NEWSNOTE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

You belong at St. Mary's Elementary School.

In some schools, students may doubt whether they belong for a myriad of reasons. Due to factors beyond student control, some may find their corner of the world to be less than hospitable and welcoming. Some students may have disabilities or a language barrier, others may lack social skills to connect easily with peers or may come from a family that struggles economically.

St. Mary's prides itself to simultaneously uphold our high academic standards and foster the spiritual formation of our students. We recognize and honor the dignity of all of our students as children of God, and work tirelessly to ensure that our school remains a safe haven for all students who long to belong.

As a community that has embraced the call to make sure that all are heard, valued, and feel a sense of belonging, we have witnessed continued positive growth in the culture of our school. Our students feel safe, secure, comforted, nurtured...and also challenged academically to be critical thinkers, students who are strong enough to persevere and brave enough to grow more emotionally resilient.

This Lenten season, I encourage everyone to celebrate our students, who are growing as emotionally healthy young people who are academically prepared for the next phase of their lives. Thanks to all who have partnered with us and allowed us to make this goal a reality.

Your Partner in Education, Mr. Olejniczak



NURSE'S MESSAGE

Attention 5th and 6th grade parents.

Coming home this week is a notice of vaccinations required for your students that will be needed by the first day of school for the 25-26 school year. Students who will be entering 6th grade will need a Tdap vaccine and those entering 7th grade will need a meningitis vaccine. Please note; you will only receive notice if your child has not had the required vaccination at this time, or if there isn't one on file in the HO.

For students who will not be 11 years old at the start of the school year, I have written the date your student will need the vaccination on the top of the sheet. I like to send out these notices early as I understand many students have physicals in the spring and summer and want to make you aware of the requirements prior to appointments. Thank you all for your continued support and understanding of the NYS immunization requirements.



REGISTRATION/TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS



A flyer with area transportation department links has been attached to this NewsNote!

All transportation requests should be submitted to your districts transportation department directly and are **due 4/1!**

In addition, a gentle reminder about the registration applications that are still pending. As we approach the deadline, we kindly ask that you submit your applications as soon as possible to ensure that that your child's enrollment is secured.

HSA

Upcoming HSA Meetings

Interested in learning more about HSA and the events we have planned for this spring? Join us for a meeting!

April 2nd (5:30-6:30pm in the Gathering Room) May 7th (5:30-6:30pm in the Gathering Room)

Spring HSA Events - Save the Dates!

Spring Book Fair: 5/1 & 5/2

Penny Fair: 5/9 Mega Raffle: 6/6 School Picnic: 6/13

SME Parent Wear

Show your SME pride with SME Parent t-shirts. Each T-shirt is \$10. Adult sizes small through 2XL available. Sizes are limited to available inventory. Order using the following link: https://sme-parent-wear.cheddarup.com

SME Spirit Wear

Need SME Spirit Wear? We've got you covered! Each t-shirt is \$15, youth and adult sizes are available. Scan the QR code to order.





- **Fri. 4/4** Christian Witness Mass @ 8:30am
- Tues. 4/8 NYS ELA Testing
- **Wed. 4/9** NYS ELA Testing
- Mon. 4/14 4/21: Easter Recess NO SCHOOL
- Thurs. 5/1 ART
 Show & Book Fair,
 6pm-8pm
- **Fri. 5/2** Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am
- Tues. 5/6 NYS Science Testing
- Fri. 5/9 May Crowning Mass, 8:30am & Penny Fair
- Tues. 5/13 NYS Math Testing
- Wed 5/14 NYS Math Testing
- Fri. 5/16 Hope Ribbon Mass, 8:30am
- Mon. 5/19 SREAM/ EXCEL Walk-a-Thon
- Fri. 5/23 No School
- Mon. 5/26 No School

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ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

> 2 St. Mary's Hill Lancaster, NY 14086

Phone: 716-683-2112 Fax: 716-683-2134 www.smeschool.com



UPON THIS HILL, WE DO GOD'S WILL



SPIRIT WEAR

Please use the link below to complete your purchase:

https://sme-spirt-wear.cheddarup.com

Once the payment is received, I will send the shirts home with your student or contact you to arrange pick up later this week/early next week.

NED'S MISSION MINDSET

NED's Mindset Mission is a character education program that centers around three important messages:

Never give up, Encourage others and Do your best.

Thursday March 20th



UNIFORM ORDERS

Uniforms will be available for ordering on a monthly basis! All orders placed within the month-long period will be processed by All-Stars.

Please click the link below to place your order :)

https://all-stars.printavo.com/merch/stmary-smonthly



MEGA RAFFLE

What would you do with \$35,000??

Buy your Mega ticket for your chance to find out!

When: June 6, 2025 at 7:00PM
Where: St. Mary's High School
The top prize is \$35,000 with 13 other prizes to win.

Cost: \$100.00 a ticket which includes two guests.

Stop into the main office to purchase your tickets!



RAISE RIGHT HOURS

Monday 12p-2:15p Tuesday 9a-12p Wednesday 12p-2:15p

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP REMINDERS

To ensure the safety and well-being of all students, we kindly ask that parents remain in the foyer during late drop-offs and early pickups. A member of our school staff will be there to assist you and escort your child to and from the designated areas.

For our Pre-K students, please remember to use either Door 5 (Pre-K 4) or Door 6 (Pre-K 3) for drop -off and pick-up. Please let your child's teacher know if you will be late and which door you will be dropping off/picking up at so that they or another staff member can bring the student to their classroom.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter, as it helps us maintain a secure environment for our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

GARDEN CLUB

Starting April 2nd - May 21

K-2 Wednesdays 2:20pm-3:15pm

3-8 Fridays 2:20pm-3:15pm

This club is for K-8 students only, Pre-K siblings will not be allowed to attend. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Sign up using the link below

https://forms.gle/EDzjVdDdAfAUGsGNA

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION



NO AFTER SCHOOL

Due to staffing shortages and our Spring Open House, there will be no after school care available on

Thursday May 1st and Friday May 2nd.

We apologize for any inconvenience.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our St. Mary's Church Department of Faith Formation invites YOUTH & TEENS to help lead Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 4th @ 7:00 PM in the church.

If your youth and/or teens wish to participate by helping to lead this prayerful experience, please sign up by March 21st. We need many strong readers, altar servers, and singers.

You will receive the readings via email after the sign-up closes so the youth/teens can practice ahead of time. Click the link to sign up!

https://www.signupgenius.com/ go/10C0F4DA8A72EA4F9C52-55387842-2025





2025 X-STREAM GAMES & EXPO

Showcase your skills & talents through Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, & Math!

March 29

10am - 3 p.m.

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute

you can... sa



- Enter one of this year's Games: Kitchen Chem, Arcade Academy, The Power of Art, Shark Tank, or CSI/Forensics
 - Bring a Robotics team Participate in the Science
 - Scrimmage
 - Join the Public Speaking
 - Bring an entry for the Science Fair
 - Bring a display for the Exhibition

- Open to all students in grades preK-8 (& their families!)
- Not participating? Come explore the expo, watch the games, & create in the Makerspace.
- Free to attend!
- Wear your uniform & show your Catholic School pride!
- Concession available for purchase.

Ready to join the games?!

Registration closes Friday 2/28, so don't delay!

Questions?

Check the info on our website, or email stream@wnycatholicschools.org

Games Details & Registration





Hey KIDS and families!

NED's Mindset Mission Assembly is visiting our school! NED and our students take a journey to find their positive mindset. The show is filled with storytelling, humor, illusions and amazing yo-yo tricks where our kids learn the hidden message in NED's name:

Never give up — understand The Power of YET

Encourage others — spark courage in other people

Do your best® — always be learning and growing

Do you want to learn to yo? A yo-yo is both a mindset tool and a tangible reminder of NED's message. While learning to yo, children will make mistakes, try again and improve.

Our school yo-yo sale

Our school received this assembly at no-cost because another school paid-it-forward to us. We want to help pay-it-forward too, and you can help by purchasing a NED-messaged yo-yo.

SALE DATES: ______ TIME: _____

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:



Yo-yo designs and colors may vary.

Make checks payable to our school. Prices include tax (where applicable).

STUDENT ORDER FORM:

CLASSIC YOS

Learn the basics of yo-yoing with assorted fixed axel yo-yos.





SUPER SPINNERS

Great for basic and intermediate tricks. With a strong throw, these auto-return yo-yos 'sleep' at the end of the string & then come back to you automatically.





SPECIALTY SELECTION

Assorted professional long spin yo-yos for next level tricks!.





Ten assorted strings to change color or replace a worn out yo-yo string.



\$6

YO-YO HOLSTER

Keep track of your yo and have it ready to go. Attach it to your belt loop or backpack (yo-yo not included).

ITEN 4



\$8

CLIDTOTAL

Lights 40,

Name:

For more yo-yo fun and to learn tricks, check out:

NEDkids.com

Teacher: _



Yo-yo designs and colors may vary.Make checks payable to our school.
Prices include tax (where applicable).

IIEM	PRICE	QIY.	SOBIOIAL
String Pack	\$6		
Holster	\$8		
Classic Yo	\$10		
Super Spinner	\$14		
Specialty Yo	\$18		

TOTAL DUE



HOLIDAY CANDY FUNDRAISING



School Name: St. Mary's Lancaster HSA

School ID: FC21

School Goal: \$5,000

Start Date: Feb 12th

End Date: March 19th

(*Fundraiser closes at midnight on last day/no late orders accepted)

Dear Parents and Students: We are pleased to offer Fowler's Chocolates as our spring fundraiser.

Fowler's has added some new delicious chocolate goodies, candy treats and adorable stuffed animals all perfect for filling up an Easter basket.

All orders are placed online through a computer by going to shop-fowlersfundraising.com or on the mobile phone app MyFundR Fundraising using your child's unique SELLER ID LINK.

This Fundraiser will ship directly to the customer's home to the school (this option is chosen by the customer). Fowler's will begin shipping orders out between March 24th and April 5th via USPS for those that choose to ship directly to their residence, and to schools between March 17th and April 5th.

There is no money to collect as all orders are processed with a credit card.

Parents or students must register for an online account to obtain your unique SELLER ID LINK.

How to register your child on a computer:

- 1. Open your browser to shop.fowlersfundraising.com
- 2. Sign up for your account using the SCHOOL ID shown at the top of this letter
- You will be sent an email with your child's unique SELLER ID # and a LINK.
- 4. Share your child's SELLER ID LINK through emails, texts, and social media with family and friends. This is how they will get to the website to place orders.

How to register your child on a smart phone:

- Go to the APP Store and download the MyFundR Fundraising mobile app on to your phone, or simply scan the QR code to the right.
- 2. Sign up for your account using the SCHOOL ID shown at the top of this letter
- 3. You can now place orders or share the catalog right from your smart phone with your unique SELLER ID LINK
- 4. Your family and friends can order chocolate from the link you provide.

Missing/Broken/Incorrect Chocolate:

Any Chocolate item that is missing, broken or incorrect should be notified to your fundraising school administrator with 3 days
of the Ship to School orders. For Ship to Home orders, any chocolate that is missing, broken or incorrect will need to be
notified to dan@fowlerschocolates.com no later than April 10th.

How the Fundraiser helps your School and your Students:

Our Fundraiser will be given a percentage of the revenue that is sold. We can earn anywhere from 15% to 40% of the total
revenue sold, depending on what tier we hit. Our goal (above) is what we are aiming to accomplish this year so we can
continue to bring funds into our school! Thank you for your support!



If there are any questions or concerns regarding the website or your order, please contact:

dan@fowlerschocolates.com







Spring Fundraising 2025

QUITE POSSIBLY, THE BEST CHOCOLATE YOU'VE EVER TASTED.



Sweet Bunnies... of Spring!





Peanut Butter Rabbits Milk | 6 oz. | \$12.50



Derek Bunny Milk | 8 oz. Hollow | \$15.00



Lil Evie Bunny Milk | 8 oz. Hollow | \$15.00



Boy Bunny Milk | 4 oz. Soild | \$8.50



Girl Bunny Milk | 4 oz. Solid | \$8.50



Vail Bunny Milk | 4 oz. Solid | \$8.50



Easter Minikins

Milk | Dark | Orange | White

8 oz. | \$16.00



Flo Bunny Milk | 10 oz. Solid | \$19.00



Cross
Milk | Dark | White
3 oz. Solid | \$7.00



Basket Delights



Katie Kitty
Milk | Dark | White
4 oz. Solid | \$10.50



Happy Easter Bar-6pk Milk | 13.5 oz. | \$17.00



Bunny Pops-Solid 6pk Milk | 6 oz. | \$13.50



Dalmation 2-pack Milk 2 oz. \$5.00



Unicorn 2-pack Milk 2 oz. \$5.00



Butterfly 2-pack Milk 2 oz. \$5.00



Chocolate Foiled Eggs Milk | 12 oz. | \$15.50



Daisy Sucker 2-Pack Milk | 3 oz. | \$6.00



Emoji Foiled Balls Milk | 8 oz. | \$15.00



Rabbit Sucker
Milk | 2.5 oz. | \$6.00



Dancer
Milk | Dark | White
3 oz. Solid | \$7.00



Stegosaurus Milk | 3 oz. Solid | \$7.00



Premium Share...and Enjoy! Milk Chocolate with Crisped Rice Temium Dark Chocolate

Premium Bars - 6 bars (1 each) Milk | Dark | Almond | Crisped Rice Caramel Peanut Butter 13.5 oz. \$17.00



Opal Rainbow Bunny \$12.00



Shelly Robin Egg \$12.00



Clover Bunny \$12.00



Flopsy Buffalo \$14.00



Bunny/Chick Gummies Fruit/Sugar-Coated 8 oz. | **\$7.50**



Butterfly Gummies Fruit | 8 oz. | **\$7.50**



Candy Building Blocks Asstd. 4 oz. \$6.00



Jelly Beans Asstd. Fruit | 12 oz. | \$7.00



Malted Eggs Assorted | 8 oz. | \$10.00



Roch Candy Switzzle Asstd. | .75 oz. | **\$6.00**



Favorites of Buffalo

Only from Fowler's... your hometown candy maker since 1910.

BUFFALTVE



Sponge Candy
Milk | Dark | Orange

Milk | Dark | Orange | 1 lb. | \$31.50 Milk | Dark | Orange | 8 oz. | \$17.50





Sponge Candy Mixed Milk and Dark 12 oz. | \$28.00



Sponge Candy Bar Milk | 11.25 oz. 5 pack | \$16.00



Mini Buffalos

Milk | Dark | Orange | White

Dark Mint | 8 oz. | \$15.75



BuffalOreos Milk w/Dark | 8 oz. | \$18.50



Truffaloes®
Milk/Hazelnut & Dark/Raspberry
6 oz. | \$12.00



Pizza & Wings Milk/White | 9 oz. | \$19.50



716.877.9983 www.FowlersChocolates.com

Anytime Favorites

Sea Salt Caramels
Milk | Dark | 8 oz. | \$20.00







Peanut Butter Truffles
Milk | 8 oz. | \$20.00



Pecan Caramel Clusters
Milk | Dark | 7 oz. | \$20.00



Peanut Clusters
Milk | Dark | 8 oz. | \$18.50



Coconut Clusters
Milk | Dark | 8 oz. | \$18.50



Raisin Clusters
Milk | Dark | 8 oz. | \$18.50



Almond Butter Crunch Milk | Dark | 8 oz. | \$20.00



Decadent Delight
Caramel Corn, Nuts, Milk,
Dark, White | 14 oz. | \$18.50



Chocolate Covered Popcorn
Milk | 7 oz. | \$15.00



Fowler's means fundraising success! Buffalo's locally owned premium chocolatier

Thank you for supporting the organization that shared this catalog with you. Your purchase makes all the difference in helping them achieve their goals and aspirations for the year, and helps out a vital part of the Buffalo community.

Fowler's Chocolates is a name that means superior chocolate. We are a Buffalo based, family run business that has been a part of this community since 1910. We've helped organizations meet and exceed their fundraising goals with our delicious products for over thirty years. We offer multiple fundraising options for schools, leagues, clubs and non-profits.

We now offer an online fundraising program with direct to home shipping or ship to school. This means no more forms to collect and no more door to door sales, it is a streamlined ordering process and is less work for schools and organizations. These changes to our program are focused on helping your organization raise money for what's most important and reducing your workload while continuing to provide the best quality chocolates your community has come to expect year after year.



Ted Marks, President

Fowler's Chocolates

100 River Rock Drive | Buffalo, NY 716.877.9983

www.FowlersChocolates.com

Find a Fowler's Store Near You

BUFFALO

Headquarters and Factory Store 100 River Rock Drive "Sweet" 102 Buffalo, NY 14207 716-877-9983

EAST AURORA* 671 Main Street East Aurora, NY 14052 716.655.9915

CHEEKTOWAGA* 2563 Union Road Cheektowaga, NY 14227 716.668.2113 TONAWANDA* 2468 Niagara Falls Blvd. Tonawanda, NY 14150 716-694-4314

HAMBURG 314 Lake Street Hamburg, NY 14075 716-648-4677

* Serving Ice Cream Year Rour







Quick Guide to Fowler's Spring Fundraising Program

To Register or Login go to www.shop.fowlersfundraising.com



How do we sell?

Online Only

- Sellers will share a link to our selling site through our app or computer.
- Sellers can share the link via text, email, or on social media.

Profit %

\$1500-\$2499*	15%
\$2500-\$3749*	30%
\$3750-\$4999*	35%
\$5000 or more*	40%

^{*}Includes chocolate and magazine sales.

How do we take orders?

- All orders are placed online at www.shop.fowlersfundraising.com OR through our app.
- · Yeah!! No more order forms!
- All payments will be on credit/debit cards.
- Brochure PDF is available for downloading.
- Sellers can take orders on the app with a credit card or over the phone.

Online Orders

- School shares the fundraising site link to parents and students so they can register to sell.
- Sellers create registration and share fundraising link using the app.
- Sellers can customize their page and their message before sharing.
- Sellers can text, email or post their selling site link with just a few clicks.
- Sellers can have out of town family and friends make purchases and have their order shipped direct to their house. Shipping charge apply.
- Ship to school is also an option at checkout.

Program Benefits

- Contact-Free, no door to door sales.
- Easy to use website.
- Fun app for kids to use and share.
- Watch the real time leader board to track goals.
- Easy tracking for school to create prize programs.
- Set up automatic emails to sellers for reminders.

Donations

- Online donation gives schools 90% of the donation.

 The remainder is used to pay for the platform and credit card fees.
- Donations count towards student's goal.
- Donations do NOT count towards school's minimum order.

Magazine Sales

- 84 different magazines to choose from.
- Schools get the same % profit.

How do I sign up?

Create an Account or Log in at:

- https://shop.fowlersfundraising.com/
- Call Dan Robinson at 716-877-9983 Ext 205 or email him at Dan@FowlersChocolates.com

^{*}Donations do not count toward minimum order.

^{*}Minimum order of \$1500 is required to qualify for fundraising benefits.





Notes From the Nurse

March 2025

Dara Sirianni RN, BSN

Spring Sports

Students who wish to participate in school sports <u>MUST HAVE</u> a valid NYS Physical on file in the Health Office. Please hand these in ASAP to avoid delays in your child participating in practices/games.

Always Changing and Growing-Up



All students in the 5th Grade class will have an opportunity to watch the Always Changing and Growing-Up Puberty videos in class this month. Information and permission slips will be sent out soon.

This important information provides students in this age range with the appropriate tools and resources to navigate the changes that will or already have begun within their bodies. As well as give them the opportunity to ask questions they may have or that can arise from watching the videos.

Parents may view the videos online prior to the class. Feel free to contact me via email if you would like the link.

Important immunization

Information

All Students entering 6th grade in September 2025 must have a Tdap vaccine. This vaccine must be received prior to the start of the school year or on your child's 11th birthday.

All students entering 7th grade in September 2025 must have one dose of the Meningococcal vaccine prior to the start of the school year.

I like to send out this information early to accomodate for spring/summer physicals. If your child(children) are in need of either of these vaccines an informational flyer will be sent home in April.

You can always email or call the Health Office if you have any questions regarding this information.

Office Hours: School Days 9:30-1pm

Phone: (716) 683-2112 ext 128

Fax: (716) 683-2134

email: nurse@smeschool.com

Health Office Information



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LANCASTER, NY- "...visible examples of Gospel living."

March '25

Student lunches are \$3.75, and adult lunches are \$5.50. During this time, we ask that all lunches be prepaid with either cash or check made out to SME, in the exact amount. Any overage will be kept on account. All lunches are comprised of five components; protein, whole grain, vegetables, fruit & milk. In addition to the main entrée, there are three alternate choices offered daily; Turkey Sandwich, Yogurt Parfait, or Sun Butter/Jelly Sandwich. Milk is \$0.50, and may be prepaid if your student buys milk regularly. Snack will now be served to all grades during lunchtime. No snack is ever purchased on account. Snack money must be presented at point of sale. Snacks are \$0.50-\$1.00. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at heerdt@smeschool.com. We appreciate your support. Liz Heerdt & Tracy Hadsall (menu subject to change)

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Lunch = \$3.75 Lunches = \$7.50	6 Lunches = \$22.50 7 Lunches = \$26.25	11 Lunches = \$41.25 12 Lunches = \$45.00	16 Lunches = \$60.00 17 Lunches = \$63.75	21 Lunches = \$78.75 22 Lunches = \$82.50
-	3 Lunches = \$11.25	8 Lunches = \$30.00	13 Lunches = $$48.75$	18 Lunches = $$67.50$	
	4 Lunches = \$15.00 5 Lunches = \$18.75	9 Lunches = \$33.75 10 Lunches = \$37.50	14 Lunches = \$52.50 15 Lunches = \$56.25	19 Lunches = \$71.25 20 Lunches = \$75.00	Cash or Check to SME Change Will Go On Acct
3	Pasta w/ Meat Sauce Veggies, Fruit & Milk	4 Beef Taco Bowl Veggies, Fruit & Milk	Fish Sticks Veggies, Fruit & Milk No option B today	6 Chicken Salad Wraps Veggies, Fruit & Milk	7 Cheese Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk No option B today
0	Pancakes Egg Patty Veggies, Fruit & Milk	11 Beef & Cheese Burrito Veggies, Fruit & Milk	12 Cheeseburgers Veggies, Fruit & Milk	13 Chicken Souvlaki Bowl Veggies, Fruit & Milk	Cheese Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk
					No option B today
7	Goulash Veggies, Fruit & Milk	18 Open Chicken Pot Pie Over Mashed Potatoes Veggies, Fruit & Milk	Hot Dogs Veggies, Fruit & Milk	20 Chicken Caesar Salad Veggies, Fruit & Milk	21 Mozzarella Sticks With Marinara Sauce Veggies, Fruit & Milk
		4 9 9			No option B today
24	Bacon, Egg & Cheese On English Muffin Veggies, Fruit & Milk	Nachos Supreme Veggies, Fruit & Milk	26 Chicken Patty on a Bun Veggies, Fruit & Milk	27 Sweet & Sour Chicken Wi/Ramen Noodles Veggies, Fruit & Milk	28 Cheese Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk
	**				No option B today
31	Waffles & Sausage Veggies, Fruit & Milk	Beef Crumble Over Mashed Potatoes Veggies, Fruit & Milk	Homemade Mac & Cheese Veggies, Fruit & Milk	Sloppy Joes Veggies, Fruit & Milk	Cheese Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk
					No option B today



The **BISON Children's Scholarship Fund** is a private scholarship fund providing tuition assistance for low-income families throughout the 8 counties of Western New York who want to enroll their children in private K-12 schools.

STEP 1

Complete a pre-application online at bisonfund.org between January 15, 2025 and March 31, 2025. Call BISON with questions at (716) 854-0869 ext. 1.

BISON K-8 Scholarship Quick Facts:

- Average K-8 scholarship in 2024 of \$1,725
- The maximum award is \$3,000.
- Currently BISON has over 1,800 scholars in 77 different private schools across Western New York.
- Each family must contribute toward their child's private education.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY AMOUNTS

Household Size (Based on 2024 household income) 2 \$ 57,105 3 \$ 71,955 4 \$ 86,805 5 \$ 101,655 6 \$ 116,505 7 \$ 131,355

\$146,205

STEP 2

Watch for notification after the BISON Lottery is held on April 1, 2025. Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application to receive the scholarship. If you're not chosen, you will automatically be placed on the BISON waitlist.

STEP 3

If selected, complete the full application online. Enroll your child(ren) in the school of their choice and ask the school to complete the school commitment form.

STEP 4

Once all the steps are completed, BISON will notify you of your scholarship amount. Watch for email notices to annually renew your BISON Scholarship in February of each year and add siblings.



Cindy McDonald, Program Director

(716) 854-0869 ext. 1

cmcdonald@bisonfund.org



FAQ for FAMILIES

More detailed information can be found on our website at www.bisonfund.org

WHO QUALIFIES FOR A BISON K-8 SCHOLARSHIP?

Residents of the 8 counties of Western New York (WNY) with children entering K-8th grade with a total family income within the income eligibility scale on the reverse side. You may only apply for your biological or legal guardian children.

HOW DO NEW FAMILIES APPLY?

New families must complete a pre-application form electronically (online) on our website at bisonfund.org. The new family deadline is **March 31, 2025**. Preference is NOT given to early applications; however you must apply by 3/31 to be considered for the lottery. Families applying after the **March 31, 2025** deadline will be placed on our waitlist.

HOW ARE BISON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CHOSEN?

Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-application forms on **April 1, 2025**. Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application in order to receive the scholarship.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I WON THE LOTTERY?

All applicants will be notified of lottery results by email on **April 1, 2025.** If you're not chosen in the lottery, you can always reapply for the next school year.

I RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP AWARD EMAIL ... NOW WHAT?

In your award email, there will be a link to complete your full application. Click on the link and follow the application steps. The deadline to complete the application is April 30, 2025. Please be sure to include all your income sources including your Federal 1040 tax return, child support, business income, public assistance, food stamps, Social Security income, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation and financial assistance from family & friends. Select your school (a complete list can be found on our website) and contact the school to complete the school commitment form. After receipt of all the required documents, your scholarship will be calculated based on your household size and income, as well as

tuition amount. You must renew annually to continue with BISON.

I RECEIVED NOTICE I'M ON A WAITLIST ... NOW WHAT?

Unfortunately, there are always more applicants than available funding. We keep waitlist names for the academic year hopeful that additional funding becomes available. If you are not taken off the waitlist, you will need to resubmit a pre-application next year to be considered.

WHY DO FAMILIES HAVE TO PAY PART OF THE TUITION?

One key component of educational success is parental involvement. Making a financial sacrifice is a strong incentive to becoming and remaining, involved. BISON families are required to pay a minimum of \$500 each year.