

April 21, 2010

Dear Families,

Our current SCRIP Tuition Credit Program is undergoing changes. Recent actions taken by the Internal Revenue Service have led the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference to give notice that, according to the IRS, allowing tuition credits or rebates to be applied to specific individuals violates the Internal Revenue Code. In simple terms, we can no longer grant tuition credit to individual families based on any SCRIP they purchase. The credit can only go to the institution.

Through April 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year, SCRIP credits will continue to go into individual tuition accounts just as they currently do. However after that, SCRIP credits will be donated to the General Scholarship Fund.

**With this being said, the last time to order SCRIP for tuition credit will be April 23<sup>rd</sup>; the May order dates are canceled.** Tuition credit statements will be distributed to the families the last week of April. Credit earned for the first 4 months of this year will be applied to your family tuition account.

We will be looking into offering SCRIP in the next school year with all credits benefiting the General Scholarship Fund. Until then, remember you can always purchase gift cards in the office. Once supply of Sheetz, WalMart, Panera, Barnes & Noble, and Starbucks gift cards are gone, they will not be reordered until possibly during the next school year. The Weis and Giant Gift cards will continue to be offered. **Again, any purchases made after April 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year will not be credited toward your tuition account.**

This is very disappointing news to us, because we know that many of you rely on the SCRIP program to help defray the cost of tuition. Please be reminded that there are other options to help reduce tuition and keep our overall tuition costs down.

First, consider applying for a Second Century Scholarship. In some cases, families have received up to 90% of their tuition paid by this scholarship. Second, apply for tuition assistance/negotiated tuition. And third, help us keep our cost down, by volunteering your time for some essential school tasks, such as library aide, health room aide, or lunch room aide. Msgr. Lockard believes that every Catholic family desiring a Catholic education should have the opportunity to do so.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bechdel