



# St. Ferdinand School

Advent, 2021

Dear St. Ferdinand Parish Family,

As we approach the season of giving, I ask you to keep the St. Ferdinand School students of our parish in your heart and in your prayers.

Whether you or your child have been a student or a parishioner here, you have had your prayer life enriched within its facilities, or you have attended our Polish School or Religious Education programs, St. Ferdinand Church has played an important role in your Catholic faith life.

A quality Catholic education amidst our often-tumultuous, ever-changing, increasingly secular society is so important right now with regards to the formation of the next generation of Catholic citizens who will bring about positive change to the world. It puts students on track for a bright future, both academically and spiritually. One's positive sense of self; ethics; kindness; traditions and truths of the Catholic Faith; strong academics; and confidence – developed in partnership with school, home, and church – prepares students well for high school and beyond.

Yet, the need for support and generosity from friends such as you to supplement the cost of a quality, Catholic, St. Ferdinand School education has never been greater.

Roughly 30% of our students receive some type of financial aid. The sources – through the state, the Archdiocese of Chicago, Big Shoulders, or other philanthropic organizations - help many, but not all, of those who apply and desire to become a part of the St. Ferdinand School family afford its tuition.

## **Will you consider helping a St. Ferdinand School student in financial need?**

Our parents are hardworking and mindful of the many advantages of a St. Ferdinand School education. Yet, many live paycheck to paycheck. Some of our families are still feeling the effect of having been affected financially by the pandemic: jobs eliminated, hours cut.

However, by the grace of God, there has been no transmission of the COVID-19 illness within our school! We've taken every precaution in the past months to keep students safe and healthy. Therefore, our rigorous, standards-based, Pre K – 8 curricula, taught by our outstanding and caring faculty, has enabled students to thrive in our welcoming, educational, modern environment.

This welcoming environment is shaped, in part, by the fact that St. Ferdinand School offers small class sizes - about 40% smaller than at Chicago Public Schools.

An emphasis on technology and expectation of tech competence are demanded in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world. At St. Ferdinand School, tablets and Chromebooks are integrated into lessons starting in preschool, complementing the traditional curricula, making for a rich classroom experience.

In short – through a partnership of students, parents, teachers, administration, and generous parishioners - St. Ferdinand School continues to be a thriving, joyous, stable place of strong, updated academic and religious learning - - - even amidst a global pandemic.

**We want to ensure that this excellence is obtainable for many students – far past this pandemic era.**

During this holiday season, would you consider a donation to the St. Ferdinand School Annual Scholarship Fund Drive? Your gift can both help to make a real difference in students’ lives, as well as to ensure that every student continues to excel here.

**Any and every gift makes a difference!**

Please make checks payable to **St. Ferdinand School** and place **in the collection basket with “School Fund Drive” in the Memo line and on the outside of the envelope.** Or, please plan on sending out your donation with your Christmas cards to the school at **3131 N. Mason, Chicago, 60634.**

Please know I thank God every night for the gift of being a part of St. Ferdinand School and Parish, and I am so proud and blessed to be working with and leading this amazing school community. I wish you a delightful holiday season, and know that you remain in my prayers for a joyous Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year.

In God’s grace,



Mrs. Erin Boyle Folino, M.A., M.Ed.

Principal

St. Ferdinand School

