

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



February 04, 2021

NEWS

Parent-Teacher Conferences – 2nd Trimester Parent-Teacher Zoom Conferences will be on Thursday, February 11. Students will have a 11:30AM dismissal this day, and conferences will occur virtually via Zoom from 12:00PM – 7:00PM. **Tomorrow, Feb. 5th by 9:00PM is the deadline to sign up, after that online sign-ups will close.**

****Please note: After school care will NOT be available this day!**

The link to sign-ups is <https://signup.com/go/opiGAER>

As a reminder, parent-teacher conferences are mandatory, as they serve as a time for you to learn more about how your child is doing in school.

Family Trivia Night - To conclude Catholic Schools Week, we will host our first-ever Family Trivia Night on Friday, February 5th! This event will take place via Zoom. Registration forms with more information went home last weeks and are included in today's links. Please make sure to turn these in by **tomorrow morning, Friday, February 5**, in order to be a part of our event.

Intent to Return Forms Intent to Return forms went home last week (and are available in this week's links). Please return these **as soon as possible** so that we can send you your tuition agreement and complete registration. **In order to qualify for the February Freeze Discount, tuition agreements and registration fees must be completed and returned before February 26. After we receive your intent to return form, we will send you your tuition agreement.**

February Freeze Discount Registration for the 21/22 School Year is now officially **open!** Once again, we are able to offer our **February Freeze** discount (tuition for the 2021-22 school year is charged at the published 2020-21 rates) for families that re-enroll for the 2021/22 School

Year by the last day of school in February – Friday, February 26. Please see the flyer that went home last week for more information.

Get April 2022 Tuition Free If you recommend a family to St. Ferdinand School and they register their child and remain at St. Ferdinand all year, you will receive April 2022's tuition **free!** Go out and tell the good news about St. Ferdinand School!

Payment Summaries for Taxes Statements of money paid for Tuition and Before/After Care were printed out and sent last with students today. If you did not receive yours, please contact the school office.

Grant & Aid Applications Now Open for the 2021/2022 School Year All families that receive financial aid are required to fill out a Grant & Aid application through their FACTS account. No financial aid will be given without current application. If you need help accessing your account, please contact customer service at 866-441-4637. Please make sure you are filling the application out for the 2021-2022 school year

Attention all St. Ferdinand School Families: Changes to FACTS Payment Methods

Beginning with the 2020/2021 school year, all Families must have either a checking/savings account or credit card linked to their FACTS account. All families that currently have an invoice account will need to sign into their FACTS account to add your preferred payment method. ***This is not optional.***

If you need help doing this, you can contact FACTS customer service at 866-441-4637 or stop by the school office and Mrs. Quinones will be happy to help you.

Donate to a Tax Credit Scholarship Give the gift of Catholic education. Triple your impact of a tax credit scholarship with the 2-for-1 matching gift program. To help donations have even more impact in 2021/22, several donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to the more than 160 schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago. The matching pool fund is at \$2.8 million with funds still being actively raised. This means for every dollar designated to a qualifying school through the Empower Illinois scholarship granting organization between Dec. 1, 2020 and Feb. 28, 2021, the school will receive two dollars in matching funds. The donations are capped at \$50,000 per school. For more information, please visit <https://schools.archchicago.org/donating-to-a-tax-credit-scholarship>

Heroes Work Here - We love our Catholic schools' employees! Teachers, leaders and support staff have worked tirelessly over the summer and the start of our school year to bring exceptional in-person and remote learning to families during this unprecedented time. To

recognize their fantastic work, the Office of Catholic Schools is excited to introduce the #SchoolHero program. Educators and staff who have gone above and beyond in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment will be highlighted through social media and the web. All school employees and families can nominate a school hero by completing a brief online form at <https://schools.archchicago.org/nominate-your-school-hero>

Ms. Margaret was the first staff member from St. Ferdinand to receive this honor ... let's try to get more! 😊

Illnesses/Absences from School - Just a reminder, all illnesses/absences from school must be reported in advance. Please notify the school if your child will be absent by calling the office or emailing absent@sainfferdinand.org

REMINDERS

GRADES/HONOR ROLL - Please note, the grade scale for Specials Classes (Physical Education, Fine Arts, Spanish, Technology) has changed. **These classes are now using the +, S, and – grade scale.**

- + (outstanding work)
- S (satisfactory work)
- (unsatisfactory work)

For the A/High Honor Roll, Grades 4-8 students need to have all A's in the subject areas still being graded, and +'s in the Specials.

For the B Honor Roll, Grades 4-8 students need to earn a combo of A's and B's (no C's or lower), and have all +'s and S's (no -'s) in the Specials.

Gym Uniforms - Please make sure you have the correct gym uniform! Last year was the final transition year for uniforms. This year, all gym uniforms should be the navy blue ones, as offered through **Dennis Uniform**. ***If you do not have the correct uniform, this will start to be reflected in your grade.***

Sweaters/ Uniforms - **As the weather is getting colder, please remember to dress appropriately ... students should now be in pants, NOT walking shorts.** Make sure to bring your St. Ferdinand School fleece sweater jacket (the Dennis Uniform one) to wear during the school day. Due to COVID, we do need to keep the windows open to provide more ventilation – and as the temperature drops outside, so does the temperature in the classroom.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, February 05: Family Trivia Night (via Zoom), 6:30PM

Thursday, February 11: 11:30AM Dismissal --- ZOOM Parent-Teacher Conferences (12:00PM – 7:00PM) ((NOTE: There will be NO After care this day!!))

Dress down in pink, red or white for Valentine's Day!

Friday, February 12: No School: Archdiocesan Professional Development Day

Monday, February 15: No School: Presidents Day

Tuesday, February 16: Out of Uniform Day, Mardi Gras – Dress in Mardi Gras colors!

Sunday, February 21: First Communion Parent's Meeting, 10:00AM

Sunday, February 21: FAMILY MASS: 11:30AM

Tuesday, February 23: Dine & Share at Easy Street Pizza & Beer Garden, 4:00PM – 10:00PM

Friday, February 26: Last day to complete registration and receive **FEBRUARY FREEZE Discount**