Eighth grade is a special year in the elementary career of a Catholic school students. Eighth grade is a culmination of their elementary faith journey, a time to reflect on the past and ultimately use their foundation to move to the next level. It is a time for the graduate to highlight their role as school leaders and capitalize on the gifts and talents they have to offer. This power point is to be used as a guide for 8th grade information.
Eighth grade graduation pictures are taken at Orientation Day in August. Parents can order the pictures from the photography company. The graduate must wear the graduation gown for the 8th grade picture. The school provides the gowns for the picture.
Throughout the school year the 8th grade class earns privileges based on their leadership and role modeling behaviors. Examples of privileges may include:

- Wearing the class t-shirt and sweatshirt during school
- Wearing any athletic shoe on PE days
- Purchasing soda during lunch on Fridays
- Weekly recess during “instructional” time
- Untucked uniform or PE shirts

Privileges may be revoked for individuals or the group due to misbehavior and/or lack of leadership.
EIGHTH GRADE RETREAT

Each year the entire 8th grade class attends a fall, one-day, spiritual retreat. The facilitator as well as the venue changes, but generally it is held off campus. The retreat occurs during regular school hours. The 8th grade Religion teacher coordinates the details of the retreat. Parents are responsible for drop off and pick up of their child. The cost of the retreat (approximately $15; lunch and snack included) is covered in the 8th grade fees.
Eighth grade students submit designs for the class t-shirt and sweatshirt. The entire 8th grade class votes to determine the design. The t-shirts and sweatshirts are considered eighth grade privileges. The t-shirt is generally worn for PE, the retreat, field trips, and informal gatherings throughout the school year so as to define an 8th grader from other students. The sweatshirt can be worn at any time throughout the school year.
Measurements and orders are taken in August/September of the 8th grade year. Sweatshirts include the student’s given name on the sleeve. Additional t-shirts can be purchased for $15 each (not included in fee total).
The 7th and 8th grade dances are coordinated by the grade level parents and school staff.

- Parents and staff members chaperone. All chaperones must be fingerprinted and approved by the Diocese of Orlando, and names must be submitted to the school office 72 hours prior to each dance.
- Parents are responsible for decorations, set-up, clean-up, snacks and drinks.

- The school hires the DJ and coordinates the DJ payment.
- Dance fees ($10-15) are collected at the door of the event. Cell phones are confiscated during the event but returned at the end of the dance.
- Dance dates, generally four dances per year, are calendared by the school and posted on the monthly school calendar.
PICTURES AND DVD

- An 8X10 class picture (approximately $15), with graduates in gowns, is coordinated and taken in the spring.

- Parents coordinate an 8th grade DVD (approximately $5) including pictures of the graduate as a baby, of sacramental events, accomplishments, etc...
  - The DVD is played at the brunch following the Candlelight Mass at the end of the year.
Each graduate receives a yearbook which is included in the Graduation Fees (approximately $25).
• 8th grade families often purchase an advertisement in the Good Shepherd yearbook in order to express their sentiments and congratulations to the graduating students. The cost for advertisements is not included in the 8th grade fees.

• Information and deadlines for ads are communicated each year in the fall.

Yearbook Ads:
full page ad $100
½ page ad $75
¼ page ad $50
CAPS, GOWNS AND DIPLOMAS

✓ **GSCS caps** (with tassel) and **gowns** (approximately $15) are mandatory for the class picture, graduation, and Candlelight ceremonies.

✓ **Gowns are supplied by the school** (measurements are taken in March).
  - Girls wear white gowns
  - Boys wear royal blue gowns

✓ **The diploma and cover** (approximately $10) are provided by the school.
8th Grade Class Trip

• Graduates go to Islands of Adventure for their final class field trip.

• Chaperones are needed but must be fingerprinted and pay their own way. Season passes may be used by chaperones only (no passes can be used for 8th grade students).

• Approximate cost ($65) reflects current entrance fee prices (group rate) and bus transportation. This amount does not include meals, souvenirs or other individual purchases.
The Candlelight Mass is scheduled at 9:30am on the last day of school. This special Mass is a highpoint for graduates to pass on their “LIGHT” of leadership to the 7th grade class.

Parents, grandparents, family members, etc... are welcome to attend this special Mass and join in our celebration.

Graduation gowns, over Church appropriate clothes, are worn without caps.
GRADUATION BRUNCH

• Immediately following the Candlelight Mass, the 7th grade class (and 7th grade parent volunteers) sponsors a brunch for the 8th grade graduates in the Family Center. The cost is covered by the 7th grade class.

• The 7th and 8th graders eat together, watch the 8th grade class video, and sign yearbooks.

• Since the brunch is for the students, parents do not attend until 12pm when they pick up their graduate(s).
GRADUATION CEREMONY

The GSCS Graduation Ceremony (approximately $5) takes place on the last day of school in the Good Shepherd Church at 6pm (approximately 1 hour). A ceremony program is provided.

Church seating is on a first come, first served basis.

Students are required to report to their homeroom by 5:30pm. Caps & gowns are put on at school and are worn over Church appropriate clothing.

Diplomas, academic awards, and honors are presented during the ceremony.
GRADUATION FEE SUMMARY

Fee Re-Cap: (approximate costs)

- 8th Grade Retreat $15
- Class T-shirt and Sweatshirt $40
- Class Picture and DVD $20
- Yearbook $25 (ads are a separate fee)
- Cap and Gown $15
- Diploma and Cover $10
- 8th Grade Class Trip $65
- Graduation Ceremony $10
- Adopt-a-Student Optional Donation

Total: $200.00
GRADUATION FEE SUMMARY

• At any time fees or details of activities may be changed. GSCS will communicate with families regarding any changes in a timely manner.

• Graduation payment of fees is added to the annual tuition payments during the school year.

• The GSCS Accountant processes all graduation related money transactions.

• Outstanding tuition or fees will exclude graduates from attending graduation or receiving a report card. If this causes a financial burden, please contact the School Administration.
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Good luck in high school and beyond. Know that your faith and academic foundation started here at GSCS. We are always here to support you!

God Bless!