

Education

Schools office sets policy for 'free milk'

The diocesan Department of Catholic Schools has announced a free and reduced-price meal (free milk) policy for students in Catholic schools throughout the 12-county diocese.

The policy, effective from July 1, 1996, through June 30, 1997, sets specific eligibility criteria based upon income levels and family sizes. A chart stipulating the eligibility figures — as well as a complete copy of the policy — can be obtained from the principal's office at each of the participating schools.

Families whose incomes fall at or below the levels stipulated for their family sizes are urged to apply for free and/or reduced-price meals (or free milk) by filling out application forms that have been sent to parents. Application forms also are available from the principal's office at each school.

Applications may be submitted to the school principal at any time during the school year. Changes in employment, family income or size necessitate the submission of new applications. Information provided on application forms will be held in strict confidence and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility.

The school district does, however, reserve the right to verify information provided by parents at any time during the school year. If a parent declines to provide information to the school, his or her children will no longer be eligible for free or reduced-price meals (free milk).

In certain cases, foster children



are also eligible for these benefits, and families interested in obtaining benefits for foster children should contact their children's schools.

Under the policy's provisions, a designated official will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with a ruling made by the designated official, he or she may make a request — either orally or in writing — for an appeal hearing. Each school has designated an official to conduct hearings, and hearing procedures are outlined in the policy.

All questions on the application must be answered completely for the application to receive consideration by the school district. In addition, the form must be signed by a parent or guardian who certifies that the information is true and correct.

No child shall be discriminated against because of his or her race, sex, color, national origin, age or handicap. If any member of a household believes he or she had been discriminated against, he or she should write the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

A complete copy of the policy is on file in the office of the School Food Authority District Administrator, where it may be reviewed by any interested persons.

Parents seeking to find out which other diocesan schools are taking part in the program should call the Catholic school of their choice directly.

Sr. Englert

Continued from page 6A
Ave.; St. Boniface, 15 Whalin St.; and St. Monica's, 841 Genesee St.

The WIN grant was announced last year by Robert Wegman, chairman of Wegmans Food Markets Inc., and his wife, Peggy. Their gift of \$25 million is directed toward students in grades pre-K through six over a 10-year period.

This financial assistance will enable children from low- and moderate-income households to attend the six WIN schools, and graduates of those schools to attend Catholic junior high schools. Aid is granted on a sliding-scale basis.

Sister Englert said she's excited about WIN's potential to significantly further the mission and ministry of Catholic education.

"For me, it's real important that Catholic education provides a kernel for the future of the church, as well as for possible vocations," Sister Englert remarked. "This is a wonderful, incredible gift from the Wegmans."

In her role as assistant superintendent Sister Englert is responsible for the coordination of planning and programs among the WIN schools. She will also coordinate the development of student demographic and acad-

emic data; oversee the development and management of volunteer positions; and provide support and counsel to the principals at each school.

In addition, Sister Englert is supervisor for Aimee Darmer, who serves in the newly created position of WIN school advocate. Darmer will provide advocacy for students and their families with public, local, state and federal agencies.

According to Sister Englert, Darmer will be based at Holy Family School this year as part of a pilot program. The program, Sister Englert added, is expected to eventually spread to all six WIN schools.

Sister Englert begins her new position after serving the previous three years as principal of Bishop Kearney High School in Irondequoit.

She was also principal of Nazareth Academy from 1980 to 1987 and served as assistant principal at Nazareth from 1977 to 1980.

In addition, Sister Englert taught at Corpus Christi School from 1969 to 1970, Holy Apostles School from 1970 to 1973 and Nazareth Academy from 1974 to 1976.

She obtained her bachelor's degree from Nazareth College of Rochester, and holds a master's degree in educational administrative supervision from the University of Dayton, Ohio.

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