

St. Germaine Family Newsletter

November, 2021

Missing and Incomplete Assignments Grades 4-8

COVID Vaccinations and Quarantines

We are asking that you send a copy of your child's COVID vaccination card if he/she has been vaccinated. This information will help us to make appropriate quarantine decisions in the event that we have a positive case in any of our classrooms.

Please be sure that you understand the archdiocese quarantine protocols:

--if your child is showing COVID-like symptoms, keep them home from school. They can return to school if they are fever free for 24 hours and other symptoms have resolved (at least 75%)

--if your child's symptoms last more than 24 hours, they may not return to school until they have a negative COVID PCR test or an alternate diagnosis from their doctor. Students who do not receive a COVID test need to quarantine for a full 10 days.

--if your child or another family member is awaiting the results of a COVID test, keep them home from school.

Our intention is always to keep our students safe. Please be vigilant in monitoring your child's health and keeping him/her home in the event of illness—especially with COVID-like symptoms.

We are noticing a trend in missing school assignments and lack of completed work, both online and in class (Gr. 4-8th). The detentions/ green slips that are given due to missing work do not seem to change behavior over time, or address the lack of work. We have discussed the situation with the faculty and school board. In light of this discussion, we will be starting an after school Homework Program for students who consistently receive detentions for missing work.

In Grades 5-8, the procedure followed by each teacher has been to issue "marks" each time the student is missing an assignment or if it is significantly incomplete. After the third "mark," the student is issued a detention. Students will be required to attend the Homework Program sessions if they receive three detentions. (In effect, that means that the student has not turned in at least 9 completed assignments.) In Grade 4, students who receive an equal number of "green slips" will be required to attend the after-school sessions.

Students will attend the Homework Program on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday for one week. Our hope is that their attendance will help to eliminate the "lack of work" behaviors.

Since the program will require additional "out-of-school" hours for the supervisor, there will be a \$10 per day charge for students enrolled in the Homework Program.

Most of our students understand the importance of completing work assigned by their teachers and have no issues with completing it. Ideally, no student will need to be enrolled in the Homework Program. The pattern of missing nine assignment, though, seriously impacts the student's academic progress and needs to be addressed.

Our plans are to implement the program immediately after the Thanksgiving break in November. This will provide students who are experiencing difficulty completing work time to remedy the situation. Please discuss this policy with your child. Make your expectations about completed work clear—especially if it has been an issue in the past. Let them know of the financial consequence for you if they need to be enrolled in the program to address missing/incomplete work.

Thanks for your support as we work to build positive work/study habits that will serve students well in the future.

COVID Protocols for School Volunteers

Based on the State of Illinois executive order in August, the Office of Catholic Education issued regulations for school volunteers who work with students on a regular basis. These requirements will begin on November 1, 2021.

Fully Vaccinated Volunteers need to present a copy of their vaccination card containing the details of their vaccination (date, place, maker of vaccine and lot number).

Unvaccinated Volunteers need to submit negative COVID test results prior to each week they volunteer. Acceptable tests must be administered by a third-party (pharmacy, urgent care clinic, physician's office).

We are grateful to all those who support our students and families by donating their services. Our school benefits greatly from their generosity.

All of our school volunteer records are treated with the utmost confidentiality. All vaccination and COVID test results are confidential medical records which are stored in a restricted area.

Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences

First Trimester Report Cards will be distributed to students on Friday, November 12th. We have made several edits to the previous form. See below for some of the details. By sending the reports early, it will allow you to prepare for our November Parent Teacher Conferences. Our conferences have traditionally been the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Students are dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on that day. The Thanksgiving break for students begins at 11:30. Students return to school on Monday, 11-29. Ten minute conferences will be scheduled with your child's homeroom teacher. The afternoon session runs from 12:30 p.m until 3:30 p.m.; the evening session begins at 6:00p.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m.. A Conference Request slip will be included with the report cards.

Report Card Revisions

The report cards for the 2021-2022 school year will have two additions. First, Mr. O'Rourke's "Social Emotional Learning" class will be included with the other "specials" on the last page of the report. An effort grade and an indication of your child's classroom performance will be included. Another section will report on your child's use of "E-Learning Resources." In Grades K-4, this information will be contained on the page with other "specials." In Grades 5-8, a separate section will be added to the Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies columns. This section will help you to gauge your child's performance on assigned e-learning platforms such as "I-Ready Reading," "I-Ready Math," and IXL. It will contain information about your child's "completion of activities," "pass rate," and "time management." Teachers will use this section of the report card to alert you if your child is not completing required on-line activities or if they are rushing thru the activities without attaining a successful score. They also may comment on how your child is making use of time allowed in class to complete e-learning activities.

SkyRoom Tutors Needed

COVID restrictions have been modified. We are now able to return to limited SkyRoom tutoring activities. If anyone is available to help out in the room, we would love to discuss possibilities with you. Tutors work with one or two students at a time on concepts and skills identified by the teachers. All materials and "scripts" are provided, so you do not need to be a certified teacher to help. Volunteers need to be vaccinated. The school office will keep a record of you vaccination status.



As you begin to plan your holiday shopping, please remember that your Amazon purchases can help us in our school fundraising efforts. By designating St. Germaine School to receive the "smile" rebate, our school will benefit from your purchases. You must log in on smile.amazon.com to register and order. Thanks for your support.

I-Ready Math and Reading

This year, CAPE, the organization that sponsors the Blue Ribbon School program, will use the I-Ready Reading and Math Diagnostic scores to determine the Blue Ribbon School Awards for 2022-2023. We would love to apply for a renewal of our Blue Ribbon status. A lot will depend on how well our students do on the January Diagnostic.

One easy way to maximize our Diagnostic Test scores is for each student to make a serious attempt to complete the assigned on-line practice activities. Research shows that the largest growth in student scores occurs in those students who complete 45 minutes per week in Math and in Reading. If families would help us to meet the time-on-task goals, we'd really see impressive growth in student scores. Forty-five minutes basically translates to 9 minutes each "school night!" That should be an easily attainable goal.

In addition to the "time-on-task" measure, the "pass rate" is also important. Student "pass rate" should be about 80% so that they do not become frustrated.

Please help us to reach our goal of another Blue Ribbon by working with your child on I-Ready practice each week.

Looking Forward

- 10/30 Trunk or Treat event—see attached flier for details.
- 11/1 All Saints Day—students will attend either the 8:30 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. parish mass
- 11/6 Holy Fire Confirmation Retreat at St. Germaine—for seventh & eighth graders.
- 11/12 First Trimester Report Cards distributed to students
- 11/14 Fifth Grade Family Mass; 11:30 a.m.
- 11/15 School Board Meeting; 6:30 p.m. in the Faculty Room
- 11/23 Parent Teacher Conferences; 11:30 a.m. student dismissal. NO EXTENDED DAY
- 11/24-28 Thanksgiving Break. Classes resume on Monday 11/29





October 25, 2021,

Dear Our Lady at St. Germaine Parishioners,

You and your family are invited to join the Our Lady at St Germaine Messengers of Mercy. In 2016, the St. Germaine School Board teamed up with Religious Education to start a service group for families who are looking for opportunities to serve their community and beyond. The group meets periodically throughout the year to engage in family friendly service projects. We are looking for families like yours who have a couple of hours to spare and a desire to serve.

While we have been on a hiatus during the Covid-19 pandemic, we are pleased to be able to resume our activities. In the past, we have supported the Courage Program, hosted a landscape clean up, organized a turkey shoot to raise money for the food pantry, created blessing bags for the homeless, and traveled to Feed My Starving Children to name just a few projects. We are busy planning more service opportunities for the upcoming year and we are open to your suggestions. Your level of participation is completely up to you and whatever works for your family. You may choose to participate in all the activities or only the activities that work best for your schedule.

If you are interested on being added to our mailing list, please complete the form below so we can keep you updated on upcoming service opportunities. If you'd prefer, you can use the following link to fill out the form online:

<https://forms.gle/u9gDdq5M3DPJUpJs8>

Thank you for your support and consideration. We hope to see you soon!

Family
Name: _____

Parents
Names: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Phone _____

Email: _____

Please check here _____ if you are interested in being a service project facilitator.

Questions or suggestions? Please contact Jean Hayes at (773) 818-7975 or via email at jmhayes@cps.edu