

ST. BENEDICT'S SCHOOL SCRIP PROGRAM Q & A

WHAT IS SCRIP? Primarily, it is a gift card program. The school buys gift cards at a discount and sells them for the regular price. On average, 7% goes to the school (see the order forms for exact percentages). There is also an e-scrip program that can benefit the school (see below).

WHERE CAN I LEARN/READ MORE ABOUT THE SCRIP PROGRAM? The St. Benedict's School website: www.stbens.net/parents/scrip-program/. You can investigate the scrip and e-scrip programs there.

WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL ANNUAL FUNDRAISING FOR THE SCRIP PROGRAM? Depending on numbers of families participating in the program annually and consistently, the school could realistically raise \$30,000- \$50,000. St. Catherine raises over \$25,000/year while St. John raises over \$65,000/year with scrip. In the last school year (2010-2011), St. Benedict's net income raised was not quite \$13,000. If households participate regularly every month, the income for the school would be much higher. We could match the profit of the Wurst Festival without extra financial expense or time donations.

DOES SCRIP REQUIRE PAYING MORE FOR THINGS? No, you do not pay extra. You use the gift card for the listed value to purchase the things you normally buy, with whatever discounts or coupons you may have. Scrip cards are just the form of payment, like cash, checks, and credit cards.

IS BUYING SCRIP A DONATION? No.

WHAT IS THE E-SCRIP PROGRAM? E-scrip is a separate program from the gift cards. You REGISTER YOUR CREDIT CARDS and selected membership cards (such as Safeway) online through the St. Benedict's website e-scrip page. Every time you use that credit card at a participating store or restaurant, the school gets a percentage of the sales. Find the full details at www.stbens.net/parents/scrip-program/.

WHAT KIND OF GIFT CARDS DOES ST. BENEDICT'S OFFER? A huge variety of store types: grocery stores, restaurants, home décor and fixing, apparel, sports, entertainment, office, gas, and Chinook Coupon books (which can be used in conjunction with scrip gift cards or e-scrip) & Chinook app. For a full listing of stores, see the Long Scrip Order Form online at www.stbens.net/parents/scrip-program/.

Groceries: Safeway, QFC, Albertsons, Whole Foods, PCC, Metropolitan Market, etc.

Restaurants: Anthony's, Baskin Robbins, California Pizza Kitchen, Neighborhood Grills, Olive Garden, Panera, Peet's Coffee & Tea, Pizza Hut, The Ram, Red Robin, Ruth's Chris, See's Candy, Starbucks, Tully's Coffee, Subway, Cheesecake Factory, etc.

Home: Bed, Bath, & Beyond, The Container Store, Crate & Barrel, Home Depot, Lowe's, etc.

Apparel & Sports: Big 5, Cabela's, The Children's Place, Claire's, Dennis Uniform, Eddie Bauer, Gap, Gymboree, JC Penny's, Kmart, Kohl's, Land's End, Macy's, Nordstrom, REI, Sears, Sports Authority, Target, TJ Maxx, Wal-Mart/Sam's Club, etc.

Entertainment: Amazon.com, AMC Theaters, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, iTunes, Regal Cinemas, Shutterfly, Toys R Us, etc.

Office: Office Depot, Office Max, Staples, etc.

Gas: Shell Gas, Chevron gas, etc.

Other: Chinook Book (coupon book for area) & Chinook apps for Iphone & Droid, etc.

DO THE GIFT CARDS EXPIRE? No, there is no expiration date.

CAN THE GIFT CARDS BE USED NATIONWIDE? Yes.

DO I HAVE TO USE THE WHOLE CARD AT ONE TIME? No. Use it like a credit card until the balance is used up. When the card is partly used, you can jot the new balance on the card with a sharpie pen.

HOW DO I ORDER SCRIP GIFT CARDS?

- The immediate way: at the scrip sales table at school on Wed & Fri from 8:15 – 8:45 AM, or after mass in the church vestibule on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.
- The less immediate way: send your order form and check in your child's backpack in the Thursday envelope. Your order will be filled the following Thursday.
- The ongoing way: Use the Standing Order form found on the website to receive scrip regularly in your Thursday envelope.

- Note: For large or special orders on the Long Form, you can email the scrip committee in advance, because they may take a little extra time to get. Contact scrip@stbens.net.

HOW DO I GET AN ORDER FORM? Get a form either at the scrip sales table or online at www.stbens.net/parents/scrip-program/. Print the Long Form off the website as it isn't always at the sales table.

WHAT ARE THE SHORT AND LONG ORDER FORMS? The Short Form is the list of scrip gift cards that are regularly stocked at the sales table. The Long Form has many additional gift cards that aren't usually kept in stock but can be ordered for you and usually received in a week. The Long Form has more stores as well as more variety of card VALUES, such as \$100 or \$500 at Home Depot instead of just \$25.

WHAT IS A STANDING ORDER? A Standing Order is an order you place for gift cards, such as grocery stores, to receive over time on an ongoing basis. For instance, one QFC card/ week. Standing orders can be paid by check or credit card. The cards are delivered in your Thursday envelopes. This is a way to make sure you get the cards you need on a regular basis and avoid the sales table.

WHAT IF I WANT A LARGER VALUE CARD THAN WHAT IS ON THE SHORT FORM? See the Long Order Form—many can be ordered in \$25, \$50, \$100, and a few for \$500. If it isn't listed there, ask the scrip committee if they can get a larger denomination card for you: scrip@stbens.net.

WHAT IF I WANT SOMETHING REGULARLY THAT IS NOT IN STOCK/ON THE SHORT FORM? Tell the scrip committee and they will either get it regularly for you personally or, if there seems to be demand, they may decide to put it on the Short Form for everyone.

WHAT IF I SHOP/ EAT SOMEWHERE REGULARLY BUT THE SCHOOL DOESN'T SELL SCRIP FOR THAT STORE/RESTAURANT? Ask the scrip committee if they can get cards for that store. They will if that store participates in scrip. Some of the cards offered now are on the list because we contacted the stores, such as the local Grills restaurants and local stores that are not part of national chains.

WHAT IF I WANT TO GIVE PRESENTS BUT NOT GIFT CARDS? Buy gift cards and use them yourself to buy the special gifts you want to give. Only give gift cards if you want to.

WHAT IS CARD SWAPPING? You can buy scrip gift cards (for instance Safeway or QFC) and exchange them for other cards at face value (such as Nordstrom, PF Chang's, American Express, sold at that store).

HOW DO I CONTACT THE SCRIP COMMITTEE? Email scrip@stbens.net, or visit the scrip sales tables.

HOW DO I TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT HOW I CAN BETTER USE THE SCRIP PROGRAM? Contact scrip@stbens.net or the scrip sales table. Someone can help you analyze your buying patterns and plan your scrip card buying.

DOES THE SCRIP PROGRAM NEED VOLUNTEERS? Yes. If you are interested in helping with publicity, sales, inventory, or other, contact the scrip committee through email scrip@stbens.net or the sales table.