

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



August 26, 2020

Welcome back to school everyone! It is good to see our students back and learning! As we settle into this school year, we have decided to go digital in our weekly newsletters! Each week, newsletters (as well as forms) will be sent via email and will be accessible on our school website.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

As we start this year, we welcome Mrs. Alexandra Lapsa, who will be teaching middle school science and 6th grade homeroom. Mrs. Lapsa is an alumna of St. Ferdinand, as well a graduate of Dominican University.

We also say goodbye to 3 staff members that have retired, Mr. Mike Gallagher, Mrs. Eleanor Reiff, and Mrs. Alice Sheets. Mr. Gallagher taught Science last year, and brought many years of experience and learning to our students. Mrs. Reiff was our Art teacher, teaching grades PK – 8 and bringing a rich variety of art styles to the awareness of our students. Mrs. Sheets worked in the office and was in charge of accounts payable and billing, as well as whatever random office job arose. All of these individuals served our school with grace and diligence, and their presence and expertise will be missed.

Please join us in our prayers for the success of these individuals as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

REMINDERS

Student Information Forms – Last year, each family received an envelope with forms (family index, emergency contact, walking permission, photo release, medical and emergency notification, school directory) to fill out and return at the beginning of school. If you have not already returned these, please do so now. If you need additional forms, these are accessible online.

Additionally, the Cell Phone Use Policy, Learning Agreement, and Covid Protocols were sent electronically prior to school starting. These forms were due last week. If you did not already fill these out and return them, they are included in the links for this week's news section. If you need a paper copy, please contact the office.

Health Forms – Students in grades K needed updated physicals/immunizations, as well as dental and eye exams. Students in Grade 2 needed an updated dental form (or waiver). Students in Grade 6 needed updated physicals/immunizations, as well as a dental exam (or waiver). These forms are due at the beginning of the year – if you have not already turned yours in, please do so. If you are e-learning, you still need to turn your medical records in, as the school is required to report each fall.

Asthma Inhalers / Epipens – Don't forget, if your child carries needs an inhaler for asthma or an epipen for allergies, the correct forms must be on file with the school office. These forms are updated yearly. A doctor's order is required for epipens. Students that can self-administer asthma medicine do not need a doctor's order, but the school does need the parent signatures as well as the prescription label. The correct forms are linked on our website. Please call the office if you have any questions.

Masks – Don't forget, masks need to fit properly in order to be effective. Masks should fully cover the mouth and nose, and not slide down. If your mask is too big, please either adjust it or get one that fits properly. Additionally, masks with valves/vents are **not** allowed, per Archdiocesan guidelines.

Illness / Absences from School – if your child is ill, you need to report him/her absent to the office. If a child shows any symptoms of COVID during the school day, they will be sent home. In order to return, either a doctor's note, negative Covid test result, or 10 days of quarantine since symptoms appeared is required. If a student has been exposed to someone that has been diagnosed with Covid, they will need to quarantine for 14 days. **If your child or anyone in your household tests positive for Covid, please notify the school immediately so that we can make arrangements to begin e-learning for individuals or cohorts as needed.** It is essential that the office is notified of Covid / Covid exposure. We will work with you to navigate the policies. We will also help you get connected to remote learning and arrange for pick up of books/materials so that your child is able to work at home while quarantined.

Earlier this month, an Agreement to Adhere to Covid Protocols went out via email. Please sign and return this form if you have not already done so.

A summary of our Covid protocols went home with students today (it is included in the links as well). Please note, these can be subject to change based on current guidelines from local health authorities.

Raffle Tickets – Raffle tickets went home to each family. These tickets are yours to sell, or to keep for yourself, as they were already paid for in the fundraising fee. Please return only the stub (with all information filled out) to the school as soon as possible, as drawings will be monthly starting in October. If you plan on selling your ticket to someone else, make sure to collect the ticket stub and turn it in to the office (keep the \$ for yourself though!).

If you are e-learning, raffle tickets will be available in the office for pick-up.

Hot Lunch - Order forms for August and September went home earlier this month. If you need an additional copy, they can be found on the Hot Lunch section of our website.

Please note – if you received Free or Reduced lunch last school year, your status remains the same through September 30. New applications for free/reduced lunch will be going home in the upcoming weeks when they arrive.

Extended Care - Extended Care will now be billed through your FACTS account, and payments will be made through FACTS. Charges will be entered weekly. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Ginny Quinones at gquinones@saintferdinand.org

Spirit Wear - Every Friday will be Spirit Wear day! Students may dress down as long as their shirts have the St. Ferdinand School logo. Pants/shorts must be modest and school-appropriate.

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, September 2nd: 1:30PM Dismissal

Friday, September 4th: No School, Staff Development Day

Monday, September 7th: No School, Labor Day

Sunday, September 13th: 3rd Grade Rescheduled Parent Meeting for students receiving 1st Communion, 10:00AM, Torba Center

Sunday, September 20th: Family Mass, 11:30AM, Church

Tuesday, September 22nd: Picture Day

Thursday, September 24th: Fall Footin' It For Ferds Fun Run Fundraiser (more details soon!)

Friday, September 25th: No School, Staff Development Day

Monday, September 28th: 3rd Grade 1st Communion Rehearsal – all day in school, students only

Monday, September 28th: : 3rd Grade 1st Reconciliation and Rehearsal, 5:30PM, Church

Wednesday, September 30th: Rehearsal/Confession for rescheduled 1st Communion

Saturday, October 3rd: Rescheduled First Communion, 5:00PM Mass, Church