

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



February 25, 2022

Mask Policy Changes The Archdiocese of Chicago released a letter stating that beginning Monday, February 28, masks will be optional in the schools. This is in accordance with recent changes to the Chicago and Illinois mask policy. However, because Covid is still prevalent, as well as because many of our younger students are not yet eligible for vaccines and some members of our school community are immunocompromised, we are strongly encouraging the continued use of face masks in the school. There will be times when masks will be necessary, especially when social distance guidelines cannot be maintained. It is our hope that we can continue to mitigate the spread of Covid and keep everyone healthy by having masks when needed. Please stay the School Messenger message that went out to parents this morning for further correspondence and information regarding masks.

Report Cards 2nd trimester Report Cards are coming home next Thursday, March 3rd. Please remember that your tuition and Extended Day balances must be current in order for your child to receive his/her report card. Thank you for your cooperation.

February Freeze Discount There is only ONE day left – Monday - to turn in all of your registration materials in order to receive the February Freeze discount for next year! If you register your child by Monday, February 28, 2022, with a signed contract and a paid registration fee, you will lock in the published 2021- 2022 base tuition rates for next year. **WE WANT TO SEE ALL OF OUR FAMILIES BACK NEXT YEAR! 😊 😊 😊 RE-ENROLL TODAY TO SAVE MONEY NEXT YEAR!**

Fish Fry – Volunteers Needed! – Fish Fry begins next Friday, March 4! A volunteer sign-up sheet was sent home today. This is a great opportunity for parents to sign up to do their required volunteer hours! As a reminder, 10 parent service hours are required for every family, or a \$250 charge will appear on the April tuition statement.

SAFETY AT DISMISSAL TIME: It has come to our attention from our crossing guard that dangerous situations are taking place at dismissal time. To ensure the safety of our children, parents, teachers, the St. Patrick High School community, and our crossing guard, please:

- Do NOT double-park along Mason.
- Do NOT park in the alley off of Mason; the neighbors are complaining about obstruction down the one-way alley
- If parked on Mason, only travel on it heading south to leave the school premises - do NOT back up onto Belmont to exit
- Get out of your car to pick up your child and walk him/her to your vehicle after acknowledging your presence to your child's teacher

- Consider using our ample parking lot and exiting out Marmora - there is plenty of room and space for all, with no street for your child to cross

Thank you for your immediate cooperation with this, and thank you to those who already do park in safe ways at pick-up.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS! PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASKS WHEN PICKING UP YOUR CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL! Teachers and staff are so diligent during the school day in efforts to follow protocol and to keep your children (and themselves!) SAFE and HEALTHY while in our building and on our grounds. There have been a couple of incidents in which parents/guardians are approaching our teachers/staff at pick-up unmasked. **PLEASE WEAR A MASK AT PICK-UP UNTIL YOU ARE BACK IN YOUR CAR.** Thank you for your cooperation with keeping everyone safe.

It's Tax Season! End of Year Tuition Info for Taxes – A flier went out with instructions on how to obtain year end tuition information for tax prep purposes. Please use these for tax purposes.

Financial Aid/Scholarships - The 2022/2023 FACTS Grant & Aid application is now open. **If you receive any type of financial aid/scholarship through the Archdiocese, (Phoenix, COVID Relief or Access), McGraw Foundation, or St. Ferdinand School, you are required to fill out a Grant & Aid Application for the 2022/2023 school year. Please note: Per scholarship rules, no financial aid/scholarships will be considered without this application.**

Say No to Throwing Snow – Even though the snow looks fun to play with, we ask that students do not play in or throw snow while on school grounds. We ask this for the safety of everyone. It is no fun to get hit by an unexpected snowball, and we certainly don't want anyone getting hurt on rocks that might be in the piles of plowed snow. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

Illness / Covid Protocol Reminders – Just a reminder, if your student is feeling sick, please do not send them to school. Please contact the office to let us know why your student will not be in school.

We ask that parents/guardians continue to monitor your child for the following COVID symptoms:

- Fever
- **Congestion/cough/sore throat - new symptoms with Omicron variant**
- **Runny nose**
- Loss of taste or smell - symptom of Delta variant
- Lethargy/extreme sluggishness

If someone tests positive for COVID, regardless of vaccination status, the individual must:

- Isolate for a full 5 days regardless if symptoms are present or not and regardless if any symptoms resolve before the 5 days are complete.
- If asymptomatic or symptoms resolve before the fifth day, the individual must still complete the full five days of isolation and must wear a mask around others for five more days.
- The individual must be fever-free for 24 hours before leaving isolation. The 5-day rule still applies, but if a fever is present after 5 days, the individual must remain isolated until fever-free for 24 hours.
- Masks will need to be worn if a student returns to school, even if symptom-free, for Days 6-10 after diagnosis.

If a *vaccinated* individual is a close contact with a positive individual:

- There is no need to quarantine at home as long as the individual is not symptomatic. The individual must wear a mask around others for 10 days after exposure.
- Testing is recommended 1, 3, and 5 days after exposure OR if symptoms develop.

If an *unvaccinated* individual is a close contact with a positive individual:

- The individual must quarantine at home for 5 days and continue to wear a mask around others for 5 more days.
- Testing is recommended 1, 3, and 5 days after exposure OR if symptoms develop

Amazon Smiles - If you do any online shopping, please log in through Smile.Amazon.com and choose *St. Ferdinand School & Convent* as your organization of choice! Amazon will donate .05% of the money you spend to our school! Please share this information with family and friends!

Box Tops for Education- BoxTops for Education is now online! Instead of traditional clips, there is now a BoxTops app where you scan your receipt for credit to be awarded to the school. More information can be found at <https://www.boxtops4education.com/> or in the included links.

Drop-Off Reminder – **PLEASE DO NOT DOUBLE-PARK ON MASON AVENUE IN THE MORNING!** All cars MUST pull over on either side of the street if you want to get out of your car and walk your child in! Do not leave your vehicle unattended in the middle of the street in the morning. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

iWatches/Smart Watches – are not allowed on the children during school hours! They need to be kept at home OR kept in backpacks in the lockers during the school day.

Volunteer Info – Please remember to contact Ms. Margaret with questions about volunteer requirements. mbrumann@saintferdinand.org

Hot Lunch Info – We thank our hot lunch providers, FSP, for all their work in getting us our meals and our lunchroom staff. Please be advised – due to national supply chain shortages, some items may occasionally not be available – meaning on occasion, lunch might be different from what is on the menu.

Illnesses/Absences from School - Just a reminder, all illnesses/absences from school must be reported to the school no later than 9:00 AM the day of absence. Please notify the school if your child will be absent by calling the office or emailing absent@saintferdinand.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, February 27, 2022: Mandatory Parent Meeting 1st Communion/Reconciliation, 9:45AM, JTC

Sunday, February 27, 2022: Family Mass, 11:30AM, Church

Monday, February 28, 2022: Last day for February Freeze discount!! REGISTER FOR NEXT YEAR TODAY!

Monday, February 28, 2022: Chess Club classes begin

Monday, February 28, 2022: Read Across America Week begins! See flyer for details!

Wednesday, March 2, 2022: Ash Wednesday – Lent begins 8:15AM All School Mass

Thursday, March 03, 2022: Report Cards go home

Friday, March 04, 2022: Fish Fry begins!

Thursday, March 10, 2022: Spring Pictures

Thursday, March 17, 2022: School Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:30PM

Sunday, March 20, 2022: Mandatory Parent Meeting Confirmation, 9:45AM, JTC

...AND Family Mass 11:30!

Thursday, March 24, 2022: 2nd Annual Rice Bowl Lunch

Friday, March 25, 2022: No School – Teacher/Staff Retreat