

July 3, 2018

From the Headmaster



I hope you're having a good summer! I just want to share a brief update and some other information that might be useful for your planning for school. We'll provide much more complete information in early August.

Faculty Update

We are very pleased that Mrs. Starlyn Lazarus is joining us as our 7th and 8th grade teacher. Mrs. Lazarus has been at Lumen Christi quite a bit over the past several months substitute teaching in the grade school. She has a BA in English from Aquinas College in Nashville, Tennessee, and is working toward a Master's degree in English from Belmont University.

With Mrs. Lazarus on board, the homeroom teachers in the elementary school are as follows:

Pre-K – Mrs. Denney	K – Mrs. Butterfield
1st/2nd – Mrs. Shewmaker*	3rd – Miss Henson
4th – Mrs. Richert	5th – Mr. Jenkins
6th – Miss Rinaldi	7th/8th – Mrs. Lazarus

*Mrs. Dowell will teach 2nd graders half of the day

Administration Update

Mrs. Caroline Giedd has taken on the role of Activities Coordinator, newly created as part of the revamping of administrative jobs worked out last fall. Mrs. Giedd can be reached at activities@lumenchristischool.org. Mrs. Dowell is now serving as Elementary Principal, and Mrs. Collins is High School Principal. Please contact them for any questions about academics – curriculum, grades, etc. Mrs. Barnes is now Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper. Please contact her for questions about tuition and other “business” matters. Of course, you are welcome to contact me at any time about anything! The board is currently working on filling the last position – Development Director.

Uniform Reminder

Please remember that, beginning with the new school year, all khaki pants and shorts must be Schoolbelles, and all shirts must be navy blue polo shirts. As a reminder, uniform khaki walking shorts must be no more than 2 inches above the knee, and tight pants or shorts are prohibited. Elementary school girls have the option of wearing a uniform skirt or jumper from Schoolbelles or Lands' End instead of pants or shorts. Skirts and jumpers should extend to the top of the knee.

The knit polo shirt has a sewn-in ribbed collar, 2 or 3 button placket and may be long-sleeve or short-sleeve.

More information about the uniform, including online ordering codes for Schoolbelles and Lands' End, is in the Resources section of our school web site.

Using a 529 Plan to Save on Lumen Christi Tuition

For some time now, federal tax law has allowed taxpayers to save for college in a tax-exempt 529 plan. In addition, Indiana taxpayers can get a state income tax credit equal to 20% of their contributions to a 529 savings account, up to a \$1,000 credit per year.

The federal tax reform bill signed into law last December permits withdrawals from a 529 college savings account up to \$10,000 per year per student for K-12 tuition expenses at a public, private or religious school such as Lumen Christi.

At the special session in May, the Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation confirming that the state tax credit applies to 529 savings used for K-12 tuition. For 2018, only a maximum of \$500 of the total \$1,000 credit can be related to K-12 expenses (it's the lesser of \$500 or 10% of contributions used to pay for K-12). Then in 2019 and going forward, the full \$1,000 credit (20% of up to \$5000 tuition) can be related to K-12 expenses. The K-12 expenses must be used for Indiana schools, which is different than college expenses.

A couple of cautions: To deduct 529 contributions from federal taxes, the taxpayer must make them by Dec. 31 – they're not like IRA contributions, which can be made until Apr. 15 for the previous tax year. The Indiana tax credit is non-refundable, so if the credit is more than you owe in state taxes that year, you don't get the full value of the credit. But grandparents, other relatives and friends can set up 529 accounts in the name of a student and take advantage of the tax credit.

So 529 plans offer a possible way to save on Lumen Christi tuition through tax-free savings and a state tax credit. I encourage you to consider checking out the Indiana CollegeChoice529 plans if you haven't already done so. Go to <https://www.collegechoicedirect.com/>

Please note that the above information is for reference only and should not be considered as tax or investment advice. I recommend that you contact a tax and/or investment professional for additional information on how this may work with your specific situation.