Rincker, Mrs. Daniels, and student body
- \*Publicity: Mr. Krueger and Mrs. Schnicker
- \*Spelling Bee: Mrs. Daniels, Mr. Mayhew, and Mr. Hoffman
- \*Milk and Munchies: Mrs. Italiano, Mrs. Petersen, parent and student helpers
- \*Mad About Science Assembly: Mrs. Rincker
- \*8th grade vs. faculty volleyball game:

Faculty and students

- \*Science Fair: Mr. Rincker, Mr. Krueger, judges, grade level teachers and students
- \*Esther the Comfort Dog Assembly and Service Project; Mrs. Daniels and GSLS students
- \*Sunday worship participants: Teachers and student bands and choirs

## GSLS Science Fair

Congratulations to those students who participated in the GSLS Science Fair. Results are available on the following pages and on school bulletin board.

Congratulations also to our Jr. FLL and FLL groups on sharing their projects.

## Auction Basket Drive

Please stop by the school lobby and consider selecting a basket theme from the auction display board. Peek under the colorful apples for great ideas for a list of possible basket items. Baskets may be dropped off in the school office by Fri., Feb. 16.

## Prospective Student Open House

Good Shepherd Lutheran School announces that it will hold open houses on Sunday, 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.

## Box Tops and Labels

The turn in date for the Box Top & Label Program is Tues, Jan. 30th. Please send in your trimmed box tops and labels to your child's homeroom.

## Re-Sale Shop

Thank you to the 5th grade for sponsoring the Standardized Dress Re-Sale Shop. This year's sale earned \$320. Proceeds from this event benefit GSLS Scholarship Fund!

## Congratulations Spelling Bee

Gr. 1	1st Place: Jack Z. 2nd Place: Liam D.
Gr. 2	1st Place: Bradley W. 2nd Place: Jonah S.
Gr. 3	1st Place: Hayden S. 2nd Place: Dean H.
Gr. 4	1st Place: Nolan R. 2nd Place: Drake W.
Gr. 5	1st Place: Olivia S. 2nd Place: Madelyn Z.
Gr. 6	1st Place: Katie B. 2nd Place: Troy C.
Gr. 7-8	1st Place: Elliot J. 2nd Place: Kasondra M.

Elliot J. will represent GSLS at McKendree University in Lebanon, IL on Saturday, March 10th.

## In Our Prayers this Week:

Each week this school year, the faculty will be praying for the school families. Please re-

member these and others in your prayers. The families of Mrs. Rincker's homeroom:

Jonah S., Calista S., Owen T., Lily W., Bradley W., Teagan W., Josie 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
Mrs. Hasamear'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.

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# Retreads...

## High Honor Roll with Distinction

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Matthew H., Megan H., MaryAnn R., Anna R., Garrett S., Sydney S., Jenae W.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Elliot J., Elizabeth M., Jake W.

## High Honor Roll

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Lars G., Khushi J., Alice K., Claire L., Trevor P., Maggie S.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Lillie C., Eli G., Jordan G., Abigail G., Megan J., Kathleen M., Samuel S., Sophia T., Gavin T.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Katherine B., Adam B., Troy C., Grace C., Alex H., Emma H., Olivia J., Douglas K., Alexander L., Logan M., Harrison M., Morgan O., Clara R., Nyah R., Davin R., Meghan S., Nathan S.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Danielle C., Rebekah D., Joseph F., Carter H., Emma H., Thomas H., Kate J., Evan K., Jacob K., Savannah L., Addie L., Catrina L., Andrew M., Jack P., Drake P., Timothy R., Ryder R., Lucas R., Olivia S., Evan W., Chloe W., Madelyn Z.

## Honor Roll

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Emma B., Kyle C., Carson C., Autumn D., Madelyn G., Eli L., Beau S., Carmen S. Logan W.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Jakob F., Kasondra M., Jacob M., Elliott W.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Emily P.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Augustus J., Tannan N., Connor P., Kade S., Ryan S.

## Winter Sports Pictures

Remember to wear your uniforms for the winter sports pictures which will be taken before school Friday, February 2nd.

## Spring Pictures

Spring Pictures are scheduled for Thursday, February 1st for ECC and Friday, February 2nd for Kdg. - Grade 8. Picture selection forms were sent home. Choose from poses on the selection form and bring it to school on Picture Day. Students will have an option of dressing up nicer than our standardized dress policy this day. The expectation for dress for that day is our standardized dress or better.

T-shirts, jeans, jean shirts, cargo pants, etc. will not be allowed. All choices must still fit within our dress code guidelines (i.e., length, modesty, etc.).

Look before you buy. Send no money now! Your pictures will be sent home for your review. Any uncut portrait sheets should be returned with your payment.

## 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 registra-

tion 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.

## First Lego League Update

Our FIRST teams have enjoyed a short break after working hard on this year's challenge...Hydro Dynamics. On Dec 9th our 2 FLL teams, (The Flying Ducks and The LEGO Wyverns) competed in the area's FIRST LEGO League challenge in Troy. Both teams did a great job! We plan to spend the rest of the school year reviewing the feedback we received from the judges and preparing for next year's challenge. In the meantime, the teams will have their robots on display at the Science Fair. If you'd like to see what they've built, or if you want to talk to any of us about the program, be sure to stop by!

## Schnucks Bags 4 My Cause

Don't forget to visit the Schnucks store at the 501 Belt Line Rd., Collinsville before the end of the month and purchase the Giving Bag! Every bag purchase generates a \$1 donation to Good Shepherd Lu-

theran School.

From Jan. 1-15, 26 bags have been bought. The giving bag(s) sold equals to a \$26.00 donation to GSLS so far!

## Thank You

The Drive 4 UR School Program was very successful with a \$1,720.00 profit. Thank you to Natalie and Jacky Burton for setting up this Ford fundraiser to benefit Good Shepherd Lutheran School.

## Tax Credits For Non-public Schools

Website [empowerillinois.org](http://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 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.

\* 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

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# Retreads Continue...

corporation which may be interested, please notify your school.

See the attached fliers for more information:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMmD4YPO-wghIgbNDF1C\\_dFk\\_MB0xGiZwKiFRFyEEsX0jmQ/formResponse](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMmD4YPO-wghIgbNDF1C_dFk_MB0xGiZwKiFRFyEEsX0jmQ/formResponse)

## **National Lutheran School Week**

Good Shepherd will join other Lutheran schools from across the nation and world in celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week, "Yesterday, Today, and Forever!" January 20th – 26th.

\*The GSLS faculty, choirs and instrumentalists will sing and play during the weekend church services on Jan. 20 & 21.

\*Daily Devotions—The entire school will have devotions Mon.- Wed. & Fri., in the gym 8:25-9:00am. Parents are welcome to join us for the devotions and also for Chapel on Thurs. at 8:25am.

\*On Dress Up Days please keep in mind that we will have a normal school day, so outfits must be play friendly for recess.

\*Milk & Munchies with Parent 7:45-8:00am in the cafeteria each day. See the schedule with the letter of your last name each day next week Monday—Thursday: Letters A-D on Monday, Jan. 22. Letters E-K on Tuesday, Jan 23 Letters L-R on Wed., Jan 24 Letters S-Z on Thur., Jan 25 Students must be with a parent to attend. Preschool parents may choose a day that your child attends

## **Monday, Jan. 22 "Match Your Hat Day"**

...Students dress in a way that matches the hat they choose to wear that day ... ie. cowboy, baseball player, surgeon, farmer, etc.

\*GSLS Science Fair Night in the gym 6:30-8:00pm ... science exhibits from many grade levels along with the FLL and Jr. FLL

## **Tuesday, Jan. 23 "Comfy Cozy Day"**

... Students dress in comfortable clothing, pj's, sweats, etc.

\*Esther the Comfort Dog mini-assembly in the gym following the opening devotions.

\*MAD SCIENCE assembly in the gym from 2:00 - 2:45pm.

You are welcome to join us.

**Wednesday, Jan. 24 "Favorite COLOR Day"**...Students dress from HEAD to TOE in your favorite COLOR!

\*Classroom buddies will be painting faith rocks to be distributed in the neighborhood.

## **Thursday, Jan. 25 "Dress Up Day"**

... Students dress in their very BEST clothing today to honor God with our BEST!

\*SPELLING BEE in the church sanctuary: Grades 1-4 9:10am

Grades 5-8 10:30am

**Friday, Jan. 26 "Lutheran School Spirit Day"**... dress in their G.S.L.S.,

M.E.L.H.S., or Concordia University attire.

\*Faculty vs. 8th grade volleyball game at 2:00pm in the gym.

\*The GSLS Spelling Bee is Thursday, January 25th after Chapel.

Gr. 1-4 9:10am

Gr. 5-8 10:30am

It will be a busy week - but Lutheran Schools are worth celebrating!

## **Open House**

Sunday, January 21st, we will be hosting an Open House for prospective new students from 1 - 3pm. Please invite your neighbors, family and friends who may be looking for a great Christian education for their child.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Lars G. and Megan H.! This Fall, these two eighth grade students had their essays submitted in the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. This is a VFW-sponsored competition that gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. The 2017-2018 theme was "America's Gift to My Generation". Both Lars and Megan's essays were selected out of all the other local schools' submissions. Megan was awarded second place and Lars was awarded first place. Lars' essay went on to the next level of judging, where it was awarded third place out of all

the other VFW post winners! Good Shepherd is proud of these students for using their God-giving talents!

Please register and start voting for our school!!!

The Emmis School Spirit Award is back and it's our chance to get five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for our school! The school with the most votes will win five thousand dollars (\$5,000). It's the biggest School Spirit Award yet! And this year, FM Newstalk 97.1 will award \$2,000 to the 2nd place winner and \$1,000 to the 3rd place school. Log on to register and begin voting today!!! Please note that participants must accurately complete all required fields or entry will be deemed invalid.

Each participant/user is allowed to vote EVERY 15 MINUTES.

Register here: <http://www.971talk.com/conte.../5th-annual-school-spirit-award>



## ***Good Shepherd Lutheran School***

COLLINSVILLE, IL

Established in 1983, Christ-centered, Quality Education. The number one goal of Good Shepherd Lutheran School is to see that each child develops to the fullest of his / her capabilities. Each activity and program is dedicated to our Lord and Savior, thus inspiring each student to dedicate all they do to His service.

# Good Shepherd Lutheran School

## 2018 5th GRADE SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

### Experiment Division

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Category</u>
Emma H.	1-H	Rising Cupcakes	Chemistry
Chloe W.	1-H	Plop Plop Fizz Fizz	Mat. Science
Ryder R.	1-H	How Does Temperature Affect Crystal Growth Rate?	Mat. Science
Tom H.	1-H	The Last Balloon Standing	Mat. Science
Andrew M.	1-H	Amazing Gliders	Aerospace
Jesse S.	1-H	Gliders	Aerospace
Kade S.	1-H	Glider Wars	Aerospace
Drake P.	1-H	CRAZY Crystals	Mat. Science
Timmy R.	1-H	Bread	Chemistry
Savannah L.	1-H	Growing Gummy Bears	Mat. Science
Tannan N.	1-H	Lemon Electricity	Electronics
Catrina L.	1-H	High Flying	Aerospace
Addie L.	1-H	Keeping It Warm	Mat. Science
Carter H.	1-H	Gliders	Aerospace
Joey F.	1-H	Gliders	Aerospace
Dani C.	1-H	Cookie Chaos	Chemistry
Ryan S.	1-M	Gliders	Aerospace
Connor P.	1-M	Rising Bread	Chemistry
Rebe D.	1-M	Brownie Extravaganza	Chemistry
Kaleb B.	3	Borax Crystals	Mat. Science

### Model Division

Miguel B.	Wing Types
Kassi G.	Solar System
Augie J.	The GREAT WHITE SHARK
Kate J.	Volcanoes
Evan K.	Volcanoes
Jacob K.	Bridges
Louis M.	Volcanoes
Jack P.	Tornadoes
Luke R.	Hurricanes
Olivia S.	The PLANT CELL
Evan W.	How DO CLOUDS Form?
Madelyn Z.	Horse Anatomy

# Good Shepherd Lutheran School

## 2018 7th & 8th GRADE SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

### Experiment Division

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Category</u>
*Jakob F.	1-H	Does Video Gaming Effect Sleep	Health Science
*Eli G.	1-H	Stains	Consumer Science
*Jordan G.	1-H	Happy Habits	Behavioral Science
*Elliot J.	1-H	The Electrical Resistance of Water	Electronics
*Blake M.	1-H	Childproof?	Consumer Science
*Abbey G.	1-M	Exploding Menthos	Chemistry
*Marlaina G.	1-M	Which Fruit has the Most Vitamin C?	Chemistry
*Megan J.	1-M	Sturdiness and Wobbliness	Physics
*Lillie C.	1-L	Greener Cleaners	Chemistry
*Domiano L.	1-L	What Liquids do plants like best?	Botany
*Jacob M.	1-L	BLAST OFF!	Physics
*Ellie M.	1-L	Necessary Nostrils	Behavioral Science
*Sam S.	1-L	Stuck Together	Material Science
*Elliott W.	1-L	The Effectiveness of Hand Sanitizers vs. Handwashing on germs	Health Science
Tyler H.	2	Lye Soap	Chemistry
Kasondra M.	2	Keeping It Fresh!	Consumer Science
Derrick Scott	2	Spidget Finner	Physics
Sophie T.	2	Drinking Water: Alkaline or Acidic	Chemistry
Jake W.	2	How High Is Your Bounce?	Physics
Quintin B.	3	Dropping Puck Bombs	Physics
Joey C.	3	Basketball Resilience	Physics
Riquerah G.	3	Does Pepper Move by Itself?	Physics
Katie M.	3	Music Memory	Behavioral Science
Zion T.	3	Why Yawning is Contagious	Behavioral Science
Gavin T.	3	Flight: Fast or Slow	Aerospace

\*- SERC Regional Qualifiers

# 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**





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

REALLY!



Thanks for all  
your support!

# 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.

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**02.** Families are notified of their application status.

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**03.** Students begin school admission and enrollment process.\*

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

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**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.

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- 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](mailto: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](http://empowerillinois.org)

A proud participant in the



Scholarship Granting Organization

# ABOUT THE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## DONATION PROCESS.

Donors can begin the process by registering with [mytax.illinois.gov](http://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.

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## SCHOLARSHIP ELICIBILITY.

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)

