

Thursday Thoughts:

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



For the Week of: August 15, 2022



WELCOME BACK! 😊 It has been SO wonderful seeing all of our students and school families back on campus – whether at the well-attended Back-to-School Night last week or at drop-off and pick-up this first week of school! WELCOME to our new families and WELCOME BACK to our returning families!

Psst...stay tuned to our school's Facebook page and website for updates on our new instructors!

MANDATORY Summer Work in IXL: Don't forget: FOR THE **MANDATORY** IXL SUMMER READING AND WORK (if your child was a student here last school year) ARE **FRIDAY, AUGUST 19!** If your child has not finished yet, work on it over this weekend – it's better to get late credit than no credit at all!



ALL ASSIGNMENTS
MATH SKILLS
DUE TODAY –
please have him/her

SO MUCH NEW – SO MUCH GOOD!



We are blessed that there is so much INNOVATION and MODERNIZATION started this summer and continuing into the fall: more SmartBoards, new desks, a new Reading Series across all grade levels AND Social Studies supplemental material compliments of **Senior Accountant and Administrative Assistant Margaret Brumann's** tireless efforts with the **EANS grant money**; many self-flushing toilets, energy-efficient hand dryers, and water bottle filling stations, all compliments of **the Neighborhood Power Project Grant** through the Elevate Organization, secured by our **Parish Business Manager, Jeff Ryan**; new marketing with the installation of **streetlight banners along Belmont** calling attention to St. Ferdinand School; the start of the **EARLY CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE-IMMERSIVE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM** in both **POLISH and SPANISH**, under the guidance of experts from The University of Notre Dame and the Archdiocese of Chicago and presented with charm and professionalism by **Ms. Marta Ostrowska (Polish) and Ms. Sylvia Medellin (Spanish)**; and **changes to the After-School Extended Care Program** with a snack, exercise time, tutoring/homework help all part of the everyday routine – with Friday Movie Days to close out the week! *Stay tuned as more aesthetic and educational developments fall into place and our High Marks on the Continuous School Improvement Plan are shared throughout this first trimester!*

CELL PHONES, iPads from home, and APPLE WATCHES, oh my!

We'll be collecting them each day from Students in Grades 4th-8th, as we did before COVID. This is to ensure that the proper chain of command is well, in that teachers and office staff are contact to parents about the situation. It is tempting to do through Internet access and Students receive their devices back at the access messages as they are lining up to homeroom teachers. Students caught with cell phones that have not been turned in in the mornings will have them confiscated until a parent can pick up the devices and pay a \$25 fine. *Thank you* for your cooperation with this procedure.



kept in place when students don't feel aware and remain the first point of also a measure against cheating that is texting through Apple Watches. end of the school day, and are allowed to depart, as per the specifications of their

WANTED: A SPANISH-SPEAKING PARENT TO READ A PETITION at St. Ferdinand



Parish's Tri-Lingual Mass honoring Our Lady of Czestochowa at 10:00 AM NEXT Sunday, August 28. (Fun Fact: Also making an appearance at St. Ferdinand Church that day: politician Willie Wilson!) Please contact



Principal Folino if you can help at this Mass ASAP!

HELP WANTED – FOOD SERVICE ASSISTANT - \$\$\$: Food Service Providers (FSP) is looking for a dependable, friendly, hard-working individual to work in the lunch prep program at St. Ferdinand School! The job is Mon-Fri, 3 hours per day (10:15 AM – 1:15 PM). Pay is \$15.40/hr. Come be a part of your child's school day – and when school is off, you'd be off, too! 😊 Please contact Mary Clemente, SFS Food Service Coordinator via the School Office at 773-622-3022 for more information.



Sports Update: WANTED – ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Interested in becoming the St. Ferdinand School Athletic Director and taking it off Principal Folino's hands? The job mostly consists of EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS relaying schedules and schedule changes between the League Head Honchos - School Office/Administration – Coaches - Players – Players' Families for the Basketball and Volleyball seasons, as well as assistance with the School Office with uniforms, pictures, and sign-up forms. Working with the St. John Vianney and pleasant and does not require organization and communication Folino for more details and service role that plays an important school spirit!



League and our Coaches is easy athletic prowess, but great skills. Please contact Principal incentives regarding this important part in many of our 4th-8th graders'

ALSO WANTED - "BABY BULLS" PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR: We would LOVE to resurrect the Baby Bulls program for in our community! To do so, we'd need a person interested in running a weekly gym (probably Tuesday mornings – probably when the gym is most easily available - for an hour) that would consist of a structured story and song/movement time, as well as unstructured socializing and play time for Moms and Tots. This is a great, fun way of attracting future St. Ferdinand Preschoolers! Please contact Principal Folino for more details and incentives regarding Baby Bulls.



Queen of Hearts Raffle: The **Queen of Hearts Raffle** will pick up again in the fall! Keep watching for more details – the jackpot will pick up where it left off at **\$5,340!**



This Photo by

End of Year Papers – PLEASE RETURN!: An end-of-year packet of paperwork needed for THIS school year with EMERGENCY FORMS, etc., went home with all students back on June 2 and was given to new families upon registration to SFS. Please be sure to read these carefully and fill out all the information AND RETURN ASAP! They were due THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!



NEW THIS YEAR: ALL LUNCH ORDERING THIS YEAR WILL BE ON-LINE; ALL SCHOOL FAMILIES, PLEASE LOG ON AND CREATE A PROFILE – info was sent in a previous

School Messenger Blast and given out in the SFS Drawstring Backpacks on Back-to-School Night. Also, If your child brought home a lunch application for free or reduced lunch, please return these ASAP. If you are having issues setting this up, please contact head our Food Services Coordinator Mary Clemente: email: marymac@ameritech.net or call the school office 773-622-3022.

WE LOVE OUR CROSSING GUARD, Maria! Please help keep her – AND our STUDENTS and SCHOOL FAMILIES S-A-F-E by Mason and NOT crossing between cars, especially Belmont! With St. Patrick High School resuming (AND Principal Folino, for that matter!) is very safety at pick-up time and just wanted these reminders prefer to pick up on Mason. (Just a reminder: there is plenty of parking in our big lot, accessible off of Marmora! Why not give parking THERE a try?!) NOT double-parking on when parked close to classes next week, Maria concerned about everyone's sent out to our families who



COVID Protocol Policy Remains the Same: Last winter, the Archdiocese

of Chicago released a letter stating that mask-wearing would be optional in its schools. This is in accordance with changes to Chicago and Illinois masking policies. However, because Covid is still prevalent, there will be times when masks may be necessary for the protection of all students in a classroom, especially when social distance guidelines cannot be maintained for an extended period of time and a sickness or a case of COVID breaks out in a classroom. Therefore, we ask that students keep a mask handy in their backpacks at all times to be worn during such situations. Know that we are continuing to distance children at lunchtime, do not permit direct drinking from water fountains but only from water bottles, and still sanitize eating surfaces and hands *many* times throughout the school day. If your child comes down with COVID, do relay that to the School Office ASAP. We will receive and relay back to you the Archdiocese and CDC "official" 5-days quarantine dates + 5 days returning masked protocol based on onset of symptoms and positive test date. Notes of COVID cases in the school and within a homeroom will still be issues. Of course, we encourage all children and families to get vaccinated and boosted; it is, however, at this point optional to share vaccination/booster status with the School Office, where it is kept in confidential files. It is the hope of the St. Ferdinand Administration, Staff, and Faculty that we can continue to mitigate the spread of Covid and keep our school community healthy by adhering to these practices and having students/staff don masks when needed. **THANK YOU** so much for your cooperation through the ever-changing COVID situation in the Chicagoland and St. Ferdinand School communities.



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** awarded to the school. More information can be found at <https://www.boxtops4education.com/> or in the included links.



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IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, August 28	10:00 AM Tri-Lingual Mass for Our Lady of Czkljlk Feast Day (Politician Willie Wilson present on campus for this service!)
Monday, September 5	Labor Day – No School! 😊
Wednesday, September 7	Early Dismissal Wednesday – 1:45-2:00 PM
Friday, September 9	Blessing of 1 st Responders/Commemoration of 9-11
Tuesday, September 13	Parents Club Meeting – 6:30 PM – Activity Center
Thursday, September 15	Advisory Board Meeting – 7:00 PM – Activity Center
Friday, September 16	FOOD TRUCK FEST! School Parking Lot – evening! Details forthcoming...
Sunday, September 18	Family Mass #1 – 8:30 AM – NEW TIME THIS YEAR!
Tuesday, September 20	Catholic High School Recruitment Day – Gr 6 th -8 th
Wednesday, September 21	International Day of Peace – Pinwheels for Peace Prayer Service
Friday, September 23	No Classes – Teacher Professional Development Day 😊
Tuesday, September 27	School Pictures!