

# St. Isidore School

215-536-6052

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

603 W. Broad St, Quakertown, PA 18951



## Parent Guide and F.A.Q.'s

2019-2020

*The information contained in this guide is meant to be a general "quick-start" for parents. More complete information can be found in the St. Isidore School Handbook. Changes to this guide and the handbook may occur throughout the school year.*

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# What should I know before school starts?

## Bus Information

Students are bused by the public school district in which they live from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students are eligible to be bused to St. Isidore School from Quakertown Community School District, Palisades School District, Pennridge School District (kindergarten is one way), Southern Lehigh School District, Souderton Area School District, and Upper Perkiomen School District.

Most districts send a letter to parents with the bus schedule. Some districts post the schedule on their websites. QCSD requires families to register for busing through Infosnap which is found on the QCSD website ([www.qcsc.org](http://www.qcsc.org)). Routes for QCSD are listed on [www.levybus.com](http://www.levybus.com). There is the possibility that your child may be hubbed. This is explained on the QCSD website.

If you have a kindergarten child, they will have the opportunity to take a “practice” ride on a school bus at orientation.

## Bus Pass

If you would like your child to switch buses for a day (for example, go to a friend’s house) the bus must be the same school district our child is currently registered for, and a Bus Pass needs to be completed – please call the office for the specifics.

## Stationery Supply List

For PreSchool (age 3) thru K, otherwise referred to as “Early Childhood,” there is a supply fee (\$25-30) required at Orientation in August or no later than the first day of school.

For Grades 1 thru 8, stationery supply lists contain the items that you will need to purchase for your child for school. These are sent home with the report card and summer work at the end of the school year. They are also posted on the school website under the teacher’s homework page.

You should put your child’s name on **everything**. These items should be brought to school with your child on the first day of school.

## Purchase Clear Contact Paper

Clear contact paper is primarily used to cover workbooks and homework books for grades kindergarten to 8. Some parents choose to cover folders as well for durability. Purchase this before school starts as supplies run low in local stores. It can be found at most retailers (Wal-Mart, Target, Staples) or online.

## First Day of School

This is a full day of school, so you will need to pack your child a snack, drink and lunch. Students are expected to wear their uniforms. Kindergarten students wear gym uniforms only. PreSchool and Pre-K do not have uniforms and do not need snack (provided).

## Before and After School C.A.R.E.S.

C.A.R.E.S. stands for Children Are Receiving Extended Services. This program offers parents safe and affordable care for their children before and/or after school. The program is run by teachers and staff and qualified adults. Contact the school office for pricing and the application form.

The morning program runs from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the pre-kindergarten room. Morning C.A.R.E.S. will be delayed if school is delayed for inclement weather. Afternoon C.A.R.E.S. runs from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Children in the after school program are given time to complete homework, have a snack, and enjoy free play.

## School Communication System

Upon registration, you are automatically signed up for our ALL CALL/TEXT system. It is through this means that you will receive phone calls/texts from the school regarding current events and any changes in the school day (i.e. a snow day or delay). If you would like to add/delete/change the device numbers that are included in the system, please contact the office via email or 215.536.6052.

# What are the important things to know once school begins?

## Volunteer Clearances

### **Our school depends on volunteers! :)**

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Office for Child and Youth Protection and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have strict requirements for volunteers who work with children. All volunteers and chaperones who will be with children must have these documents on file in the St. Isidore Parish office. Having said that, many clearances can be obtained online and free. The Archdiocese does require one in-person training session, but this is free and is offered many times at various sites throughout the year.

Please obtain these documents and either email or provide a hard copy to the principal. Once she has cleared and updated the school records, they will be on file in the Parish office and will be available if you wish to volunteer for other Parish activities involving children such as CYO, PREP, etc. If a clearance expires, the school will contact you with a renewal reminder, but it is your responsibility to keep these documents current (the State requirements need to be renewed every 5 years, the Archdiocese trainings do not expire). You may want to keep a copy for your files. **ALL** of these documents **MUST** be on file in the Parish Office for any volunteer to be considered in compliance and able to continue volunteer services with the children of St. Isidore School.

For parents concerned about maintaining PAPA volunteer credits (4 per family), there are currently only **two** opportunities to fulfill that requirement that do not need volunteer clearances (such as working on or donating to the annual Auction and the Adult Bingo).

## **COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Archdiocesan policy requires all adult volunteers (unpaid) who may have any possible contact with or responsibility for children to obtain clearances as required by Pennsylvania law.

Archdiocesan compliance guidelines state that clearances should be submitted **prior** to the commencement of volunteer service. There are certain circumstances under which provisional status might be approved. During the provisional period, individuals are not permitted to work alone with children.

Complete information on this can be found on the school website under the "Parents" tab. If you have additional questions, please contact the principal. **In order to attend field trips all clearance requirements must be in by April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## Back to School Night

Back to School Night is held at the beginning of the school year. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other parents, learn about events, and meet your child's teacher(s). The evening begins in the school gym with a prayer and brief presentations by the school principal and PAPA board members. After this meeting, you will be dismissed to your child(ren)'s classroom for a presentation by the teacher. Typically three sessions are held so families with multiple children can visit more than one room. This meeting is for parents only and is not a time for conferences with teachers.

## Grading System

In grades Kindergarten through 3, students receive the following grades: O (outstanding), VG (very good), G (good), S (satisfactory), I (improvement needed), U (unsatisfactory). In grades 4 through 8, students receive a numeric grade. Passing grade is 70 and above. Parents of children in grades 1 to 8 are able to monitor their child's grades through My Student's Progress <https://philadelphia.mystudentsprogress.com>. In the beginning of the school year, you will receive information via email to log-on to your account.

## Sick Child Procedures

If your child is sick and needs to stay home, please call the school office that morning before 10:00 a.m. You may leave a message if it is before school opens. When they return, they will need to bring in a written note signed by you stating why they were absent. See [www.stisidoreschool.com/attendance](http://www.stisidoreschool.com/attendance) for form. Children must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. Children with more than 3 days sick may be required to provide a doctor's note.

If a child becomes sick at school, the school nurse, school secretary or child's teacher will call you.

## Thursday Communication Envelope

The Thursday Envelope is a one-way communication from the school to you with information that cannot be sent home electronically. You will be notified via the weekly newsletter sent through email if there are hard copies of things coming home. Be sure to check it and look through it thoroughly. You will receive a weekly email every Thursday when it is ready to view for that week.

## Pictures

Students will have their school picture taken regardless if parents will purchase them to be used in the class photo. Pictures are taken in the fall and the spring. For the pictures taken in the fall, students are required to wear their regular school uniforms. In the spring, students are allowed to wear dress up clothes. There is a picture make-up day for the fall pictures only.

## Sacramental Preparation

Penance and First Holy Communion are prepared for throughout second grade. The students receive First Penance in late winter. First Holy Communion is received in the spring. Students receiving First Communion must first celebrate the sacrament of Penance.

Confirmation requires a two-year preparation. During fifth grade, students research saints as a means of choosing their Confirmation name. Additionally, we begin the conversation regarding service projects. Students are encouraged to think about their interests, passions and concerns and to get involved in their community over the summer. At the start of sixth grade, students begin religious preparation for the sacrament in school. Confirmation at St. Isidore parish requires a commitment to service requiring written proof of projects, proof of understanding of the sacrament and our faith, and students' written understanding and personal reflection on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The sacrament is received in the fall of seventh grade.

# Is there a certain traffic flow I should follow?

*(See attachment A at the back of this guide for a visual map of the school and parking lot)*

## Car Rider Drop Off Procedures

If you are dropping off your child in the morning, use the car rider line which is open between 8:00am - 8:25am. The line forms in the parking lot. Enter from 4th Street. Form a one-way lane in front of the school, parallel to Broad Street. Pull up to the school before you let children out. A teacher will be helping smaller children out of their cars and will make sure your child gets in safely. Please be considerate and keep the line moving. For safety purposes, we ask you to not pass any cars that are dropping off their children. Also, DO NOT PARK and walk up or allow your child to walk through the lot. If you need to come into school, please use front parking lot (off Broad St.). If you arrive

after 8:25 a.m., your child will need to be buzzed in at the school main entrance and signed in late at the office. You must accompany your child to the office.

## Car Rider Pick Up Procedures

If you wish to pick up your child after school instead of them taking the bus, you will need to write a note to their teacher letting them know your child will be a car rider (call the office if it is an emergency). The car rider students will exit the school escorted by a teacher. Early childhood dismisses at 3:00 pm, students in K-8 that are car riders are dismissed around 3:15 p.m. If you arrive before this time, please form a line along the fence to the left of the parking lot. Please do not block the entrances and exits. Buses will be entering and exiting through the entrances at 4th Street. As with drop off procedures, please be considerate and keep the line moving. Also, for safety purposes, we ask you to not pass any cars that are picking up their children.

## Visitor Parking and Traffic Flow

The students use the parking lot (school yard) for outdoor recess, so during recess hours there are cones blocking the parking lot at the 4th Street entrance/exit. This is typically from 10:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m. and from 12:30-1:20 p.m. To enter the parking lot during this time, you should use the Broad Street entrance and park in a designated visitor's spot. If you plan to be at the school during these hours, remember to avoid parking in the schoolyard. It could be difficult to exit at the time when children are out for recess and your car may get hit or scratched.

# What about the school day?

## School Hours

School opens at 8:00 a.m. for the students. The school day for K-8 is from 8:25 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. Preschool and PreK end at 3:00 p.m. If you need to pick up your child during the school day, please send a note to their homeroom teacher (call the office if it is an emergency). When it is time to pick them up, go to the office to sign them out, and the office will call for them.

## School Year Breakdown

The school year is broken down into three trimesters for Grades K thru 8. Progress reports are sent home in your child's folder in the middle of each trimester. You will need to sign and return them the next day. Report cards are also sent home in your child's folder. They also will need to be signed and returned the next day (except for the last one which you receive on the last day of school).

Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten children assessments take place multiple times throughout the school year. Parents are invited to conference with their child's teacher in the Fall (October) and Spring (March/April). It will be at that time that Progress Reports are given to the child's parent(s). Pre-K children will have a portfolio sent home at the end of the school year. This will contain a small sampling of their work from their school year.

## Specials

All grades (K-8) have each of the following specials once a week: Art, Computer, Gym, Library, Music, and Spanish. PreSchool and Pre-K do not have Art (since most of their day is already visual learning 😊).

Honors Math is available for grades 4 - 8. Your child's eligibility for Honors Math is based on multiple factors including Terra Nova Math Score, Terra Nova Reading Score and the teacher's recommendation based on their classroom work. This is re-evaluated every year. A letter will be sent home in late August if your child qualifies for Honors Math.

## Safety

Our school has many safety measures in place. Throughout the year, the school will hold unannounced fire drills, emergency shelter in place drills, earthquake drills, and stranger alert drills. Buses also hold emergency drills.

When entering the school, you will need to use the intercom system to speak to someone in the school office. They will ask you to state your name and reason for entrance. You will then be "buzzed-in" which will momentarily unlock the rightmost door. Do not hold the door open for anyone or allow a person to enter as you exit.

## Religion Awards

Every child from Kindergarten to grade 8 is encouraged to complete the requirements for the religion award. There are grade-specific activities that must be completed throughout the year to achieve this award. Teachers send home the information and requirements.

# What about snack and lunch time?

## Snacks

Snacks are eaten in the classroom around mid-morning for everyone. You can pack them in your child's lunchbox along with their lunch, or if they purchase lunch (K-8), separately. The exception to this is Early Childhood snacks (PreSchool, Pre-K, Kindergarten). The Early Childhood teachers will send home a signup list for snacks and parents will be designated days to bring snack for the entire class.

## Lunch

Lunch is eaten in the gymnasium for K-8 students. Preschool and Prekindergarten students dine in their classrooms and then have their naps. There is a separate peanut-free table for students with allergies. Parents are able to sign up for lunch monitor if they wish; this is also an opportunity to earn volunteer credits. You will have an opportunity to order hot lunch (k-8) or you can pack a lunch for your child. There are no refrigerators to store lunches, so please pack a cold pack in your children's lunch. Lunches cannot be microwaved for students.

Hot lunch is available usually the third week of school and is run completely by volunteers. Lunch menus are usually emailed two weeks prior to the beginning of the month. You need to pick your hot lunch days and make a payment for that month. Hot lunch is not available for daily purchases with the exception of snack items such as chips, pretzels, etc. Because this is a volunteer program, food is purchased monthly based on orders. If you wish to volunteer to help with the hot lunch program, please contact the office. This is also another way to earn volunteer credits. Proceeds from the Hot Lunch Program help offset the costs of class field trips in the spring.

Milk and juice are available for purchase by trimester to all grades (PreSchool thru grade 8) for snack and/or lunch. You should receive a milk/juice form the first week of school.

Here is the lunch and recess schedule by grade:

**PreSchool & Pre-K** 12:00 – 12:30

**K-3** recess 12:25 – 12:50 p.m.

lunch 12:50 – 1:15 p.m.

**4-8** lunch 12:25 – 12:50 p.m.

recess 12:50 – 1:15 p.m.

# What are they supposed to wear again?

## Uniforms (see School Handbook)

Uniforms can be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara and Land's End. Don't forget - Gift Cards from the Scrip Program (more info under "*What about Financial Aid?*") can be purchased and used for Land's End.

## Uniform Exchange

If you have uniforms you no longer need that are still in good shape, you can donate them to the uniform exchange. At any time you can access the used uniforms closet by contacting the school secretary. Used uniform pieces are

sold at a bargain price (\$1-\$5/piece), so check there before you hit the store or website! You don't have to drop off uniforms to be eligible.

## Dress Down Days (DDD)

Dress Down Days are held once a month as a community service project, so most require students to bring in a donation of \$1 to dress down. The money goes towards a designated fundraiser. Nonperishable food is collected for the St. Isidore Food Pantry some months instead of monetary donations. Dress down days are optional (otherwise student should wear their uniforms).

Be careful, dress down doesn't mean the students can wear whatever they want; they still have to follow the dress code. Shorts' length needs to be at or below the fingertips. No leggings, jeggings, or knit pants without a top that extends beyond the upper thigh (shorts length). Also, no inappropriate words or sayings can be on t-shirts, no tank tops, bare midriffs, pajamas, spaghetti straps, or sandals of any kind. Hats are not allowed (unless specifically a hat day).

# Are additional student services offered?

## Bucks County Intermediate Unit

The intermediate unit provides speech, counseling, and remedial services. Teachers will discuss the need for these services with parents and provide them with the necessary paperwork.

Several teachers offer tutoring outside of regular school hours. Your child's teacher can recommend teachers for your child's needs. Teachers may be contacted via their school email found on [www.stisidoreschool.com](http://www.stisidoreschool.com).

# Testing

## Terra Nova Tests

Terra Nova tests are standardized achievement tests. These are given in the spring to grades three through seven. These tests do not affect your child's grades. They are used to track progress and adjust instruction. Results of these tests are sent home for parental review when they become available.

## Final exams

Students in grades one to eight are given final exams in the spring. These results are part of your child's grade for the third trimester. Teachers will provide review materials to the students.

# Are instrumental music classes offered?

## Band

In 4th grade, students will get a band demonstration during the school day. Band is available for students in grades four to eight (alto sax, baritone horn, French horn, clarinet, flute, bells, snare drum, trombone, trumpet). Lessons occur during the school day once per week. There are lesson and instrument rental/purchase fees. Winter and spring concerts will be performed during the school year. More information will be sent home at the beginning of the school year.

## Orchestral String Instruments

In 3rd grade, students will get a string demonstration during the school day. Students in the 3rd grade also learn recorders as part of their music instruction. There is no cost associated with the recorder lessons. Violin lessons are available for students in grades three to eight. Lessons occur during the school day once per week. There are lesson and instrument rental/purchase fees. Winter and spring concerts will be performed during the school year. More information will be sent home at the beginning of the school year.



## Choir

This group is taught by our music teacher and is offered to students in K-8. Practices are usually once a week in the evenings at St. Isidore Church as well as at school. The choir typically sings at Mass once a month. They have also been invited to sing at professional sporting events, community ceremonies, Barnes & Noble and other venues. More information will be sent home during the school year.

# Traditional Events at School

## We Live Our Faith

As a Catholic school, we embrace and practice our faith every day. We begin and end our day in communal prayer and pray before lunch together. Additionally:

**First Friday Masses:** We celebrate Mass at 9:00 a.m. in the gym on the first Friday of each month that we are in school. Classes take turns organizing the Mass and acting as greeters, readers, and gift bearers. Any student may participate in the choir for any Mass. Parents are invited to join us.

**Gospel Alive:** On Fridays (other than First Fridays), each class takes a turn bringing the Gospel to life at the beginning of the day. Parents are invited to join us.

**Holy Days of Obligation:** We attend school on Holy Days of Obligation. These Masses are held in the gym at 9:00 a.m. Parents and family members are invited to attend.

**Rosary:** Children have the opportunity to recite the rosary at lunch most days. As a school, we have a community rosary in October, the month of the rosary. Parents are invited to participate in these prayers.

**Lenten Adoration:** Students have the opportunity to attend adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with their class during Lent.

**Stations of the Cross:** During Lent, students in grades three through eight attend Stations of the Cross and Benediction in the school gym in the afternoon. Stations are held on Friday beginning at 2:30 except for the first one that begins at 2:15. Parents are welcome to join us.

**Prayer Services:** Prior to most school breaks, we have a prayer service in the gym. These are announced through the weekly newsletter. (i.e.: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, last day of school). Parent and families are welcome to attend.

## Blessing of the Animals

After the October First Friday Mass, we celebrate St. Francis and hold a blessing of the animals. You are invited to bring your pets to be blessed that day after the Mass. Pets may not be brought into Mass. We have had dogs and cats, but also a few bunnies, goats, iguanas, fish, and even horses!

## May Procession

The May Procession is held in May. Eighth grade leads a procession and also supports the crowning of Mary. First Communicants wear their Communion attire.

## Dances

Dances are held four times a year. Dances are sponsored by a different grade each time beginning with the eighth grade, then seventh, then sixth. For the first three dances, only those students in grades six to eight may attend. The last dance of the year is sponsored by the fifth grade and this is their first dance. Volunteer credits are available for leading or chaperoning a dance.

## Halloween

A tradition at St. Isidore School is the Halloween Parade. All classes participate in this fun walk through the school and around the block. Great photo-op since families are invited to watch/walk the parade route.

## Canned Food Contest

Beginning on November 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing until the Thanksgiving Feast, classes compete to collect food for the food pantry. The class who collects the most items (average number per student) is awarded the coveted “Golden Can” award for the year.

## Thanksgiving Feast

In November, students enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal at lunch. This is a great opportunity for parents to volunteer preparing and serving the meal. Two feasts are scheduled: one for the PreSchool through kindergarten (parents are invited to attend) and one for grades 1 to 8 (for students only).

## Christmas Fun

On St. Nicholas Day, students put their shoes outside their classrooms for treats from him.

Santa’s Secret Shop is held for a week in December. All students are able to shop for gifts for family and friends. Many volunteers are needed to help students shop and to wrap gifts.

## Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is celebrated at the end of January/beginning of February. Each day is marked by a special activity, presentation, or surprise. Other events vary, but have included spaghetti dinners, community breakfast and open house, and school-wide parent/child competitions – most of which are run by volunteers for credits. One hallmark of this week is a school-wide service project.

## Grandparents are our Heroes

The Grandparents’ Luncheon is held in April for students in grades 1 to 3. Volunteers credits are available for this event.

## Field Day

Field Day is held near the end of the year. Students participate in a fun, non-competitive atmosphere that builds camaraderie and teaches sportsmanship. Our PE teacher leads this event along with volunteers who will obtain volunteers credits for their time.

## Graduation

Ceremonies are held for kindergarten and eighth grade students. The kindergarten graduation is held in the gym. Eighth grade graduation is held in the church and includes a Mass and graduation ceremony. Family and friends are invited to share these milestones with the students.

## Academic Events

Students can participate in a variety of academic events. Students in grades seven and eight can participate in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition as well as other STEM challenges. Students in fourth grade compete in the Sertoma Club essay contest. Teachers present additional opportunities for students to use their math, writing, art and science skills in other contests as well.

Additional Events are held by individual teachers as well as our parents’ association (PAPA).

# What else do I need to know?

## Science Explorers

This is an after school science club offered once a week for five weeks. There are four sessions throughout the year and information is sent home in the weekly communication envelopes. There are lots of interesting and fun themes and is great for those students with a curiosity for the sciences. Available for students in grades 1 to 5 with a cost associated.

## Crazy 8's

Crazy 8s is a new after-school math club designed to get kids fired up about math. Every week Crazy 8's participants build, run and jump, make music, make a mess... all while bonding with new friends over math. Available to grades K – 2 with a cost associated.

## Student Council

Leadership positions are open to students in grades 6 to 8. Classroom representatives are composed of students in grades 4 to 8.

## Altar Servers

All parish students currently enrolled in 5th grade through high school (12th grade) who have received their sacraments through Holy Communion are encouraged to serve our parish through the Altar Server program. Two servers are needed for each of our four weekend Masses, and Holy day and Vigil evening Masses. Training for new servers is held at the church in the spring, usually one or two evenings and Saturdays over a 6-8 week span. Servers who are finishing 4th grade and up who are interested in becoming altar servers must complete five trainings/practices before being added to the schedule.

## Intro Swim Lessons

Swim lessons are offered to students in grade 1 in the spring for a minimal cost. These lessons are given during the school day at the local YMCA. More information will be sent home in the spring.

## Field Trips

During the spring, each grade has a field trip during the school day (Pre-K only adds one in the fall as well) Permission slips are sent home with details and associated costs. Volunteers are needed to help chaperone, but they must have completed all of the required clearances by **April 1st**.

## Snow Days or Delays

In the event of school closings or delays due to inclement weather, parents should first check the QCSD website. Weather-related closings are determined by Quakertown Community School District (QCSD). If QCSD is closed, so is St. Isidore School. Some days marked "No School" on the school calendar may also be marked "Snow Make-Up Day". You will be notified during the school year if they will be used or not.

# What is PAPA?

## Parents As Partners Association (PAPA)

PAPA is the **P**arents **a**s **P**artners **A**ssociation, which serves as the parent teacher organization for St. Isidore School. The PAPA board consists of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Elections (volunteers) are held to determine board members. Each month the Board holds an executive session followed by an open session usually from 6:30-8 p.m. on the same day of each month (i.e.: first Monday of the month).

The PAPA board works with the parents to organize social events and fundraisers throughout the school year. Parents who volunteer for these events receive volunteer credits also known as units; after accumulating four volunteer units, the family is eligible for reduced tuition for the next school year (also requires that parish donations are satisfied).

Each year, PAPA's goal is to raise \$40,000 to repay the parish for operating expenses. Any amount raised above the \$40,000 can be spent toward class and school improvements, such as iPads, gym equipment, etc.

### **PAPA BOARD MEMBERS**

**President:** Matthew Kelly -[mkelly@stisidoreschool.com](mailto:mkelly@stisidoreschool.com)

**Co-Vice Presidents:** Kristin Randazzo [kristinrandazzo@gmail.com](mailto:kristinrandazzo@gmail.com) and

Cesar Lafontaine [clafontaine107@gmail.com](mailto:clafontaine107@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Julia Cosel [julia.rhines@gmail.com](mailto:julia.rhines@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Ashley Randazzo [ashley.randazzo712@gmail.com](mailto:ashley.randazzo712@gmail.com)

## **What are volunteer credits and how can they be earned?**

Credits are considered volunteer units and are designed to encourage family participation in the school. Credits can be earned in several different capacities, many of which include volunteering to help set-up, clean-up, and run different events for the school. Some events need supplies and prizes to be donated. Donations equivalent to \$100 also would earn a family one credit.

### **WHY DO I NEED CREDITS?**

Earning four credits permits a family to pay a discounted tuition rate for the following school year. For example, credits earned by 5/2019 are applied to the tuition rate for the 2019-2020 school year.

### **WHO NEEDS CREDITS?**

Credits can be earned from May through April of a school year. They are applied to the following school year's tuition scale. Credits are not applied to the tuition scale until 1st grade. Families with students in 8th grade do not need credits, although are still welcome to volunteer!

### **HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES?**

Initial information and sign-ups about the events planned for a school year is available at Back to School Night, held within the first few weeks of the school year. If you are unable to attend Back to School Night, communication and sign-ups will be made available at PAPA meetings (1st Monday of each month), PAPA Facebook page, and through sign-up genius.

### **WHEN ARE CREDITS EARNED?**

Credits can be earned from May through April. They are applied to the following school year's tuition scale.

### **WHO KEEPS TABS OF CREDITS?**

Record of credits earned is kept by the PAPA Secretary. Each event/donation opportunity has a sign-in sheet. Sheets are turned in to the secretary for official documentation. The secretary will send out "Credits Earned" updates approx. half way through the earning period and at the end of the earning period. Any questions regarding credits earned should be directed to the PAPA secretary.

# Are any sports/activities offered?

## CYO (Catholic Youth Organization)

CYO teams are organized at the parish level. Participants must be registered families of St Isidore Parish attending P.R.E.P. and/or attending St. Isidore School and have received their sacraments. The sports offered in the fall are cross-country for grades two to eight and girls volleyball for grades five to eight. In the winter, basketball is offered for grades four through high school; and in the spring there is baseball for grades five to eight, track and field for grades four to eight and coed HS volleyball for grades nine to twelve. Information will be provided when registration is open for each sport. Registration is done on-line at [www.saintisidorecyo.com](http://www.saintisidorecyo.com) There are fees charged to sign up and vary based on the sport.

There is also an option for CYO Football or Cheer for grades 5 to 8 through St. Agnes Sacred Heart's CYO. Signups can be found at [www.olsh-hilltown.com/youth-ministries/sash-cyo/](http://www.olsh-hilltown.com/youth-ministries/sash-cyo/)

Another option is ice hockey through Lansdale Catholic's hockey club. The Middle School team is for players in 5th through 8th grade and is geared toward those with some hockey experience. The Developmental Team program is designed for the beginning player or those with some experience who are not yet ready for a full team commitment. It is available for girls and boys in 4th through 8th grade. More information can be found at [www.lcicehockey.com](http://www.lcicehockey.com).

# Can you tell me about the fundraisers?

## PAPA Fundraisers

PAPA holds many fundraisers throughout the year. The biggest fundraisers in the past have included a Coach Bingo held in the winter and an Auction held in the spring as well as various other events. These fundraisers help us to reach our \$40,000 commitment back to the church as well as supporting the school and teachers with special projects.

## Box Tops for Education

Our school receives 10¢ for each box top submitted. You may send them to school in a plastic baggie with your child's name and homeroom on it. Contests are sometimes run where homerooms will get prizes for the most box tops submitted. Visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) to learn more about the program and how you can earn additional box tops for our school.

## My Coke Rewards

Visit <https://us.coca-cola.com/give/> find St. Isidore's school and sign in or create an account. As you collect My Coke Rewards, just enter the codes and they will be applied to St. Isidore's school.

## GIANT A+ School Rewards

If you register your GIANT card on-line, our school can earn cash through this program.

You can sign up for this program on their website: <http://giantfoodstores.com/savings-and-rewards/rewards-program/aplus/>. You will need your Giant Bonus Card number. Last year the school received over \$3500.00 from this program! This in no way affects your accumulation of gas points or the scrip rebate you receive. It is a win, win, win!

## Target

Target tracks purchases made by REDCard holders and sends a donation to the school.

To sign up, visit the website: <http://www.target.com/redcard/benefits-target-rewards>. Scroll down to "Take Charge of Education" and follow the links from there.

## Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair comes to school twice a year; first during Catholic Schools Week and second a buy-one-get-one in the Spring. The school Librarian sends home information in advance with many opportunities to purchase new books (online, at school and after hours).

## Little Bites, Colgate and GoGo Squeeze Collection

TerraCycle offers free recycling programs funded by brands, manufacturers, and retailers around the world to help us collect and recycle hard-to-recycle waste. St. Isidore simply chooses the program(s) we want to join; then collect these items from our school families and even St. Isidore Church parishioners; the final step is to send our collected items off to Terra Cycle to be recycled. We earn rewards for our school all while working towards helping to keep our environment free from pollutions. Here are the current programs Saint Isidore is enrolled in...

Colgate Oral Care: we collect "any brand" toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrushes, toothpaste cartons, toothbrush outer packaging, and floss containers.

Entenmann's Little Bites: we collect the plastic pouches and the clear Entenmann's mini packaging.

GoGo Squeeze: we collect the healthy snack plastic packages and the caps.

# Is there financial aid?

## SCRIP

The Scrip program allows parents, alumni or friends of St. Isidore's to purchase gift cards at face value through the Shop With Scrip website. A percentage of your purchase is rebated to your account. This amount (minus an annual processing fee used to cover postage) is used to offset tuition costs for the **next** school year. The MyScripWallet website provides access to e-cards from your smart phone or other mobile device. The cards may be physical and/or e-cards. Cards may be a refillable option depending on the retailers. There may be a Scrip Now option that delivers an e-card to your email in minutes. A presto pay option exists that lets you directly debit your checking account for purchases for a small fee. When used regularly, scrip can help you offset tuition expenses by hundreds or even thousands of dollars! The Scrip Coordinator can be contacted at **isidorescrip@comcast.net** for more information.

## Financial Assistance Application

Through FACTS.com (registration portal), assistance is offered based on financial need to students applying to Archdiocese of Philadelphia schools, including St. Isidore. There are various funds that contribute financial aid for tuition costs at St. Isidore School. Apply online today @ <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/3P337>

Also, Early Childhood tuition and CARES expenses may be tax deductible since St. Isidore is a non-profit organization. Consult with your tax advisor.

### **OUR MISSION**

***The St. Isidore Catholic School community strives to instill academic excellence in a Christ-centered atmosphere that is rooted in faith. We empower our students to work to their fullest potential and to become lifelong learners committed to living out Catholic values.***

***St. Isidore School is accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools***

