

# Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School

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**February 25, 2021**

## **NEWS**

**Tomorrow is the DEADLINE for the February Freeze Discount!** If you are looking to lock in this year's published tuition rates for next school year ..... ***TOMORROW is the deadline to return signed tuition contracts and \$100 registration fee to the office!*** Beginning in March, the published 2021-22 tuition rates will take effect for families registering/re-registering for school. ***Act quickly to save some \$\$\$\$!***

**Read Across America** Read Across America Week starts March 1<sup>st</sup>! Please see the flyer that went home and is included in today's links for the full schedule of activities planned ..... please make special note of our "Read Across America Family Picture Challenge" .... Think of a creative way to read together and send your pic to [ebabikan@saintferdinand.org](mailto:ebabikan@saintferdinand.org) by Friday, March 5. These photos will be compiled and shared with the students in a special morning slideshow and posted as a video on Facebook! See flyer for more details.

**Book Fair Starts Monday, March 1** The Bookfair Is Here! Students can shop during their library class: Monday, March 1 is for grades 2, 3 & 5, Wednesday, March 3 is for PreK,K, grade 1 & grade 4, and Friday, March 5 is for grades 6 through 8. Set up an e-wallet, find our school at [scholastic.com/fair](http://scholastic.com/fair) Parents can shop on-line anytime! Thank you for your support.

**5 Essentials Survey** Each year, the Archdiocese of Chicago working with the University of Chicago, offers the teachers, students (Grades 4-8), and parents an opportunity to share their thoughts via a survey about St. Ferdinand School. You may take the survey by going to <http://survey.5-essentials.org/archchicago/survey/parent/> Your opinion is important to us, so please make sure to take the time to participate!

**Lenten Rice Bowl Lunch** In solidarity with the hungry children around the world, St. Ferdinand School students will have a rice bowl (and juice box) lunch on Wednesday, March 3. Please see flyer that is going home for more details.

**Lenten Rice Bowls** Lenten Rice Bowl boxes went home last week with students. Please try to fill this small box with your spare change to help the poor. Any contribution helps, and this is a great way to think of those in need during the Lenten season. Rice Bowls are due back to school by **March 22**.

**Report Cards and iReady Scores** Trimester 2 report cards and iReady scores will be sent home Thursday, March 4. ***Please remember that to receive your report card, all accounts must be current and not past-due.***

**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.

**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.

**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](mailto: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 26:** Last day to complete registration and receive **FEBRUARY FREEZE Discount**

**Monday, March 01:** Read Across America Week begins ... and Scholastic Book Fair!! Shop online at [scholastic.com/fair](http://scholastic.com/fair) or during library time.

**Wednesday, March 03:** Rice Bowl Lunch and **EARLY DISMISSAL** (from 1:00PM through 1:30PM)

**Thursday, March 4:** Report Cards and iReady Scores go home

**Thursday, March 11:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Pictures

**Friday, March 12:** No Classes – Teacher Professional Development Day

**Friday, March 19:** Hagen's Fish Market Dine & Share

**Sunday, March 21:** Confirmation and Family Mass, 11:30am, Church

**Monday, March 22:** Lenten Rice Bowls Due