

## **News from Mrs. Faessel--March 13, 2020**

As I write this, our country is facing an unusual situation. Currently, Ohio has four confirmed cases of COVID-19, three in Cuyahoga County and one in Stark County. COVID-19 is presenting educational and health dilemmas that I have never seen in my thirty-two years of teaching children and leading teachers. That said, your children's safety is important to the faculty and staff of St. Augustine School. Because this is our highest priority, we closed on Thursday, March 12, to provide the teachers with time to prepare materials and lessons in the event that we need to close school for an extended amount of time. Preparing for our possible extended closure will reduce or eliminate the extension of the school year as well as keep our students engaged in learning while they are away. Of course, our teachers will be available via email to assist you or your children with any work or learning that will take place during our absence.

For this reason, please submit your EdChoice and EdChoice expansion (income-based) scholarship requests and renewals immediately, if you have not done so already. Expansion scholarships must be entered by April 15, but our Easter break begins April 10. Traditional EdChoice requests and renewals cannot be entered until April 1, but submit those immediately as well to facilitate their entry once the online window is available.

Because our current situation is unprecedented, all scheduled events are subject to cancellation or postponement. However, as much as possible, we want our students to have the opportunity to continue their typical schedules, including learning, playing, and praying. Our school Masses will change slightly, with Holy Water fonts emptied, communion offered in the form of the host only, and an emphasis on no physical contact during the sign of peace. Public school spaces like stair handrails, door knobs, and drinking fountains are being disinfected more often.

- **New student open house on Thursday, March 19, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM**
- **Third quarter Accelerated Reader deadline (grades 1-8) is Friday, March 20**
- **Spring pictures on Friday, March 20**
- **No school on Friday, March 27**
- **Jesus Day for First Communion on Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 AM to noon**
- **SOS (Signs of Suicide) prevention program for grades six, seven, and eight on Monday and Tuesday, March 30 and 31**
- **Living Stations involving grades five through eight on Friday, April 3, at 7:00 PM**

- **Assemblies by Fran Kitchen from Ohio Wildlife Rescue on Wednesday, April 8, 10:00 AM (kindergarten through grade 4) and 11:00 AM (grades 5-8)**
- **Easter vacation from Friday, April 10, to Sunday, April 19. School resumes on Monday, April 20**
- **First Communion practice on Tuesday, April 21, from 6:30-7:30 PM**
- **First Communion on Saturday, April 25, at 11:00 AM**
- **Seventh grade high school visitation to Archbishop Hoban High School on Wednesday, April 29, 2020**

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**Monthly Middle School Book Club  
at St. Augustine School**

**Students in grades five through eight at St. Augustine School can join the Barberton librarians for book club once a month during their lunch period. While the students eat their lunches, they will share what they have read and learn about other new and exciting books to read! The next book club meeting is Tuesday, March 17, in room 203.**

**EdChoice Check #2 Is Ready for Your Signature!**

If your child has an EdChoice scholarship, please make arrangements to sign the second tuition check to prevent being charged tuition in the amount of the check. You may sign your child's tuition check on any school day from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Please call (330) 753-6435 if you need to make arrangements for another time to sign your check. Third quarter report cards can not be released until this check is signed.

**Summer Solutions: Close the Summer Learning Gap!**

Many students experience what teachers call the "summer slide." They lose skills and knowledge over the summer months because what they learned during the school year is not practiced during the summer months. This causes students to start the new school year behind where they left off in the spring. By spending just minutes a day with a quality summer series, students can get the practice they need to move forward. One resource that might help with providing summer practice is **Summer Solutions**, a workbook designed to help students return to school after summer break confident in the skills they have already learned and ready to master new ones. Our kindergarten through third graders use **Simple Solutions** for math, so **Summer Solutions** will seem familiar to them. Go to [www.summersolutions.net](http://www.summersolutions.net) and enter school code H44203AUG to place your order.