



Good Shepherd Academy

316 North Maple Avenue • Kingston, PA 18704 • (570) 718-GSAG (4724) • Fax: (570) 718-4725 • www.gsapa.org

August 2023

Dear Guardian Nation,

We pray this letter finds you well and enjoying the last few weeks of the Summer of 23'. We are busy at work preparing for another wonderful academic year at Good Shepherd Academy. Thank you to all of our families who will be returning to GSA this year and a BIG GSA welcome to all of our new families. By choosing Good Shepherd Academy you have chosen the premiere Academy in all of Northeast and Central Pennsylvania.

As we prepare for a new school year of shaping minds and hearts, we would like to thank our families and staff for partnering together in support of the indispensable mission of living the Gospel in thought, word and action. We are truly blessed that you are sharing your greatest treasures with GSA. It is our prayer that the 2023-2024 school year is another amazing year of learning, laughing and loving all of the good things that God has provided to us at GSA.

Please make note of these important dates, times and events.

- ❖ The first day of school for grades kindergarten through 8th grade is Monday August 28, 2023. This is an 11:00 dismissal day with transportation provided by the local districts. The prekindergarten will start on Tuesday August 29th and this is a full day of school. All students may wear gym uniforms for the first week of school. The Spring/Fall uniform must be worn starting Tuesday September 5th. Just a friendly reminder that the school uniform policy will be fully enforced for the 2023-2024 school year. This will pertain to proper school shoes, hair length, nail polish and all other policies in the school handbook. You will receive the handbook, which includes a signature page, the first week of school. Please refrain from any fad haircuts or hair coloring for the start of the school year. Also, Van sneakers will not be permitted this year.
- ❖ Cafeteria services through various vendors and friends of GSA. Hot lunches will begin on Tuesday September 5th. Everyone is asked to bring a lunch the first week of school. All families will receive a menu with ordering instruction to your email before the first week.
- ❖ The classes for kindergarten through 8th grade will be separated into homerooms on the first day of school in the following manner. All students in grades kindergarten through grade 4 including the students from the Individualized Instruction Program will report to the gymnasium. The gym will be marked where the students will be seated by grade level. All students will be called by homeroom by a member of the GSA staff. They will then proceed to their homerooms with their homeroom teacher. Grades 5 through 8 will report to the cafeteria where they will be divided into homerooms.
- ❖ We respectfully ask that any parents/guardians who accompanies their child into school on the first day of school kindly excuse themselves at 8:10a.m. so that we may get the

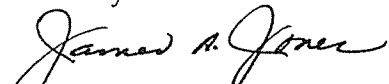
"Where the dreams of God's children are protected by the Shepherd"


students to their homerooms in a timely manner. Your children are in the hands of the most capable and caring teachers/staff in the Diocese of Scranton and they will make sure the transition runs smoothly. We also understand that this time of year yields much anxiety over classroom assignments, but we ask you to keep your faith in the true professionalism of the faculty and staff at GSA.

- ❖ Much prayer and consideration have gone into the class list by the faculty and changes cannot be made after the assignments have been imported into FACTS SIS. We encourage all parents to take the opportunity at “Meet the Teachers Night” to meet your child’s teacher and become familiar with classroom policies and procedures. Individual conferences may be made directly with your child’s teacher at times that are convenient for everyone. Drop in conferences are not allowed due to the many assignments our teachers have before and after school.
- ❖ On Tuesday August 29th the pre-kindergarten will be met at the front doors by the GSA faculty and staff and directed to their classroom. Parents of the pre-k may accompany their child to class on the first day of school. The pre-k aides will be in the main hallway on the first floor to assist your child every day they arrive at GSA and escort them to the classroom.
- ❖ There will be a “Get the Scoop on GSA” for pre-k, kindergarten and new families on Thursday August 24th at 7:00p.m. in the gymnasium. This informational session will touch on several important topics during the school year. Our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten teachers will be present along with members of our Guardian Parent Teacher Organization. We know they look forward to meeting our new families on Thursday August 25th.
- ❖ Our “Back to School Liturgy” is scheduled for Thursday September 7th at 8:45am in St. Ignatius Church. Please plan on joining us for a beautiful celebration to start the school year.
- ❖ Our “Back to School Bash” is scheduled for Friday September 15th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm on the school grounds. This event, sponsored by the Guardian Parent Teacher Organization is a wonderful way to make new friends and see old friends.
- ❖ “Meet the Teachers Night” is scheduled for Thursday September 7th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. All faculty and staff will be introduced at 6:30pm followed by a brief GPTO overview. Parents may then feel free to visit the teachers in their classrooms from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.
- ❖ Basketball and cheerleading sign-ups will also take place at “Meet the Teachers Night” following the GPTO overview. More information on the registration fee will be coming from the Good Shepherd Academy Athletic Association (GSAAA) in the near future.
- ❖ School pictures are scheduled for Monday September 11th and Tuesday September 12th. Order forms will be sent out the first week of school and Lyons Studio will once again be taking our school photos. Grades pre k through grade 4 will have their pictures taken on Monday September 11th. Students in grades 5 through 8 and students in the Individualized Instruction Program will have their pictures taken on Tuesday September 12th. This is a “dress up” day although school uniforms are permitted but not required for school pictures.

- ❖ All students may be dropped off at the front entrance or gym doors beginning at 7:30a.m. Parents are respectfully asked to pull in and we will assist your child from your vehicle. Please do not park or get out as this leads to traffic congestion on Maple Ave and in the school parking lot. At 1:50p.m. all pre k will dismiss from the front doors. At 2:00p.m. all bus students will dismiss from the gym. All students in grades kindergarten through grade 2 who are not bus riders will dismiss out the front doors. At 2:05pm students from grades 6-7-8 will dismiss from the front doors. At 2:10 all students from grades 3-4-5 will dismiss via the front doors. Parents will once again be permitted to park in the parking lot and walk to the front doors to pick up their children at dismissal. Parents may also park in St. Mary's lot near our playground on Chestnut Street. Please remember not to park in front of the school on the left hand side or in the parking lot across from GSA as this is private property. Street cleaning is Wednesday and Thursday on Maple Ave.
- ❖ The school supply list is on the website.
- ❖ Please find enclosed the school calendar and the code for signing up for REMIND. REMIND is the primary method to keep you informed of school events, weather disruptions and other important information.
- ❖ Parents are reminded to enter and exit only through the front doors. This allows us to keep the environment safe. The parking lot is very busy both in the morning and at dismissal so please take your time and use good judgement when you are entering and exiting the lot.
- ❖ Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Seltzer will be serving in the capacity as Administrative Assistants and will handle all questions regarding registration, enrollment, parish affiliation and other questions pertaining to the daily operations of the office. Mrs. Podcasy will be administrating all fundraising, tuition reduction and cafeteria questions. Mrs. Tanner is handling all financial questions relating to tuition and FACTS.
- ❖ All parents must have State Police, Child Abuse Clearances and have attended a VIRTUS session online in order to volunteer at GSA. The clearances can be found at www.diocesofscranton.org. VIRTUS sessions are also listed on the diocesan website.
- ❖ We respectfully ask that all parent/teacher meeting are scheduled in advance so that our teachers may be prepared and gather the necessary information required for the meeting. Again, our teachers are involved in many after school activities and clubs, as well as tutoring, so advance notice is necessary for scheduling purposes.

Sincerely Yours in Christ.


Mr. James A. Jones, Principal


Mrs. Joyce Elston, Vice Principal

Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools
2023 - 2024 Calendar

August 21 (Monday)	Opening Principal Meeting
August 23 (Wednesday)	Opening Faculty Meeting
August 24 (Thursday)	Staff Development
August 25 (Friday)	Staff Development
August 28 (Monday)	First Day of School for Students – Early Dismissal
September 1 (Friday)	NO SCHOOL
September 4 (Monday)	NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
September 25 (Monday)	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS; Diocesan Teachers' Institute
<i>October 1 (Sunday)</i>	<i>Respect Life Mass - St. Peter's Cathedral 10:00 a.m.</i>
October 9 (Monday)	NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day Holiday
October 11 (Wednesday)	PSAT Testing
October 12 (Thursday)	“Fall” Regional Forensics Competition
<i>October 22 (Sunday)</i>	<i>Mission Mass - St. Peter's Cathedral 12:15 p.m.</i>
October 26 (Thursday)	Mary C. Tigue Diocesan Forensic Finals -Holy Cross High School
October 31 (Tuesday)	Early Dismissal – Staff Development
November 1 (Wednesday)	All Saints Day
November 2 (Thursday)	All Souls Day
November 2 (Thursday)	First Quarter Ends
November 3 (Friday)	Second Quarter Ends
November 9 (Thursday)	Early Dismissal – Conferences Afternoon and Evening
November 10 (Friday)	NO SCHOOL - Veteran's Day(observed)
November 22 (Wednesday)	Early Dismissal
Nov. 23 – 27	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Holiday
November 28 (Tuesday)	Classes Resume
December 8 (Friday)	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 22 – January 1	NO SCHOOL – Christmas Holiday
January 2 (Tuesday)	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS; Staff Development Day
January 3 (Wednesday)	Classes Resume
January 15 (Monday)	NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 19 (Friday)	March for Life
January 25 (Thursday)	Second Quarter Ends
January 26 (Friday)	Third Quarter Begins
January 28 – February 2	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK <i>CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: FAITH, EXCELLENCE, SERVICE</i>
February 2 (Friday)	Early Dismissal – CSW Teacher Appreciation Day
February 14 (Wednesday)	Ash Wednesday
February 19 (Monday)	NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day

March 6 (Wednesday)	Early Dismissal - Staff Development
March 7 (Thursday)	“Spring” Regional Forensic Competition
March 21 (Thursday)	Mary C. Tigue Diocesan Forensics Finals - Holy Redeemer High School
March 27 (Wednesday)	Easter Break – Early Dismissal
March 28 (Thursday)	Holy Thursday – NO SCHOOL
March 29 (Friday)	Good Friday – NO SCHOOL
March 31 (Sunday)	Easter Sunday
April 1 (Monday)	Easter Monday – NO SCHOOL
April 2 (Tuesday)	Classes Resume
April 5 (Friday)	Third Quarter Ends
April 8 (Monday)	Fourth Quarter Begins
April 17 (Wednesday)	Early Dismissal – Staff Development
May 8 (Wednesday)	Early Dismissal – Staff Development
May 9 (Thursday)	Ascension Thursday – Holy Day of Obligation
May 12 (Sunday)	Mother’s Day
May 27 (Monday)	NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day Holiday
June 6 (Thursday)	Early Dismissal – Staff Development Day
June 7(Friday)	Early Dismissal
June 10 (Monday)	Last Student/Faculty Day – Early Dismissal

High School Graduations

Wednesday, May 29, 2024	Holy Redeemer High School
Thursday, May 30, 2024	St. John Neumann High School
Friday, May 31, 2024	Holy Cross High School
Saturday, June 1, 2024	Notre Dame High School

2023-2024	Student days	Teacher days	Quarters			Days
August	4	7	1 st	8/28	11/02	45
September	18	19	2 nd	11/03	1/25	47
October	21	21	3 rd	1/26	4/07	47
November	18	18	4 th	4/08	6/10	45
December	15	15	TOTAL			184
January	20	21				
February	20	20				
March	19	19				
April	21	21				
May	22	22				
June	6	6				
TOTAL	184	189				

SCHOOL UNIFORM and DRESS CODE POLICY

Official School Uniforms
Supplier: Flynn and O'Hara

Boys K-4 Winter Uniform

- # Khaki pants with black/brown leather belt.
- # Dark navy long/short sleeve polo shirt with logo.
- # Navy crew socks.
- # Navy V-neck cardigan with logo, navy polar fleece sleeveless vest or jacket with logo, navy with white trim v-neck pullover sweater with logo may be worn over the navy polo or a white turtleneck with logo.

Boys K-8 Spring/Fall Uniform.

- # Khaki pants or Khaki walking shorts.
- # Dark navy short sleeve polo with logo

Boys 5-8 Winter Uniforms

- # Khaki pants with black/brown leather belt.
- # White long/short sleeve button down collar shirts.(White turtleneck with logo)
- # Navy with white trim v-neck pullover sweater with logo, navy with white trim v-neck pullover sweater vest with logo, navy polar fleece jacket with logo or navy polar fleece sleeveless vest with logo must be worn over the white shirt or turtleneck The only exception for grade 5-8 is if the boys choose to wear a neck tie with the white button down oxford.
- # Navy crew socks.

Shoes for all students should be dress shoes. Sneakers may be worn on gym days. Parents are asked to refrain from purchasing shoes that have a name brand on the side of the footwear i.e., VANS, DC, etc.

Girls K-4 Winter Uniform.

- # Navy, gold & white plaid drop waist jumper.
- # White short/long sleeve peter pan collar blouse.(White turtleneck with logo.
- # Navy crew neck cardigan sweater with logo.
- # Navy polar fleece jacket with logo or navy polar fleece vest with logo.
- # Navy or white opaque nylon knee-hi. Navy or white opaque tights. Navy or white ribbed tights.
- # Matching plaid scrunchie/matching plaid headband.

Girls K-4 Spring/Fall Uniforms.

- # Khaki skort
- # Dark navy short sleeve polo shirt with logo.

Girls 5-8 Winter Uniform

- # Navy, gold & white plaid wrap around kilt. (no more than 1" above the knee)
- # White long/short sleeve button down collar blouse. (White turtleneck with logo)
- # Navy with white trim v-neck sweater or vest with logo. Navy polar fleece jacket or sleeveless vest with logo. These are the only acceptable coverings over the white blouse or turtleneck.
- # Navy or white nylon knee-hi. Navy or white opaque tights. Navy or white ribbed tights.
- # Matching plaid scrunchie/matching plaid headband.

Girls 5-8 Spring/Fall Uniforms.

- # Khaki 2 panel skort
- # Dark navy short sleeve polo shirt with logo.

Gym Uniforms Boys/Girls K-8.

- # Gold gym tee shirt with silk screen.
- # Navy micromesh nylon gym shorts with silk screen.
- # Navy heavy weight sweatshirt with silk screen.
- # Navy heavy weight sweatpants with silk screen.

Gym shorts may be worn to school during the duration of the Spring/Fall Uniform timeframe. After October 15th sweatpants must be worn to school. (students may opt to wear the shorts under the sweats and remove the sweats for gym class only.)

NOTE: Any student playing on an athletic team for Good Shepherd Academy may wear an athletic pullover only on the day of a game. Any student playing on an athletic team for our high school, Holy Redeemer High School, may wear their game jersey or warmup on the day of their game. This also pertains to our cheerleaders. Approved GSA Spirit ware is also permissible for gym classes.

Dress Code Policies

Hair (Boys and girls)

- # No alterations of any kind to the student's natural hair color.

Girls

- # No "hair wraps" (i.e. ribbons/beads wrapped around strands of hair.
- # No bandanas
- # Hair must be neatly combed, and bangs should be no longer than the middle of the forehead, and out of the eyes.

Boys

- # Hair must be conservative in length and be neatly combed.
- # No longer than 1" above the collar.
- # No longer than the middle of the forehead.

Jewelry

- # Boys – no earrings are allowed
- # Girls – one pair of "bud" earrings, or small hoop earrings that do not dangle below the earlobe. No more than one earring in one ear.

Bracelets and necklaces- Boys and girls.

- # No more than two bracelets may be worn at one time.
- # Bracelets must be small and conservative.
- # A watch may be worn in addition to the bracelets.
- # One religious medal/necklace may be worn. It should be small and conservative.

Makeup.

- # For grades K-6, NO MAKEUP may be worn.
- # For grades 7-8, light blush and clear lip gloss may be worn. NO EYE MAKEUP is permitted.
- # Nails must be conservative in length.
- # Nail polish is permitted if it is natural/clear or pale pink. No stencils or airbrush designs on nails, or acrylic nails are permitted.

Violations in the Dress Code will result in consequences as specified by the principal.



Sign up for important updates from J. Jones.

Get information for Good Shepherd Academy right on your phone—not on handouts.

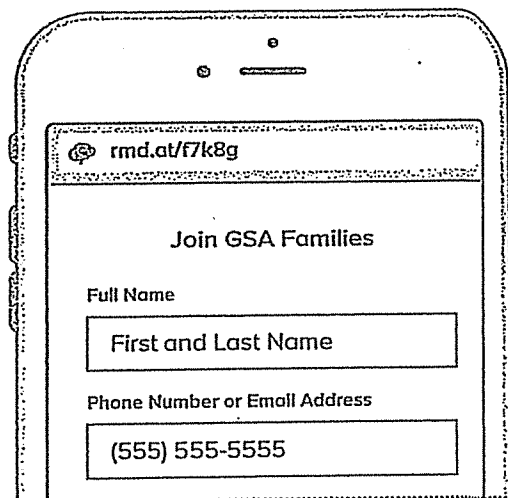
Pick a way to receive messages for GSA Families:

- A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/f7k8g

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

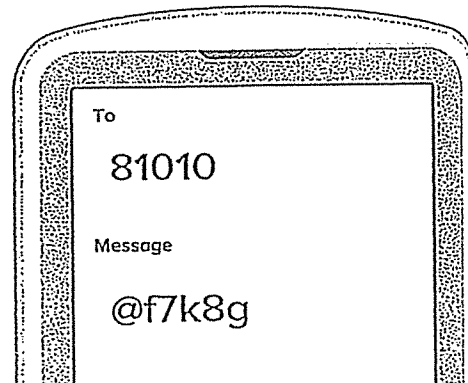


- B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @f7k8g to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @f7k8g to (651) 356-6251.

** Standard text message rates apply.*



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/f7k8g on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

Good Shepherd Academy

GET THE SCOOP ON GSA



24 August, 2023

7:00pm

Come and join us on August 24th to learn all about your new school and enjoy a special treat!
Welcome to the GSA Family!

Support Catholic Education

Turn Your Taxes Into Scholarships

MAKE A GIFT FOR NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS AND RECEIVE A 90% PA STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT!

Apply Now - Eligibility is First-Come, First-Served

EAST STROUDSBURG — When Bob and Josie Brown first heard that they could turn their Pennsylvania taxes into Catholic education scholarships, they admitted being a little skeptical.

It almost sounded too good to be true. “The application process was very easy. I had a few concerns at first and made some phone calls to confirm that our donation would be distributed as intended,” Josie said.

Pennsylvania allows qualifying individuals and businesses to use their tax obligations as need-based scholarships for Catholic school students through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program. In many cases, individuals and businesses can receive up to a 90-percent tax credit!

“There are very few opportunities we have as taxpayers to direct how our tax dollars are spent. This EITC program literally allows me to direct a portion of our tax payments directly to our local Catholic school,” Josie explained. “I genuinely believe our Catholic schools are a worthy recipient of these funds and I was pleased to have been able to participate in this program.”

Both Josie and her four children have benefited from a Catholic education.

“I am forever grateful as a student and a parent to have had faith at the foundation of learning in my home and I am proud to help in some small way to the continued

efforts of schools to provide this for future generations,” she added.

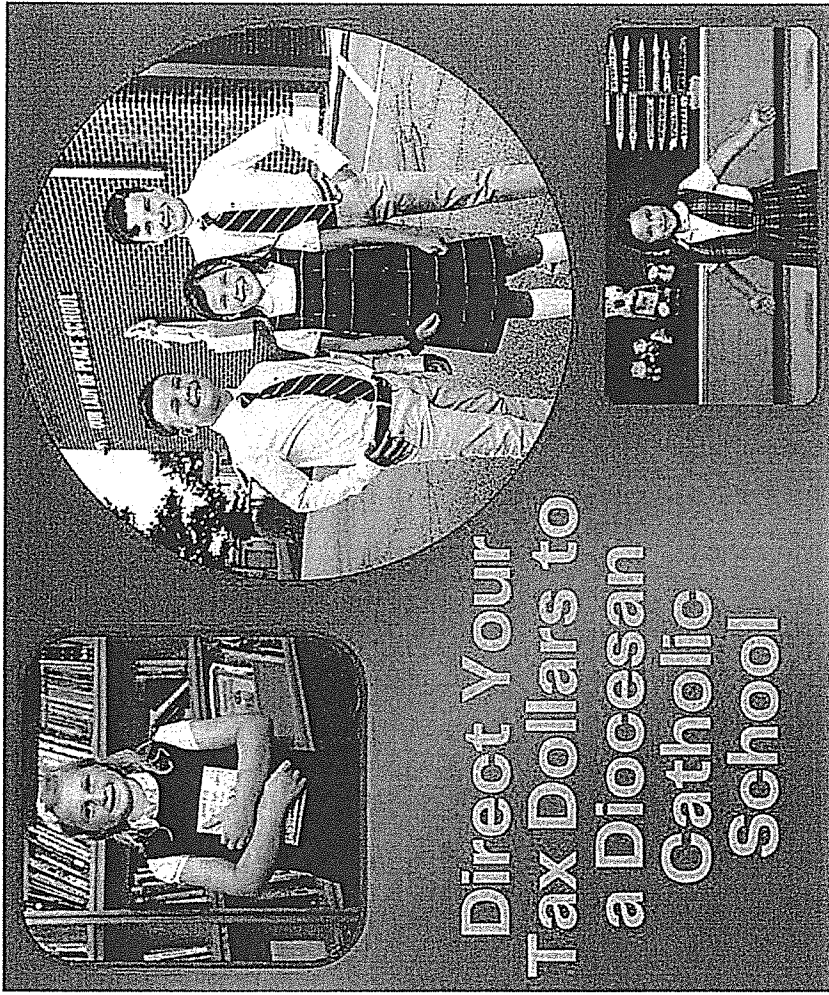
Any individual or couple where at least one spouse owns or works for a for-profit company in Pennsylvania can participate. Non-profit employees that own at least one share of stock in a business that operates in Pennsylvania may also participate.

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System partners with the Central Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund to administer the program. The Scholarship Fund requires a minimum contribution of \$3,500 to participate.

“We are so grateful to a number of businesses and individuals who donate to our Catholic Schools need-based tuition assistance program through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. It’s a wonderful opportunity to support Catholic education and receive a 90% tax credit,” Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development, explained. “If one makes a \$5,000 gift, for example, they can receive a \$4,500 tax credit on their business or personal income tax return. And the donor can also claim the remaining \$500 on their federal income tax.”

The Diocese of Scranton is now looking for help spreading the word about the program.

As the owners of RGB Custom Home Builders in the Pocono Mountains, Bob and



Direct Your Tax Dollars to a Diocesan Catholic School

Josie Brown are happy to be among many people who are laying the ‘foundation’ for the success of this initiative.

“This is the very best way to make a donation to your local Catholic school. Assuming you are paying taxes to the state, please consider this program,” Josie said. “It is easy and exponentially increases any donation you are able to make. If you are

unsure ask to speak to someone who has done it before.”

Eligibility is first-come, first-served and money for the individual tax credits runs out quickly. Anyone interested in this giving opportunity is encouraged to apply in July and August by contacting Jim Bebla at (570) 207-2250 or email Jim-Bebla@dioceseofscranton.org.