



St. Celestine School

A PLACE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME TO
BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, SUCCEED!

3017 N. 77th Ave., Elmwood Park, IL 60707 708-453-8234 www.stcelestineschool.org

Matching Gift Program

Subject Line: Matching Gift Opportunity for Tax Credit Scholarships

Dear St. Celestine School Community Member,

St. Celestine School is grateful to you for supporting the advancement of Catholic school education. I am writing about a unique opportunity for Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools. In August 2017, the State of Illinois passed a bill to create a tax credit scholarship program, "Invest in Kids," that is mutually beneficial to students and donors. It provides a 75 percent Illinois state income tax credit to individuals and corporations that contribute money to fund scholarships for students to attend private schools. Illinois students from low-income families may use these scholarships to attend a non-public school of their choice, including the more than 200 Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools in Cook and Lake Counties. Donors who are passionate about school choice have contributed more than \$46 million to the program statewide this year. To further their impact by increasing the funds available for scholarships next year, several donors have partnered with Empower Illinois and the Archdiocese to create a **matching gift pool**.

- Every dollar donated to this program through Empower Illinois between December 1, 2018 and February 28, 2019, and designated to a school operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago, will be matched with two dollars from this pool (limitations apply). The program will end when all matching funds have been depleted or on February 28, 2019, whichever comes first.
- When you take into account the 75% tax credit you receive on the donation and this match, a donation of \$5,000 will have a net cost to you of \$1,250 and will provide \$15,000 in scholarships for low-income families.
- After April 1, 2019, any matching gift program funds that are not awarded at a designated school will be reallocated to low-income students at schools with unmet demand.
- Donors who would like to receive the tax credit for their 2018 taxes should begin the process prior to December 14, 2018 to ensure they have enough time to make their gift by December 31, 2018.

Join us in supporting Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools and provide more children a quality Catholic school education. Contact the Tax Credit Scholarship Office at tcs@archchicago.org or 312.534.2617 today.

Sincerely,

Sheila M. Klich
Principal

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Tax Credit Scholarship Matching Gift Program

Triple your gift's impact!

PERSONAL BENEFIT, COMMON GOOD

In its first year the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program, "Invest in Kids", awarded scholarships to more than 3,000 students from low-income families to attend a Catholic school of their choice in Cook and Lake Counties. This was made possible through the generosity of thousands of donors who took advantage of the 75 percent state income tax credit on their donation.

To help their donations have even more impact in 2019, several donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to the more than 160 schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago, up to \$5 million total.

HOW IT WORKS

- Donors who would like to receive the tax credit for their 2018 taxes should begin the process prior to Dec. 14, 2018 to ensure that they have enough time to make their gift by Dec. 31, 2018.
- For every dollar designated to a qualifying school through Empower Illinois between Dec. 1, 2018 and Feb. 28, 2019, the school will receive two dollars in matching funds. The donations are capped at \$100,000 per school.
- The program will end when all matching funds have been depleted or on Feb. 28, 2019, whichever comes first.
- After April 1, 2019, any matching gift program funds that are not awarded at a designated school will be reallocated to low-income students at schools with unmet demand.

EXAMPLE

A donor with about \$75,000 in income could make a donation of \$5,000 to Empower Illinois, in cash or stock, that would...

- Eliminate their Illinois state income tax liability (approximately \$3,750); and
- Provide \$15,000 in scholarship support (after the \$10,000 match)

For a total cost of \$1,250, this donor has now provided three students with \$5,000 in scholarships to use to attend a Catholic school of their choice (donation of \$5,000 minus the \$3,750 in state credit).

For more information please contact the TCS hotline at **312.534.2617** or visit www.archchicago.org/tcs.

Matching Gift Program FAQs

What is the TCS matching gift program?

In its first year the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship program awarded scholarships to more than 3,000 students from low-income families to attend a school of their choice operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago. This was made possible through the generosity of thousands of donors who took advantage of the 75% state income tax credit on their donation.

To help their donations have even more impact for the 2019-2020 school year, several of these donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to the 160+ elementary schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago, up to \$5 million total. This means every dollar designated to a qualifying school will be matched with two dollars from the matching gift pool.

What donations will be matched?

Any donation made to Empower Illinois between December 1, 2018 and February 28, 2019 and designated to a school operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago will be matched, up to \$100,000 per school (for a maximum impact of \$300,000).

What schools are eligible?

Any school operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

What is the timeframe?

Donations made to Empower Illinois between December 1, 2018 and February 28, 2019 will qualify for this program.

Is there a limit to the matching funds?

Each school can receive a match for up to \$100,000 in donations until February 28, 2019 or until the matching gift pool, which is expected to be close to \$5 million, is depleted.

What happens if there are leftover funds after all scholarships are awarded at my school?

After April 1, any funds which are a part of the matching gift program that are not awarded at a designated school will be reallocated to low-income students at schools with unmet demand.

Are there still tax credits available for 2018?

Yes. Donors who would like to receive the tax credit for their 2018 taxes should begin the process prior to December 14, 2018 to ensure they have enough time to make their gift by December 31, 2018.