



## Friday Note

February 24, 2023

### ***Our Vision:***

*1st Lutheran School provides a Christ-centered, family-focused, student-driven education impacting our community and world.*

## *A Note From Mr. Fishburn...*

**This week I have received many questions about the Arkansas LEARNS Act,** which passed in the Senate and is now headed to the House, likely for some minor amendments and likely passage within the next few weeks. Note: because of the quickly changing and far-reaching implications of these programs, we will likely wait to award any 1st Lutheran Scholarships until we see the final wording and passage of this legislation to avoid issuing altered awards, etc.

***Most questions have centered around the Education Freedom Accounts which will allow families to use these funds for private school related expenses for kindergarten through 12th grade.***

These accounts will fund students at up to 90% of the state funding formula for public schools. (My understanding from Senate hearing testimony that I'm seeking clarification on is that a portion of that may be kept for program expenses by the administering agency, but no more than 5%). Our tuition rate is similar to the state funding level, so families should only be responsible for the approximate remaining 10-15% of our tuition rate and enrollment fee. This program will be phased in over 3 years. Also of note, is the expansion of the Philanthropic Investment in Arkansas Kids Scholarship program.

### **Qualifying Families for August 2023**

- Children with a disability as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (students who meet qualifications/have an IEP)
- Children currently on the Succeed Scholarship Program (SEE NOTE BELOW)
- Children currently in the foster care system or adopted out of the foster care system
- Children whose family is homeless under federal definition of homelessness
- Children of active duty military members
- Children enrolling in Kindergarten for the first time

### **Qualifying Families for August 2024**

- All above categories/students already receiving an EFA
- Children of Veterans
- Children of those in Military Reserves
- Children of first responders

- Children of law enforcement

**Qualifying Families for August 2025**

- All children enrolled in private school are eligible

For **students currently on the Succeed Scholarship Program** - this scholarship program will technically be discontinued and rolled into the EFA's. The Succeed Scholarship previously funded at 100% of state funding level. The LEARNS Act is written that for the transition year of 2023-2024 students previously on the Succeed Scholarship will be funded at the greater of the 90% or 2022-2023 scholarship maximum, ensuring that families will not receive less total funds for 2023-2024. This means that the scholarship should still cover full tuition and a portion of enrollment fees. After final award amounts are determined, we will notify you of any remaining uncovered expenses (ie: portion of enrollment fees) for this upcoming year.

**The LEARNS Act also includes immediate expansion of the PIAK Scholarship Program.** The PIAK Scholarship Program is in its first full year of implementation. The PIAK Scholarship currently provides students a scholarship up to 80% of state funding level. Students must come from families that meet financial guidelines, have attended public school for at least one year, be enrolling in Arkansas school (ie: moved from another state) for the first time, or be enrolling in kindergarten. Students currently on this program will remain until EFA's are fully implemented; they will then have the choice of which program to remain under. The LEARNS Act will potentially triple the amount of funding available for these scholarships allowing many additional new students to immediately receive a scholarship.

Income guidelines for 2023-2024 are as follows:

<b>Number in Household</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+
<b>Household Income</b>	\$39,440	\$49,720	\$60,000	\$70,280	\$80,560	\$90,840	\$101,120	\$10,280 Add per

**Families are encouraged to write a memo of support to your representative.**

Contact info can be found at: <https://www.arkansashouse.org/representatives/members>

The subject of the email needs to be "Support for SB294- LEARNS Act"

*Dear Representative*

*I wanted to share with you my support for SB294 - [write your story/reason for support]*

**Reminders of Other Outside Scholarships:**

If the LEARNS Act will not benefit your family (or friends that might want to attend) immediately, please check if your family qualifies for an ACE Scholarship. This is also a financial-need based scholarship, but this year qualifying levels were increased. Families who previously did not meet qualifications may this year. This scholarship covers \$3,000 each school year.

ACE Income Guidelines for 2023-2024:

Number in Household	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+
Household Income	\$69,020	\$87,010	\$105,000	\$122,990	\$140,980	\$158,970	\$176,960	\$17,960 Add per

Please contact the office for additional application information. Application deadline is April 18th. Students who meet ACE Scholarship Guidelines and are enrolled by that deadline must apply for ACE before being considered for 1st Lutheran Scholarships.

**This Week at a Glance...** (see updates and details below)

- Monday, February 27th Panther Spirit Day & Pep Rally 2:30pm
- Tuesday, February 28th Career Day
- Wednesday, March 1st Wacky Sock & Hat Day
- Thursday, March 2nd Every Color Day
- Friday, March 3rd Book Character Day

## Whole School Updates...

### Easter Egg Hunt

Our community-wide Easter Egg Hunt is coming up on April 2nd and we need your help collecting candy and prizes! Please grab a bag the next time you're out and send it in with your student. Please do not send in any chocolate (it melts) or large candy (need it to fit in the eggs). Small prizes such as tiny toys, stickers, etc are welcome too! All donations are due by Friday, March 17th!

### Popcorn Fundraiser - Feb 6th-Feb 24th

Popcorn Sales were due today!! Please drop those off or turn them in by 8am Monday at the latest!

### Spirit Week - February 27-March 3

Monday - Panther Spirit Day & Pep Rally at 2:30pm

Wear your 1st Lutheran gear as we cheer on our basketball teams during Tournament Week!

Parents are invited to the Pep Rally. We will recognize the basketball teams during tournament week, majorettes will perform, and we will also recognize tennis and running club participants.

Tuesday - Career Day

What do you want to be when you grow up? Doctor? Teacher? Firefighter? Astronaut? Show us by wearing your future work attire.

Wednesday - Wacky Sock & Hat Day (Chapel attire required)

Show us your craziest socks and wildest hats! Make sure that K-7th is wearing that chapel shirt though!

Thursday - Every Color Day

How many bright colors can you fit into one outfit? Show us how bright and colorful you can be!

Friday - Book Character Day

Dress up as your favorite book character and bring the book if you have it too!

### **Pastor Appreciation Lunch**

Pastor Appreciation Lunch has been moved to Wednesday, March 8th! We will send revised invitations out soon. Please let your pastors know that we will be making this up!

## *K-7th School Updates...*

### **Sports Team Picture Day - February 27 at 9:00 a.m.**

Heritage Portraits will take yearbook pictures for basketball, majorettes, running club, and tennis. Please use a different form for each sport.

Students should wear or bring the appropriate attire for **each picture**. They will be allowed to wear this at school all day to show their school spirit for the pep rally.

- Basketball – uniform with white t-shirt underneath
- Majorettes – majorette skirt, majorette shirt, baton, white tennis shoes
- Tennis – 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran spirit shirt
- Running Club – 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran spirit shirt

### **Middle School Tennis**

It's time for tennis again this year! This is a program we outsource to Greg Gilliam and his team. He works to combine middle schoolers across the city to play together (specifically private schools). If your 6th-7th grader is interested (sorry 5th grade....NEXT YEAR!), click on the link and complete the form below:

<https://forms.gle/u7zMRQCnwWzp5mqi9>

### **Middle School Night**

All incoming 5th-8th grade families are welcome to join us for an informational meeting about what our Middle School looks like and to answer any questions you may have. Join us on March 6th at 6pm in the Family Room and invite other families that might be interested.

RSVP here:

<https://forms.gle/6puPHe646eVkdhRM8>

### **MUCH NEEDED VOLUNTEERS for 2nd Semester**

We are looking for volunteers to help with lunch duty on Wednesdays. Every Wednesday, 2-3 teachers meet with Mr. Fishburn and Mrs. Von Tersch during lunch/recess to discuss student growth and monitor concerns. Lunch sign-ups are marked by what grades you would be with, if you would like to plan to help on a week when you could be with your student. If you would be able to volunteer for a 30 minute lunch window, please sign up using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044EA8A72EA1FA7-lunchroom>

## **ACCELERATED READER**

Congratulations to the following students who have reached significant milestones in Accelerated Reading.

### **100 point club**

- Kason Basham
- Charlie Benoit
- Patsy Clark
- Gracie Gibbs
- Julian Mercado
- Lila Olson
- Julia Paulus
- Gavin Porta

### **300 point club**

- Rozz Clark

## *ECE School Updates...*

Check out the fun dress up days for next week celebrating literacy and Dr. Seuss.

3s and 4s will be having parent teacher conferences on March 16.

ECE Spring Break is March 20-24. There will be childcare available.

Easter Egg Hunt will be April 2. If you can donate candy or eggs please bring those to school by March 17. Thank you!

## *Grow in Faith...*

Please reach out to Pastor Merrill if you ever have any questions, requests, or other needs at [pastor@1stlutheran.com](mailto:pastor@1stlutheran.com). Pastor Merrill typically works from the school campus, on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays and is available to meet at other times by appointment.

### **Wednesday Worship Opportunity**

We invite you to join us on Wednesday evenings for a worship opportunity held here at the school at 6 pm led by Pastor Merrill.

### **Men's Wednesday Bible Study**

Every Wednesday at 6:45 am in the Family Room.

***If you are looking for a church home, we would love to have you join ours!***



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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1115 N D St, Fort Smith, AR 72901

**8 & 10:45 AM Worship**

**9:30 AM Bible Study**



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*Grow Together as a Family...*

### **Taming the Chaos**

We are often asked if Love and Logic can benefit kids with ADHD and, if so, how should Love and Logic be used when kids struggle with ADHD.

The basic techniques of Love and Logic can be used for children with ADHD. These kids have the same behaviors as kids who don't have ADHD—they just display them far more frequently and intensely. For example, all kids fail to pay attention from time to time, forget what we ask them to do, argue, occasionally misbehave in impulsive ways, and experience bouts of excessive activity.

We have heard from parents over the years that Love and Logic techniques, which work with kids without ADHD, can also work for kids with ADHD. Because of the intensity of symptoms with ADHD, the key is to match the high frequency and intensity of their challenging behavior with a high frequency and intensity of Love and Logic techniques.

For example, is it fair to expect children with ADHD to do things like chores, get ready for school in the morning, and finish their homework without frequent reminders? We have learned that kids will need as many reminders as we give them to remember what they need to do. In other words, if we give kids frequent reminders, they will always need as many reminders as we give them, and they will not learn to be self-sufficient.

If we're more interested in creating kids with the capacity to become self-sufficient and responsible for their behaviors, it's much wiser to teach them "self-reminding" skills, and hold them accountable for using these skills, instead of constantly giving them reminders.

One way to help kids with ADHD to become self-sufficient is to teach them to use checklists. There are many ways to use checklists with kids. You can take pictures of your child completing the different tasks required to get ready in the morning and the child can learn to use these as guides to their routine.

Kids can also be taught to use a written list or date book, or they can use an electronic device to organize their lists. Giving kids these tools is far better than crippling a child with constant reminders, which will only create a life-long dependence on others to provide reminders.

If you would like more information on how to create responsible children, email me at [mgerlach@1stlutheran.com](mailto:mgerlach@1stlutheran.com). This article was taken from Love and Logic insider's club by Dr. Charles Fay.

## *Lunch Information...*

### **Lunch Menu for this week:**

Mon., 2/27	French Toast & Sausage on a Stick, Mixed Fruit, Yogurt & Granola
Tues., 2/28	Turkey Taco Salad, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Fruit, Sour Cream & Salsa
Wed., 3/01	Hamburger, Fries, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle, Grapes, Banana
Thurs., 3/02	Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, White Gravy, Green Beans, Roll, Brownie
Fri., 3/03	CiCi's Cheese Pizza, Salad, Cinnamon Roll, & Fruit

## *Looking Ahead 2 Weeks...*

- Monday, March 6th
  - Tuesday, March 7th
- Middle School Night 6pm  
Blue Ember Spirit Night 4-10pm

*Thank you to our Sponsors!*

