



ST. GERARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

October 15, 2020

Welcome Back We want to take this opportunity to welcome former online learners back to face to face learning here at St. Gerard. It is great to see your smiling faces again. (We can see those smiles even behind your masks!) I would also like to welcome Jenna Drauer to the school staff. She works in our preschool and kindergarten.

Online Learning In previous communication, we have let you know that online learning, as it has happened during the first quarter of this school year, will be ending on October 30. We have been trying to find another option for those families who would still prefer online learning after Oct. 30. This is one possible option. If families decide to go with this option, this is what you can expect:

- Teachers from Oxford Virtual Academy will provide daily lessons in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- Instructional Videos through the Acellus platform will be available for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.
- Certified teachers hired by St. Gerard School will monitor the progress of online students. At minimum, there will be a weekly check-in, with the possibility of further meetings if needed. These teachers will provide tutoring and guidance, especially for the Science and Social studies classes. There will be no direct instruction in Science and Social Studies classes. Only the instructional videos.
- The actual St. Gerard classroom teachers will set up a weekly class meeting to help build and maintain relationships with the teacher and the other classmates.
- Religious education is available through the St. Gerard Religious Education Department. Classes will be starting in January. Contact Kathy Warrnier to sign up for their program.
- We will set up an informational meeting in the next week or so, in order to answer any questions, if you think you might be interested in this program
- St. Gerard is paying for the courses to be provided and for the teacher/monitors. Regular tuition rates apply for this online option.
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Also, in order to provide our teachers the time to finish up the online learning for the first quarter, we will not have face-to-face learning on Friday, Oct. 23 and Friday, Oct. 30.



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Drop Off and Pick Up I want to take this opportunity to remind parents about important guidelines for dropping off and picking up your children. We seem to be in a pretty good place in doing this efficiently and safely. Important reminders: If your child is being dropped off by car, please use the car line or the lower lot. Please do not drop them off before 7:30. There is no supervision before that time and your students need to have their temperature scanned before you leave. If your child has a temperature of 100 or more, they will not be allowed in school and will need to go back home with you. If you leave, you are still responsible for being back here within 15 minutes. When you are picking up your child after school please move as far up to the head of the line as possible. Students should wait until the car has stopped to enter the vehicle. We ask that face masks be worn until they are in the car.

Uniforms All students should be in regular school uniforms now. If you have any questions about school uniforms please refer to the handbook which is located on the school website. If your child receives an out of uniform slip, please address the problem and sign and return the slip the next day. Thank you for your cooperation.

Cereal Drive You still have time to send in a cereal box to restock the St. Vincent Food Pantry. Boxes of cereal will be accepted until Monday, Oct. 19

How do I decide if I should send my child to school? This is a very important question this year, especially as we head toward the cold and flu season. With the COVID virus having many of the same symptoms as colds, flu, and allergies, how do I decide if my child should come to school or not? First of all, I would always err on the side of caution. Obviously, a temperature of 100 or higher automatically eliminates them from coming. If they have two or more symptoms, then it is probably better to not send them. If they have allergies every year and the symptoms are not overwhelming or getting worse than normal, it is probably safe to send them. We will not be giving out any perfect attendance awards this year, as we want parents and students to feel that they should try to keep themselves healthy and if taking off a day or two helps, then that is what they should do.

Playground Supervision - We are looking for some people to substitute for our playground supervisors. The hours are from 10:30-12:30. If you know someone or if you would be willing to substitute on the playground please give the school office a call. This is a paid position.



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T.R.I.P If you are not familiar with the TRIP program at St. Gerard, now is the time to give it a try. It is a great way to reduce tuition expenses. Any money earned through participating will be applied at the end of each semester. If you would like more information about this money saving program, please contact Shawn Macksood at the school office. She will be happy to give you details and answer any questions.

Virtual Conferences Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday evening November 11, all day Thursday, November 12, and Friday, November 13 as needed. We are in the process of developing an online signup for conferences. We will send you the link as soon as it is ready.

Halloween Parties We will be discussing this at our staff meeting on October 21, but for obvious reasons we cannot have what we have had in past years. We are looking at some fun alternatives for this day. We will let you know after we have finalized our plans.

Report Cards Report cards will be available online on November 05 for the first quarter. If you are in need of a hard copy of the report card, please contact your child's teacher with your request.

Parent Notification I understand that we have many parents who are anxious about the possibility of the spread of a virus at our school. I think we all need to be reminded about the safety protocols we have put in place to keep your children safe here at school. We must also remember that we are all trying our best to maintain high standards of cleanliness and sanitation. We all need constant reminders about maintaining those standards and to look at situations where we could do a better job. When we have identified a positive case, we immediately alert the Barry-Eaton Health Department and they tell us explicitly about who needs to be contacted, who needs to be quarantined and any other pertinent instructions. We as a school, do not determine probable or positive cases. That is the job of the health department. We will always try to give you all the information that we are allowed to give. This information is different for different situations. Also, please do not assume that because a staff member or child is absent from school, that they have COVID. As I mentioned before, it is very difficult to tell the difference between a regular cold symptom and a COVID symptom. They may be being cautious and may or may not choose to get tested. In these situations, I ask for you to be gracious and pray for the individuals who are absent.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 18	Hot Lunch Calendar Opens
October 25	Hot Lunch Calendar Closes
October 23	Online Learning Day - NO Face-to-Face Learning
October 28	Retake and Junior High Picture Day
October 30	Online Learning Day -NO Face-to-Face Learning End of 1st Quarter
November 02	End of St. Gerard Online Learning
November 05	Report Cards Posted
November 11,12,	Parent Teacher Conferences - Virtual
November 13	NO SCHOOL



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November 24

Virtual All School Mass

November 25,26,27

Thanksgiving Break