

Dear Parents and Friends of Calvin,

As you know, we are a school devoted to being a blessing for kids of the kingdom. Sometimes these blessings depend on scholarship money to keep one of our dear students enrolled. **The state of Illinois Invest in Kids Act allows taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for the school(s) of their choice** (www.revenue.state.il.us/InvestInKids/).

The scholarships must go to students whose families meet low income thresholds—students who are having difficulty affording a Christian school or who might never have the opportunity to attend a Christian school. To fund those scholarships, the program allows taxpayers to reserve and receive tax credits of up to \$1,000,000!

This is so exciting for families and Calvin supporters. This will allow more families to have access to a Christ-centered education.

At this point, you may already have identified yourself as either a donor (contributor) or a potential scholarship eligible family (applicant). Let's lean into some key next steps for each.

I am a contributor ...	I am an applicant ...
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Go to http://mytax.illinois.gov. Sign up as soon as possible for an account. Registration takes 7-10 days. Beginning in January, individual and corporate donors will be able to reserve tax credits on a Department of Revenue website. Once reserved, contributors will have 60 days to make their donation.2. Reserve tax credits with an approved Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) – we recommend the Bright Promise Fund (we are a member school). SGOs will then be responsible for granting scholarships to qualifying students. The tax credit scholarship program runs through December 31, 2022.3. An individual or corporate donor will receive a 75% credit on their donation*. Individual donors can direct their donations to a particular school, corporate donations will go to a general fund for non-public schools (which includes Calvin). <p>You get to direct where you want your tax dollars to be invested! Directing payment of your taxes will allow more families to afford a Christ-centered education at Calvin Christian School. Bright Promise Fund Executive Assistant, Rosanna Farquhar would be happy to help you (rosanna@brightpromisefund.org).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Go to www.brightpromisefund.org. Calvin is working with this Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). BPF will not only diligently manage all scholarship funds received, but will also vigorously advocate for the program, our school, and our students.2. Apply in January. There is no cost to apply. Go to www.brightpromisefund.org to apply. Scholarships will be available on a first come/first served basis, and will be based on family size, income and limited to donations to the SGO.3. Wait. SGOs begin awarding scholarships for the following school year in February. Scholarships are paid directly to the qualified school (Calvin is one) by the SGO on behalf of the student.

** Here's an example: A person has \$5,000 in tax liability to the state of Illinois. This person is also interested in her local Christian school so she contributes \$6,667 to the Children's Tuition Fund of Illinois. This gets her \$5,000 in tax credits. She will receive a \$5,000 refund when she files her taxes in recognition of her withholding and her tax credits. Any unused credits can be carried over to the following year.*

Unlike the voucher program in some other states, funds for scholarships for students in non-public schools in Illinois will only be available to the extent that contributors give – and funds are therefore available for the SGO to award and distribute.

We are grateful for this God-given opportunity for families to benefit from such a unique tax-credit program. **Interested contributors, please contact Randy Moes** (rmoes@calvinschool.org) or 708-331-5027 Ext. 305. **Interested scholarship applicants, please contact Tanya Harper** (tharper@calvinschool.org) or 708-331-5027 Ext. 308.

In His Service,
Randy Moes, CCS Principal

