



*The*

*Ferd*

*Word*

*...weekly spotlight on a word to know at St. Ferdinand School by Principal Folino 😊 Sept 24 2020*

## **ADJUSTMENT**

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:1*

**“COVID-19.”** I don’t think there is one person among us who is not sick of hearing that word, worrying about its prevention, or feeling just “done” with suffering the health and/or financial after-effects of its reign. For Catholic schools across the Archdiocese, drops in enrollment across the system as a result of COVID-19 parental job losses average a 6% decrease in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade enrollment, as well as a 25% decrease in Preschool enrollment

St. Ferdinand School follows suit pretty closely with these statistics - despite the stellar 90% reenrollment of last year’s students during our February Tuition Year Incentive

Unfortunately, this reduction in monies led to the Archdiocese coming in and requiring us to make significant cuts to our staff to better reflect the tuition monies garnered from a lesser enrollment than anticipated, as well as to reflect a decrease in St. Ferdinand Parish weekly offertory collections. In accordance with their directives, pastor Fr. Torba, Operations Director Ewelina Sokolowski, and I, as principal, had to make some surprising cuts - some even after the new school year began.

However, I stand fervent in the belief that these cuts will not negatively affect class offerings for the students and plan times for the teachers, as well as the health and marketability of St. Ferdinand School.

*To that end, here is an update on all of the budget changes we have had to put into place since the COVID-19 financial fall-out began - - - and how we plan to deal with the reduction- in- staff effects:*

1. Office staff reduction (by 2)
  2. Teacher Aide reduction
- 2 remaining office staff have absorbed the responsibilities  
Only 1 aide has been retained for 1/2 day;  
No aides may be full-time or be benefits-eligible*



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| 3. Marketer position reduced                | Marketer shared with St. William School;<br>Each school has a marketer 2.5 days per week  |
| 4. Elimination of PE Special                | Principal, with assistance of office staff and subs,<br>will cover the periods students had PE with a<br>form of health/PE/dance/speakers/special<br>projects/study hall/etc.   |
| 5. No new hire of Music Teacher             | Brother James expanded his teaching of music from<br>concentration of in instruction to the primary grades<br>only to one of all grade levels as<br>part of a Fine Arts class; students will receive music<br>1x per month under Br. James watchful eye |
| 6. No new hire of an Art Teacher            | Virtual art lessons are provided for 2-3 weeks<br>of Fine Arts component by a practicing artist<br>and active art instructor  |
| 7. Elimination of Building Engineer<br>Role | Cleaning crew and office staff to take over<br>responsibilities of this role  |

*It is our hope that these unforeseen changes – now prayerfully and thoughtfully put into full effect – will keep St. Ferdinand School viable, vital, and afloat during the instability of this COVID-era school year.*

Please keep St. Ferdinand School students, administrators, teachers, staff, and former staff members in your prayers as we continue to navigate these tricky budgetary times.

*Saint Ferdinand, Pray for Us.*

