

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



January 14, 2021

NEWS

Back to School on Tuesday, January 19th: We've made it through our 2 weeks of remote learning! Thank you for all your hard work in helping make sure students were on time to their Zooms , in uniform, and actively learning during these past 2 weeks. ***In-person learning will resume Tuesday, January 19th – we look forward to seeing you then!***

Catholic Schools Week starts January 31! Catholic Schools Week will start on Sunday, January 31. Although it will look a little different this year due to Covid restrictions, the day will start with **Family Mass in the Church at 11:30am** (please make sure to sign up on <http://www.stferdinandchurch.com/> to reserve your seat). This year, we will have a virtual open-house on our Facebook page, where we will showcase student projects Stay tuned for more information!

February Freeze Discount Registration for the 21/22 School Year will open at the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. Once again, we are able to offer our February Freeze discount (tuition for the 2021-22 school year is charged at 2020-21 rates) for families that re-enroll for the 2021/22 School Year by the last day of school in February – Friday, February 26. More information on tuition rates and registration will be released soon!

8th Grade Confirmation Parent Meeting - This Sunday, January 17, will be a mandatory meeting for parents of 8th graders receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. The meeting will be held at 10:00AM in the Torba Center. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Religious Education, Ms. Beata Bosak, at beata.bosak@yahoo.com

BIG SHOULDERS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS - Big Shoulders Fund SGO began accepting applications for tax credit scholarships for the 2021/22 school year on Tuesday, Jan.

12 at 8:00am. Please go to <https://www.bigshouldersfundsgo.org/> for more information and to apply if you have not already done so.

EMPOWER ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS - Empower Illinois Reservations opened on Wednesday, January 13. In order to proceed to the next step, families first needed to fill out this required reservation. The 2021-2022 scholarship application will be available on **Friday, January 15**. Families who have completed their reservation **by noon on Thursday, January 14** will receive an email from Empower Illinois on Friday morning notifying them the application is live. If families complete their reservation after noon on Thursday, they will receive their invitation to complete the application within 48 hours. If you have any questions, please contact Empower's Scholars Helpline by calling 800-616-7606, or sending an email to scholars@empowerillinois.org

Donate to a Tax Credit Scholarship Give the gift of Catholic education. Triple your impact of a tax credit scholarship with the 2-for-1 matching gift program. To help donations have even more impact in 2021/22, several donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to the more than 160 schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago. The matching pool fund is at \$2.8 million with funds still being actively raised. This means for every dollar designated to a qualifying school through the Empower Illinois scholarship granting organization between Dec. 1, 2020 and Feb. 28, 2021, the school will receive two dollars in matching funds. The donations are capped at \$50,000 per school. For more information, please visit <https://schools.archchicago.org/donating-to-a-tax-credit-scholarship>

Family Trivia Night - We will host our first-ever Family Trivia Night on Friday, February 5th! Stay tuned for more details about this exciting event! Our event will take place virtually, and will be entertaining for all!

Parent-Teacher Conferences – 2nd Trimester Parent-Teacher Conferences will be on Thursday, February 11. Students will have a half-day of school this day, and conferences will occur virtually via Zoom throughout the afternoon. Please watch your email for a link to sign-ups. *As a reminder, parent-teacher conferences are mandatory, as they serve as a time for you to learn more about how your child is doing in school.*

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

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.***

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

Sunday, January 17: 8th Grade Confirmation Meeting, 10:00AM, Torba Center

Monday, January 18: No School, Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 19: Welcome back to in-person learning!

Wednesday, January 27: Dine & Share at Portillo's (7308 W. Lawrence), 5:00PM – 8:00PM

Sunday, January 31: Family Mass, 11:30AM, Church (followed by Virtual Open House!)

Friday, February 05: Family Trivia Night (via Zoom), details to follow

Thursday, February 11: 11:30AM Dismissal --- ZOOM Parent-Teacher Conferences (12:00PM – 7:00PM)

Friday, February 12: No School: Archdiocesan Professional Development Day

Monday, February 15: No School: Presidents Day

ST. FERDINAND SCHOOL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021



FAMILY MASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31ST
AT 11:30AM IN CHURCH

followed by our first

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE
ON SOCIAL MEDIA (FACEBOOK)

St. Ferdinand Catholic School
<https://www.facebook.com/stferds>

