

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We made it to May! I hope you and your family had a great weekend; the weather was perfect.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the most wonderful Principal Appreciation Day. Some highlights of the day include: math focused decorations and balloons and (even) a balloon archway, a blessing from Fr. Pisut at Mass, notes and pictures from students, a lunch of all of my favorite things, visiting each classroom in the afternoon to play baby shower games and distributing treats, receiving many items off of our baby registry, reading all of the books contributed to Baby Spike's library with Mr. Spike when I got home, and reading all of the parenting advice from students. Mr. Spike, Baby Spike, and I were definitely feeling the love. A special thank you to Mrs. Casey Garcia Hooks and Mrs. Lindsay Gilbert for coordinating such an amazing day!

Please continue to pray for those affected by COVID-19. Currently, St. Augustin Catholic School has fewer than six positive cases (the Iowa Department of Education states that schools cannot release specific case counts with any number less than six).

We continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Polk County Health Department, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Iowa Department of Education.

Teacher Appreciation Week

This week (May 3 – May 6) we will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Our Home and School Spirit Committee will shower our faculty and staff members with lots of love and appreciation throughout the week.

Mass

Please join us virtually for our May Crowning Mass on Thursday, May 6 at 9:00am (please note the later start time). The eighth grade class will lead this week. The livestream will be on the St. Augustin Parish Youtube Channel linked [here](#).

No School: Friday, May 7

We do not have school on Friday, May 7. Our teachers will have a professional development day.

May Service Project

Our kindergarten and eighth grade classes will be collaborating for the May service project to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Iowa. Please start saving your pop tabs now! The collection will take place during the week of May 10. The unit (PreK/TK, K/1/2, 3/4/5, 6/7/8) with the most pop tabs will earn either an out of uniform day or an extra recess. No need to count the tabs before sending them to school; we will be weighing them to determine the winners. The Ronald McDonald House typically receives between \$.40 and \$.50 per pound of pop tabs. It takes approximately 1,128 tabs to equal a pound.

Dress Code

Beginning tomorrow, Monday, May 3, students may wear uniform shorts. Uniform shorts must be navy or khaki colored, no shorter than one inch above the knee, and not have cargo pockets. If the shorts

have belt loops, students should wear a belt with them. Uniform skirts and dresses should be no shorter than one in above the knee.

Second-Round CTO Financial Aid Application

Please click [here](#) if you are interested in applying for CTO financial aid. Our school code is 450. The password is cto450. The second-round application deadline is July 31, 2021. Please click [here](#) for a helpful video.

Save the Date: Summer School

St. Augustin Catholic School will be hosting a summer school for incoming TK – 6th grade students from Monday, August 2 – Friday, August 6 from 8:15am – 11:45am. Class sizes are limited. We need a minimum of 6 students per grade to run the program, and we will cap each class at 15 students. Registration is open. Please click [here](#) for link.

Please contact me directly if you would like your child/children to attend and need financial assistance.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Registration 2021 – 2022

The link to register for universal preschool through Des Moines Public Schools is open. If you're enrolled in St. Augustin's pre-kindergarten for 2021/2022, please click [here](#) to register for the grant that pays for your student to attend for free.

Faces and Our Cultures Exchange Program

We are happy to share with you that this year we will welcome Guatemalan students to campus through the Faces and Our Cultures Program. These young participants spend nearly two months living with a host family while attending classes and participating in extracurricular activities at school. The program has led to wonderful friendships and has provided our students and our Guatemalan guests with valuable cultural experiences.

In order to participate in the Faces Program, Guatemalan students apply to be Cultural Ambassadors of their country and are carefully selected by the Faces & Our Cultures Team. They go through a preparation process during the year and also prepare cultural projects to share with their host family and school.

This fall, our young cultural ambassadors will arrive October 16th, stay with their host families and join our school community for the following 8 weeks, and depart December 9th.

If you are interested in hosting a student, and participate in this life enriching experience, you can contact me via email, contact Torene Genovese, State Coordinator, at torene.genovese@facesandcultures.com, or let us know if you would like to receive more information by clicking [here](#) and completing this form.

U.S. host students also have the opportunity to participate in a Cultural Exchange Experience in Guatemala during the summer (optional program). This experience can be customized from 2 up to 4 weeks.

Home and School Service Opportunities

St. Augustin School Adoration Hour

Please join our St. Augustin School Community for one hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for our school, our parish, our teachers, our staff, and our students. Take this opportunity to grow in your spiritual life and see what happens! Thursdays from 2-3 p.m. the Home & School Service Committee invites members to share an hour with Jesus in our Adoration Chapel at St. Augustin Church. Please click [here](#) to sign up as we still have openings on May 27 and throughout our summer...this is a beautiful way to engage your children in adoration. It is guaranteed to be the best hour of your week. If you have any prayer requests, please email them to Lindsay at lgilbert1130@yahoo.com and we will forward them to our adorers.

Catholic Charities Family Emergency Shelter

Please click [here](#) to sign up to contribute to May 22 meal.

Deliver your items to Cynthia (May 22) in the St. Augustin CHURCH parking lot on the east side (not the roundabout) by the Mary statue between 4 and 4:30 p.m. on your delivery date to ensure a contactless delivery.

Join Lindsay in Dynamic Catholic's Feed Your Soul Gospel Reflections

The Dynamic Catholic team has launched a new Gospel Reflections series. Every Thursday, receive the Sunday's Gospel and 2ish-minute video to your inbox to reflect on the Gospel for the week. It's a beautiful way to start your weekend and prepare for the weekend's mass. I hope many of you will join me by signing up [here](#).

Absence Due to Illness Form

After calling the St. Augustin Catholic School Office at 515-279-5947 to report a student absence, please complete the Google Form linked [here](#).

Have a great week!

Mrs. Spike