

Ferd Words:

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



NEWS for the Week of April 6-20, 2023



A Blessed Easter to all of our St. Ferdinand School families!

Have a relaxing, happy break - - - we look forward to seeing everyone recharged for the excitement the end of the school year brings!

COMING SOON: 1st Annual St. Ferdinand Culture Fest! Save

the date of **FRIDAY, MAY 5** and join us in the Activity Center and Gym for an evening of celebrating the wonderfully diverse cultures that make up our school families! 😊 There will be food samples, entertainment, games, and raffles. Stay tuned for more details - - - but, if you'd like to help with the table of know of an ethnic dance or music group that could perform, please return the flier that went home or contact Principal Folino ASAP! **Our next virtual planning meeting is on Thursday, April 20 @ 6:30 PM.** Here is the Zoom link if you'd like to join in:



<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75875392909?pwd=ZVQvQWcyT1k1TzZTZ2poNzdLc1NsUT09>

Queen of Hearts Raffle - - - CONTINUES TO GROW and RETURNS TO THE NEST ON WED., APR 19 @



7:00 PM as part of a DINE-AND-SHARE! The

Queen of Hearts Raffle will now return to The Nest (343434 Irving Park Rd, just west of Oak Park Ave) for bi-weekly Wednesday drawings at 7:00 PM! Queen of Hearts Tickets (\$5 each) are on sale at The Nest

AND after the 8:30 Mass beginning 4/16, as well as in our School Office during school hours. We are working with The Nest to offer our families a great deal on dinner – watch for the flier for details! **The Jackpot is currently \$11,700 and**

growing – purchase your ticket for your chance at 50% of the jackpot!! Plus, there's still a Joker to be uncovered for \$100 AND we are starting that IF you are present for the drawing and your card is picked, you automatically win \$25 cash! 😊

THANK YOU for your support of Operation Rice Bowl, the Student Council Easter Basket Raffle, and the Candied Popcorn Sale! Catholic Relief Services, Missionaries of the Poor, Student Council, and the St. Ferdinand School General Account all appreciate your donations and purchases! 😊



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NEW THIS YEAR: FYI: All students, from **Preschool through Grade 8** and across the Archdiocese, will be taking a **Religion Assessment** when we get back from Spring Break. This is a multiple-choice, online test that shows how much knowledge of the Archdiocese's Religion Standards our students have retained over the course of the school year. The test takes up the time of one Religion period. St. Ferdinand School piloted this assessment for the Arch in a few grade levels last year, and it went well. We look forward to seeing how well our students across every grade level score this year!



SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION is OPEN!

Ready for warm summer days to be here? Looking for a fun, safe environment in which your child learns, too? Well, sign up now for St. Ferdinand's Summer Camp, running for 6 weeks beginning Tuesday, June 27 (after the St. Ferdinand Summerfest Carnival) thru Friday, August 4! Info went home in paper form last week with your children, and registration is already on-going! Reserve your child's space today! Register for 1 or all 6 weeks! Please see the flier for contact information or ask at the School Office; to register, please use this link :

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SOuRlyYJCMUKVCSPTb1OKkTh1-oPDEKukq9aTWtuEFk/edit>



LAST CHANCE: FREE SUMMER TUTORING... will be

available again this summer (also from June 27-August 4) through grant monies from the State of Illinois IF enough people are interested! Please see the flier that went home today, and send an email BY THURSDAY, APRIL 20, to

school@saintferdinand.org if you are interested in enrolling your child for some extra practice in Reading and Math for a couple of hours 1-2 days per week, with flexibility regarding vacation time.



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PACK THE GYM NIGHT IS COMING! Save the date of the evening of Thursday, April 27, 6:00-8:30 PM, for a night of FUN for all ages in the St. Ferdinand School GYM! We'll have our sports teams play short games against each other, with fun games and snacks for all ages in-between! See you there!



FERD FUN RUN: COLOR RUN 2023 is coming!! Be on the look-out after Spring Break for info on on-line pledging, business sponsorships, t-shirts, and prizes for donations for this “colorful” race, taking place on **Friday, May 26!** Let’s get the ball rolling on monies toward an **ELECTRONIC SIGN** (like the new one St. Pat’s has) for the Belmont side of the St. Ferdinand Parish property! Let’s work together to install something that will call more attention to our wonderful school!!!!



BABY BULLS - Do you know any **TODDLER AGE** prospective St. Ferdinand School students? Well, let them know that our **BABY BULLS Mom-and-Tot Program will be being resurrected in May** as an opportunity for neighborhood moms and toddlers to come and play in the St. Ferdinand gym and playground while getting to know each other and our school! Keep an eye out for info after Spring Break!

RE-ENROLLMENT for the 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR IS WELL-UNDERWAY with 90% of our current students’ families signed up already to return! Hooray!! We are so thrilled with that return rate, and hope it will be at

100% soon. Plus, we have many **new families** interested and enrolled, and have welcomed many **St. Bart’s families** on tours and follow-up shadow days as they research and reflect upon which local Catholic



school will be the best new home for their children. The 2023-24 school year is headed for a bright start indeed, based on a healthy re-enrollment alone!

REMINDER: If you recommend St. Ferdinand School to a family and they enroll and stay for the 2023-24 school year, April 2024 tuition is FREE for you! Please encourage anyone you know who may be interested to call for a personalized tour OR to come for our “Monday Meet-Up” Open Houses – all Monday mornings that we are in session in April and May from 9:00-11:00 AM, as well as ONE final Monday evening (May 8) from 5:00-6:30 PM. We are ready and willing to welcome them into our bright, joyous school with engaging learning and plenty of love!

Financial Aid/Scholarships - The 2023/2024 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 2023/2024 school year. **Please note: Per scholarship rules, no financial aid/scholarships will be considered without this application.**
If you missed these important opportunities, act now:

EMPOWER ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS - Empower Illinois Reservations opened on Wednesday, January 18. Please go to <https://empowerillinois.org/> ***Time is of the essence!***



Big Shoulders Fund SGO began accepting applications for tax credit scholarships for the 2023/24 school year on Thursday, Jan. 12. Please go to <https://www.bigshouldersfundsgo.org/> for more information, and see the link included with this week's information. ***Time is of the essence!***

FUNDRAISERS 2022-23: Just a quick update on this. **This year, we are looking to meet designated school budget funding to be raised primarily from profits raised by 2 MAIN EVENTS: a FAMILY CULTURE FEST with Auction on FRIDAY, MAY 5, and a Color Run Fun Run for the students on FRIDAY, MAY 26!**



Other than that, we will not be promoting a lot of sales of "things" for profit like our former Christmas Candle or chocolate bar sales. ***Instead, we are trying to offer chances at extra cash (monthly St. Ferd's Drawing, Holiday Quick Raffles, and the Queen of Hearts) and helpful ways to make families' lives easier, like dinners out at Dine-and-Shares and the Christmas Gift Card Program.*** Please know that we never expect everyone to donate to everything and participate in all fundraisers – please, pick and choose what you can afford/what interests you and/or helps out your family the most. **Our goal in choosing and promoting fundraisers is to reward/help our families out while still keeping St. Ferdinand School healthy financially. THANK YOU for your generous support in whichever way/s you choose to additionally monetarily help our school.**



Amazon Smiles – Amazon has discontinued their Smile program. Thank you for your support over the past few years!

Illnesses/Absences from School - illnesses/absences from school must than 9:00 AM the day of absence. will be absent by calling the office or



Just a reminder, all be reported to the school no later Please notify the school if your child emailing absent@saintferdinand.org

REMINDER: Please label your child's uniform with his/her name – especially the sweatshirts and zip-up sweaters – as we are amassing quite a collection of unlabeled pieces in the Ferd Lost-and-Found left behind in classrooms and the gym when kids get too warm!



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

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 for an extended period of time and classroom. Therefore, we ask that backpacks at all times to be worn continuing to distance children at from water fountains but only from 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. **As of January 2023, notices of COVID cases in the school and within a homeroom will still be issued when multiple (more than 3) cases arise in the school.** 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.



distance guidelines cannot be maintained sickness or a case of COVID breaks out in a students keep a mask handy in their during such situations. Know that we are lunchtime, do not permit direct drinking water bottles, and still sanitize eating

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.



for credit to be



IMPORTANT DATES

- Friday, April 7 Noon: 8th Grade Living Stations of the Cross for the Parish
- Sunday, April 9 A Blessed Easter to All – see the St. Ferdinand Church Website for
times of services on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday
- Friday, April 7 – Sunday, April 16: EASTER VACATION – No Classes! 😊
- Monday, April 17: Students return to school! Welcome back!
- Tuesday, April 18 Parent Club April Meeting – 6:30 PM in the Activity Center
- Wednesday, April 19 Dine-and-Share and Queen of Hearts @ The Nest! – 5:00-8:00 PM
- Thursday, April 20 3rd Trimester Progress Reports go home
Culture Fest Committee – Zoom Meeting #2 – 6:30 PM
- Friday, April 21 Earth Day Activities!
- Sunday, April 23 LAST Family Mass of the School Year – 8:30 AM
- Thursday, April 27 PACK-THE-GYM Night – details to follow!
- Friday, April 28: No School, Professional Development Day
- May 1 – May 5: Culture Week Activities at St. Ferdinand School – details to follow
- Friday, May 5 St. Ferdinand School’s 1st Annual CULTURE FEST! – 6:00-8:30 PM
- Monday, May 8: FINAL “Monday Meet-Up” Evening Open House, 5:00PM – 6:30PM
– refer a friend!
- Friday, May 12 8th Grade Ribbon Mass – 8:15 AM
- Saturday, May 13 First Holy Communion – 2nd Grade – 2:00 PM
- Friday, May 19 May Crowning (2nd and 8th) with NEW Marian Altar/Mother Dedication
8:15 AM Mass and dedication afterward



Friday, May 26

FERD COLOR RUN 2023

...let's start the funding for an

ELECTRONIC SIGN for our SCHOOL and PARISH!

Monday, May 29

Memorial Day – No School!

Friday, May 19

May Crowning (2nd and 8th) with NEW Marian Altar/Mother Dedication

Friday, Jun 2

School Picnic Day!

8th Grade Last Day

Saturday, June 3

Class of 2023 Graduation – 5:00 PM Mass

Monday, June 5

Kindergarten Graduation – AM – TBD

Preschool Celebration – AM – TBD

Tuesday, June 6

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

8:15 – Mass and Awards

11:30 Dismissal!

Monday, June 12

School Office Summer Hours begin: T/Th 8-12 and W 1-6; closed M & F

Th-Sun, June 22-25

St. Ferdinand Summerfest and Carnival! 😊

Friday – Latino Theme & Band; Saturday – Polish Theme & Band

Thursday and Sunday - DJ

Friday, June 23

St. Ferdinand School Families asked to Volunteer at Carnival

(start on your Service Hours for the 2023-24 School Year!)

St. Ferdinand School Alumni Night – Tent at Carnival

Tuesday, June 27

Summer Camp begins! 😊

Summer Tutoring begins! 😊