



Hello Families,

It is hard to believe Thanksgiving and Christmas Break are right around the corner! Education is a team effort so thank you for your partnership in your child's learning and for your continued support of St. Germaine School.

Parent Teacher Conferences:

Parent teacher conference forms will be sent home with the report cards on Friday November 11th. The sign-up sheets will be completed by you all and then returned to the school office. We will then "book" your requested time to the best of our ability and send home a confirmation sheet.

Lunch/Drink Reminder:

Just a reminder that no carbonated drinks are allowed at school. Please refrain from sending caffeinated drinks as well. Also, outside fast food (McDonalds, Subway, & Pizza) are not allowed to be brought to students at lunch time. They may bring those items from home in the morning if they would like, but they need to be in their lunch bag.

Non-Smoking Campus

Just a reminder we are a non-smoking or vaping campus. This includes public spaces like our back parking lot and sports field.

Volunteers

We are always looking for helpers in the Sky Room (Successful Kids Yes) to help with tutoring and working with small groups of students for academic enrichment. Please consider volunteering! If you are interested please email me.

Important Dates:

- **November 11th** First Trimester Report Cards
- **November 22nd** Parent Teacher Conferences 11:30 student dismissal- NO EXTENDED DAY
- **November 23-24-25** Thanksgiving Break
- **December 16th** Half Day Faculty Meeting 11:30 student dismissal – NO EXTENDED
- **December 20th** Christmas Concert
- **December 21st** Christmas Break 2:30 dismissal- NO EXTENDED DAY
- **Jan 9th** Classes Resume

Leadership Opportunity

We are looking for a new 5k Committee chair. The Germazing Race 5K is one of our big annual fundraisers. The proceeds go directly to funding Chromebooks and new technology for the students of St. Germaine.

Parent Satisfaction Survey:

As partners in the education of your children, your feedback can help us understand how satisfied you are with the services we provide. As such, we have chosen to participate in a parent satisfaction survey administered by the Archdiocese. We are committed to providing the best possible experience for you and your family at St. Germaine.

We invite you to complete this very brief survey, as the results will help us to focus our school improvement efforts. Please complete the survey no later than **November 14th**.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfswcwhHxNB0aCYVzha5WK7evWf2_kh4w4QRIBQ2_IPWcavg/viewform

Wonders Handout

Attached to the electronic copy

We have been working with our new reading series for several weeks now. The students are enjoying the new stories and the activities that go with them.

The program has so many features that will help your child develop grade-level reading skills. We want to be sure that, as parents, you know how to access these resources at home. We encourage you to complete the Scavenger Hunt checklist on this page. Return to the site often. Re-read the selections with your child and encourage them to complete the interactive games, or select Leveled Readers to enhance their comprehension. Research shows that “at home” practice is a very effective way to build reading skills at all levels.

When you have completed this Scavenger Hunt, please return the “completion page” to your child’s teacher. Keep the scavenger hunt notes handy so you can go back to them frequently to support your child’s learning.

Messengers of Mercy

Over the past few years, St. Germaine School has sponsored a service group called the “Messengers of Mercy.” The group was formed in response to Pope Francis’ Jubilee Year of Mercy” in 2015. Its purpose was to provide families with simple ways to be of service to our parish and to the larger community. Over the years, the Messengers helped in many ways. They **provided lunches** for a group that took them to Lower Wacker Drive to feed the homeless, **they sang carols at Mercy Circle**, they helped **clean and plant flowers in the fall and spring**.

The group began when the school board, headed by Mrs. Jean Hayes, set a goal for our students to be involved in service projects. Mrs. Hayes planned and organized the group with the help of many other parents. We are extremely grateful for her leadership and hard work. Last year, Mrs. Hayes’ last “Germainiac” graduated.

We are looking for a committee of parents who would be able to carry on the wonderful “Messenger of Mercy” tradition. Jean, Mr. O’Rourke, Mr. Reedy, and Mrs. Powers have offered to work with the new leadership to provide information and planning for the group. We are planning to make the “Messengers” an important part of the work our National Junior Honor Society members do this year. If you would like more information about the project please contact the school office.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give”- Winston Churchill



*Enlightening Minds Enriching Lives
~ A ministry of Our Lady at St. Germaine Parish ~*



Family Scavenger Hunt

We have been working with our new reading series for several weeks now. The students are enjoying the new stories and the activities that go with them.

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When you have completed this Scavenger Hunt, please return the “completion page” to your child’s teacher. Keep the scavenger hunt notes handy so you can go back to them frequently to support your child’s learning.

1. **Log in to your Wonders page.**

Your teacher may have shown you how to log in using your Google Classroom account. You may have a special “simplified log in” card with a picture password.

A screenshot of a web form titled "View Student Password" with a close button in the top right corner. The form contains two rows of input fields. The first row has a red square icon with a yellow figure inside, followed by the label "CLASS:" and the text "Carol McCann's Class". The second row has a square icon with a cartoon rabbit face, followed by the label "NAME:" and a blank input field. Below the name field is the label "PASSWORD:" and another blank input field.

Once you have logged in, you will see the “dashboard” for your child’s reader. The dashboard features a number of “tiles” and “drop down menus” that will help you to navigate to the available resources.

Graphics and background may vary based on the grade level of your child’s materials, but the tiles and resource tabs are the same for each grade,

2. Student Dashboard



“To Do” tile

Teachers are able to make assignments for individual students or groups using this tile. The tile will show current and past assignments. The “To Do” tile in the dashboard will show the number of assignments your child has. It will also show any assessment pieces the teacher has assigned for completion at home.



“Words to Know” tile

This tile will provide you with two listings of vocabulary words for the story. The first file contains words that we assume students already know. The second file contains the specific vocabulary words for the story/activity. Students can click on a specific vocabulary word to view a definition, sample sentence, and a visual to help them understand.



“Write” tile

This tile provides resources to help your child build skills in the writing process. Materials correspond to the Reader/Writer Companion workbook that is an important part of the WONDERS process. Students are encouraged to keep either a paper notebook or to work with the online tools. Teachers will assign writing projects that focus on a specific type of writing (narrative, argumentative, expository). The tabs on the tile will guide the students through the steps of the writing program. A scoring rubric will give you an idea of how the teacher will assess your child’s work.

In Kindergarten and first grade, the “Write” tab includes printing practice activities.



“Games” tile

Students can access the games for the current story/week using this tile. Games include topics such as Grammar, Vocabulary, Spelling and Comprehension Skills. The games are interactive requiring students to “drag and drop” information into graphic organizers. The time required for the games varies, but most can be completed in just a few minutes. We encourage you to spend a few minutes each week working with the games at home.



“Read” tile

This is probably the most useful of the WONDERS online activities. The tile directs students to the reading selections for the week. Students will be able to view the current story from the reading text or Reading/Writing Companion. All students can benefit from an additional “read” of the weekly selections. Students who need additional support can click on the microphone icon to have a “real” reader read the text. Reading along with a fluent reader increases student comprehension of the text.

The tile also contains a link to the supplementary “Leveled Readers” that correspond to the week’s activities.

3. Drop Down Menus

Resources

The “Resources” drop down menu at the top of the screen provides links to all of the student resources for your child’s grade level.

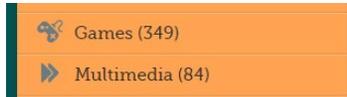


The “Leveled Readers” tab includes access to all of the supplementary reading selections. Level Reader content often mirrors the selections from the student anthology or Reading Writing Companion. They are an excellent way to build skills and vocabulary and provide extra information about a topic. The Leveled Readers are written to reach students at their current reading level. If you notice the colored “band” on the right side of the book cover, you can determine the difficulty level of the reading. The orange band is written for students who might need extra support to comprehend the text. The blue band is written for students who are reading at grade level. The red band is a more challenging read for those students who comprehend easily.



“Additional Student Reads” provide short selections to enrich topics from the theme of the unit.

The “Skills Practice with Data Reporting” leads students through interactive reviews about genres and reading skills that are covered in the program. Topics like “Figurative Language” and “Determining Characters and Plot” help to reinforce literary skills. The activities are short and involve the student in actively.



The “Games” tab leads students to more interactive activities. Content includes grammar, vocabulary and phonic topics, The games require a minimum time commitment and can help to reinforce concepts prior to the unit assessments.



The “Writing’ tab in the Resource section provides students with specific help in writing expository, argumentative and narrative essays.



The “School to Home” tab provides an overview of the content from the unit or week. It also gives students a quick way to review vocabulary, comprehension and spelling expectations for the current unit.

This tab is a great way to help your child review for assessments they will take in conjunction with the program content.



Finally, the “ABC” tab provides a complete glossary of all the vocabulary words contained in the grade level materials. It is available in a number of languages, including Spanish.



Scavenger Hunt Completion Form

Student Name _____ Grade _____

We have completed the Scavenger Hunt for the new reading series.

- We were able to log-in successfully
- We navigated to the various tiles and tabs to see how the program works
- We will spend some time each week using the resources from the website

Success in reading depends on the amount of actual reading and practice you do! Let's all use the resources to become the BEST readers we can be!

_____ Parent Signature _____ Date