

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



March 11, 2021

NEWS

Easter Extravaganza Raffle We are pleased to announce our Easter Extravaganza Split-the-Pot Raffle! For only \$5 per ticket, your family could have a chance to win hundreds of dollars! The more tickets that are sold, the more profit for St. Ferdinand School AND the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Ferd Family winners! Please check your child's backpack for your family's 10 tickets – purchase as many as you'd like (and there's more in the office!), and return ticket stubs with your payment! Don't miss out on your chance to win some Bunny Money just in time for Easter! You can't win if you don't enter! Tickets and money are due back **Tuesday, March 30th**. Drawing will take place on our last day before Spring Break, Wednesday, March 31.

Hagen's Fish Market Fundraiser: Join us on Friday, March 19th for our Dine & Share at Hagen's Fish Market! The Dine and Share will be from 10:00AM – 8:00PM. Because Hagen's is also a store, anything purchased will count towards our fundraiser. Purchase tonight's dinner hot, and something frozen to prepare for next week! Make sure to show your flyer or mention St. Ferdinand School at the time of purchase. Please see flyer for additional details.

Read, Read, Read! Don't forget, every student should be reading 20 minutes per night so we can achieve our schoolwide reading goal of 50,000 minutes! When that happens, Principal Folino will do a (surprise) wacky stunt for the students. Reading logs will be due March 31.

ACT Aspire Tests This year, the ACT Aspire tests will not be administered across the Archdiocese due to complications with ensuring validity due to pandemic and remote learning situations. I-ready diagnostic testing will be administered in late spring instead. I-Ready provides individual student growth data, as well as information on grade level achievement compared to national norms, just as the ACT Aspire testing did.

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!

Easter Vacation Easter vacation will be April 1st – April 9th. The best and safest thing is not to travel, due to COVID and quarantines. Orange states still require a 10-day quarantine. If your family must travel, please see the updated quarantine travel guidance at

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>

Remote Learning Check-In As the year progresses, we are making adjustments to how e-learners check in. Effective today, the remote@saintferdinand.org email will be retired. E-learners will be checked in with their homeroom teachers, and homeroom teachers will record the attendance accordingly.

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@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, March 12: No Classes – Teacher Professional Development Day

Tuesday, March 16: 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat, all day

Wednesday, March 17: Dress-Down Day for St. Patrick's Day! **Wear Green!**

Thursday, March 18: Confirmation Practice & Reconciliation for 8th Grade, 7:00PM, Church

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

Friday, March 26: 8th Grade Living Stations of the Cross, 8:15AM Mass

Tuesday, March 30: Raffle Tickets/ Money for Easter Extravaganza Raffle Due

Wednesday, March 31: Easter Extravaganza Split-the-Pot Raffle Drawing

Wednesday, March 31: Reading Logs Due

Monday, March 31: Triduum Service via Zoom, time TBA

April 1st – April 9th: Easter Vacation