

THURSDAY FLYER

From the Principal's Pen:

Dear St. Gerard Families,

It is hard to believe we are halfway through the school year with our second quarter ending tomorrow. This seems like an appropriate time to revisit the importance of excellent school attendance. Attending school is extremely important for children's social, emotional and educational development. Children who miss a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning. We need your support to ensure that children's education is not affected. Send children to school on time, every day, all day to get the most out of their education!

Did you know that:

- Attendance matters for doing well in school and life starting in Kindergarten and even in Pre-Kindergarten. Early childhood is a great time to start building a habit of good attendance.
- Studies show that poor attendance in preschool can predict absenteeism in later grades.
- By middle and high school, chronic absence is a leading warning sign that a student will drop out.
- Absences can add up before you know it. Just missing 10% of the time can equate to 18 or more days of lost instruction. That's just two days each month!
- It doesn't matter if these absences are excused or unexcused. They all represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity to learn.
- Attendance matters as early as kindergarten. Studies show many children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade can struggle academically in later years. They often have trouble mastering reading by the end of third grade.
- Foundational reading skills are taught at the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten levels. Missing out on these early reading lessons due to absences can create gaps in their learning that are harder to fix later.
- Too many absent students can affect the whole classroom, creating disruptions and slowing down instruction.

Important Times to Remember:

7:30-7:45 a.m. Arrive

7:50 a.m. Instruction Begins

2:55 p.m. Dismissal (2:00 on Thursday)

Thanks so much for your continued support in your child's education!

Blessings,

Mrs. Schoonover, Principal

Altar Servers:

Saturday, January 14th at 5 p.m.: Josh Yahl, Jacob Yahl, Madi Yahl

Sunday, January 15th at 8:30 a.m.: Emma Hahn, Jacob Hahn, Jayden Bakies

Sunday, January 15th at 11 a.m.: Nate Warner, Douglas Noble, Connor Shutt

End of the 2nd Quarter:

The end of the 2nd academic quarter is Friday, January 13th. Report cards will be sent home on Friday, January 20th.

After School Bowling at Westgate:

After school bowling at Westgate Lanes will begin on Thursday, January 19th for interested students in grades 1st-8th.

Registration forms are attached. To ensure your child has a spot, please make sure to turn in their registration form by Friday, January 13th.

Extended Day Statements:

Extended Day statements were sent home last week with students. We would appreciate prompt payment.

No School - Monday, January 16, 2023:

In recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, St. Gerard School will not be in session on Monday, January 16, 2023. Enjoy the three (3) day weekend!

Middle School Lego Club:

Middle School Lego Club for grades 5th-8th will begin on Tuesday, January 17th from 3 to 4 p.m. If your student is interested in participating, please fill out the attached Lego registration form and turn into the school office.

Catholic Schools Mass:

Mark your calendars! This year we will kick off Catholic Schools week on Sunday, January 29th. Students and families are invited to join us at the 11 a.m. Mass with students wearing their school uniforms. We will have a designated area reserved for our students and school families to sit together. Looking forward to gathering as a school community to celebrate catholic education!

ATTENDANCE

in the early grades



Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



2 in 10 low-income kids

miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.¹



2.5 in 10 homeless kids

are chronically absent.²



4 in 10 transient kids

miss too much school when families move.²



Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



of kids with good attendance in K and 1st (missed 9 or fewer days both years)



of kids with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)



of kids chronically absent in K or 1st (missed 18 or more days one year)



of kids chronically absent in K and 1st (missed 18 or more days both years)

What We Can Do



Engage Families

Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absences can add up to academic trouble. Community members and teachers can educate families and build a culture of attendance through early outreach, incentives and attention to data.



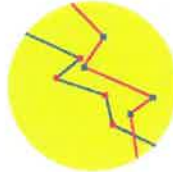
Fix Transportation

The lack of a reliable car, or simply missing the school bus, can mean some students don't make it to class. Schools, transit agencies and community partners can organize car pools, supply bus passes or find other ways to get kids to school.



Address Health Needs

Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons students miss school in the early grades. Schools and medical professionals can work together to give children and families health care and advice.



Track the Right Data.

Schools too often overlook chronic absence because they track average attendance or unexcused absences, not how many kids miss too many days for any reason. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools.

These are a few steps that communities and schools can take. How do you think you can help?

¹ Chiang, Hedy; Romero, Marijose, *Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*, National Center for Children in Poverty, NY, September 2008.
² *Chronic Absence in Utah*, Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.
³ *Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes*, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.

Lego Club

The middle school Lego club (5th -8th grade) will be beginning on January 17th and will be held every Tuesday from 3 to 4 until the end of the school year. The students will be provided a snack and beverage during Lego club. If you would like to donate items for snacks please indicate it on the sign up form. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Lego club please contact Mrs. Huffman at 419-222-0431 or email at khuffman@sqslima.org. I look forward to working with the kids this year.





LEGO CLUB REGISTRATION 2023

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

_____ I would like to donate snacks and drinks for Lego club

_____ I would like to help supervise at Lego club

Father's Name: _____

Address: _____

Street

City

Zip

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Address: _____

Street

City

Zip

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Child lives with: _____

In case of an emergency, contact:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Persons Authorized to pick up child(ren): (Persons must have identification when picking up child)

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

BATTLE OF THE TALENTS AUDITIONS

Civic Center
7 Town Square
Lima, OH 45801

JR. DIVISION
AGES 12 – 17
WINNER TAKES ALL!
\$500

SR. DIVISION
AGES 18 & UP
WINNER TAKES ALL!
\$1,000

Sunday,
January 29, 2023
12pm – 3pm
5pm – 8pm



All other participants will receive an award!

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**ST. GERARDS AFTER SCHOOL BOWLING
GRADES 1- 8**



Westgate Lanes is forming a bowling league for students. Bumper bowling is available for 1st graders. Bus transportation is provided by Westgate Lanes.

This league will bowl on Thursdays starting JANUARY 19th immediately after school
All students must be registered by JANUARY 13th by turning your form in to the office.

**ONLY A TOTAL OF 120 FORMS FOR ALL 3 SCHOOLS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
A WAITING LIST WILL START AFTER THAT. You will be notified by
Westgate Lanes if you are on the waiting list.**

**Parents will pick the students up at Westgate at 4:00 pm by signing them out at the checkout table.
The fee is \$ 10.00 per week. Any student having more than 2 weeks payments past due may be
suspended from participation until payment is made in full.**

The cost includes the bus ride, shoes, ball, bowling and snack. We have included the snack cost in the weekly fees. The student will have their choice of 2 snacks each week. Additional snacks can be purchased at \$.75 each. Snack choices are: cookie, pizza square, popcorn or a small soft drink.

The league will meet for 15 weeks. Coaches are available to work with the children. Parents are invited to visit Westgate to observe the learning and fun activities. This program is sponsored by Westgate lanes and is NOT a school sponsored activity. If you have any questions please call Westgate at 419-227-7231 and ask for Andy or Wes Johnston.

After school Lane Monitors are needed! Volunteers are required to pass an online course and complete a mandatory background check. Volunteers will receive free after school bowling fees for their child each week. Only 6 positions open, stop by Westgate lanes and fill out an application. Job duties: riding the bus to the school, helping check students in, monitoring children during bowling & clean up after the completion of bowling.

St. Gerards After school bowling form (PLEASE PRINT)

Child's Name _____ Boy _____ Girl _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Birth date _____ age _____ grade _____

Email _____

Permission granted by _____

Emergency contact & phone # _____

PLEASE ONLY 1 STUDENT PER FORM



**SHAWNEE OPTIMIST CLUB
IS SPONSORING...**

PASS, DRIBBLE, & SHOOT CONTEST

January 29th, 2023 at 1:00 PM

Registration at 12:30 PM with 30 minutes of practice
DOORS OPEN AT 12:15 PM

SHAWNEE HIGH SCHOOL GYM

ALL BOYS AND GIRLS AGE 8-13

Assisted by Shawnee Boys/Girls Varsity Teams

**DON'T MISS THIS FUN OPPORTUNITY
TO MEASURE YOUR SKILLS!**

**FREE AND EASY REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR!
ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT!**