

# STAR SCRIP PROGRAM

The Star Scrip program was first introduced to our school families in April, and has been growing ever since! Now, we are ready to introduce the next phase of this program—the tuition reduction program! **This will of course, be of great benefit to our school families, but also will have benefits for our entire Star of the Sea family, so keep reading for full details about Scrip.** It's called "Scrip," and it's the fundraising program that works while you shop requiring no additional purchases from you! Can you believe it—free money for Our Lady Star of the Sea?

## WHAT IS SCRIP?

Scrip is simply a word that means "substitute money" – in other words, Scrip is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They're the same gift certificates that you buy at the store. Many popular retailers participate in our Scrip program including Macy's, The Gap, Shell, P.F. Changs, Pizza Hut, and many others. You can even purchase American Express gift cards or Disney cards to use on your next vacation! We also hope to be including some local retailers in the coming weeks, so stay tuned for updates which will be coming soon!

How do these stores help us raise money? It's simple—Scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our organization at a discount. Families like yours buy the certificates for full face value, redeem them for full face value, and Star of the Sea keeps the discounted difference as revenue—everybody wins:

- The retailer gets cash up front and repeat business
- You get a powerful fundraising alternative that involves no selling or extra purchases
- We gain an extra source of revenue.

The beauty of Scrip is that you put your regular household shopping dollars to work. You earn money for Star without spending a single additional penny. Just spend your regular shopping dollars with the gift cards purchased through the Scrip program at the participating stores! Scrip can be used for just about any household purchase including food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline and even, dining out.

## HOW MUCH CAN WE EARN?

The sky is the limit! Really it depends on all of us. The more participation—the better it is. It is estimated that an organization of 500 families easily spends between four and six million dollars per year on food, clothing, and other essentials. If these families use Scrip for their purchases, they can raise as much as \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year through Scrip—without spending an additional penny! This does not take in to consideration support of the entire Star family and their extended family and friends whom we hope will participate, as well. So, spread the word!

## WHAT IS THE CATCH?

Well, if there is one—it has to be that you have to pre-plan a bit; however, not too much. As you will see, orders are processed within a matter of days. Also, beginning in November, we plan on carrying inventory of everyone's favorite stores—just in time for your Christmas shopping!

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE PROCEEDS/REBATES?

Each family's purchases will be tracked throughout the year. Fifty percent of the funds will be retained by the school to cover administrative costs of the program and to benefit all of the Star children by funding improvements within the school. The other fifty percent is credited to each family's **individual** Scrip account and will be accounted for as detailed below:

### School Family:

- Scrip credit will apply towards your 2010-2011 Star tuition.
- If your tuition is all ready paid in full for 2010-2011 (or if your Scrip credit exceeds the balance due) at the time of Scrip credit distribution, you may choose one of the following:
  - to carry the balance forward for future tuition
  - to transfer your credit to another family
  - to have a tuition refund check issued to you.
  - to make a tax deductible donation of your earned credit amount to the school and a statement will be provided to you for your total donation at the end of the tax year.

### Parish Family and Star Family and Friends:

- You may make one of the following elections for the "tuition" portion of your credit:

- to apply it to one or more school family(ies)'s tuition account (a great option for grandparents, aunts, and uncles!)
- to make a tax deductible donation of your earned credit amount to the school and a statement will be provided to you for your total donation at the end of the year.

### Distribution

There will be three dates of distribution/evaluation of the Scrip accounts: December 1<sup>st</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup>, and June 30<sup>th</sup>. For school families, Scrip credit amounts will be applied toward unpaid tuition first, then applied as outlined above.

### **HOW DO I ORDER?**

Orders are placed weekly on Monday mornings. Orders complete with payment must be received by 9:00 am. There are two ways to place an order. First, order forms can be found on the school website--[www.starschoolgrossepointe.org](http://www.starschoolgrossepointe.org), in the school and parish offices and in the gathering space outside of church. The retailers are listed on the order form along with the amount of the gift card and the corresponding percentage discount that will be received. **Remember this percentage will be split between Star of the Sea and your Scrip rebate account.** Simply indicate the quantity and total amount of cards you would like to order and return this completed form to the school office with your payment.

Alternatively, orders may also be placed online at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com). Upon your first visit to the site, each family will need to register an account. **When prompted during the enrollment process, use the enrollment code for Star: 68LCLF19246L2.** A complete list of retailers is online and orders may be placed just as they would with any other online retailer. During the checkout process, you will be asked to either submit your payment by authorizing Great Lakes (GL) Scrip to automatically deduct payment from your savings or checking account using their PrestoPay system or to indicate that you will submit a check to the school for your online order. Online orders will be processed with the weekly orders received in the school.

Whichever ordering method you choose is fine. It really is a matter of which is most convenient for you.

### Payments:

Acceptable payment is by check or by automatic debit from your checking or savings account online using PrestoPay if ordering online. Please note that both ordering methods do require payment to be received before the order will be processed.

### Order Pick-Up:

During the school year, orders will be available for pick-up each week on Thursday from 2:45 – 3:30 pm and Friday from 7:45 – 8:30 am in the parish center office. During the summer, pick up is available on Thursday evenings between 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Please contact [dmbrousseau@comcast.net](mailto:dmbrousseau@comcast.net) if you need to make special arrangements for pick-up. Each scrip order should be reviewed for accuracy and an **adult** signature will be required upon receipt.

### **SCRIP USES**

There are so many obvious uses for Scrip; we can order gift cards for that upcoming shower, graduation, wedding or birthday, a night out at a favorite restaurant, travel, gasoline, cards to pay for our monthly prescriptions and clothing purchases. However, if you really start to think about it—the possibilities are endless! In the few months that we have had the program, our Star families have really thought “outside of the box” and come up with some creative ways to earn money. The graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade class and especially their teachers put the program to work by purchasing Scrip cards to pay for the hotel and meal expenses that they were to incur during their class trip to Chicago. They were able to raise \$485.50 for Star by simply pre-purchasing gift cards! The Star student council decided to donate several items to school with the money they had raised throughout the year. After deciding on the items they would purchase, they purchased gift cards through Scrip, and were able to raise an addition \$100 for Star just by using the program—talk about giving back!

It doesn't always have to be something that grand, it can be as simple as having gas cards and a few of your favorite restaurant and store cards on hand. Every card purchased will add up for Star and for you! Let's all work together to make this program a huge success.

### **QUESTIONS?**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have regarding the program. You may call Danielle Brousseau at 586-873-8087 or email me at [dmbrousseau@comcast.net](mailto:dmbrousseau@comcast.net). I also will be in the gathering space after all masses during the weekend on July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> to answer any questions and help with any order placements. Please stop by and place your first order today to learn how easy this program can be!