

NEWSNOTE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

We pride ourselves on our culture and the climate of our school. Our team is always reflecting on our academic programs, extracurriculars, and school events to ensure that all we do develops our students and community, while also representing the values of our school. As we examine SME, we always consider relationships, focusing on thoughts such as how members of our school community interact with one another, whether everyone feels welcome, and how certain functions of the school reflect how St. Mary’s operates.

Last Friday’s Meat Raffle epitomizes a lot of what has made SME such an overwhelming success in recent years. Our volunteer team that hosted the event was made of more than 20 teachers and staff, over 30 parent volunteers, and nearly half of our school board! At the high school, we entertained and spent the evening with a more than sold out crowd of about 600 guests, creating a most successful community event!

We’re still collecting and processing some expenses, but it’s safe to say that this year’s event was the most successful in the history of our school. The success of the evening is so much more than raffle tickets sold or bags of chicken fingers won, though. Everyone wants their number drawn for the basket raffle or gift card pull, but the true winner Friday night was St. Mary’s Elementary School. The meat raffle was about more than strip steaks and shrimp; it was a social event that witnessed about 700 people come together as a community and support their school in a very entertaining way.

We all had a great time! All who attended and supported our school had the opportunity to interact with each other. Together, we form this amazing community of St. Mary’s, where all are welcome and everyone matters. Whether we were helping with security, raffle baskets, 50/50 tickets, walking about a million miles while selling rounds and rounds of tickets, or attending as guests to support the event, we all joined together to make great memories and enjoy each other’s company, while hoping to win a prize.

As a Tier 3 school whose goals are to continue our path of sustainable growth and implement strong academic programs, the success of St. Mary’s Elementary School is becoming very well documented at this point. But what I continue to be most proud of is the community we are building. SME is so much more than just a school. Data demonstrates that our students outperform their public school peers, our sports programs grow with our increased enrollment, and our extracurricular programs evolve with our pillar system. However, what I feel will enable SME to continue to grow is very difficult to quantify, which is why I wanted to utilize this space to write about last Friday’s event as I have: Friday’s meat raffle presented a thriving community of multiple levels of stakeholders who captured the very difficult to quantify markers of perception of school, strength of our community, the positive climate of the school, and the highest quality of the social environment of SME. For these reasons, we all left the event winners - even if we were not fortunate enough to walk away with pork chops.

Your Partner in Education,  
Mr. O



- **Wed. 3/5** - Ash Wednesday Mass 8:30am
- **Fri. 3/7** - Christian Witness Mass @ 8:30am
- **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

MEAT RAFFLE

Our Meat Raffle would not have been the rousing success it was without the generosity of Camillo’s Sloan Super Market. We cannot thank the Camillo family enough for their support of St. Mary’s Elementary School, and we certainly encourage all of our school families to consider supporting one of our school families and frequenting

Camillo’s.



FINANCES

We are excited to share that our new email contact will be available to assist you with any inquiries. Please direct all further questions/concerns regarding financial services to the email below:

**finances@smeschool.com**  
Thank you!



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

**HSA Meetings**  
Interested in learning more about HSA and the events we have planned for this spring? **Please join us tonight (Wed 3/5) at 5:30pm in the gym!**  
**Can’t join us in person? Join us virtually!**  
[meet.google.com/hxi-vasw-jsh](https://meet.google.com/hxi-vasw-jsh)  
(US) [+1 219-316-1308](tel:+12193161308)  
PIN: 182288875

Upcoming HSA Meetings:  
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.



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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-spirit-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.

### DATE KNIGHT PHOTOS

#### Date Knight Dance Photos

Photos from the Date Knight Dance are now available! Please visit the following link to view:

<https://kellytanskiphotography.pixieset.com/2025smemothersondance/>

Thank you to Kelly Tanski for capturing these special moments between our students and their loved ones!

### 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!



### 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>



### NURSE'S MESSAGE

Please take a moment to review this months Nurse Notes attached electronically today!

### YEARBOOKS

**Don't Delay... Order Your SME Yearbook Today!**

SME is growing and so is the yearbook... The yearbook is now 44 pages of full-color!

- ◇ On Sale from **February 1 - March 8, 2025.**
- ◇ Yearbook Sales will be online ONLY. **Cost: \$20**
- ◇ All SME students in PreK3-8th grade will be included in the yearbook
- ◇ Yearbooks will be distributed in June

Please direct any questions to Mrs. Pesany-Au at [yearbook@smeschool.com](mailto:yearbook@smeschool.com)

**To order a yearbook visit:**  
**[www.inter-state.com/order](http://www.inter-state.com/order)**  
enter code: **92391T**  
**Or use the QR Code on the attached flyer**

### READ ACROSS AMERICA

As part of our celebration of Read Across America Week from **March 3rd - March 7th**, we're excited to announce our daily dress down themes! This is a great opportunity to show our love for reading while having some fun with our outfits!

Click on the link below if you'd like to sign up to volunteer..

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4FADAD2BA0F94-55335403-read>

### BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

We are bringing back the Battle of the Books event that the school used to hold yearly! BATTLE OF THE BOOKS is a game show-like competition to test student teams' knowledge of two select-ed books by answering questions. Not all students are required to participate. There are three Battle of the Books divisions - grades 2/3, grades 4/5 and grades 6-8. Teams can have one to five members. The team's members can be from different grades within the division. The team members can each read both books or one reads one while the other reads the other book. Teams should be creative with names, T-shirts, posters etc...

Teams can sign up with Mrs. Kasinski outside of the library by **March 14th**.

Here are the books per grade division

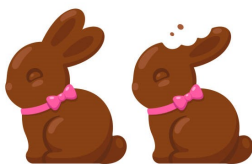
- Grades 2/3 will read "Magic Treehouse: Buffalo Before Breakfast" by Mary Pope Osborne & "How to eat Fried Worms" by Thomas Rockwell
- Grades 4/5 will read "The BFG" by Roald Dahl & "Mr. Popper's Penguins" by Florence and Richard Atwater
- Grades 6-8 will read "Holes" by Louis Sachar & "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" by John Boyne

This event will take place at our Spring Open House on **May 1st** with our Art Show and Book Fair.



### FOWLER'S CHOCOLATE

Information regarding our Fowler's Chocolate fundraiser was distributed to families via email on 2/10. This fundraiser will run from 2/12 through 3/19. It's the perfect opportunity to indulge in some sweet treats while supporting a great cause! Questions? Contact Mrs. Light at [alight@smeschool.com](mailto:alight@smeschool.com)



### RAISE RIGHT

Updated Office Hours:

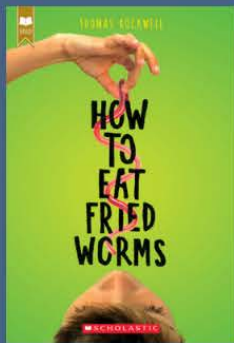
**Monday 12p-2:15p**  
**Tuesday 9a-12p**  
**Wednesday 12p-2:15p**

All online and school orders will be checked on Fridays and go home on Monday if inventory allows.

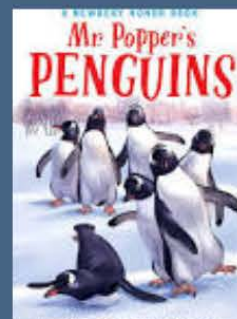
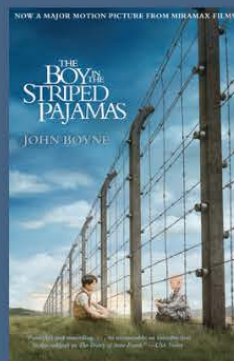
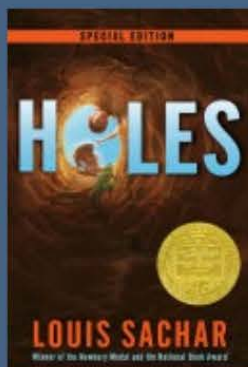
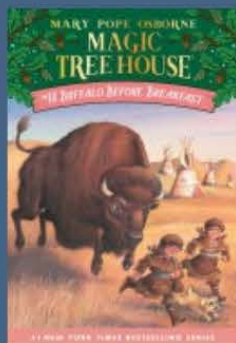
If you have any questions, please email [raiseright@smeschool.com](mailto:raiseright@smeschool.com).

Our team is here for you!





# BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



IF YOU THINK  
YOU HAVE  
WHAT IT  
TAKES TO BE  
2025 BOOK  
CHAMPION,  
SIGN UP  
OUTSIDE THE  
SCHOOL  
LIBRARY BY  
MARCH 14TH

2  
0  
2  
5

OUR EVENT  
WILL TAKE  
PLACE MAY 1ST  
AT THE ART  
SHOW



# HOLIDAY CANDY FUNDRAISING



**School Name: St. Mary's Lancaster HSA**

**School ID: FC21**

**School Goal: \$5,000**

**Start Date: Feb 12<sup>th</sup>**

**End Date: March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**(\*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](http://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 17<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>.

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](http://shop.fowlersfundraising.com)
2. Sign up for your account using the SCHOOL ID shown at the top of this letter
3. 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:

1. 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](mailto:dan@fowlerschocolates.com) no later than April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**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](mailto:dan@fowlerschocolates.com)



SCAN ME



**FOWLER'S**  
FINE CHOCOLATE SINCE 1910

# Spring Fundraising 2025

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





# Sweet Bunnies...of Spring!

## Graham Bunny

Milk | 16 oz. Hollow | \$27.00



## 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. Solid | \$8.50



## Girl Bunny

Milk | 4 oz. Solid | \$8.50



## Vail Bunny

Milk | 4 oz. Solid | \$8.50



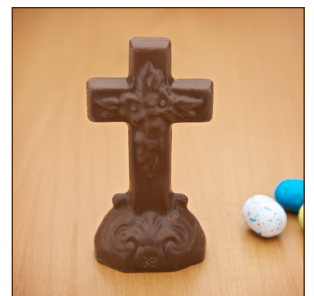
## Easter Minikins

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

Pg.2

**FOWLER'S**  
FINE CHOCOLATE SINCE 1910

716.877.9983

www.FowlersChocolates.com



# 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



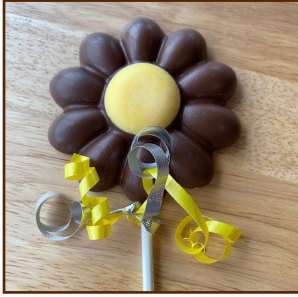
## Butterfly 2-pack

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

Pg.3

**FOWLER'S**  
FINE CHOCOLATE SINCE 1910

716.877.9983  
www.FowlersChocolates.com



# Share...and Enjoy!



## 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  
Ass'd. | 4 oz. | \$6.00



Jelly Beans  
Ass'd. Fruit | 12 oz. | \$7.00



Malted Eggs  
Assorted | 8 oz. | \$10.00



Roch Candy Swizzle  
Ass'd. | .75 oz. | \$6.00

Pg.4

**FOWLER'S**  
FINE CHOCOLATE SINCE 1910

716.877.9983  
www.FowlersChocolates.com



# Favorites of Buffalo

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



## Sponge Candy

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**



## BuffaloOreos

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



## Truffaloes®

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



## Pizza & Wings

Milk/White | 9 oz. | **\$19.50**

Pg.5



**FOWLER'S**  
FINE CHOCOLATE SINCE 1910

716.877.9983

[www.FowlersChocolates.com](http://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

Pg.6

**FOWLER'S**  
FINE CHOCOLATE SINCE 1910

716.877.9983

www.FowlersChocolates.com



# Fowler's means fundraising success!

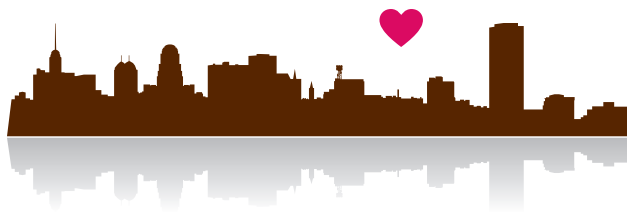
## Buffalo's locally owned premium chocolatier

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.

## Thank You!



Ted Marks, President

### Fowler's Chocolates

100 River Rock Drive | Buffalo, NY  
716.877.9983

[www.FowlersChocolates.com](http://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



Pg.7

**FOWLER'S**  
FINE CHOCOLATE SINCE 1910

716.877.9983

[www.FowlersChocolates.com](http://www.FowlersChocolates.com)

*Photos are for descriptive purposes only; product and packaging may vary slightly, but the content will be every bit as delicious!*



## Quick Guide to Fowler's Spring Fundraising Program

To Register or Login go to [www.shop.fowlersfundraising.com](http://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.

\*Donations do not count toward minimum order.

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

### How do we take orders?

- All orders are placed online at [www.shop.fowlersfundraising.com](http://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](mailto:Dan@FowlersChocolates.com)



	<div></div> <div><h2>Notes From the Nurse</h2><p>March 2025</p><p><b>Dara Sirianni RN, BSN</b></p></div>
<p><b>Spring Sports</b></p>	<p>Students who wish to participate in school sports <b>MUST HAVE</b> 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.</p>
<p><b>Always Changing and Growing-Up</b></p> 	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Parents may view the videos online prior to the class. Feel free to contact me via email if you would like the link.</p>
<p><b>Important Immunization Information</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>All students entering 7th grade in September 2025 must have one dose of the Meningococcal vaccine prior to the start of the school year.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>You can always email or call the Health Office if you have any questions regarding this information.</p>
<p><b>Health Office Information</b></p>	<div><p>Office Hours: School Days 9:30-1pm</p><p>Phone: (716) 683-2112 ext 128</p><p>Fax: (716) 683-2134</p><p>email: nurse@smeschool.com</p></div> <div></div>



# Order Your **YEARBOOK** **TODAY!**

[inter-state.com/order](https://inter-state.com/order)

Use Order Code: 92391T

**SCAN THE QR CODE**  
FOR EASY ORDERING!







*Welcome back*

# GARDEN CLUB

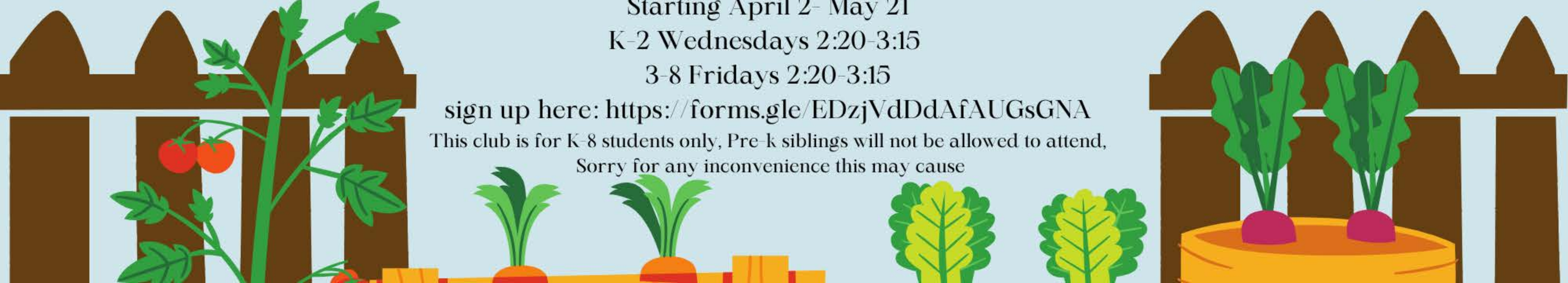
Starting April 2- May 21

K-2 Wednesdays 2:20-3:15

3-8 Fridays 2:20-3:15

sign up here: <https://forms.gle/EDzjVdDdAfAUGsGNA>

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







# 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...** ★
- 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 Competition
  - Bring an entry for the Science Fair
  - Bring a display for the Exhibition

★ **EVENT INFO** ★

- 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](mailto:stream@wnycatholicschools.org)

Games Details  
& Registration







# BISON

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Giving Parents a Choice • Giving Children a Chance

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.

## 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.

### STEP 1

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

### 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.

## INCOME ELIGIBILITY AMOUNTS

Household Size	Total Income (Based on 2024 household income)
2	\$ 57,105
3	\$ 71,955
4	\$ 86,805
5	\$ 101,655
6	\$ 116,505
7	\$ 131,355
8	\$ 146,205





**BISON**  
CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
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## FAQ for FAMILIES

More detailed information can be found on our website at [www.bisonfund.org](http://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-8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.



# 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](mailto:heerdt@smeschool.com). We appreciate your support. Liz Heerdt & Tracy Hadsall (menu subject to change)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Lunch = \$3.75 2 Lunches = \$7.50 3 Lunches = \$11.25 4 Lunches = \$15.00 5 Lunches = \$18.75	6 Lunches = \$22.50 7 Lunches = \$26.25 8 Lunches = \$30.00 9 Lunches = \$33.75 10 Lunches = \$37.50	11 Lunches = \$41.25 12 Lunches = \$45.00 13 Lunches = \$48.75 14 Lunches = \$52.50 15 Lunches = \$56.25	16 Lunches = \$60.00 17 Lunches = \$63.75 18 Lunches = \$67.50 19 Lunches = \$71.25 20 Lunches = \$75.00	21 Lunches = \$78.75 22 Lunches = \$82.50  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	5 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
10 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	14 Cheese Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk  No option B today
17 Goulash Veggies, Fruit & Milk	18 Open Chicken Pot Pie Over Mashed Potatoes Veggies, Fruit & Milk	19 Hot Dogs Veggies, Fruit & Milk	20 Chicken Caesar Salad Veggies, Fruit & Milk	21 Mozzarella Sticks With Marinara Sauce Veggies, Fruit & Milk  No option B today
24 Bacon, Egg & Cheese On English Muffin Veggies, Fruit & Milk	25 Nachos Supreme Veggies, Fruit & Milk	26 Chicken Patty on a Bun Veggies, Fruit & Milk	27 Sweet & Sour Chicken w/ 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