



St. Helen School

12060 Kinsman Road, Newbury, Ohio 44065
ST-HELEN-SCHOOL.COM | 440-564-7125

Do Small Things with Great Love

February 13, 2020

From the desk of Principal Gannon

WHAT'S BUZZING AT SCHOOL

We have completed the fifth week of the Third Quarter and have reached Mid Quarter. Monday and Thursday after school, our Science Olympiad Team had an open lab to continue their preparations for the Case Western Reserve University Engineering Challenges Carnival and Tournament this month. Tuesday, our Fifth and Seventh Graders had their first Junior Achievement class this school year. The Junior Achievement program helps students foster work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy skills. Thank you to our volunteers for helping make this program a success. After school, our Little Flowers met to learn about St. Zita and focused on the virtue of orderliness. The Little Flowers helped clean toys, organized puzzles, and made a heart and yarn craft. Later that evening, we welcomed Investigator Rick Warner and Prosecutor Jim Flaiz from Geauga County Prosecutor's Office to give a presentation on Internet Safety to our school and parish family. Wednesday, our band students had their weekly band practice with Mr. Bell. Our Little Hornets had their Valentine's Day party. After lunch, Doctor Drockton visited our Kindergarteners to talk about dental health. Then after school, some of our students stayed for Chess Club. Today, our students had their weekly Spanish class. Our Seventh Graders led our school in Mass. Our Busy Bees and Kindergarteners through Eighth Graders had their Valentine's Day parties. The Burton Rotary Club visited our Third Graders to gift them a dictionary and talk about their club. Our school will be closed tomorrow for the long weekend. Please continue to keep our students and staff in your prayers as we continue to keep you in ours.

THANK YOU ROOM PARENTS

We would like to thank all the room parents who helped our students celebrate St. Valentine's Day today. Our students seemed to have a great time celebrating with you and their classmates. Happy St. Valentine's Day.

NO SCHOOL TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 14th AND MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17th

In observance of Presidents Day, our school and office will be closed on Friday, February 14th and Monday, February 17th. School will resume Tuesday, February 18th. Have a safe long weekend.

INTERNET SAFETY PRESENTATION FOR STUDENTS

Thank you to the families that were able to attend the Internet Safety Presentation Tuesday evening. Investigator Rick Warner and Prosecutor Jim Flaiz from Geauga County Prosecutor's Office gave an impactful presentation on how to keep our children safe online. Investigator Warner will return to St. Helen School on Tuesday, February 18th to talk to the students about how to keep themselves safe on the internet. He will speak to students in three groups, Kindergarten through Fourth Grade, Fifth and Sixth Grade, and Seventh and Eighth Grade. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

GATHERING WITH MR. GANNON IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19th

The Gathering with Mr. Gannon has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria. I will give an update on things that we have accomplished since the last meeting, things that will be happening, and provide an opportunity to build up our school family.

REGISTRATION FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year at St. Helen School is now open. Re-registration forms and tuition rates were sent home for our current school families. Registration forms are due Friday, April 3rd. All registration forms received on or before Monday, March 16th, will be entered into a drawing for one of two free registration fees. You can still register afterward, but you will not be eligible for the free registration fee drawing. If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 440-564-7125.



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EDCHOICE VS EDCHOICE EXPANSION SCHOLARSHIPS

As you are watching and/or listening to the news, you may hear the discussion about EdChoice Scholarships. At St. Helen School, we have utilized the EdChoice Expansion Scholarships for several years. There is a difference between the two scholarships. An EdChoice Scholarship can be awarded to a student who attends a public school that has not met certain performance indicators on their state report, so they can attend a private school. Some of the schools near us have received this designation for the 2020-2021 school year. However, since you already attend St. Helen School, you would not be eligible for this scholarship. An EdChoice Expansion Scholarship can be awarded to a student whose family meets the federal poverty guidelines. The window for both these scholarships opened on February 1st. However, there is discussion going on with Ohio's elected officials which has since delayed the beginning of the application window until April 1st for the EdChoice Scholarship. At this time, this delay does not impact the EdChoice Expansion Scholarship.

EDCHOICE EXPANSION SCHOLARSHIPS

At this time, families can renew their existing scholarship and new families can apply for the EdChoice Expansion Scholarship without delay. Please click on the following links for: Fact Sheet, Federal Poverty Guidelines, Request Form, and Income Verification Form. Students in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade can apply for this scholarship for the 2020-2021 school year. If you have any questions and/or would like help, please contact the school office to talk with Sister Sandy or Patrick Gannon.

FEBRUARY IS BREAKFAST BAG MONTH

Our Spirit and Service Squad is hosting their month-long service project of making breakfast bags for Saint Paschal Baylon's Helping Hands Ministry. Please click here to view their letter. We have completed this service project for several years and have made well over 1500 breakfast bags. We appreciate your help and support so we can continue this great project.

NEW LOGO ON SCHOOL POLOS

Schoolbelles and NuThreadz can produce the new logo on the green school polos. Over the remainder of this school year and next school year, we will work on integrating the new logo on the polos and retiring the other ones. NuThreadz can also get the exact same athletic fit pullover as Schoolbelles. We are working with them to get other fleece pullover options as well. If you are interested, please contact them.

NEW PULLOVERS FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are excited to announce a new addition to our school uniform for the students. Students are now able to purchase one of three quarter zip pullover options from Schoolbelles. You see the new options by clicking here. These items are available for purchase at Schoolbelles (www.schoolbelles.com - school code s0115) currently. If you purchase any of these pullovers, students may begin wearing these items to school as a part of their school uniform. Students may wear these pullovers over their school polo or a white button-down shirt just like our school sweatshirt. There is a sample of each in the school office. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

SOCCER REGISTRATION CLOSING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th

Soccer registration continues to be open. If you have a child(ren) that are interested in playing soccer, please sign up before Tuesday, February 18th. To register, please visit <https://reg.sportspilot.com/106654/leagues> or follow the link on the Parish website under Boosters. Please note, if you are planning on coaching please contact Mary Suvak or Sharon Hoenigman to make sure that you are up to date on all your training, background check, and paperwork. No one will be permitted to coach or help coach unless all paperwork is done before practices



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begin. If we do not have a coach with full credentials to coach a team, we will not be fielding a team for that grade. There will be no exceptions. We appreciate all you do to ensure we have a great sports program for all.

ST HELEN ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

Please note that our Athletic Booster Club will no longer be doing paper registrations for our sports programs. Please visit <https://reg.sportspilot.com/106654/leagues> to register your family and receive notifications from the Boosters. Please click here for more information. CYO players still need to have the CYO physical form filled out and turned in. The forms can be found on the Parish website, <https://www.sthelen.com/>, under the Boosters tab.

SAVE THE DATE - ST. HELEN SCHOOL GALA

The St. Helen School Gala is Saturday, March 21, 2020 at Generations Event and Reception Center in Chesterland. Please mark your calendars to save the date! The theme for our Gala this year is the Roarin' 20's.

REMINDER ABOUT REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

As our weather is rapidly changing, our students may be more likely to become ill and need to miss school. If your child becomes ill, please contact the school office to notify us of the illness so we can account for their attendance. If you do not report your child's absence, we will begin calling you around 8:30 am to find out if your child is okay. Please continue to encourage your child(ren) to wash their hands and cover their mouths when they cough and sneeze. Our staff works to keep our building cleaned and sanitized during the school day. Thank you for your help and support.

COLD WEATHER RECESS REMINDER

As our weather begins to get colder and snowier, we ask that our students dress for the weather. Please send your child(ren) in with hats, gloves, and boots so they can stay warm at recess. If there is snow and the students wear snow pants along with boots, hats, and gloves they can play on the playground with the snow. If a student does not have snow pants, they can still go to recess, but cannot play in the snow. Before each recess period, we check the playground for ice and look at the windchill. Then we decide, based on those conditions, if recess will be outside or inside that day.

SCHOOL CLOSING ALERTS

When we need to close school, we will send out both a text and email alert to the numbers and emails we have in our system. Please make sure you keep the office updated with any changes in your cell phone number or email address. Additionally, you can watch the local news stations to watch for our school name on the scrolling list (Channels 3, 5, 8, and 19). The local news stations also have options for you to sign up for text alerts when our school closes. Please check your local news stations' website to sign up for the text alerts of your choice. Below are three links that we have found on the websites to sign up for text or email alerts:

<https://www.wkyc.com/textalerts>, <https://www.news5cleveland.com/sign-up-to-receive-email-and-mobile-alerts-on-school-closings>, and <https://fox8.com/closings/closing-text-alerts/>.

GRADELOCK

If you encounter a problem or do not remember your username or password, please contact the school office so we can help you.

STILL HAVE A QUESTION OR A CONCERN



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If you have any questions or concerns about our school, your child's progress, or if you would like to talk to me about something, please contact Mr. Gannon to schedule a meeting. You can reach me through my email, pgannon@sthelen.com, the school office phone, 440-564-7125, or my cell phone, 440-785-5608. I will do my best to get back to you as soon as I can.