



## NORTHERN CHAUTAUQUA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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**Rev. Daniel P. Walsh**  
Canonical Administrator

**Mr. Andrew Ludwig**  
Principal

December 10, 2019

Dear NCCS Parents Current and New,

I'd like to share with you a little information about a big funding/scholarship source that is available to our NCCS students for 2020-2021; The Bison Children's Scholarship Fund! It is our goal to have **every** NCCS family pre-register for this opportunity. Even if you have applied and not qualified in the past for funding from the BISON scholarship, income eligibility criteria has been expanded for next year. Therefore, I encourage every NCCS family to apply.

Founded in 1995, the BISON Children's Scholarship Fund is a privately funded organization whose mission is to broaden the educational opportunities for Western New York children by helping families afford the cost of private K-12 schools. **How the K-8 program works (for our students entering into K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 2020-2021).** BISON Funded K-8 scholarships are awarded first-come, first-served basis depending on financial need. It is BISON's goal to assist families through the full nine years of grammar school (including grandfathering in younger siblings). The maximum amount of assistance a family can receive per year is \$2,100 per child. Every family is required to pay a portion (at least \$500) of the tuition each year. The parental contribution is a vital element in the success of the program, as families who must invest their own money for tuition have a stronger stake in their child's education.

Current NCCS families with students in grades Pre K 4-7 are eligible and **strongly** encouraged to pre-register for BISON Funding for the 2020-2021 school year. **In addition any family considering enrolling a new child for the 2020-2021 NCCS school year is also strongly encouraged to pre-register at this time.** Pre-registration is a necessary step in the process to apply for BISON funding. Pre-registration must be completed between January 1 and February 28, 2020 and it only takes about 5-10 minutes online. The average scholarship award is \$1,375.00! Even if you are not certain about your child's educational plans for next year, it is still **highly recommended** that you fill out the pre-registration form online. All information regarding applications, including financial records, are strictly confidential and are only seen by the BISON Scholarship Funding Committee in Buffalo. Your personal information is not shared with any NCCS employee or member of the NCCS Board of Trustees.

If you need help or do not have access to a computer or the internet, please contact me in the finance office as I'd be happy to help get you pre-registered. Also, per NCCS policy, families must apply for the BISON scholarship before they can request additional financial assistance from NCCS.

For those families that are currently receiving BISON Scholarship Funding for the 2019-2020 school year, please watch your email as the BISON Scholarship Fund will contact you directly about re-qualification for 2020-2021. The re-qualification process will open for students currently registered and returning in 2020-2021 in February 2020.

More information is available in the Finance Office or you can visit the BISON Funding website online at [www.bisonfund.com](http://www.bisonfund.com) for more information.

Sincerely,

*Mary Jane Starks,*

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