

St. Germaine Family Newsletter

May, 2021

Hard to Believe!!

Family School Association helps us to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week

The Family School Association has gone “above and beyond” in organizing special treats for our teachers this week. Faculty Room decorations greeted the teachers on Monday morning. (Thanks to Liz Chimino and Anne Czarnecki for their decorating flair!)

Flowers for the teachers and plenty of snacks in the faculty room snack cart are also in the offing.

We appreciate all the loving touches. Your support over the course of the year has helped to get us through.

Thanks, too, for all the wish-list items that arrived from Amazon. Looks like Christmas!

It's hard to believe that the 2020-2021 school year is already drawing to a close! It has certainly been a year with its share of hardships, disappointments, and unexpected challenges. If nothing else, it's taught us to value the people and things that are truly important. It's taught us the importance of “flexibility” and given us a clearer sense of our priorities. We've come to acknowledge that some of what we thought was essential, is really negotiable. Above all it's taught us patience with ourselves and with others. We have had a year when everyone really tried their best to make things work. We are truly grateful to you for all your support and patience with us.

The year has been more successful than any of us would have predicted in September! We have been able to conduct –five-day-a-week in-person instruction where many school districts were not. We were able to provide students with appropriate contact with peers to help them grow socially. We need to continue to be vigilant for the last few weeks in following COVID protocols. Please help all of our class cohorts to be safe and in school! (Any quarantines we need to impose now will have students out until after the middle of May!). Remember, keep your child home from school if there is any doubt about his/her COVID status, Also keep students home if someone in the household is symptomatic or is awaiting COVID test results.

As we “wind down” for the year, we are trying to provide some of the activities students and families missed out on last year—in a COVID responsible way. We are also looking forward to what modifications we can make as we look forward to the 2021-2022 school year.



Pre-School Recruitment

Please help us in our efforts to recruit new pre-school students for next year. If you know anyone who has a three or four year old that was not able to attend pre-school during the COVID year, please let them know that we would love to have them join us!

We already have enough students to re-open a second pre-school class for next year! This means we have space for a number of new students. Rumor has it that St. Linus and St. Catherine already have waiting lists for pre-school. If you have friends in either of those parishes looking for pre-school spaces, please direct them our way!

Be an ambassador for STG!

Empower Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship

A number of our school families have benefitted from the Illinois "Invest in Kids" tax credit scholarships. St. Germaine has received over \$30,000 in payments from the fund.

The legislation for the program continuation is coming up in Springfield. A number of groups are sponsoring public opinion campaigns to support a renewal of the program.

You can access a form to express your support for the program at the link below.

E-Letter Link: <https://p2a.co/aigfyfw>

If you are able, please add your voice to the campaign. So many of our Catholic school families across the archdiocese rely on this financial assistance in order to keep their children in school.

Passion Play Congrats

A big thank you to the eighth grade class! Their Passion Play performance was outstanding. Even with COVID restrictions they carried it off flawlessly.

Thanks to directors Angie Pacetti and Kerry Yunker. Their hard work and dedication to the play performance added so much to the success. Thanks, too, to the high school students who came back to help with the lighting and tech issues.



Please continue to use Amazon Smile when making on-line purchases. Once you have an account, St. Germaine automatically receives the Amazon rebate!

May 21 Professional Development Day

Remember that our revised Professional Development Calendar has Friday, May 21st listed as a full day professional development day. No student attendance on May 21st.

Teachers will receive additional training for the I-Ready platform. The Office of Catholic Education will use the I-Ready Diagnostics this year to replace ASPIRE end-of-year testing.

We will also continue to explore the Proficiency Scales for English Language Arts and Math the the archdiocese is implementing.

COVID Vaccines Available

The Osco Pharmacy at 103rd and Cicero has an available supply of COVID vaccine. Demand is down so appointment times are readily available. If you have not yet had a chance to receive your vaccine, you can call the Osco store at 708-422-2334.

Appointments can also be scheduled on the JewelOsco website.

Office of Catholic Education End-of-Year Standardized Testing

OCS has decided that schools do not need to administer the ACT/ASPIRE test this year due to COVID restrictions.

Instead, all students in K-Gr 8 will take the I-Ready Math and Language Arts diagnostic test. The testing window will open on May 10th. Students will take the diagnostic in school. There may be issues with students being able to work on practice activities once the testing window is opened. As we learn more about the process we will let you know.

Our students in Grade K-6 are familiar with the diagnostics. Students in Grades 7 and 8 have not completed one yet. One factor to bear in mind: the test is "adaptive" in nature. Questions are determined for individual students based on their responses. This might mean that the students are asked questions about materials they have not yet covered in class. We need to help students to understand that they are not expected to know the correct answers to all of the items.

VAN GOGH SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHERS FINAL NOTICE FOR SPRING ONLINE PICTURE PROGRAM ORDER YOUR SPRING PHOTOS TODAY BEFORE PRICES INCREASE. VISIT US AT WWW.VANGOGHPHOTO.COM

YOUR DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021



The Germazing Mighty Ducks continue to do a stellar job! The Ducks are always looking for suggestions for prizes, so please let them know if you have an idea.

Our deepest thanks to the Duck Team for all their hard work. They have been able to make significant contributions to the school budget in addition to providing items for the teacher "wish-lists." Everyone is so grateful.

Look for details about summer plans. Thanks to all who have participate in the races.

Looking Ahead. . .

- 5/7 Eighth Grade Ribbon Mass—videotaped for parish YouTube channel
- 5/8 First Communion, Second Grade Families
- 5/12 Athletic Association Sports Banquet for Graduates and parents only; Activity Center
- 5/14 Eighth Grade "Outdoor Movie Night" —Opening Night for Graduation Video
- 5/21 Professional Development Day—no student attendance
- 5/27 Kindergarten End-of-Year Performance—outdoors, weather permitting—details to follow
- 5/28 Pre-School End-of-Year Performance—outdoors, weather permitting—details to follow
- 5/28 Eighth Grade Graduation; 7:00 p.m. in the Church
- 6/4 Closing Day!! 11:30 a.m. dismissal



