

Saint Hilary School

Where faith, family, and academics thrive!

December 12, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Christmas is a time for cherishing those who bring so many blessings to our lives. May you always believe that Jesus is with you at all times. May you find time to reflect upon the blessings of God. St. Hilary is truly blessed with amazing children and families; know that you are thought of throughout this season of joy.

Please keep our first responders and those in the military in your prayers during this holiday season.

Heavenly Father,

We pray this Christmas season to ask your protection upon those who labor during this special time. We pray you send comfort and warmth to our law enforcement officers, our first responders, and our men and women in uniform, who cannot be with their families tonight. May they have peace, may they encounter kindly faces, and may they keep warm and comfortable. We pray they are able to reflect on this season, its true meaning, and may they feel welcomed to the table you prepare for us in the sight of those who would do us harm. We pray they know our gratitude, that we sleep knowing they stand watch and guard over our homes, our workplaces, and our places of worship. We pray for their safe return to their homes, their loved ones, and their church communities. Oh Lord, we ask your blessing, and we beseech you to be with them in their moment of peril, may your hand protect them, may your justice prevail and thy will be done. God, please bless our officers, our firefighters and first responders. Bless our sailors and troops, and all those who wear the uniform to defend freedom and justice.

We ask this and thank you, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Safety on social media is a reality that all parents must face and be aware of. Many of our children are very active on social media including instagram and snapchat. The faculty, staff, and I work very hard to embrace a family and community atmosphere at St. Hilary. We need your vigilance to help our students continue this while they are at home. Please take some time over the Christmas break to review your child's social media activity, have a conversation with them about the dangers in what they post, and set some boundaries for these activities. Help us keep our children safe in every sense of the word. Thank you.

Invest in Kids Act/Tax Credit Scholarship Update:

- We are starting year 2 of the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship. The two SGOs we partner with will open their applications for the 2019-2020 school year in January. Please have your 2017 tax return, proof of residence, and your child's birth certificate ready to be uploaded to the application. For more information please visit the websites for each SGO or go to the Archdiocese website at <https://schools.archchicago.org/tax-credit-scholarships>
- Empower Illinois – will have a two part application process. Part 1 opens on January 15th at 7:00 pm, Part 2 opens on January 18th and should be completed by Jan. 28th. <https://empowerillinois.org/>
- Big Shoulders Fund SGO - the application will open on January 22nd at 8:00 am. <https://www.bigshouldersfundsgo.org/>

Thank you:

I am incredibly thankful to Mr. Carl Chadek and Mr. Mitchell Clark for organizing our 6th Annual St. Hilary School and Parish Christmas Concert. The concert was a huge success and we received numerous compliments on the warm holiday spirit that was felt by everyone who attended. Thank you to all of our amazing children, talented musicians and singers who made this event so memorable.

Thank you for the generous donations that were given at the concert for our music program. These donations will allow us to continue to grow our amazing music program.

Thank you to Mr. Clark and our fabulous choir members who were able to join us to support The Big Shoulders Fund and spread Christmas joy at the Ogilvie Center last week. Thank you to the parents who were able to drive and car pool our way through the downtown traffic so that this could happen.

On Monday some of our CODAs performed at the St. Hilary Women's Club Christmas Party. Thank you to Mr. Chadek for directing our carolers.

Thank you to Mrs. Czuba, Cyan, Cristian, Sebastian and Jacob for serving us wonderful traditional Pilipino foods as we celebrated Simbang Gabi today.

Reminders:

Each family received a pre-registration Intent to Return Form in their Wednesday envelope (another is in today's envelope). Please read the letter attached and return this form to school as soon as possible.

Athletics:

Basketball season is also in full stride. We encourage participation at our games to show our school spirit. The basketball schedule is available on the school website. Also located on the website are the Archdiocesan and St. Hilary Athletic Handbooks. Both

handbooks clearly state that students must meet eligibility requirements to play an extracurricular sport. The following two quotes can be found in these handbooks:

"The student must perform satisfactorily in the areas of academic effort, behavior, and attitude."

"The athlete must exhibit academic progress as determined by the classroom teacher(s)."

Teachers have been asked to notify me if there are athletes who are in danger of losing their eligibility due to academic performance. Upon this notification, I will contact the parent and the child will receive a one week warning. At the conclusion of that week I will review the current status of eligibility and determine if the athlete is able to continue playing and practicing or if they need to be suspended until progress in their studies improves. As a parent you make great sacrifices to send your child to St. Hilary. Academics is a high priority for all of us. We look forward to working with you and your child so that they are able to enjoy the many activities that we offer.

Queen of Hearts Raffle

This progressive jackpot has been rolling over for a few weeks and the pot is estimated to be \$19,500.00 for this Saturday's drawing. If you have a friend, neighbor, or family member who is interested in purchasing tickets, they are always welcome to do so. Tickets are available for purchase in the main school office, after all weekend masses and at The Claddagh Ring Pub at 2306 W. Foster. **The Queen will be spending time with family so there will NOT be a drawing on Saturday, Dec. 29th. Starting in the new year, the drawing will be moved to Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. The first drawing of the new year will be Friday, January 5th!!**

Mark your Calendars:

All are invited to the Simbang Gabi Filipino traditional mass on Saturday, December 22 at 5:00 p.m. This year the mass will be officiated by Bishop Bartosik. There will be a reception in the gym immediately following the mass.

The Family & School Association will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast to kick off Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 27th. This is an excellent opportunity to earn your family service hours and enjoy a delicious breakfast. More details to follow.

Contents of this Wednesday's envelope:

- Tax Credit Scholarship information
- Intent to Return form
- January lunch menu
- Queen of Hearts flyer
- Youth Ministry meeting flyer

Emergency Closing/Cold Weather

Cold weather: Students will be kept in for indoor recess when the temperature is below 25 degrees (actually or with wind chill) or in wet rainy/snowy conditions. Please make sure your child comes prepared to go outdoors – gloves, scarf, hat or hood. This is especially true of those who are on patrol.

Emergency Closing Information

Our School Messenger system will notify you either by phone or email in the event of our school closing due to weather. In addition, emergency closing information will be announced on WBBM Radio Newsradio 780 and WGN Radio 720. The television stations to watch are CBS Channel 2 Chicago, Channel 5, ABC Channel 7 Chicago, WGN Morning News, Fox 32 and CLTV News. On-line you may access information at www.EmergencyClosings.com. Our website www.sthilarychicago.org will also have closing information. We will close if the Archdiocese is closed as a system, an extremely rare event. **You should choose, based on your own judgment and situation, whether or not to keep your child(ren) home.**

Please check out the Peek at the Week for a look at the week ahead.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at school 773-561-5885 or by email donovan@sthilarychicago.org.

Gratefully,
Mrs. Kathie Donovan, Principal

**NEXT DRAWING SAT. DEC. 22nd
ESTIMATED POT APPROX. \$19,500.0**



Wishing you and your family a
Very Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Healthy New Year!

A Peek at the Week

WEEK OF Jan. 7-11



St. Hilary where faith, family, and academics thrive!

MONDAY: January 7th

HAPPY 2019!!

Altar Servers: Aelaike, Haley

- ✓ Concert Band 7:00 – 7:45 am
- ✓ Cadet Band 3:00 – 4:00 pm
- ✓ Battle of the Books (6th – 8th)
- ✓ Art Studio – 3rd, 4th & 5th graders



TUESDAY: January 8th

Altar Servers: Raquel, Benjamin

- ✓ Student Council meeting – council and reps
- ✓ CODAS 7:00 – 7:45 am
- ✓ School Advisory Board meeting 7:00 pm in rectory

WEDNESDAY: January 9th

Altar Servers: Melody, Jeryl

- ✓ 2:00 dismissal
- ✓ 8:30 all school liturgy
- ✓ Cadet Band 7:00 – 7:45 am
- ✓ Youth Ministry town hall (6th-8th graders) in cafeteria at 7:00 pm
- ✓ Family & School Association meeting 7:00 pm in rectory basement
- ✓ Conference request forms go home

THURSDAY: January 10th

Altar Servers: Melody, Gia

- ✓ Art Studio – 6th, 7th, & 8th graders
- ✓ Concert Band 7:00 – 7:45 am
- ✓ Cardinal Choir 3:00 – 4:00 pm

FRIDAY: January 11th

Altar Servers: Don, Sara

- ✓ Battle of the Books (3rd – 5th grades)
- ✓ Queen of **Hearts** drawing at **The Claddagh Ring Pub** 8:00 pm

SATURDAY: January 12th

SUNDAY: January 13th

✓ **FEAST DAY OF ST. HILARY**



St. Hilary School

Queen of Hearts 50/50 Raffle

Tickets ONLY available at

THE CLADDAGH RING PUB

2306 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, IL

Sales begin 1 hour after pub opens.

Drawings will be held each Saturday at 9:00pm starting August 25th. Prize amount rolls over each week until the Queen of Hearts is revealed.

Tickets are 6/\$5.00 **CASH ONLY**

No single tickets will be sold



Saint Hilary School

Where faith, family, and academics thrive!

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As principal, it has been an enormous blessing to serve your family this year and I would like to invite you to return for the 2019-20 school year. I hope that our academic and extracurricular programs are more than meeting your expectations and that you share our vision of a school where faith, family and academics thrive.

As usual, re-registration for next school year will begin during Catholic Schools Week starting on January 27th, 2019. However, because of Illinois' Tax Credit Scholarship (TCS) program, we are doing something new this year. Families who wish to apply for TCS tax credit scholarships will need to indicate their choice of a school when submitting a tax credit scholarship application. For that reason, we are asking you to complete this Intent to Return Form, which we will use to confirm your choice in school to the Scholarship Granting Organizations that will administer the tax credit scholarships.

If you intend on applying for a Tax Credit Scholarship, we need you to complete this form by December 20th and return it to the school. If you do not plan on applying for a TCS, this form will save a seat for your child for the next school year. I am hopeful that 100% of our families will complete this form and return it to school by December 20th.

Remember that we will conduct the formal re-registration process during Catholic Schools Week. At that time, you will be asked to complete the official Registration form and other required paperwork, and submit your registration fee for the 2019-2020 school year.

I look forward to serving your family in the coming school year. Please complete your Intent to Return Form by Thursday, December 20th. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathie Donovan,
Principal



Intent to Return Form

_____ Yes, my child/children will be returning next year.

_____ No, my child/children will not be returning next year.

Name(s) of student(s):

Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

Are you interested in learning more about the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship?
___ Yes ___ No

Younger siblings who may enroll next year:

Name: _____ Current Grade/Age: _____

Name: _____ Current Grade/Age: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Email: _____

Please return this form to school by December 20, 2018

The St. Hilary Queen of Hearts

cordially invites you to the last
raffle draw of 2018

Saturday, December 22nd 9:00pm
at the Claddagh Ring Pub,

2306 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, IL

You're last chance in 2018 to win 50% of the
minimum \$19,000.00 pot!

After Saturday, the Queen will take a
holiday break.

Come for the chance at some holiday cash!



The Queen is on the move...

The St. Hilary Queen
of Hearts drawing is
moving to Fridays

Starting

January 4, 2019

at 8:00pm

See you at

CLADDAGH RING PUB

2306 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, IL





What You Need to Know About the “Invest in Kids” Tax Credit Scholarships

Through the “Invest in Kids Act,” Illinois children from low-income households who want to attend private schools will have access to new scholarships. The scholarships offered through this program could cover up to 100 percent of tuition and eligible fees for next school year. Below is more information about how to apply and details on eligibility requirements.

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Students from low-income households in grades K-12 have the opportunity to receive tax credit scholarships, which are awarded on a first come, first served basis. This program started during the 2018/19 school year and many families in our Catholic schools are benefiting. The scholarships are funded by donors who receive a 75 percent credit on their Illinois state income tax as a result of their donation. If you received a tax credit scholarship this year (2018/19 school year), you must reapply for a tax credit scholarship for next year.

You need to apply for tax credit scholarships through a scholarship granting organization (SGO), which will distribute the scholarships. The Archdiocese of Chicago is working with two SGOs: Empower Illinois and Big Shoulders Fund SGO.

APPLICATION PROCESS

EMPOWER ILLINOIS SGO

The Empower Illinois tax credit scholarship application is a two-step process:

Step 1: On Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7 p.m., you will complete a brief reservation form on Empower Illinois’ website – **empowerillinois.org** – that timestamps your reservation. This is a critical step as your timestamp matters and may impact your chances of receiving a scholarship. You will want to complete this form right at 7 p.m. Minutes matter.

The reservation form will ask you for the following information:

- Parent name
- Contact information – address, phone number, email address
- Child(ren) name(s)

Step 2: Beginning on or about Friday, January 18, 2019, you may complete the full scholarship application through the Empower Illinois online student portal. You will receive instructions via email about setting up your student portal after your reservation has been completed (step 1). Empower Illinois will begin awarding scholarships on Monday, January 28, 2019. Scholarship awards are subject to the availability of funds at your school of choice. We recommend you submit your application **before Monday, January 28** to increase your chances of receiving a scholarship.

Please note: The Empower Illinois application will be available in English, Spanish and Polish.

For more information, visit **empowerillinois.org**.

BIG SHOULDERS FUND SGO

The Big Shoulders Fund SGO will follow a similar application process as its’ process last year. It will be a one-step process, which will open on **Tuesday, January 22 at 8 a.m.**

Please note: The Big Shoulders Fund SGO application will be available in English and Spanish.

For more information, visit **bigshouldersfundsgo.org**.

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

You will need proof of Illinois residency and your adjusted gross income to apply for tax credit scholarships. Choose your most recent household and income documents from the same year to use throughout your application.

Proof of Illinois Residence

(one of the following for the household)

- Illinois driver’s license with current address
- Illinois identification card (issued by the Secretary of State) with current address
- Utility bill with name and current address
- Statement of benefits from WIC or SNAP with name and current address
- W-2 or 1099 with name and current address
- Residential lease (current address) in the parent’s name
- Federal Form 1040 with name and current address

Adjusted Gross Income

(one of the following for the household)

- Federal tax return, pages 1 and 2**
- W-2
- 1099(s)
- Year-end pay stub
- Letter, on company letterhead, from employer(s) indicating cash wages paid

Valid Email Address

(e.g. Gmail, Hotmail, AOL, etc.)

**If your federal tax return is not available to you and you receive WIC or SNAP benefits, you may submit your statement of WIC and SNAP benefits.

To learn more, please visit **archchicago.org/tcs** or contact the Archdiocese at **investinkids@archchicago.org** or **312.534.5321**.



December 2018

Dear Catholic School Families,

We are excited to share the following important information on how to apply for tax credit scholarships for the 2019/20 school year.

Through the “Invest in Kids Act,” tax credit scholarships are available to Illinois children, in grades K-12, from low-income households who want to attend private schools, including our 209 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago. This program started during the 2018/19 school year and many families in our Catholic schools are benefiting. The scholarships are funded by donors who receive a 75 percent credit on their Illinois state income tax as a result of their donation. The scholarships offered through the program could cover up to 100 percent of tuition and eligible fees for one year and they are awarded on a first come, first served basis. **If you received a tax credit scholarship this year (2018/19 school year), you must reapply for a tax credit scholarship for next year (2019/20 school year).**

You need to apply for tax credit scholarships through a scholarship granting organization (SGO), which distributes the scholarships. The Archdiocese of Chicago is working with two SGOs: Empower Illinois and Big Shoulders Fund SGO.

Eligibility

K-12 students with limited financial resources and income up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, are eligible to receive tax credit scholarships. Returning tax credit scholarship recipients, can make up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Before April 1, 2019, priority will be given to students from each of the following categories:

- Members of a household whose previous' year's total annual income does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level (\$46,435 for a family of four); OR
- Reside within a focus district* OR
- Received a scholarship from a scholarship granting organization during the previous school year; OR
- Siblings of a current scholarship recipient.

After April 1, 2019, all other qualifying students will be considered for scholarships, subject to availability of funds.

**Focus districts are public school districts that have a school where at least one subgroup of students performs in the bottom 10 percent statewide or a graduation rate of less than 60 percent.*

What You Need to Apply

You need proof of Illinois residency and your adjusted gross income to apply for tax credit scholarships. Choose your most recent household and income documents from the same year to use throughout your application.

Proof of Illinois Residence (one of the following for the household):

- Illinois driver's license with current address
- Illinois identification card (issued by the Secretary of State) with current address
- Utility bill with name and current address



- Statement of benefits from WIC or SNAP with name and current address
- W-2 or 1099 with name and current address
- Residential lease (current address) in the parent's name
- Federal Form 1040 with name and current address

Adjusted Gross Income (one of the following for the household):

- Federal tax return, pages 1 and 2**
- W-2
- 1099(s)
- Year-end pay stub
- Letter, on company letterhead, from employer(s) indicating cash wages paid.

**If your federal tax return is not available to you and you receive WIC or SNAP benefits, you may submit your statement of WIC and SNAP benefits.

Valid Email Address (e.g. Gmail, Hotmail, AOL, etc.)

Empower Illinois Application Process and Key Dates

The Empower Illinois tax credit scholarship application is a two-step process:

Step 1: On Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7 p.m., you will complete a brief reservation form on Empower Illinois' website – EmpowerIllinois.org – that timestamps your reservation. **This is a critical step as your timestamp matters and may impact your chances of receiving a scholarship. You will want to complete this form right at 7 p.m. Minutes matter.**

The reservation form will ask you for the following information:

- Parent name
- Contact information – address, phone number, email address
- Child(ren) name(s)***

***Please note: All children you would like to apply for need to be listed on the reservation form. If you do not add a child on the initial reservation but you would like to apply for a tax credit scholarship for that child, you will be required to complete a second reservation and any additional children will receive a separate (later) time stamp.

Step 2: Beginning on or about Friday, January 18, 2019, you may complete the full scholarship application through the Empower Illinois online student portal. You will receive instructions via email about setting up your student portal after your reservation has been completed (step 1). Empower Illinois will begin awarding scholarships on Monday, January 28, 2019. Scholarship awards are subject to the availability of funds at your school of choice. We recommend you submit your application **before Monday, January 28** to increase your chances of receiving a scholarship.

Please note: The Empower Illinois application will be available in English, Spanish and Polish.

For more information, visit EmpowerIllinois.org.



Big Shoulders Fund Application Process and Key Date

The Big Shoulders Fund SGO will follow a similar application process as its' process last year. It will be a one-step process, which will open on **Tuesday, January 22 at 8 a.m.**

Please note: The Big Shoulders Fund SGO application will be available in English and Spanish.

For more information, visit bigshouldersfundsgo.org.

The Archdiocese of Chicago has team members available to assist you with the tax credit scholarship application process. To learn more, please visit archchicago.org/tcs or contact the Archdiocese at investinkids@archchicago.org or 312.534.5321.

Blessings to you and your family this holiday season!

Yours in Christ,

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Chicago



Lo que usted necesita saber sobre las becas de crédito tributario “Invest in Kids”

A través de la ley “Invest in Kids Act”, los niños de Illinois de hogares de bajos recursos que deseen asistir a escuelas privadas tendrán acceso a becas nuevas. Las becas ofrecidas a través de este programa podrían cubrir hasta el 100 por ciento de la matrícula y tarifas elegibles para el próximo año escolar¹. A continuación hay más información sobre cómo solicitar y detalles sobre los requisitos de elegibilidad.

BECAS DE CRÉDITO TRIBUTARIO

Los estudiantes de hogares de bajos ingresos en los grados K-12 tienen la oportunidad de recibir becas de crédito tributario, que son otorgadas por orden de llegada. Este programa comenzó durante el año escolar 2018/19 y muchas familias en nuestras escuelas católicas se están beneficiando. Las becas son financiadas por donantes que reciben un 75 por ciento de crédito en su impuesto sobre la renta del estado de Illinois como resultado de su donación. Si usted recibió una beca de crédito tributario este año (año escolar 2018/19), usted debe volver a solicitar para una beca de crédito tributario para el próximo año.

Usted necesita solicitar las becas de crédito tributario a través de una organización que otorga becas (SGO, por sus siglas en inglés), que distribuirá las becas. La Arquidiócesis de Chicago está trabajando con dos SGO: Empower Illinois y Big Shoulders Fund SGO.

PROCESO DE SOLICITUD

EMPOWER ILLINOIS SGO

La solicitud de la beca de crédito tributario de Empower Illinois es un proceso de dos pasos:

Paso 1: El martes, 15 de enero de 2019 a las 7 p.m., completará un formulario breve de reservación en el sitio web de Empower Illinois – empowerillinois.org – que marca la hora en su reservación. Este es un paso crucial ya que la hora marcada es importante y puede impactar sus posibilidades de recibir una beca. Usted querrá completar este formulario justo a las 7 p.m. Los minutos importan.

El formulario de reservación le pedirá la siguiente información:

- Nombre del padre/madre
- Información de contacto – dirección, número de teléfono, dirección de correo electrónico
- Nombre(s) del(los) niño(s)²

Paso 2: A partir de o alrededor del viernes, 18 de enero de 2019, usted puede completar toda la solicitud de la beca a través del portal en línea de estudiantes de Empower Illinois. Recibirá instrucciones vía correo electrónico sobre establecer su portal de estudiante después que su reservación ha sido completada (paso 1). Empower Illinois comenzará a otorgar becas el lunes, 28 de enero de 2019. La otorgación de becas está sujeta a la disponibilidad de fondos en la escuela de su elección. Recomendamos que envíe su solicitud **antes del lunes, 28 de enero** para aumentar sus probabilidades de recibir una beca.

Por favor note: La solicitud de Empower Illinois estará disponible en inglés, español y polaco.

Para más información, visite empowerillinois.org.

BIG SHOULDERS FUND SGO

Big Shoulders Fund SGO seguirá un proceso de solicitud similar a su proceso del año pasado. Será un proceso de un paso, que abre el **martes, 22 de enero a las 8 a.m.**

Por favor note: La solicitud de Big Shoulders Fund SGO estará disponible en inglés y español.

Para más información, visite bigshouldersfundsgo.org.

QUÉ NECESITA PARA SOLICITAR

Necesitará prueba de residencia en Illinois y su ingreso bruto ajustado para solicitar las becas de crédito tributario. Escoja sus documentos de ingreso y de la casa más recientes del mismo año para usar a lo largo de su solicitud.

Prueba de residencia en Illinois (uno de los siguientes por hogar)

- Licencia de conducir de Illinois con la dirección actual
- Tarjeta de identificación de Illinois (emitida por la Secretaría de Estado) con la dirección actual
- Factura de servicio público con nombre y dirección actual
- Declaración de beneficios de WIC o SNAP con nombre y dirección actual
- W-2 o 1099 con nombre y dirección actual
- Arrendamiento residencial (dirección actual) en nombre del padre/madre
- Formulario federal 1040 con nombre y dirección actual

Ingreso bruto ajustado

(uno de los siguientes por hogar)

- Declaración de impuestos federales, páginas 1 y 2³
- W-2
- 1099(s)
- Comprobante de sueldo de fin de año
- Carta, en papel con membrete de la compañía, del(los) empleador(es) indicando los salarios efectivos pagados.

Dirección de correo electrónico válida (por ejemplo, Gmail, Hotmail, AOL, etc.)

¹ Las becas NO pueden exceder \$12,973.

² Por favor note: Todos los niños por los que le gustaría solicitar tienen que ser incluidos en el formulario de reservación. Si no añade a un niño en la reservación inicial, pero le gustaría solicitar una beca de crédito tributario para ese niño, se necesitará que complete una segunda reservación y cualquier niño adicional recibirá una hora marcada separada (más tarde).

³ Si su declaración de impuestos federales no está disponible para usted y recibió beneficios WIC o SNAP, puede presentar su declaración de beneficios WIC y SNAP.

Para saber más, por favor visite archchicago.org/tcs o comuníquese con la arquidiócesis en investinkids@archchicago.org o 312.534.5321.



Diciembre de 2018

Estimadas familias de las escuelas católicas,

Nos emociona comunicar la siguiente información importante sobre cómo solicitar las becas de crédito tributario para el año escolar 2019/20

A través de la ley "Invest in Kids Act" están disponibles becas de crédito tributario para los niños de Illinois, de los grados K-12, de hogares de bajos ingresos que quieran asistir a escuelas privadas, incluyendo nuestras 209 escuelas católicas en la Arquidiócesis de Chicago. Este programa comenzó durante el año escolar 2018/19 y muchas familias en nuestras escuelas católicas se están beneficiando. Las becas son financiadas por donantes que reciben un 75 por ciento de crédito en su impuesto sobre la renta del estado de Illinois como resultado de su donación. Las becas ofrecidas a través del programa podrían cubrir hasta un 100 por ciento de la colegiatura y tarifas elegibles por un año y son otorgadas por orden de llegada. **Si usted recibió una beca de crédito tributario este año (año escolar 2018/19), usted debe volver a solicitar una beca de crédito tributario para el próximo año.**

Usted necesitará solicitar las becas de crédito tributario a través de una organización que otorga becas (SGO, por sus siglas en inglés), que distribuirá las becas. La Arquidiócesis de Chicago está trabajando con dos SGO: Empower Illinois y Big Shoulders Fund SGO.

Elegibilidad

Los estudiantes de K-12 con recursos financieros limitados e ingresos hasta el 300 por ciento del nivel de pobreza federal, son elegibles para recibir las becas de crédito tributario. Los beneficiarios de las becas de crédito tributario que regresan pueden hacer hasta el 400 por ciento del nivel de pobreza federal. Antes del 1 de abril de 2019, se dará prioridad a los estudiantes de cada una de las siguientes categorías:

- Miembros de una familia cuyo ingreso anual total para el año anterior no excede el 185 por ciento del nivel de pobreza federal (\$46,435 para una familia de cuatro personas); O
- Reside dentro de un distrito de enfoque*; O
- Recibió una beca de una organización que otorga becas durante el pasado año escolar; O
- Hermanos de un actual beneficiario de beca.

Después del 1 de abril, 2019, todos los otros estudiantes que califican serán considerados para las becas, sujeto a la disponibilidad de fondos.

** Los distritos de enfoque son distritos de escuelas públicas que tienen una escuela donde por lo menos un subgrupo de estudiantes se desempeña en el 10 por ciento más bajo a nivel estatal o con una tasa de graduación de menos del 60 por ciento.*

Qué necesita para solicitar

Necesitará prueba de residencia en Illinois y su ingreso bruto ajustado para solicitar las becas de crédito tributario. Escoja sus documentos de ingreso y de la casa más recientes del mismo año para usar a lo largo de su solicitud.



Prueba de residencia en Illinois (uno de los siguientes por hogar):

- Licencia de conducir de Illinois con la dirección actual
- Tarjeta de identificación de Illinois (emitida por la Secretaría de Estado) con la dirección actual
- Factura de servicio público con nombre y dirección actual
- Declaración de beneficios de WIC o SNAP con nombre y dirección actual
- W-2 o 1099 con nombre y dirección actual
- Arrendamiento residencial (dirección actual) en nombre del padre/madre
- Formulario federal 1040 con nombre y dirección actual

Ingreso bruto ajustado (uno de los siguientes por hogar):

- Declaración de impuestos federales, páginas 1 y 2**
- W-2
- 1099(s)
- Comprobante de sueldo de fin de año
- Carta, en papel con membrete de la compañía, del(los) empleador(res) indicando los salarios efectivos pagados.

**Si su declaración de impuestos federales no está disponible para usted y recibió beneficios WIC o SNAP, puede presentar su declaración de beneficios WIC y SNAP.

Dirección de correo electrónico válida (por ejemplo, Gmail, Hotmail, AOL, etc.)

Proceso de solicitud y fechas claves de Empower Illinois

La solicitud de la beca de crédito tributario de Empower Illinois es un proceso de dos pasos:

Paso 1: El martes, 15 de enero de 2019 a las 7 p.m., completará un formulario breve de reservación en el sitio web de Empower Illinois – EmpowerIllinois.org – que marca la hora en su reservación. **Este es un paso crucial ya que la hora marcada es importante y puede impactar sus posibilidades de recibir una beca. Usted querrá completar este formulario justo a las 7 p.m. Los minutos importan.**

El formulario de reservación le pedirá la siguiente información:

- Nombre del padre/madre
- Información de contacto – dirección, número de teléfono, dirección de correo electrónico
- Nombre(s) del(los) niño(s) ***

***Por favor note: Todos los niños por los que le gustaría solicitar tienen que ser incluidos en el formulario de reservación. Si no añade a un niño en la reservación inicial, pero le gustaría solicitar una beca de crédito tributario para ese niño, se necesitará que complete una segunda reservación y cualquier niño adicional recibirá una hora marcada separada (más tarde).

Paso 2: A partir de o alrededor del viernes, 18 de enero de 2019, usted puede completar toda la solicitud de la beca a través del portal en línea de estudiantes de Empower Illinois. Recibirá instrucciones vía correo electrónico sobre establecer su portal de estudiante después que su reservación ha sido completada (paso 1). Empower Illinois comenzará a otorgar becas el lunes, 28 de enero de 2019. La otorgación de becas está sujeta a la disponibilidad de fondos en la escuela de su elección. Recomendamos que envíe su solicitud **antes del lunes, 28 de enero** para aumentar sus probabilidades de recibir una beca.



Por favor note: La solicitud de Empower Illinois estará disponible en inglés, español y polaco.

Para más información, visite EmpowerIllinois.org.

Proceso de solicitud y fecha clave de Big Shoulders Fund

Big Shoulders Fund SGO seguirá un proceso de solicitud similar a su proceso del año pasado. Será un proceso de un paso, que abre el **martes, 22 de enero a las 8 a.m.**

Por favor note: La solicitud de Big Shoulders Fund SGO estará disponible en inglés y español.

Para más información, visite bigshouldersfundsgo.org.

La Arquidiócesis de Chicago tiene miembros del equipo que están disponibles para asistirlo con el proceso de solicitud de la beca de crédito tributario. Para saber más, por favor visite archchicago.org/tcs o comuníquese con la Arquidiócesis a investinkids@archchicago.org o 312.534.5321.

¡Bendiciones para usted y su familia en esta temporada de festividades!

Suyo en Cristo,

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Superintendente de escuelas católicas
Arquidiócesis de Chicago



December 2018

Dear families,

We hope that you and your family are having a terrific holiday season! Over at Big Shoulders Fund, we are feeling particularly festive as we have some very exciting news to share.

You may have heard information about the Tax Credit Scholarship Program in Illinois, which can potentially cover some (or all!) of the cost of tuition for families who meet certain income and residential eligibility requirements. You may have even received a Tax Credit Scholarship from Big Shoulders Fund this year, or from another Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO.) Essentially, the program enables donors to reserve Illinois income tax credits based on contributions made to SGOs. SGOs then provide scholarships to eligible students to attend private schools. As with last year, the number of scholarships awarded for the 2019-2020 school year will depend on available funding.

We are pleased to announce that the Big Shoulders Fund Tax Credit Scholarship Program application for the 2019-2020 school year will open January 22, 2019 at 8:00 am.

We encourage you to visit www.bigshouldersfundsgo.org to find Frequently Asked Questions and an application checklist.

You can also contact us at SGOapp@bigshouldersfund.org or 312.751.8337 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Big Shoulders Fund



-Josh Hale, President and CEO of Big Shoulders Fund

It takes Big Shoulders to carry a child's dreams.

Big Shoulders Fund.®

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Households earning less than **300%** of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible (less than \$75,300 for a family of four)

52% of Illinois families with children are eligible for a tax credit scholarship

Depending on income, up to **100%** of tuition and eligible fees can be covered by tax credit scholarship



Families are encouraged to apply to more than one SGO to increase their chances of receiving a tax credit scholarship. To learn more about your family's eligibility please visit www.bigshouldersfundsgo.org.

If you have questions, please contact us at: SGOapp@bigshouldersfund.org

BIGSHOULDERSFUNDSGO.ORG

A Tax Credit Scholarship Could Cover the Full Cost of Tuition for Eligible Families

Illinois' Tax Credit Scholarship Program allows donors to reserve tax credits and direct their money to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs). Big Shoulders Fund is an approved SGO in Illinois serving Regions one and two and **will begin accepting scholarship applications from families on January 22, 2019.**

Why Big Shoulders Fund?

- Awarded over **\$60 million** to **50,000 scholars**
- The **largest private k-12 scholarship program** in Illinois
- **30 years of impact** raising over **\$300 million**
- Proven track record of **scholar success in high school and beyond**

How to Apply - January 22 at 8:00 am

Big Shoulders Fund will open its application January 22 at 8:00 am. The following information will be required to apply; the exact questions and information requirements will be contained in the application.

Household Information

- Parent/guardian contact information (e.g., address, city, zip, etc.) – note that an email address will be required, along with supporting documentation for the household address (e.g., utility bill, driver's license)
- Number in household
- School district in which household resides
- 2017 or 2018 federal adjusted gross income – with a copy of federal 1040 or signed verification that family was not required to file a 1040 (signed by parent/guardian)

Student Information

- Student name and birth date
- Grade for the 2019–20 school year
- Siblings for which the household will apply under the tax credit scholarship program

School Information

- Identify the non-public school being selected by the student in the household
- Identify whether the student is already enrolled at the selected school

Awarding of scholarships is subject to availability of funding through this program.

Big Shoulders Fund.®

SOBRE EL PROGRAMA

Hogares que ganan menos del **300%** del Nivel Federal de Pobreza son elegibles (menos de \$75,300 para una familia de 4)

52% de familias en Illinois con hijos son elegibles para una beca de crédito tributario

Dependiendo de los ingresos, hasta **100%** de la matrícula y las tarifas elegibles pueden ser cubiertas con una beca de crédito tributario



Motivamos a las familias a aplicar a más de una SGO para aumentar sus posibilidades de recibir una beca de crédito tributario. Para obtener más información sobre la elegibilidad de su familia, visite www.bigshouldersfundsgo.org

Si tiene alguna pregunta, contáctenos: SGOapp@bigshouldersfund.org

BIGSHOULDERSFUNDSGO.ORG

Una nueva beca de crédito tributario podría cubrir el costo total de la matrícula para familias elegibles

El Programa de Becas de Crédito Tributario de Illinois permite a donantes reservar créditos impositivos y dirigir su dinero a una Organización que Otorga Becas (SGO en inglés). Big Shoulders Fund es una SGO aprobada en Illinois que presta servicios en las Regiones 1 y 2.

LAS APLICACIONES PARA LAS FAMILIAS SE ABREN EL 22 DE ENERO DE 2019.

¿POR QUÉ BIG SHOULDERS FUND?

En la última década, más de **\$60 millones** a **50,000 académicos**

El **más grande programa privado de becas k-12** en Illinois

30 años de impacto recaudando más de **\$300 millones**

Trayectoria de **éxito académico en la escuela secundaria y más allá**

CÓMO SOLICITAR - EL 22 DE ENERO A LAS 8 DE LA MAÑANA

Las aplicaciones para las familias se abren el 22 de enero. La siguiente información será requerida para solicitar; las preguntas exactas y los requisitos de información estarán en la aplicación.

Información del hogar

- Información de contacto del padre/tutor (p. ej, dirección, ciudad, código postal, etc.) – tenga en cuenta que se requerirá un correo electrónico, junto con la documentación de respaldo de la dirección del hogar (p. ej, factura de servicios públicos, licencia de conducir)
- Número de personas en el hogar
- Distrito escolar en que reside el hogar
- Ingresos brutos ajustados federales de 2017 o 2018; con una copia de 1040 federal o verificación firmada de que la familia no estaba obligada a presentar un 1040 (firmado por padre de familia/guardián)

Información del estudiante

- Nombre y acta de nacimiento del estudiante
- Grado para el año escolar 2019-20
- Hermanos por los cuales el hogar solicitará bajo el programa de becas de crédito tributario

Información de la escuela


- Identificar la escuela no pública que el estudiante del hogar selecciona
- Identificar si el estudiante ya está inscrito en la escuela seleccionada

La otorgación de becas está sujeta a la disponibilidad de fondos a través de este programa.



St. Hilary School

January 2019 K-8 Lunch Smart Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Spotlight Fruit of the Week: Grapes		January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4
					
Spotlight Fruit of the Week: Bananas	January 7 Fish Fillet Sandwich* with Cheese & Tartar Sauce Parsley Redskin Potatoes Peaches	January 8 Chicken & Penne Pasta* with Homemade Alfredo Sauce Capri Blend Veggies Mixed Fruit	January 9 Chicken Caesar Wrap* Black Beans Pineapple	January 10 Build-Your-Own Crunchy Beef Tacos* with Garnish Cup & Salsa Baby Carrots Applesauce	January 11 Toasted Cheese Sandwich* with Tomato Soup & Cheddar Goldfish Crackers* California Blend Veggies Pears
Spotlight Fruit of the Week: Fresh Pears	January 14 Chicken Parmesan Sandwich on a Bun* California Blend Veggies Peaches	January 15 Beef Burrito Bowl* with Black Beans, Corn, Garnish Cup & Salsa Mixed Fruit	January 16 Beef Sloppy Joe on a Bun* Baby Carrots Pineapple	January 17 Handcrafted Mac & Cheese* with Honey Wheat Dinner Roll* Green Peas Applesauce	January 18 Boneless Chicken Wings with BBQ Dipping Sauce Broccoli Florets Pears
Spotlight Fruit of the Week: Grapes	January 21 	January 22 Chicken-Fried Steak with Mashed Potatoes & Country Gravy Cajun-Style Black-Eyed Peas Mini Cornbread Loaf Strawberry Shortcake Cookie* Mixed Fruit 	January 23 Grilled Chicken Sandwich* with Lettuce & Tomato Refried Beans Pineapple	January 24 Spaghetti* with Turkey Meatballs & Marinara Broccoli Florets Applesauce	January 25 Half Day
Spotlight Fruit of the Week: Bananas	January 28 Chicken Tenders* with BBQ Dipping Sauce & Breadstick* Broccoli Florets Peaches	January 29 Chicken Fajitas with Tortillas*, Flame-Roasted Pepper & Onion & Salsa Baby Carrots Mixed Fruit	January 30 Chicken Corn Dog* Corn on the Cob Kettle-Baked Beans Pineapple	January 31 Turkey Ham & Cheese Panini* Oven-Baked Spiral-Cut French Fries Applesauce	



Available Each Day: Salad, Fresh Fruit, Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich* with Yogurt Cup, Milk (1% & Skim White Plus Fat-Free Chocolate)

Additional Fresh Entrées Offered Daily

Monday – All-American Cheeseburger on a Bun*

Tuesday – Chicken Nuggets* with Twisted Breadstick* & BBQ Dipping Sauce

Wednesday – Super Nachos* & Salsa*

Thursday – Breaded Chicken Sandwich*

Friday – Pizza* (pepperoni French bread, cheese personal pan, and Big Daddy's cheesy pizza rotate each week)

*=Item contains whole grains / ^=Item contains pork / L=Locally sourced
Milk served with lunch contains no artificial growth hormones or antibiotics
Menu is subject to change based on availability and quality of food items

Color Me Orange/Yellow

We are celebrating orange and yellow fruits and vegetables this month. What are the advantages of eating produce from this color group? Orange and yellow fruits and vegetables promote a healthy heart, vision health, and a stronger immune system. Your school's LunchSmart menu includes a rainbow of fruits and vegetables to enhance student well-being. Eating orange and yellow produce is part of the mix and it tastes good, too.

It is synonymous with Oklahoma roadside diners along Route 66. It is also the star of Oklahoma's official meal. We are talking about chicken-fried steak. Join the **Culinary Explorations** team in **Oklahoma City** for a lunch that does the city proud. Did you know Oklahoma City is one of only two capital cities with their state name as part of the city name? The other is Indianapolis.



This institution is an equal opportunity employer



YOUTH MINISTRY

Are you ready to share your faith with our young church?

Come and hear about an exciting new opportunity about youth ministry here at St. Hilary's. We are looking for teens in grades 6, 7, or 8th who want to share their faith with others.

Wednesday, January 9, 2019 | 7 — 8 p.m.

St. Hilary's School Cafeteria

5600 North Fairfield Avenue
Chicago, IL 60659

Parents and/or guardian are asked to attend. A separate session will be held during this time for adults and teens.

For further information contact:

Anne Chrzan at achrzan@archchicago.org or call 312.965.2298.



Catholic Schools, Where *All Are Welcome*

Four years ago our two oldest daughters started kindergarten at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Elementary School in Quincy, IL. We thought we were bringing inclusion to Blessed Sacrament. We were wrong.

We have three daughters, RayLee (9), Sophie (8) and Mila (7). RayLee and Mila both have Down syndrome. Mila, adopted, also has Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD), related to being institutionalized in Ukraine the first, almost, three years of her life, and ADHD/spectrum-like needs and behaviors. So, while Blessed Sacrament did not have students that displayed one of the traits of their disability on their face, like Down syndrome does, they did already have students with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dysgraphia, specific learning disorders, RAD, oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), twice exceptional (gifted AND learning issues), anxiety and a number of undiagnosed mental health and learning disabilities.

As with most Catholic schools, they were highly limited on the resources they had to address these many needs, and, in fact, in most cases, had not labeled the child, were simply working to do the best they possibly could for each student. Now, while I would never say that caring and wanting each child to be successful is ALL you need, I will say that Blessed Sacrament was the proof that faith, caring and a willingness to think outside the box are a good start.

We were so impressed by the school's demonstration of our faith in action, that my husband converted to Catholicism, left his public school position as a principal/special education coordinator and accepted the role of fifth-grade teacher at Blessed Sacrament. In addition, we started a local affiliate program of the FIRE Foundation based out of Kansas City — the FIRE Foundation of Central Illinois — to start raising funds to support our school and eventually our diocese's efforts to include all students.



Forty years ago this year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) released a statement on the leadership role we as Catholics and our Catholic schools must take in the inclusion and education of all students together. We have made some progress in 40 years. Some. Yet, if you ask most people if Catholic schools accept students with disabilities, they will likely tell you no, and they will apologetically point to the lack of resources to educate "those kids."

While we are blessed with a Catholic school and parish that has chosen to include all students to the best of their ability, they are still financially and resources limited. This makes the possibility that our daughters, and students like them, could be asked to leave or never admitted an ever-present possibility. The weight of this fear is greater than I can capture in the words I write here. If you've experienced your child being left out, I want you to consider what it is like to carry that feeling every single day, and the one leaving them out is their Catholic school, their church. The place we look to for guidance on how we can better serve the "least of these" is, in many cases, not. It is a fear and heartache that I pray will end for all parents as our Catholic schools work to live our faith through the full welcoming and inclusion of

all students. It is going to take all of us working together.

Through the combined efforts of NCEA, the USCCB, our Catholic dioceses, parishes and schools, as well as the prayers and work of parents like you and I, we can make inclusion the norm, rather than the exception. Please find our suggestions for how you, as a parent, can help your school's efforts:

- Educate yourself on your state's proportionate share funding process. Contact your state board of education to understand what resources are available via the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to support your child's educational needs. Then, work with your school to ensure it is getting the federally mandated resources and funding to support your child in that Catholic school. Our Catholic school leaders may not fully understand the many resources that are federally mandated and funded for the support of students with disabilities, especially if the school has not included many students previously. You can be a tremendous resource in this area.
- Be open and honest about your child's needs so you and the school can partner for his or her success.
- Share what works. If you find a method or tool that works at home, tell the teacher and help get it for your school, if you can.
- Attend conferences and share the resources with your child's teacher and school.
- Look for conferences that school staff might attend.

If possible, help with offsetting the cost to attend, or help find resources to fund their attendance.

- Write a grant or ask your employer if there are funding opportunities that would be available to support your child's school or the education of students with disabilities.
- Volunteer. Volunteer. Then volunteer some more. The more you can take off of the school or teacher's plate, the more time and resources they have for all students.
- The relationship between you and the school must be a partnership. Be prepared to help in any way possible to add to your child's education.
- Stop expecting perfection. This is for parents and teachers. I often ask educators to list how many of their days



are perfect. Wait! None you say? Not a single day or lesson plan was perfect? Inclusion, like everyday in education, is a work in progress. You try this accommodation or modification and if it works, great! If not, we try again. This belief that we cannot implement inclusion until we have a perfect plan or every feasible resource in place is setting our schools up to fail, or to never truly get started.

- Tell everyone about the great things your child's school is doing. You are one of the school's best recruiting and funding assets.
- Acquire information about your child's disability to share with the school. Educators and leaders may want to share facts with other educators, leaders, parents and students.

By Jill and Chris Reffett

