December 14, 2017

Dear Annunciata Families,

 On Wednesday, December 13, 2017, I received updated information regarding the new tax credit scholarships that will go into effect on January 1, 2018.

1. The scholarship is available to all Illinois residents who have children in Kindergarten through Grade 12.
2. The financial eligibility is as follows:
3. Until April 1, 2018, priority is given to households below 185% of the federal poverty level ($45,510 for a family of 4). Students who reside in a focus district (CPS is a focus district) will also have priority.
4. After April 1, 2018, the poverty threshold increases to 300% ($73,800 for a family of 4). It will be first come first served.
5. Scholarship amounts will vary based on income. You may qualify for all tuition and eligible fees up to $12, 973.
6. You may apply for as many scholarships as you want, but you can only accept one.
7. 2 Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO) have been approved for our area currently—Empower Illinois and Big Shoulders. More may be added over the next few weeks.
8. The links for the SGO are as follows:
9. <https://empowerillinois.org/>
10. <https://www.bigshouldersfundsgo.org/>
11. Empower Illinois will accept applications beginning January 24. Big Shoulders will accept applications around the same time. You must apply to each SGO individually; there is no common application.
12. The following is the application checklist provided by Empower Illinois. Each SGO may create their own checklist, but they should be similar:
13. A copy of your family’s 2016 federal tax return. You may contact them directly if you do not file.
14. Proof of Illinois residency such as a current utility bill or current driver license
15. Documentation of student’s age such as a birth certificate, state ID, or passport
16. Proof of enrollment at a private school (Intent to Return Form is sufficient)
17. Originally, the SGO was going to ask for report cards, but they have removed that provision. No grades need to be submitted to qualify for the scholarship.
18. Award notifications will begin in February and continue until the money is exhausted. The money will be distributed directly to the school at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

The Archdiocese will offer sites throughout the city to assist families in applying for the tax credit scholarships. I will forward that information when it becomes available. The site for the Invest in Kids Act, which created the scholarship, is the following: <http://tax.illinois.gov/InvestInKids/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office or my email.

 Sincerely,

 Edward A. Renas