



Mid-Summer Announcements from the Principal

July 10, 2020

Dear Parent/s and Guardians:

I hope this finds you healthy, happy, and enjoying your summer. Hard to believe the summer is half-way over already! As we savor the last few weeks of break, I just wanted to touch base about a handful of school-related things: ***new teacher hire, the reopening of our school, mask-wearing, tuition incentive, and the Reading/Math Summer Contests!***

NEW Middle School Science/6th Grade Homeroom Teacher

Please join me in welcoming **Miss Alexandra Rozhon** to our faculty! Alexandra received her Bachelor's degree in Science from Dominican University this past spring and has begun working on her Master's in Teaching through the alternative licensing program, also at Dominican University. She will receive an Alternative Educator's License in August from the Illinois State Board of Education. She is an alumna of St. Ferdinand School and actively involved in the Polish School Children's Choir here. Plus...she is getting married on August 1 - so don't get too used to calling her Miss Rozhon! She brings new-teacher energy and an eagerness to make science engaging and fun for our middle school science students. We know our middle school students will truly enjoy science with a new teacher and a (hopefully) new on-line science "textbook" for the 6th-8th graders! (FYI, updates on our new art and music teachers will be shared as they are finalized.)

REOPENING of SCHOOLS

Today, you may be aware, the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Catholic Schools released an email to all school families detailing the official plans for re-opening our schools! Below are links to the documents in case you did not receive that email (and also, please let the school office know if you did not receive that email):

Summary of Archdiocese of Chicago Reopening Plan for Parents:

<https://mcusercontent.com/a09fbf4d2497886d386e21d4b/files/d5d38571-78a4-418d-895d-7319a75dae7c/6. OCS ABRIDGED Reopening Planning Framework 2020 21 v3.pdf>

Questions & Answers about Reopening Plan from the Archdiocese:

<https://mcusercontent.com/a09fbf4d2497886d386e21d4b/files/c51bb522-1caf-48b6-bcc5-0fb79545b77c/7. Reopening FAQ Parent English v1.pdf>

Superintendent Dr. Jim Rigg's Re-Opening Announcement:

[https://us1.campaign-archive.com/?e=\[UNIQID\]&u=a09fbf4d2497886d386e21d4b&id=a26f77801a](https://us1.campaign-archive.com/?e=[UNIQID]&u=a09fbf4d2497886d386e21d4b&id=a26f77801a)

Please know that as we implement these directives at St. Ferdinand School, you will be kept abreast of changes via these School Messenger email blasts, as well as through virtual tours on Facebook Live. Facebook Live broadcasts are automatically recorded and stored on our Facebook page and can be accessed anytime (you DON'T have to have a Facebook account!) via the runner along the right side of our website's Home page at: www.saintferdiandschool.org .

As these changes are executed, I would also like to host virtual "town hall" meetings via Zoom a couple of times before the school year begins to keep the lines of communication open during this summer of social distancing, as well as to answer any questions and to address concerns. Our first Zoom meeting will be held THIS Wednesday, July 15, @ 6:30 PM. Specifics are as follows:

Topic: St. Ferdinand School Reopening Stakeholder Meetings

Time: First One: Wednesday, July 15 from 6:30-7:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71232492053?pwd=VmQ1VzNudTI4a2hDaDVgdS9sQ29nUT09>

Meeting ID: 712 3249 2053

Password: FERDS

NOTE: PLEASE EMAIL QUESTIONS/CONCERNS AHEAD OF TIME TO efolino@saintferdinand.org OR WRITE THEM IN THE "CHAT BOX" DURING THE ZOOM. Participants will be muted so that background noises and competing voices do not interfere with the presentation of information.

Of course, you can also always email me at the address above or phone during summer office hours (T/Th 7-Noon; W 1-6) if you would prefer to discuss something in a more personal, 1:1 format. :)

IN THE MEANTIME, LET'S TALK MASKS!

If you haven't done so already, please make sure your child is becoming accustomed to mask-wearing, as students will be required to wear masks while in the school building. Masks can be any appropriate design. There are so many fun options on-line to reflect your child's favorite characters, sports, colors, etc. There are also solid-colored, lightweight-cotton, child-

sized ones available for 2 for \$4 at Target! Further, Dennis Uniform will be offering ones that coordinate well with the uniforms, and daily disposable ones can be found on Amazon. **Once you've purchased a few (enough to have a fresh one everyday amid laundry cycles) your child tolerates and even enjoys wearing, please start having him/her wear the masks in air conditioning (all of our rooms have air conditioning!) for longer periods of time each day. This should be started now (not the day before school starts!) and done in a positive, upbeat, fun way so that children come to view it as a part of everyday dressing and not as a nuisance.** Your timely cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated! :)

In case you missed it, here is a brief Facebook Live video Ms. Margaret and I posted this week about this subject. **It might be good for your children to see school personnel wearing masks, too, so they are used to that as well:**

<https://www.facebook.com/stferds/videos/295751711862550/>

FREE MONTH of TUITION INCENTIVE!

Don't forget: if you recommend a family to attend St. Ferdinand School that registers, remains the school year, and writes your name down as a referral on their enrollment sheets, YOUR FAMILY RECEIVES FREE TUITION IN APRIL 2021! Our building is open a few days a week and we have safe protocols in place and have been giving tours! We would love to welcome the families you recommend to all the good that happens daily at St. Ferdinand School - and to reward YOU in the process! **Don't forget to brag: under the guidance of our amazing teachers, St. Ferdinand School students did not miss one day of distance learning - a feat our public school counterparts simply cannot match. We truly offer the ideal learning environment for children: high academic standards in a rigorous curriculum taught to students by knowledgeable, caring teachers using updated pedagogy and technology in a supportive, respectful, Catholic environment - - - no matter if the authentic, engaging learning is taking place in the school building or is temporarily seamlessly continued via perfected remote methodologies. ALSO: we have a SPACIOUS SCHOOL BUILDING, SMALL CLASSROOM SIZES, and PLENTIFUL OUTSIDE SPACES to accommodate SAFE social distancing requirements for back-to-school, in-person learning!**

What more could anyone want in an ideal learning environment for their students?

TUITION CONCERNS

Also, please know that if your family is directly impacted by the negative economic effects of the Covid19 shutdown, we want to work with you to continue to keep a St. Ferdinand Catholic School education within reach for your children. Please contact the school office to discuss how we may be able to help, including postponing the first tuition payment for the 2020-21 school year until August instead of July.

SUMMER READING and MATH CLUBS!

Don't forget: we are running two SUMMER READING and MATH CONTESTS for St. Ferdinand School students! In your Family Packet (extra copies are also available on the website under Parent Corner and through the link below) are 2-sided paper "logs" to keep track of how many minutes reading and completing math your children do this summer! **Why not relax in the cool air conditioning or shade with a good book or an on-line math game? Document your time to earn a prize! :)**

Link to Reading/Math logs in case you have misplaced yours:

<http://saintferdinandschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/summer-reading-math-log.pdf>

Please stay safe, healthy, and find time to relax during these July days! I look forward to updating you via Zoom Meetings and Facebook Live Broadcasts on how we are working to make **the reopening of St. Ferdinand School an awesome one for all of our kids!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Boyle Folino".

Mrs. Erin Boyle Folino :)

Principal