

Thursday Thoughts:

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



For the Week of: August 29-September 2, 2022

HAPPY LABOR DAY



😊 HAVE A WONDERFUL AND RELAXING LABOR DAY! 😊

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

Scouting Scouting Scouting! If your child is interested in Scouts, Cub Scouts, or the Girl Scouts programs, fliers did go home with students today. The Girl Scout Coordinator, Cathy McManus, visited classrooms this week to enlighten our female students of all ages about the fun, worthwhile things the Girl Scouts do, and next week the Cub Scouts Coordinator, Vince Clemente, will present info on Cub Scouts and Scouts (for boys and girls) to the students. Sign-up for all scouting takes place over the next couple of weeks! Please see the fliers your children brought home for details.



Chess Academy – Chess Club is starting up again on Mondays! Please see the registration form that went home and is included in the links for more information.



FOOD TRUCK NIGHT! - Our first Ferdinand Friday Family Fun Night of the school year brings back the popular FOOD TRUCK EVENT! Mark your calendars and pack up your lawn chairs for **FRIDAY, SEPT 16, from 6:00-9:00 PM!** Tacos, shaved ice, cupcakes, hot dogs, and fancy coffees and hot chocolates are all on the docket for eats – and a bouncy house, Split-the-Pot Raffle, and DJ are being scheduled for



added fun as well! Don your **favorite SUPERHERO t-shirt, costume, or cape** – and come out to have a MARVEL-ously delicious and fun time!

Raffle Tickets – Raffle tickets went home with each family at our Back-to-School/Ice Cream Social Night. These tickets are yours to sell, or to keep for yourself, as they were already paid for in the fundraising fee, which is incorporated into the first month's tuition. Please return only the stubs (with all information filled out) to the school as soon as possible, as drawings will be monthly starting in October. Again, you are welcome to sell your tickets to family and friends – but just be sure to collect the ticket stubs with their contact information and turn them in to the office (keep the \$ for yourself though!).



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

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

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.



ALSO WANTED – “BABY BULLS” PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR: We would LOVE to resurrect the Baby Bulls program for toddlers and parents in our community! To do so, we'd need a person interested in running a weekly program in



the school gym (probably Tuesday mornings – 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 time for Moms and fun way of attracting Preschoolers! Principal Folino for incentives regarding socializing and play Tots. This is a great, future St. Ferdinand Please contact more details and 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

Student Information Forms – PLEASE RETURN – Last

year, each family received an envelope with forms (family index, emergency contact, walking permission, photo release, medical and emergency notification, school directory) to fill out and return at the beginning of school. If you have not already returned these, please do so now. These forms are extremely important, so that we have your correct contact information in the event we need to contact you. If you need additional forms, these are accessible online.



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



AND our NOT double-parking on when parked close to classes next week, Maria concerned about everyone’s sent out to our families who

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?!)

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 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 issued. 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](https://www.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.





IMPORTANT DATES

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!