WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

September 17, 2026

From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Golden Eagle Families,

At St. Gerard, we want our classrooms to be places where students learn, grow, belong, and experience joy. A classroom of joy doesn't mean every moment is easy—it means students feel known, supported, challenged, and encouraged to become the best version of themselves. As a staff, we are intentionally working to cultivate a culture of joy across our school. Part of this work is developing common language so our students hear consistent messages and expectations from every adult.

What Does This Look and Sound Like?

You may begin hearing some of our common language at home:

"**Scholars**" – We use this term to remind students that they are capable learners who take ownership of their education.
"**Saints in Training**" – We are educating more than minds. We are helping form our students' hearts and hands as they grow in faith, character, and service.
"**Learning Ready**" – Students are prepared to learn with their bodies, minds, and attitudes.
"**Hallway Ready**" – Students are respectful, responsible, and ready to move through our school in a way that allows everyone to learn.

These may seem like simple phrases, but they are helping us build common language and common expectations throughout St. Gerard.

Kindness Matters Another important part of cultivating a culture of joy is teaching and modeling respect and kindness. Father Michael shared a wonderful message with our Saints in Training yesterday. He reminded them that there are great athletes, great artists, and great students. Not everyone will be great at all of those things.
But every one of us can be great at being kind!

What a powerful reminder! Success isn't only about grades, accomplishments, athletic ability, or talent. Who we are and how we treat others matters. Kindness is something every one of us can choose each day.

So, you may hear us reminding our students:
Be respectful.
Be kind.
Be learning ready.
Be hallway ready.
Be a Scholar.
Be a Saint in Training.

These aren't just phrases—they are pieces of the culture we are intentionally building together.

Families, you are an important part of this work. When our children hear the same language and see the same values modeled at school and at home, the message becomes even more powerful.

Together, we can create a school where our children love learning, know they belong, care for one another, and find joy in becoming who God is calling them to be.

Educating Minds, Hearts, and Hands.

With gratitude,
Mrs. Natalie Schoonover 💚💛

This Week at St. Gerard

COUNSELOR'S CORNER - BUILDING ATTENTION & FOCUS

DEAR FAMILIES,

ATTENTION AND FOCUS ARE IMPORTANT SKILLS THAT HELP CHILDREN LEARN, PARTICIPATE, AND FEEL SUCCESSFUL AT SCHOOL. LIKE ANY SKILL, ATTENTION TAKES PRACTICE AND CAN IMPROVE OVER TIME WITH ENCOURAGEMENT, CONSISTENCY, AND SUPPORT.

🧠 WHY IS FOCUS IMPORTANT?

WHEN CHILDREN ARE ABLE TO FOCUS, THEY ARE BETTER ABLE TO:

- LISTEN AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS
- COMPLETE CLASSROOM AND HOMEWORK TASKS
- REMEMBER NEW INFORMATION
- PARTICIPATE IN CONVERSATIONS AND ACTIVITIES
- WORK INDEPENDENTLY
- MANAGE DISTRACTIONS AND STAY ON TASK

IT IS NORMAL FOR CHILDREN TO LOSE FOCUS FROM TIME TO TIME. SLEEP, HUNGER, EMOTIONS, SCREEN TIME, ACTIVITY LEVEL, AND CHANGES IN ROUTINE CAN ALL AFFECT ATTENTION.

🏠 WAYS FAMILIES CAN ENCOURAGE FOCUS AT HOME

- **CREATE A ROUTINE**: A PREDICTABLE SCHEDULE HELPS CHILDREN KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT AND PREPARES THEM FOR TASKS THAT REQUIRE CONCENTRATION.
- **LIMIT DISTRACTIONS:** TURN OFF THE TELEVISION AND PUT AWAY UNNECESSARY DEVICES WHEN YOUR CHILD IS COMPLETING HOMEWORK OR READING.
- **BREAK TASKS INTO SMALLER STEPS**: LARGE ASSIGNMENTS CAN FEEL OVERWHELMING. ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO COMPLETE ONE PART AT A TIME.
- **BUILD IN MOVEMENT BREAKS**: SHORT BREAKS TO STRETCH, WALK, OR MOVE CAN HELP CHILDREN RETURN TO A TASK READY TO FOCUS.
- **ENCOURAGE READING:** READING TOGETHER OR INDEPENDENTLY EACH DAY HELPS CHILDREN PRACTICE SUSTAINED ATTENTION.
- **PRAISE EFFORT:** RECOGNIZE WHEN YOUR CHILD STAYS FOCUSED, FOLLOWS DIRECTIONS, OR COMPLETES A TASK. POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT CAN BUILD CONFIDENCE AND MOTIVATION.
- **SUPPORT HEALTHY HABITS**: REGULAR SLEEP, NUTRITIOUS MEALS, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, AND TIME OUTDOORS CAN ALL SUPPORT CHILDREN'S ABILITY TO LEARN AND CONCENTRATE.

💬 A TEAM EFFORT

HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP STRONG ATTENTION AND FOCUS IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME. SMALL, CONSISTENT STRATEGIES CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE STRATEGIES THAT WORK WELL FOR YOUR CHILD SO WE CAN USE THEM TO SUPPORT LEARNING AT SCHOOL.

THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US TO HELP YOUR CHILD GROW INTO A CONFIDENT, FOCUSED, AND SUCCESSFUL LEARNER!

WARMLY,
MRS. HUFFMAN

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ST. GERARD CATHOLIC + SCHOOL

9/18 — **Fall Picture Day**

Lifetouch will be at school to photograph all students for school pictures.

9/21 — **2nd & 3rd Grade Lego Club**

Lego Club for 2nd and 3rd grade students will begin on September 21st from 3-4 p.m.

9/22 — **4th & 5th Grade Lego Club**

Lego Club for 4th and 5th grade students will begin on September 22st from 3-4 p.m.

9/23 — **Weekly School Mass**

Please join us for our weekly school Mass beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the church.

9/24 — **Flower Sale Pickup**

All items sold during our Flower Sale will be available for pick up. Please watch for additional directions in the upcoming days.

THE WEEKS HIGHLIGHTS

Reminders & Announcements

THANK YOU FOR STAYING CONNECTED.

FALL PICTURE DAY

LIFETOUCH WILL BE AT ST. GERARD ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026, FOR OUR FALL PICTURE DAY. ORDERS CAN BE ACCEPTED ONLINE AT MYLIFETOUCH.COM WITH PICTURE DAY ID 3EVTWF2NHV OR VIA THE PICTURE DAY ENVELOPES THAT STUDENTS BROUGHT HOME LAST WEEK.

ALL PICTURES ORDERED VIA THE PICTURE DAY ENVELOPE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PHOTOGRAPHER WHEN YOUR STUDENT GETS THEIR PICTURE TAKEN. NO PICTURE ENVELOPES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE PHOTOGRAPHER LEAVES THE SCHOOL. ONLY ONLINE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER YOUR STUDENT IS PHOTOGRAPHED.

ALL STUDENTS WILL BE PHOTOGRAPHED ON FRIDAY FOR THE YEARBOOK EVEN IF YOU DO NOT ORDER PICTURES. STUDENTS MAY BE OUT OF UNIFORM. PLEASE CONSULT THE STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK FOR OUT OF UNIFORM GUIDELINES.

FAMILY ADORATION AT ST.GERARD

5:30-6:30 P.M.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

PLEASE SET ASIDE A LITTLE TIME THAT EVENING TO SHARE YOUR PRECIOUS GIFT OF CHILDREN WITH JESUS. A LIGHT MEAL WILL BE OFFERED TO FAMILIES AFTER THIS TIME AND WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH HALL BEGINNING AT 6:15 P.M. STOP IN AFTER YOUR VISIT WITH JESUS.

THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL OPPORTUNITY TO "PRESS PAUSE" IN YOUR BUSY LIFE, EVEN FOR A FEW MINUTES, AND TO ENCOUNTER OUR LORD. WHAT A SPECIAL WAY TO CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH YOUR FAMILY. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

JESUS SAID,"LETTHELITTLECHILDRENCOMETOME,AND DONOTHINDERTHEM,FORTHEKINGDOMOFHEAVEN BELONGSTOSUCHASTHESE."

~MATTHEW 19:14

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH AT 5 PM: LIAM FAY, EMILY FAY, BRI FAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 8:30 AM: BLAKE TOBE, FAITH TOBE, IAN TOBE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 11 AM: MAKENNA SZIPPL, KHLOE KUNKLEMAN, KENDRA HATCHER

2026-2027 SCHOOL FFES

STUDENTS WHO STILL OWE FEES WILL BE RECEIVING LETTERS IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS. PER THE STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK, STUDENT FEES ARE TO BE PAID OR PAYMENT ARRANGMENTS SET UP BY THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

ST. GERARD SCHOOL DOES HAVE OPTIONS FOR PAYING FEES:

- ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL: YOU CAN FEES SECURELY ONLINE THROUGH THE FINAL FORMS PORTAL AT HTTPS://STGERARDLIMA-OH.FINALFORMS.COM THIS IS THE EASIEST AND QUICKEST WAY TO PROCESS PAYMENTS.
- CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS: PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD VIA TELEPHONE OR IN PERSON IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE. YOU CAN ALSO SIGN PAPERWORK IN THE OFFICE FOR MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO BE PROCESSED ON YOUR CREDIT CARD BY THE OFFICE STAFF.
- IN-PERSON PAYMENTS: PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE. OUR OFFICE HOURS ARE 7:30 - 3:30 P.M. AND WE ACCEPT CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS.

LIMA CENTRAL CATHOLIC CLASS OF 2031

CURRENT 8TH GRADE PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

SEPT. 23RD
OCT. 7TH
OCT. 21ST

WE WILL START AT 6:30PM IN THE GREAT HALL AT LCC.

#DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE
AT LIMA CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Contact Colin Stolly with Questions
cstolly@apps.lcchs.edu
(419) 604-0354

St Gerard Presents

DONUT MISS A DAY!

We are having a 2-week attendance challenge!

During this time, the class that has the most days of perfect attendance will earn a donut party! Challenge Dates: October 5th-16th, 2026

Golden Eagles

let's show up for perfect attendance!

Health Partners of Western Ohio

Dental and Vision Care at School.

Dental Services:

- Dental exam.
- Dental cleaning.
- Dental sealants.
- Glass Ionomer
- Fluoride treatment.
- Oral health education.
- Silver Fluoride (SF).

Vision Services:

- Eye Exam.
- Help from a licensed provider to choose glasses.
- Glasses as necessary.
- Glasses will be brought back to school in 2-3 weeks.

Signing up

Sign up by filling out a consent form and turning it in to your school. No insurance? No problem! Services are available for those who are insured or uninsured. No out-of-pocket cost. Insurance is billed if you have it.

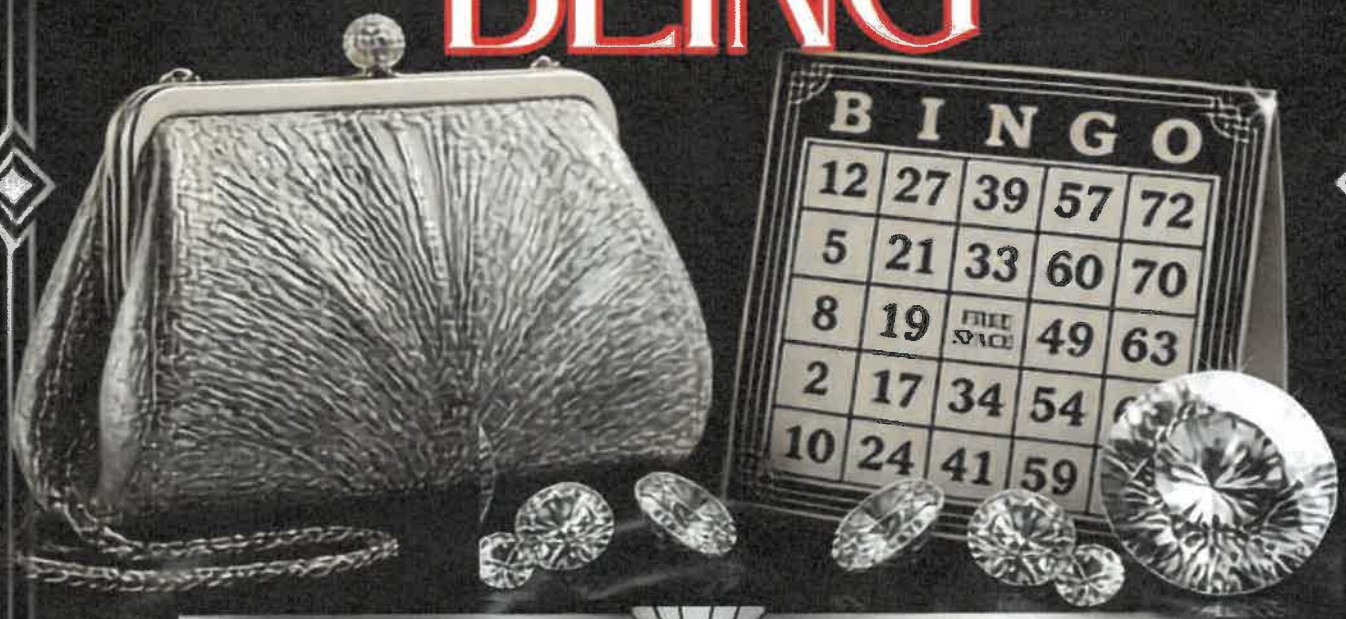
Consent Form

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to complete the consent form.

Questions? Call Dental: **567-825-0226** Call Vision: **419-516-0799**

ST. GERARD SCHOOL'S LADIES NIGHT OUT

BAGS, BINGO & BLING



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

7 P.M. (DOORS OPEN AT 6 P.M.)

$40 PER TICKET

Tickets on Sale at St. Gerard School, 1311 N. Main Street