

December 3, 2009

Brothers and Sisters in Catholic Education,

Recently I was reviewing the tuition situation after the first quarter. As I thumbed through the pages of statements I was struck by the amount of tuition reductions some families were getting for using 'Scrip'. I mean hundreds of dollars in deductions. I wondered as I read those statements why more families do not take advantage of this opportunity to save some money. By purchasing 'Scrip' for places we tend to shop at (such as Piggly Wiggly, Fleet Farm, Walgreens, etc) you could be earning deductions in tuition, which is like money in your pocket, and you will be earning a "kickback" for the school from 1.5% up to 20%! I encourage you to at least think about it. Stop in and get a complete list of businesses who offer 'Scrip'. You will be helping yourself while you are helping us.

I am still dreaming about having a seventh grade here in Our Lady's School next school year. My next step will be to survey the 4th through Kindergarten parents. I will be looking for potential sustainability of adding a Middle School to our building. Since I have begun this quest I have heard from some of my peers in the diocese and the comments range from "it saved my school" to "I couldn't get it started". I am hopeful, but I remain committed to needing to be convinced it is the correct thing to do here in RL.

Here's another commercial for U.S.Cellular. They have made getting those "codes" so simple; it seems all you need to do is just ask for one. I haven't heard back from anyone who had to do anything else in the store, except ask for the "code". This could be worth \$100,000 to our school! And don't forget your college roommate in New York, your old high school coach in Tuscaloosa or your old childhood friend who now lives in Chicago. They can all help. Just remind them of our zip code here at Our Lady's School (53075). The neat thing about this fund raiser is we don't have to sell, buy, donate, give away, or promise anything except to willingly accept the \$100,000 and use it for the school.

As I re-read what I have written I was also thinking about the importance of making this school financially viable and strong. The three preceding paragraphs all have to do with money or school expansion. Sitting in Mass on Wednesday watching our students, your children, taking active, leadership roles during the Mass just reinforces in me the importance of this little "Diamond of Education" hidden away in RL. Please help make us stronger. Where else, but a Christ Centered School, can a child grow in his/her faith and not worry about being 'politically correct'? Jesus and Mary are spoken here. Lived here. Believed here. Each month our teachers establish a theme for the children. We have "Teamed with Jesus", we have learned the Rosary, we have given food to the hungry (over 200 items!) and we are now determining 'What name shall we give the baby?'. The students will decide just before we break for Christmas.

I will continue to ask Our Blessed Mother, Mary, our Patroness, to look favorably on each of you and ask her Son to hear your prayers.

Your Servant,

Rick Erickson, PhD
Principal/Administrator
Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School & Child Care Center