



## St. Helen School

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

Do Small Things with Great Love

February 20, 2020

From the desk of Principal Gannon

---

### WHAT'S BUZZING AT SCHOOL

We have completed the sixth week of the Third Quarter. Our school was off on Monday in observance of Presidents' Day. Tuesday, we welcomed our students back from the long weekend with a school fully decorated for our One School One Book reading program. As a school we will be reading *Charlotte's Web* over the course of the next several weeks. We have different activities planned for the students to go beyond just reading. We would like to thank our parent volunteers and school staff for their many hours of preparation and decorating to help make this program successful. Junior Achievement continued this week. 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. Tuesday, Investigator Rick Warner of the Geauga County Prosecutor's Office came to speak to our students about how to keep themselves safe on the internet. After school (as well as after school Thursday), our Science Olympiad Team had open labs to continue their preparation for the Case Western Reserve University Tournament next weekend. Also, our Power of the Pen Team met to continue their preparation for their upcoming competition. Wednesday, our band students had their weekly band practice with Mr. Bell. After school, some of our students stayed for Chess Club. Today, our students had their weekly Spanish class. Tomorrow, our Fourth Graders will lead our school in Mass. Saturday, our Second Graders will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as they continue to prepare their hearts and minds to receive Jesus at their First Communion. Please continue to keep our students and staff in your prayers as we continue to keep you in ours.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We would like to thank all the parents who helped prepare and decorate our school for the transformation for One School One Book. The decorations look great and have really helped us get into *Charlotte's Web*. We would also like to thank the parents who helped behind the scenes and worked with our school's One School One Book Committee to help prepare and organize the activities that are upcoming. Thank you for your help and support at home in reading the nightly chapters and taking time to read with the family.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

On Saturday, our Second Graders will be receiving their First Reconciliation. Our students have been preparing their hearts and minds for this day. Please keep all those who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this weekend in your prayers.

### INTERNET SAFETY PRESENTATION FOLLOW UP

Thank you to the families that were able to attend the Internet Safety Presentation last week. When Investigator Rick Warner returned this week, he showed the students a few videos from NetSmartz (<https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/home>). If you were not able to attend the adult session, please visit that website to see some of things that were discussed. Investigator Warner also talked about different apps and programs that could be used on cellphones and devices at home to help monitor technology use.

### REGISTRATION FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Thank you to all the families who have already returned their re-registration form and registration fee. Registration for the 2020-2021 school year at St. Helen School is still open. Re-registration forms and tuition rates were sent home for our current school families. Registration forms are due Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. All registration forms and fees received on or before Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.



## St. Helen School

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

Do Small Things with Great Love

February 20, 2020

From the desk of Principal Gannon

### **ONE SCHOOL ONE BOOK UPCOMING EVENTS**

Next Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome the Zimmerman Petting Zoo to our school. Since we do not have Mass that day, our students can dress as farmers for the day. A flyer was sent home in the Thursday folder today or click here. Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a 4-H Show and Share Day. Students can bring in their 4-H fair items to share with our school. A flyer was sent home in the Thursday folder today or click here. Please click here to see the daily reading schedule for *Charlotte's Web*. Thank you for your support.

### **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.

### **GOOD BYE TO ALLELUIA AND ASH WEDNESDAY**

Our Lenten journey begins next week. On Tuesday, our school will gather for a prayer service to say good bye to Alleluia for the Lenten season. Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, our school will gather at the 11:00 am Ash Wednesday Mass. You are invited to attend this Mass with us if you are able.

### **NO SCHOOL FRIDAY, MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>**

On Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> our school and office will be closed so our school staff can attend a diocesan professional development day. Please enjoy the long weekend.

### **UPCOMING EVENT FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND KINDERGARTENERS**

St. Helen School is hosting a Donuts and Juice with Mother Goose on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. All prospective Preschool and Kindergarten families for next school year are welcome to attend. Children will get to visit the Preschool and Kindergarten classrooms as well as meet and enjoy a fun time with Mother Goose. Parents will tour the school, hear about our curriculum and school day, and get to meet with teachers and the principal. If you know of any families who would be interested, please pass the information on to them. Please RSVP to the school office at 440-564-7125 or at [jromagni@sthelen.com](mailto:jromagni@sthelen.com).

### **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.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup>. However, there is discussion going on with Ohio's elected officials which has since delayed the beginning of the application window until April 1<sup>st</sup> for the EdChoice Scholarship. At this time, this delay does not impact the EdChoice Expansion Scholarship.



## St. Helen School

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

Do Small Things with Great Love

February 20, 2020

From the desk of Principal Gannon

### **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. All forms need to be postmarked by Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions and/or would like help, please contact the school office to talk with Sister Sandy or Patrick Gannon.

### **AMERICAN RED CROSS**

The American Red Cross will be at St Helen's in the gym on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please login to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment, especially if you can donate platelets or power red. Please bring your American Red Cross donor card or another form of identification with you. If you need assistance call 1-800-REDCROSS. Please consider helping those that need blood as well as helping our students at St. Helen School who benefit from this drive.

### **SCHOOL YEARBOOKS**

Yearbooks for the 2019-2020 school year are now on sale for \$20. Please send cash or check (payable to St. Helen School) to school and we will send the yearbook home with your child when they arrive. The deadline to order is Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the school office if you need another order form.

### **SAVE THE DATE - HEART OF JESUS RETREAT**

On Saturday and Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to come, seek and find our Lord, Jesus Christ in a fresh way this Lent at the third annual Heart of Jesus Retreat. Please consider joining your St. Helen family as we press into the heart of Jesus. You can register for the retreat at [www.heartofjesus.net](http://www.heartofjesus.net).

### **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](http://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.

### **CYO SPRING SPORTS INFORMATION**

Please see the flyer in the Thursday folder or click here for more information on CYO Spring Sports.

### **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



## St. Helen School

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

Do Small Things with Great Love

February 20, 2020

From the desk of Principal Gannon

---

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.

### **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**

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](mailto: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.