

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



February 11, 2021

NEWS

Family Trivia Night - Thank you to all the families that participated in last week's virtual Trivia Night! The event was fun, and we hope to be able to have more of these events in the future! It's always good to see our families be able to come together! 😊

Intent to Return Forms If you haven't yet returned your Intent to Return form, please do so **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 (sign tuition contract and pay \$100 registration fee) for the 2021/22 School Year by the last day of school in February – Friday, February 26.

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!

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.

Easy Street Dine & Share Our next Dine & Share will be Tuesday, February 23, from 4:00PM – 10:00PM at Easy Street Pizza & Beer Garden (3750 N. Central Ave.). Dine in or carry out – just make sure to mention St. Ferdinand School or show your flyer! Flyers went home today and are included in today's link. This is a great way to support our local businesses while enjoying a delicious meal and supporting our school at the same time!

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@saintferdinand.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 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!

Wednesday, February 17: Ash Wednesday

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**