

St. Francis School Newsletter

St. Francis Xavier School, with family partnership is dedicated to the development of the whole child through the spiritual and academic excellence of Catholic education

May 1, 2020

Dear SFX Families,

If there is any one attribute that we have been tested on over the past 7 weeks since the statewide school closure, it is adaptability. As humans, we take comfort in knowing what to expect, while change and uncertainty can be uncomfortable. As someone that studied history in college, I have often turned reading about the experiences of others from previous eras, and to draw from the wisdom of “experts” from our current era.

Though our ability to adapt is a crucial survival skill, we should also recognize that we can't completely abandon “rituals” that bind us together. As a faith community, our most important ritual of attending Sunday Mass has had to be changed due to coronavirus. Communal prayer, receiving the Blessed Sacrament, and fellowship is a noticeable void. The loss of rituals extends beyond our faith life too. I have a niece that is a senior in high school adjusting to the difficulty of missing her senior soccer season with teammates, and a graduation ceremony that is an important capstone ritual to one's high school experience. In our school, there are many end of year ritualistic experiences that we are not able to proceed with (i.e. graduation, class trips, etc...). But as families, there are still ways to emphasize ritual in the home which can strengthen us. For instance, we can watch Mass from home together as a family. Pray together at the dinner table. We have tried to incorporate game night as a regular family activity, which I have heard from a number of other school families doing the same. Try to take family nature walks. I heard of a family that has adopted milkshake Mondays. I pray for our school families regularly, and I hope that the disruption to our normal routines and rituals can at least provide our families an opportunity to connect in a way that we haven't before.

I am very grateful for our tremendous teaching staff, who have worked very hard to identify the most essential learning objectives, and to provide the most necessary academic work for our students. Part of our challenge as a school is to maintain high expectations, but to also recognize a wide range of needs of each student and family. We continue to monitor the workload of our students. There may be some academic tasks that your child's teacher has indicated are “can do” assignments, while more essential tasks are “must do”. Part of adapting to this situation is to recognize what the appropriate balance is for working on academic tasks in the home, and when a break is needed. In school we don't expect students to spend hours each day on worksheets or staring at computer screens. We hope parents are finding the right balance for their students so that they are still able to grow academically, get outside, have regular play and exercise, use their imagination, and

bond with family. Please reach out if there is anything I can be of assistance for.

Peace and Easter Joy,

Adam Dobrowolski

CONGRATULATIONS ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CLASS OF 2020



Back row: Annie Mercer, Victoria Kavanaugh, Marley Spence, Madylin Wieman, Aidan Cleary, Brian Pike, Andrew Licata, Luke Kendziorski, Emily Crittenden, Lily Schoenborn. Middle row: Lily Harris, Piper Krug, Audrey Smock, Kirstin Holzschu, Marlee Mays. Front row: Ava Saunders, Charlotte Gagnon, and Ariel Nguyen.

FACTS PROGRAM

We are continuing with the FACTS tuition program this fall. If you were enrolled last year you will automatically be reenrolled. You may go online to the **website address- <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/3GBMF>** to access your account. Click on “sign in to manage your facts account” to check balances, make scheduling changes or payment changes. Tuition balances will not be entered until the end of August. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 347-3651 and ask for Kathy Godfrey.

P.T.O. NEWS

Thank you to our current serving officers for PTO:
President- Tim LaGasse, Vice President- Amy Russell,
Secretary- Tracy LaGasse and Treasurer- Nikki Nemecc.

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IMMUNIZATION REMINDER

A reminder of the immunization requirements from the Michigan Department of Community Health for the 2020-2021 school year. Students entering Kindergarten, 7th grade or are new to the school district need to be up to date on their immunizations. Parents who have previously waived their student for immunizations need to make an appointment at the Health Dept. Their number is 800-432-4121.

YOUNG WRITERS JURIED EXPOSITION CROOKED TREE ARTS CENTER

Congratulations to the following students for placing in the Crooked Tree Arts Center Young Writers exposition: In Elementary prose and poetry, Madeline McDiarmid (5th) received 1st place for "Misty and I", and "Music of the Night". At the Middle School level Eva Sharapova (6th) received 1st place for "Beneath the Cherry Blossom", "Aidan Cleary (8th) received 2nd place for "Jack Dahmer's Cooking Show!", Bre Wcisel (7th) received 3rd place for "Forever Home", and Marlee Mays (8th) received honorable mention for "The Perfect Fantasy". In M.S. Poetry Eva Sharapova (6th) received 1st place for "Family Photos".

SUMMER SCRIP SCHEDULE

SFX Scrip gift cards will continue to be available all summer! The box will be kept at the Parish Office Monday-Friday from 9-5. Please call Judy at the parish and make sure she will be available when you plan on stopping in to make a purchase. The Parish Office number is 231-347-4133. Orders will be placed once a month. Please have all orders to the Parish Office or entered into the computer the Monday prior to the order. Your summer payout will be figured mid-summer and an email will be sent when the check is available. They will be in the Parish office for pick up. Monthly incentive drawings will continue throughout the summer. Incentives and winners will be announced on the SFX SCRIP and SFX School facebook pages. If you have questions or order needs, please feel free to email sfxscrip@gmail.com. Thanks so much and have a great summer!

SPECIALS CLASSES

Check out our "essential/specials" classes.
<https://petoskeysfx.wixsite.com/petoskeysfx/home> New content will be added weekly. Thank you, Ms. Teuscher for putting this together for us!

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

Please visit our website to enroll your K-8 students for next year through our Continuous Enrollment.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Tell us if you think you need help now or in the fall. You can apply for tuition assistance for the upcoming school year through FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment application. The Tuition Assistance Fund provides money to families who are in need of tuition assistance. Assistance is available to families with students in grades K-8. To receive aid, parents must be registered, active, contributing parishioners, have no past debt incurred with the parish for tuition or offertory contributions and must provide their child's baptism record. The process is online: online.factsmgt.com/aid

If you are a family experiencing hardship due to COVID-19, let us know. We will distribute hardship assistance on a case by case basis. If you would like to donate to assist families, we are currently earmarking "Fund the Need" donations on our school website to help our families experiencing financial hardship. You can donate from our school homepage by clicking on the menu "Giving" > Gala Auction > Fund the Need

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY

4th-8th

SPIRITWEAR WEEK

Monday: Make-Believe Monday (dress in any character from a book, movie, show, etc.)

Tuesday: Time-Warp Tuesday (dress up and accessorize in any era/decade themed outfit or accessories)

Wednesday: Wacky Wednesday (dress up or do something wacky and crazy)

Thursday: Thinking of School Thursday (dress up in SFX Crusader Spirit Wear)

Friday: Fancy Friday (dress up in fancy/formal clothes)

25-29 Middle School Exam Week Review

JUNE

1st-5th **Middle School Exams**

5th **Last Day of School**