

# Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School

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**November 12, 2020**

## NEWS

**Soup-er Bowl Challenge** - Our Soup-er Bowl Challenge is going strong! We already have over 200 cans of soup! Students are asked to please bring in canned soup for our Soup-er Bowl competition. Each day, teachers will submit how many total cans their homerooms have brought in from Monday, November 2 - Friday, November 20. This is a great way to help the hungry during the holiday season, and your generosity is appreciated!

**Fundraisers** - We currently have 2 new fundraisers going to help the school (as well as help with your Christmas shopping!) Information on our Gift Card Fundraiser as well as our Lou Malnati's Frozen Pizza Coupon Fundraiser went home today (and can be found in the links under today's Thursday Thoughts). The Gift Card fundraiser is especially beneficial – You purchase the gift cards at face value, and you receive a percentage in the form of a tuition credit, while the school also earns credit. *These are the same gift cards you can purchase in stores, except by purchasing through this program, you and the school both earn money!*

**Remote Learning January 5 – 15 .... And survey for daycare needs** - The Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools will pivot to e-learning beginning for the two-week period when Christmas Break ends: **Monday, January 4 - Friday, January 15, 2021**. These days are not an extension of the holiday break, but instead, days in which daily check-ins, attendance at all scheduled Zoom learning sessions, and completion of remote learning projects are REQUIRED. If you are an Essential Worker or have a job in which finding daycare for prolonged days at which your child would have access to e-learning is a difficulty, St. Ferdinand School might have a solution for you. We are looking at offering a daycare option in which your Kindergarten - 8th grade-aged child would be supervised while he/she completes his/her daily work and attends e-learning sessions from a workspace in the Activity

Center, safely distant from other students, but still monitored and assisted when needed. This option would be available at a cost, probably \$25 per day per child, 7:45 AM-2:45 PM (with daycare \$5 extra per day and probably only until 4:00 PM, and students would bring their own lunches and snacks). If this scenario sounds like it would meet your family's needs, please fill in the survey at <https://forms.gle/wyAG1DjstucSio6w6> **by Tuesday, November 24, 2020**. Once we have an idea if this is something that meets our families' needs and in a quantity that is doable for such a program, we will roll out more information about its specifics and sign-up in early December.

**Family Mass** - Our next Family Mass is this Sunday, November 15, at 11:30AM in the Church. Please join us in prayer either in-person or virtually (Mass will be broadcast on the Church's YouTube page). Sign-ups are required, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054eafa82da2f49-november4> to reserve your space. (Just a reminder: any student that attends will receive an out-of-uniform pass!)

**Report Cards** - Report cards will be going home on Thursday, November 19. Please make sure all your accounts (tuition, extended care) are up to date by this time – in order for students to receive report cards, accounts must be current and not past-due.

**Heroes Work Here** - We love our Catholic schools' employees! Teachers, leaders and support staff have worked tirelessly over the summer and the start of our school year to bring exceptional in-person and remote learning to families during this unprecedented time. To recognize their fantastic work, the Office of Catholic Schools is excited to introduce the #SchoolHero program. Educators and staff who have gone above and beyond in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment will be highlighted through social media and the web. All school employees and families can nominate a school hero by completing a brief online form at <https://schools.archchicago.org/nominate-your-school-hero>

**Illnesses/Absences from School** - Just a reminder, all illnesses/absences from school must be reported in advance. Please notify the school if your child will be absent by calling the office or emailing [absent@sainfferdinand.org](mailto:absent@sainfferdinand.org)

## REMINDERS

**GRADES/HONOR ROLL** - Please note, the grade scale for Specials Classes (Physical Education, Fine Arts, Spanish, Technology) has changed. **These classes are now using the +, S, and – grade scale.**

- + (outstanding work)
- S (satisfactory work)
- (unsatisfactory work)

For the A/High Honor Roll, Grades 4-8 students need to have all A's in the subject areas still being graded, and +'s in the Specials.

For the B Honor Roll, Grades 4-8 students need to earn a combo of A's and B's (no C's or lower), and have all +'s and S's (no -'s) in the Specials.

**Gym Uniforms** - Please make sure you have the correct gym uniform! Last year was the final transition year for uniforms. This year, all gym uniforms should be the navy blue ones, as offered through **Dennis Uniform**. ***If you do not have the correct uniform, this will start to be reflected in your grade.*** Even though we had to say farewell to Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Folino and Ms. Margaret will be covering gym classes so that students still have the opportunity to exercise and learn healthy habits during the school day.

**Sweaters/ Uniforms** - **As the weather is getting colder, please remember to dress appropriately ... students should now be in pants, NOT walking shorts.** Make sure to bring your St. Ferdinand School fleece sweater jacket (the Dennis Uniform one) to wear during the school day. Due to COVID, we do need to keep the windows open to provide more ventilation – and as the temperature drops outside, so does the temperature in the classroom.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday, November 13:** No School: Staff Development Day

**Sunday, November 15:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Parents 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Meeting, 10:00AM, Torba Center

**Sunday, November 15:** Family Mass, 11:30, Church

**Monday, November 16:** Lou Malnati's Frozen Pizza Gift Certificate fundraiser starts today

**Thursday, November 19:** Report Cards go home

**Thursday, November 19:** Family Reading Night (details to follow)

**Thursday, November 19:** Renew My Church Parish Town Hall Meeting #2, 6:00PM CHURCH

**Wednesday, November 25 – Friday, November 27: No School, Thanksgiving Break**