



Saunders Catholic Schools

Open Forum

March 9, 2026



Agenda

- † Opening Prayer
- † Federal Income Tax Credit – OSN
- † 2026 – 29 Strategic Plan Presentation
- † 2026-2027 Budget
- † Tuition & Scholarship Review
- † Development Review
- † Open Q&A and Closing



**OPPORTUNITY
SCHOLARSHIPS
OF NEBRASKA**

COMING JANUARY 2027!

Starting January 1, 2027, you can direct up to **\$1700 of your federal income tax liability to support K-12 private school scholarships.**



NEW FEDERAL TAX CREDIT

- Introduced by **Congressman Adrian Smith**
- Compromise was made and it passed in the reconciliation package last summer (One Big Beautiful Bill)
- Since **school choice programs were repealed** in the state of Nebraska, this provides hope for families who are wondering how they will afford the education that best works for their child.



NEW FEDERAL TAX CREDIT

- Goes into effect **January 1, 2027**.
- Tax credit contributions fund scholarships for K-12 kids.
- Permanent program in the tax code, with **no sunset or expiration date**.
- **No cap** on the total amount of funds that can be raised across the country.
- Each state must **opt-in through their Governor**, legislature, or some other designated governmental person or entity.



GOVERNOR OPT IN



THANKS, GOVERNOR PILLEN!



**TAX CREDIT V.
TAX DEDUCTION**

TAX CREDIT

A TAX CREDIT DIRECTLY REDUCES THE AMOUNT OF YOUR TAX BILL (I.E. TAX LIABILITY).

A DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR CREDIT IS SUBTRACTED FROM THE TAXES YOU OWE. IF IT'S REFUNDABLE, IT COULD INCREASE YOUR REFUND.

TAX DEDUCTION

A TAX DEDUCTION REDUCES THE AMOUNT OF INCOME ON WHICH YOU HAVE TO PAY TAXES (I.E. YOUR TAXABLE INCOME).

FOR EXAMPLE, GIVING TO A NONPROFIT 501C3 IS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION.

WHICH ONE IS BETTER?

A TAX CREDIT!

NEW FEDERAL TAX CREDIT

- Individual taxpayers can receive a **dollar-for-dollar non-refundable tax credit for contributions** to a scholarship granting organization (SGO).
- Individual taxpayers from **any state can contribute to an SGO in Nebraska.**
- Contributions are capped at **\$1700 per year.**



MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION:

\$1,700



**MEDIAN NEBRASKA
HOUSEHOLD INCOME:**

\$76,000

**FEDERAL TAX
LIABILITY:**

\$5,152

WILL I BE ABLE TO HELP MY SCHOOL WITH MY CONTRIBUTION?

YES!

**YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DESIGNATE A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF
YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO BENEFIT CHILDREN WHO CHOOSE
THE SCHOOL THAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU.**

COMING JANUARY 2027!

Starting January 1, 2027, you can direct up to \$1700 of your federal income tax liability to support K-12 private school scholarships.

Scan and sign up to learn more!



Visit nebraskaopportunity.org/giving

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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2026-2029 Strategic Plan

18

† SCS Advancement Committee

† Ownership of the Strategic Plan

† Pillars – 4 Core Areas

† Unapologetically Catholic

† Academic Excellence

† Community and Culture

† SCS Growth

Unapologetically Catholic Pillar

- **Team Members**
 - Gery Kenney
 - Roger Kuhlfaehl
 - Lori Alm
 - Eva Fujan
 - Nicole Henkel
 - Christine Spreeman
 - Jacqueline Kane
 - Marv Wiese
- **Campus Ministry Management Book**
- **Grade School and Jr/Sr Speaker Series**
 - **Grade Schools – Neumann Adoration Speakers**
 - **Jr/Sr High School – Catholic speakers, share expenses with other High Schools**
- **New BN Chapel or Chapel Improvements**

Academic Excellence Pillar

- **Strengthen Student and Teacher Support Systems**
Expand individualized academic support and ensure teachers have the time and structure to provide meaningful guidance.
- **Support Academic Transitions**
Promote smooth, confident transitions between grade levels through stronger vertical alignment and collaboration.
- **Enhance Communication and Collaboration**
Foster transparent, consistent communication and strong partnerships between students, families, and educators.
- **Celebrate Academic Achievement**
Cultivate a culture that recognizes academic growth, excellence, and innovation by celebrating student success and highlighting faculty dedication.

- **Team Members**

- Katie Sladky
- Sherie Van Slyke
- Lindsey Gross-Rhode
- Jacob Sladky
- Cody Waldman
- Bridget Doyle

Community & Culture Pillar

- **Team Members**

- Karla Lechtenberg
- Mary Beth Himmelberg
- Jessica Pearson
- Andrea Woita
- Bob Sullivan
- Fr. Steve Mills

- **Emphasis on enhancing hospitality and engagement across the SCS community**

- **Oneness in Our Schools**

Build welcoming school communities through mentor families and welcome committees.

- **Servant Hearts**

Foster servant leadership and strengthen volunteer engagement among students, families, and community members.

- **Evangelization and Community Outreach**

Strengthen parish connections through prayer opportunities, parish partnerships, and shared community events.

SCS Growth

- **Emphasize strategies to grow enrollment and improve student retention**
 - **Strengthen multichannel marketing** to better target prospective families and focus on enrollment growth
 - **Increase the number of open houses and back-to-school engagement events**
 - **Adjust the enrollment timeline** to better align with industry standards and competing schools
 - **Expand outreach to non-Catholic Christian families seeking a faith-based education**
 - **Conduct performance surveys** and implement action plans to address areas for improvement
 - **Establish an Ambassador Group** to support recruitment and community engagement
- **Team Members**
 - Hillary Ahrens
 - Marie Fiala
 - Chris Lautenschlauger
 - Fr. Dale Alldar
 - Ryan Mascarello
 - Rika Ryan
 - Jennifer Whitney

School Updates

- New St. Wenceslaus Principal – Jessica Barger
 - Openings and Position Changes
- Introduction of Girls Wrestling
- GALA Updates from past GALA funds

2026-2027 Budget

24

Considerations

Salaries and Benefits – Account for 88% of the budget expenses, and we are implementing a 3% wage increase.

- **Parish Assessments** – Approx. 40% of your child's tuition is covered. Adjusted based on the pastor's input; some increased while others decreased.
- **Tuition Increases** – \$200 increase at the grade schools and \$150 increase at Bishop Neumann, **largely due to an approximately 15% rise in benefits costs.**
- **Affordability Mission** – We remain committed to keeping Catholic education accessible for families. Your support helps make this possible.
- **Tuition Policy** – Outlines guidelines and expectations (see additional handout).
- **Overall Finances**

2026-27 Tuition Rates

The **Full Tuition** is the amount it actually **costs the school to educate one student**. It is figured by dividing the school's total yearly expenses by the number of students expected to enroll. This amount shows what the school will need to charge per student to cover its costs, without any other support, to break even for the coming year.

Bishop Neumann Jr/Sr High School (Grades 7–12)	Full Tuition*	Parishes & School Support	Final Tuition (after support)
Deanery	\$14,000	(\$9,050)	\$4,950
Non-Deanery	\$14,000	(\$7,550)	\$6,450
Non-Participating	\$14,000	(\$5,250)	\$8,750

St. John Nepomucene Elementary School (K–6)	Full Tuition*	Parishes & School Support	Final Tuition (after support)
Deanery	\$9,600	(\$6,050)	\$3,550
Non-Deanery	\$9,600	(\$4,550)	\$5,050
Non-Participating	\$9,600	(\$3,750)	\$5,850
Pre-K Program	Tuition		
Tuesday and Thursdays	\$2,300		
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	\$2,500		
Monday through Friday	\$4,800		

St. Wenceslaus Elementary School (K–6)	Full Tuition*	Parishes & School Support	Final Tuition (after support)
Deanery	\$7,410	(\$3,860)	\$3,550
Non-Deanery	\$7,410	(\$2,360)	\$5,050
Non-Participating	\$7,410	(\$1,560)	\$5,850
Pre-K Program	Tuition		
Tuesday and Thursdays	\$2,300		
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	\$2,300		
Monday through Friday	\$4,600		

Scholarships Review

- **Scholarships** – The Good Shepherd (Diocesan), Guardian Angel, and the Family Tuition Cap
- **Application Process** – Apply through FACTS and submit required documents; \$45 application fee per family
- **Named Scholarships** – Available on the Bishop Neumann High School website



The Good Shepherd Scholarship

*Leftover OSN & LB1402 funds will be used first before Good Shepherd is applied this year.

Tuition Assistance Scholarships	
Good Shepherd	225% FPL
K-8	\$1,800
9-12	\$2,100

The Good Shepherd Scholarship

25-26 Fed Poverty Level	
Family Size	225%
2	\$47,588
3	\$59,963
4	\$72,338
5	\$84,713
6	\$97,088
7	\$109,463
8	\$121,838
9	\$134,213
10	\$146,588

Development & Fundraising

† The Holy Family Fund - \$500,000 (Total of below)

Bishop Neumann Annual Fund - \$300,000

The Guardian Angel Scholarship - \$100,000

The SCS Family Tuition Cap - \$100,000

† GALA – Last Year, This Year

How Can You Help?

- † Complete Scholarship Applications
- † Federal Tax Credit 2027 – Do it, Promote it!
(Assuming 80% of SCS students are eligible for the distribution)
100 Families - \$170,000 - **\$340 per student**
1000 Families - \$1,700,000 - **\$3,400 per student**
- † Share our mission and why we have affordable tuition
- † Encourage New Enrollment
- † **Time** - Volunteer to Help
- † **Talent** - Serve on Leadership Committees
- † **Treasure** – Tithe, Endowment, The Holy Family Fund, GALA
- † **Pray for the Schools & our Parishes**

Q&A and Closing

- † Last thoughts and recaps
- † Any questions on any topic?
- † Closing Prayer

- † We are thankful for all of you!