

Enlightening Minds, Enriching Lives

St. Germaine Family Newsletter

September, 2019

READY Classroom/I-READY Math Program



As we discussed at the Parent Back-to-School Night last week, we are implementing a new Math series for Grades K-5. The program is published by Curriculum Associates. A single year "subscription" for each student helps us to manage the cost annually instead of making a large outlay of money for a hard-bound series and provides internet and assessment resources. We are a part of a pilot program thru the Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Catholic Schools. The purpose of the pilot is to explore "best practices" in math instruction and assessment.

The program consists of two parts: READY Classroom and I-READY assessment. The Ready Classroom component consists of two "write in" workbook volumes for each grade containing a full year of instructional materials along with on-line teacher resources and student support. The teacher resources provide teachers with video clips and guided practice activities. When fully implemented, parents and students will also have access to on-line text and activities used in the classroom. This will enable parents to follow along with the instruction being given in the classroom.

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and the Common Core Standards recommend an increased emphasis on "mathematical practices," such as "attending to precision, using mathematical tools, identifying thinking strategies, and modeling/visualizing mathematical situations. It also reflects the types of content in the standardized ASPIRE tests that our students take each year (Grades 3-8). The approach gives a "real-life" application to classroom instruction. It puts isolated "drill and practice" problems into a context that reflect situations that students can understand. The shift in focus will be a challenge for students, teachers, and parents alike. It will require that "perseverance" that our school theme has stressed over the past few years. One strategy, "productive struggle," calls us to allow students to explore possible solutions for a problem before the teacher "explains" the steps. Taking time to reflect on the reasons behind the "math," will be a part of our "learning curve." We strongly suggest that, as parents, you make use of the on-line resources that will help you understand the concepts your child is learning. ***It will be different from the way you did math in your elementary school experience!!*** We also recommend that you communicate with the teacher when you find that your child is struggling with math assignments at home. ***Please do not feel that you need to "re-teach" math lessons at home.*** If your child struggles over an assignment, write a brief note on the page and let the teachers re-teach when it is necessary. (As I teacher, when every student came back with all the right answers on an assignment, I patted myself on the back and assumed that I had done a fantastic job! In reality, many parents had spent inordinate amounts of time working with their child! I'll bet that the parents had a better understanding of the lesson than some of the students!) The key to a successful READY Classroom year will be frequent communications between teachers and parents. The program provides a "Parent Page" for each topic that will also help you to understand the direction that the instruction will take.

The I-READY component is an on-line diagnostic program that will help teachers to identify content "gaps" and provide students with practice on the skills they need as individuals. Students will take an on-line diagnostic assessment in the next few weeks. The diagnostic will identify specific areas for improvement for each student. The platform will provide practice directed to those areas for each individual student. It will also provide practice on skills being presented in the classroom. Because the platform addresses individual student needs and provides appropriate practice, it will replace the Mathletics program that we have used in previous years. The assessment tool will also provide teachers with detailed data on each student's performance along the entire spectrum of skills for the grade level.

The program has a great potential to improve students' understanding of math and its applications in their lives. We're sure that, working together, we will see a very successful implementation.

ASPIRE TEST RESULTS

April, 2020

We will send home the ASPIRE test results for the students who took the test in April of last year. The individual report sheets contain a lot of information about your child's performance (Grades 3-5) Attached to this newsletter are the summary comparison charts for each grade for the last three years.

For many of us, the results can be confusing and overwhelming. Each year we hold a parent meeting to review the composite school results and help you to understand the scores for your child. The meeting this year will be on September 12th at 7:00 p.m. in Goedert Hall (Church Hall). The test result envelope asks you to RSVP if you plan to attend the test results meeting. If we know which families are attending, we can assemble comparison data for your child over the past few years.



Thank you!

Our thanks to all the families who were able to attend our "Back-to-School Night." Thanks to the School Board and Messengers of Mercy who provided the refreshments for the evening. It was nice for the teachers to meet the parent and vice versa so that we can begin to build solid relationships for the 2019-2020 school year.

State of Illinois Health Forms

The state board of education requires schools to maintain health records for each student.

Pre-K Students entering need to submit the ISBE physical/immunization form.

Kindergarten students need a vision, physical and dental form.

Grade 1 students must have a vision exam on file. If the exam was completed in Kindergarten that will suffice.

Grade 2 students need a dental form

Grade 6 students need a physical and dental form.

The completed forms must be submitted to the school before October 1st. Students who are not in compliance are to be excluded from school beginning on October 15th. If you did not return the appropriate health forms, please do so as soon as possible. Copies of the form are available online at www.stgermaineschool.com

Box Tops for Education

Please keep saving the box top logos for us throughout the summer. It would be great if you could encourage other family members to save them for us as well.

A big "thank you" to Tina Gil-Gonzalez for chairing this project for us!



You can continue to support our school with your Amazon purchases. You can quickly set up an account on the Amazon site. Select St. Germaine as your preferred charity. Amazon rebates 0.5% of your qualified purchase automatically.

[Smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Looking Ahead. . .

- 9/4 School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Faculty Room
- 9/10 CPS Title I Meeting for eligible student/families, 7:00 p.m. in the Presentation Room
- 9/12 ASPIRE Information Meeting for Parents; 7:00 p.m. Goedert Hall
- 9/13 Homeless Lunches
- 9/17 Van Gogh Fall Photos
- 9/19 Family School Association General Meeting—all parents invited; details will follow
- 9/23 High School Information Sessions—Grade 7/8; during the school day
- 9/27 FSA Twilight Gold—Stony Creek



Family School Association

Thanks to the Family School Leadership Team for all their hard work planning for the 2019-2020 school year. We were off to a great start with the Ice Cream Social in August and the "BooHoo/Yahoo" reception on the first day of school. It looks like it will be a fun-filled year!

Members of the leadership team include Maureen Griggs, Vanessa Durkin, Liz Chimino, Jen Mayo, Laura Koss, Hazel Sales, Rita Bridgeman. There's always room for a few more new ideas. Please consider joining the group. For information, please call the office.



Parents and educators are becoming more and more aware of both the benefits and hazards of life on-line. All are concerned about privacy issues, cyberbullying, and safety. We worry that students are spending inordinate amounts of time on gaming platforms. It is important that we work to maximize the positive benefits of technology and limit, as much as possible, the negative consequences. For that reason, we will partner with Common Sense Education and Common Sense Media this year to provide activities for students and families that will explore topics about internet use, safety, and ethics. Student lessons for each grade level will be completed in the classrooms during "tech time." The website has numerous information and resources for parents along with interactive activities for students. As a part of the family newsletters this year, we will focus attention on some of the materials available on the Common Sense platform. We encourage you to visit the site and explore the tips there to help you manage your child's internet activities.

<https://www.common sense.org>
<https://www.common sensemedia.org/>

Sweetheart Ball Reschedule

Several families expressed a schedule conflict with the original date of the Sweetheart Ball. It seems that Sept. 20th is also the Brother Rice/Marist football game. In order to be sure that as many of our families can participate, we are planning to re-schedule the event for Friday, October 4th. An invitation will follow with details..

Lunch Monitors

We still need a number of lunch monitors to help supervise the lunch periods. A number of parents have been able to commit to covering lunches on a regular basis, but we can always use additional help. Ideally, we would like to have 5 parent volunteers each day to accommodate both the lunch room and classroom supervision. Parents (or grandparents) who can commit to a regular day each week receive a \$10 tuition voucher each day. Mrs. Rosenbaum then applies the vouchers to your FACTS tuition statement. Parents who are available to help on an occasional basis are



Welcome to our first Market Day Apple Seed Interactive sale/newsletter. Future editions will include success stories, recipes, contest, etc.

VOLUME MDAS1
SALE/NEWLETTER

We would like for you to go over the page with your mouse. You can see that all the order buttons or any other button brings up the pointing hand, please click on it and it will get you right to where you need to be!



START SHOPPING TODAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 14th.
All pre-orders arrive at your home the week of September 16th.



BUNDLE 1

4 boxes - ChicNSteakes



BUNDLE 5

2-ChicNSteakes Cases
1-Chicken Tender Case
1-Chicken Sliderz Case



BUNDLE 6

3-ChicNSteakes Cases
1-Turtle Cheesecake

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