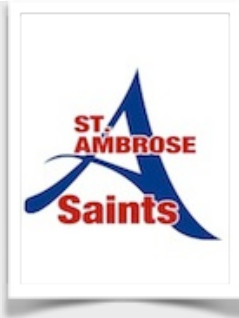


ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday, January 26th



Events

January 28 - February 3
Catholic Schools Week

February 5
ACRE Testing

February 8
Spring Pictures

February 9
Dress Down \$1.50

February 10
Trivia Night

February 13
Papa Johns Night

February 16
1:00 Dismissal
Spirit Day - Presidents/
Celebrities

February 19
No School

A Note From the Principal

Our Saints:

LEARN something new every day!

SERVE each other and our parish community!

LEAD by our virtuous example!

SUCCEED as really amazing people!

“A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints.” – Pope Benedict XVI

From the Faculty and Staff at St. Ambrose Catholic School, we THANK YOU for your prayers, your support, your involvement and your investment in the lives of all of our students! You are part of a rich heritage of faith formation and quality education. We are grateful and blessed.

Happy Catholic Schools Week!
Mrs. Heil

REGISTRATION FOR 2018-19 IS COMING!!

Every family (new and returning) must register in person for the new school year.

The registration process will all be completed in the Community Center. Representatives from the school office, the business office, the school board and Father Steve and/or the Deacons will be present to meet with each family and to answer any questions. Required registration fee payments for registration are: \$125 minimum payment for families with only one child. \$250 minimum payment for families with 2 or more children. THE REMAINING BALANCE FOR ALL REGISTRATION FEES FOR ALL CHILDREN ATTENDING 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR IS DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 31ST.

We are SO EXCITED about all that God has in store for us in the coming year! We're blessed to have you be a part!

OPEN HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST

This is a WONDERFUL opportunity for you to invite family and friends and neighbors who may be considering St. Ambrose as the best place for their children! PLEASE spread the word about

our Open House! We will also be Facebook Live for the Open House if you want to encourage some who can't make it to tune in from 6:30 – 7:30 that night! We will have door decoration voting, performances from our choir (and a sneak peek at a number from our spring musical), students doing demos of their STEM projects, Science Fair displays, a family photo booth and props corner, student work (including our literacy fair projects in 4th and 5th), robots roaming the halls, Young Author's information table and more!

Illinois Tax Scholarship

Illinois Tax Scholarship: This is very exciting news and helps "reduce" the cost of private education and help the St. Ambrose families.

With the new tax laws Parents can pay for their tuition with their free 529 account and it will be virtually tax free since contributions up to \$10,000 per child are tax deductible.

News article:

www.stltoday.com/news/local/education/parents-in-missouri-can-now-claim-tax-deductions-for-private/article_2fda35d8-4eec-54ab-aa2c-440314c7588b.html

Illinois Plan Tax Law Changes Opening it up to Elementary school education:

www.brightstartsavings.com/tax-law-changes-529-plans/

Overview of the plan:

www.brightstartsavings.com/529-benefits/

Also, please see the attached flyer that gives information about the what, where and how of this new program. Here is the link to visit if you want to sign up for a scholarship: <https://empowerillinois.org/>

- Applications for families/students will open up on January 24.
- The application process is FREE for families
- The same Empower Illinois website lets families know what information they need to have ready in order to complete the application
- Families fill out ONE application, even if they have more than one potential student and even if they plan to attend different private schools.
- They referred to the process as a “dynamic application” meaning that it won't look or be exactly the same for each family... household circumstances are different so it could ask for different information from each applicant.

A Note from the School Nurse

Many of our students have been ill with fever and vomiting over the last few weeks. To return to

school or attend school activities, students must be without vomiting or fever for 24 hours—without medication. Your adherence to this school policy regarding fever and vomiting has a direct impact on the health of other children.

Cold Weather Dress Code

Just a couple of reminders for dress code during the winter weather:

- 1) Girls may wear leggings or tights (red, gray, black, white, navy) under their skirts.
- 2) Turtlenecks (red, gray, white or navy) are acceptable as collared shirts to wear under jumpers or sweaters/sweatshirts.
- 3) Please make sure your child has a coat, hat/hood, and gloves/mittens every day at school.
- 4) Students must wear socks at all times (and only athletic shoes).
- 5) Boots can be worn to school and then put back on to go home, but may NOT be worn as footwear all day long at school; please bring a pair of athletic shoes for your student to wear in the building
- 6) The only sweatshirts/hoodies that are allowed in the classrooms are St. Ambrose, Marquette or plain red, navy, gray, or white. Plain means that at most a small logo can be on the shirt (like a tiny Nike or Polo at the top) but not one that covers a large portion of the

sweatshirt or that has any other school or logo printed on it.

Scrip

Scrip may be purchased during regular parish office hours in the Church office. It will no longer be sold in the school office. Orders can of course still be sent to the school with children so that Scrip can be sent home with them. We will work to make your Scrip purchasing as easy as possible. Scrip is also available after most masses.

Catholic Schools Week 2018 St. Ambrose School Theme: "Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

o Sunday, January 28th (all parish welcome) – 5 – 7 pm Ice Skating at The Loading Dock (\$10/person reduced rate for St. Ambrose families) They have food (walking tacos, dock salsa, nachos, pretzel sticks, etc.) and a bar inside the rink. Along with heaters and lots of tables, chairs, and couches. There are also waitresses that will take orders if they want to eat from the main Loading Dock menu.)
o Monday, January 29th – HAWAIIAN DRESS UP DAY

9 – 11 am Spelling Bee in gym (grades 5-8 can participate, other grades can come and watch)
10-11:30 am Preschool Dance and Pizza Party in Community Center
12:40-2:00 pm 6th-8th grades to Marquette for mass with the Bishop
1-2 pm K-5 with Father Steve in Community Center for special Prayer and craft time
o Tuesday, January 30th – CRAZY HAIR AND SOCK DAY W/JEANS
9:15-10 am KSDK weather person speaker in gym for Preschool – 3rd grades
10:15 – 11 am KSDK weather person speaker in gym for 4th – 8th grades
11:30 am – Mrs. Heil and 8th grade students will be interviewed live on WBGZ
1 - 2:15 pm - 6th-8th graders will host a STEM fair in Community Center (rotating through stations) for 2nd-5th grades
o Wednesday, January 31st – RED OUT DAY (WEAR RED SPIRIT WEAR/CSW SHIRTS WITH UNIFORM BOTTOMS)
Donuts after Mass,
8 am – 12 pm Science Fair in kitchen side of Community Center for 6-8

grades (and all K-5 participants)
10 – 10:30 Preschool – first grades in bathroom side of Community Center
Library show with Mrs. Serio
10:45 – 11:15 2nd – 3rd grades in bathroom side of Community Center
library show with Mrs. Serio
Puzzles and game playing with partner classes from 1:30 – 2:15 1/2 of
8th grade to 1G, 1/2 of 8th grade to 1T, 7th grade to 2F, 6th grade to 2M,
3A to KB, 3B to KJ, 1/2 4th grade to PS4D, 1/2 4th grade to PS4S, 5th grade to PS3C
Open House 6:30 – 7:30
o Thursday, February 1st – MISMATCH/INSIDE OUT DRESS UP DAY
8:15 - 9 in the gym Preschool - 1st grades StagePlay learning activity
9:15 - 10 in the gym 2nd - 4th grades StagePlay learning activity
10:15 - 11 in the gym 5th - 8th grades StagePlay learning activity
1-2:15 pm 6th-8th graders will host a STEM fair in Community Center (rotating through stations) for grades Preschool-1st grades
o Friday, February 2nd – PAJAMA DAY

DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time for K-8th in classrooms
from 8 - 10 am
10-11 in the gym - Magician Character Assembly for Preschool - 8th grades
staff vs. 8th grade volleyball game in the afternoon at 1:15 in the gym

St. Ambrose School, Godfrey

The best place to learn, serve, lead, succeed

By JEAN HEIL
Principal

We learn and lead: This year our school was one of 10 schools in the Metro-North region of St. Louis to be chosen as a cohort school for the Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway Program.

Our STEM Team, comprised of seven faculty and administrative members, are attending quarterly workshops, implementing STEM objectives and writing and completing the following SMART goals this year:

- We will develop a school-wide STEM PBL that incorporates a real-world issue that will be investigated during the second semester of school year 2017-18 with a finale of a STEM fair where each class will present their findings.

- Teachers will present a minimum of one inquiry-based project per quarter in their individual classrooms.

- We will host a speaker from the community or from a corporation during the 2017-18 school year to inspire and challenge our students in connecting STEM to real life.

Our STEM Team was asked to present at the January workshop regarding the process by which we developed our STEM PBL.

The school improvement goal



Submitted photo

St. Ambrose students work together on a school assignment.

for this year at St. Ambrose is also tied into our STEM focus: Students will improve their academic skills in language arts, math and science through their content classes/subjects and school-wide STEM practices. Mathematics skills, effective writing skills and the scientific method will be used and reinforced through STEM activities and individualized learning experiences. STEM problems and activities will be integrated throughout lessons where appropriate.

Our teachers are focused on improving and expanding in all STEM areas, and our students are

responding with enthusiasm and great effort!

We serve: Just in the first half of the school year, our students and faculty have participated in a canned food drive that netted over 4,000 items and a coat/hat/blanket drive that brought in over 100 items. Students also volunteered to participate in our city's "Wreaths Across America" ceremony on Dec. 16, and over \$3,500 raised for various charities such as Holy Childhood Association, Catholic Charities, NCEA Hurricane relief. St. Ambrose Saints always give big and

love to serve our community!

We succeed: St. Ambrose has a culture and environment of respect, responsibility and cultivating good relationships that stress the value of self-discipline and commitment and that encourages each student to accept the challenges of being a better person in tomorrow's world.

Student participation, self-discipline, self-motivation, and creativity are nurtured and emphasized in every classroom and with every student

St. Ambrose really is the best place to learn, serve, lead and succeed! ☺