

Welcome Back to Scrip!

September 9, 2016

Dear St. Mary Families:

Welcome back to school, and welcome back to scrip! This PPA program provides a great opportunity to raise funds for the school with your everyday spending on things like groceries, gas, clothing, and other household items without any selling or extra spending. **Last year we raised more than \$5,000**, and this year we hope to do even better!

For those new to the program, here's how it works: You can order scrip (gift cards) at face value through our parents' organization to use for your everyday shopping and dining at merchants such as ShopRite, Walmart, Target, and many others. As a nonprofit organization, we purchase these gift cards at a discount determined by the retailer (an average of about 5%, although many offer more). The difference between the face value and what we pay is retained as our rebate. The cards will generally be delivered to you the same week your order is placed (usually on Friday for orders placed by Monday), and you can then use them for your everyday purchases. Just changing how you pay for things you routinely buy can have a great impact on our fundraising efforts!

Several of our families who use scrip for everyday purchases are regularly earning \$20 a month or more in rebates for the school. **Note that families who earn a minimum of \$50 in rebates by June 15, 2017 will be eligible for a waiver on next year's PPA dues!** Many have also found it to be a useful budgeting tool, helping them plan their expenses and even save incrementally toward large planned purchases (vacations, appliances, etc.). This program also makes shopping for gifts simple, as you can order all the gift cards you need for birthday gifts, Christmas giving, and other occasions from one place without running from store to store. There are no minimum or maximum orders!

We encourage all families to place their orders through **ShopWithScrip.com**. If you would like to create a new account, the enrollment code for St. Mary is **FAF974L124985**. Once you are registered, you can place orders online at any time. Payment can be made by sending a check through school, or using PrestoPay, a secure online service that debits your bank account for the total of your order (plus a \$0.15 processing fee). As long as online orders are placed by the order deadline, they will be processed and distributed with the school's order. Of course, you can always send paper order forms and payment through school as well.

We keep a supply of our most popular cards in stock should you run low or need something at the last minute. A list of these cards can be found in the Scrip FAQs that accompany this letter.

We will be ordering every two weeks, and weekly during the holiday season. The first order deadline will be **Monday, September 19th. All orders must be paid for at the time they are placed** via cash or check (payable to St. Mary PPA). Delivery date for that order will be **Friday, September 23**. Orders will be sent home via weekly folder or may be picked up at afternoon dismissal on the delivery date (please indicate your preference on the order form).

I encourage you to review the attached information and consider how you can help just by shopping with the children of St. Mary School in mind! Please contact me if you have any questions on ordering or any other aspects of the program.

Best regards,
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