

Virtual Backpack

St. Gabriel School September 10, 2017

Our Parish Mission Theme



As an integral part of the Catholic Community of St. Gabriel, St. Gabriel School joins this year in celebrating and advancing the parish wide theme of "Welcome Home, Recommit to Sundays." We are grateful for St. Gabriel Parish, and the entire Catholic Church, that is our home, our family, and our place of our core belief, strength, nourishment, joy and gift ~ the Eucharist.

Our School Mission



Being Christ every day, everywhere, through teaching, learning, leading and serving.

As clearly expressed by our Pope and our Bishop, the Church by her nature is missionary.

As part of the Church, our mission is thus to be Jesus for students, to bring Jesus to students, to bring students to Jesus,

to teach as Jesus, to learn as Jesus, to lead as Jesus, to serve as Jesus.

Dear St. Gabriel School Parents and Families,

MAP Testing Starts Tomorrow

Hopefully everyone received the special MAP Testing Preparation newsletter that was sent out yesterday. Testing starts tomorrow for Grades 2-8, and will continue each day through the next 2 weeks, excluding Wednesdays. Details and explanations were sent out in the newsletter yesterday.

You can access that newsletter, "MAP Testing" on the school website under "Parent/Student Info/Office Info.

To repeat an important part of that newsletter ...

Teachers have been speaking to the students motivationally to prepare them for the tests. They have been encouraging them that this will be a time they can "show what they know" individually, not for a grade, but for a way to help them to grow in their learning. Homework will be light this week.

We ask that parents please join us in helping your children be prepared physically and mentally, ready to do there best. Please take extra efforts to have them well rested each morning from a good night's sleep, and well prepared with breakfast and good standard morning routines. And send them off with extra smiles and extra words of encouragement!!!

All School Retreat Wednesday

We are excited to be having our All School Retreat Day for this school year on this Wednesday, September 13th. Our theme will be "The Works of Mercy", developing deeper understanding and authentic ways Jesus calls us to live them out in our school, home, and parish communities. We have found that scheduling the retreat in the beginning of the year in September, not only avoids the risk of bad weather cancellation in the winter, but is uplifting and motivational for keeping focus on spiritual and community goals for the whole year.

We will begin with an opening All School Mass in the morning at 8:05am, and students will participate in alternating prayer sessions and activities throughout the day. Deacon Bob Grgic and Mary Lou Beers have graciously accepted our request to direct, guide, and present to us.

All Clear

Happy to report that after our first early back to school round of preventative lice checks on the whole school, we came up 100% clear! Many thanks to our volunteer parent checking team headed by Mrs. Jackie Ludwig, and our school nurse Mrs. Beck, who moved smoothly and gently through the classrooms attending to all the students. We greatly appreciate your time and your gracious efforts!

Principal Parent Circles

Thursday Evening, September 28, at 5:30pm, I will begin our first round of this new year's Principal Parent Circles. In response to parent requests, I will be scheduling more Circles this year than last year. I know it is hard with our busy lives to make it to parent meetings and activities, so I hope this will enable the opportunity for more parents to make it to a few. Bring your input and questions and ideas for great dialogues.

Praying for our Family and Neighbors, Here and Afar

Our school family has been offering up prayers for our neighbors here and around the world, especially victims of hurricane Harvey, and now those who are being impacted by hurricane Irma. We continue these special prayers for them, and for everyone in dire need in our world, and are looking for other ways that we can help.

Blessings and prayers,

Especially for any of you who have loved ones who were victims of Harvey in Florida, and currently loved ones in Florida!!

Mrs. Saladino



September 10 - 22

September 10

- 8:00--9:30am - Fall MAP Testing Gr 2-8
- 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Youth Orientated Mass
- 7:45 pm - 8:45 pm Parish Night Prayer & Benediction

September 12

- 8:00-9:30am - Fall MAP Testing Gr 2-8
- 7:00--8:00pm - New Parent Band meeting, Gr 4 and Gr 5-8 new parents

September 13

- All School Retreat Day
- 8:05am - Opening Retreat All School Liturgy
- 9:15am--2:00pm - Retreat Assemblies, Activities and Closing Prayer Service
- 2:30--3:30pm - Math Club Gr 7-8
- 2:35--3:45pm - First Chess Club

September 14

- 8:00--9:30am - Fall MAP Testing Gr 2-8

September 15

- 8:00--9:30am - Fall MAP Testing Gr 2-8
- 2:30--3:45pm- Art Club
- 6:00--9:00pm - PTU Patterson Farm Family Event

September 18

- Fall MAP Testing Gr 2-8
- 7:00pm - Gr 2 Sacramental Parent Meeting

September 19

- Fall MAP Testing Gr 2-8

September 20

- 8:00am - Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)
- 10:00am - All School Liturgy of the Eucharist
- 2:30--4:00pm - Math Club Gr 4-5
- 2:35 - 3:45pm - Chess Club

September 21

- Fall MAP Testing Gr 2-8
- All School Celebration of *World Pinwheels for Peace Day*
- 6:30pm - PTU New Family Q/A in REO

September 22

- Fall MAP Testing Gr 2-8
- 2:30--3:45pm - Art Club

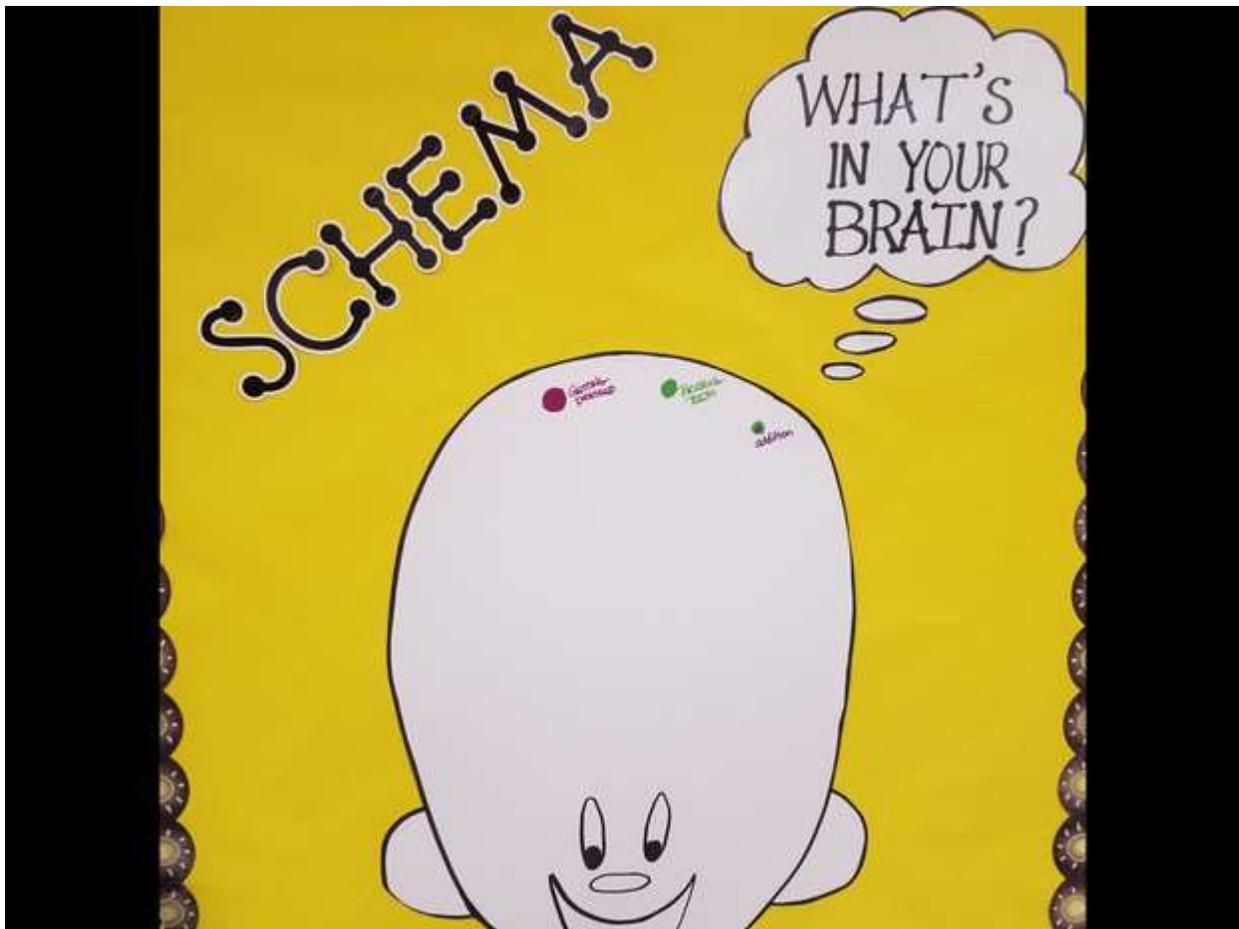
Looking ahead ...

- **September 27 - All School Picture Day**
- **September 28 - Principal Parent Circle**

[ACCESS SCHOOL WEBSITE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR](#)



BRIGHT SPOTS ...



SCHEMA ~ What's in your brain?

Our Third Grade Teachers use a special visual instructional strategy to help students not only learn, but help them understand their own learning. Learning theorist Jean Piaget emphasized the importance of **schemas** in cognitive development.

Teachers explain to the children that "schema" are the pieces of knowledge and concepts and experiences that you already "know", stored in your brain. When you learn about something, you think about what you already know, and then you connect the new information to your schema.

Students start with listing things and concepts they already know, such as "getting dressed", "brushing teeth", and "addition". As students learn new things in the third grade, they write these on the "brain person" posters in their classrooms, using dots of smaller or larger size indicating strength of skills or knowledge to track them, sometimes connecting lines to what they already know, and see how everything is connected and "cemented" in the learning process.

By the end of the year, they have not only a visual of the great amount of things they learned in third grade, but a new awareness of the strength of their learning and how learning happens.

Make sure to check out Facebook for many great photos of St. Gabriel teaching, learning, leading, serving, and fun!



Please make special places in your hearts and prayers for the following persons in our St. Gabriel Community:

Let us join in prayer for the victims of hurricane Harvey and all those who are being impacted by hurricane Irma.

For all of our students with casts and crutches for speedy recoveries :)

Please keep GR 8 student, Christa Thoeni's grandfather in your prayers for his recovering health.

Please keep GR 7 student, Paige Graewe's dad Fred Graewe in your prayers for healing.

Special thank you to the maintenance team and the cafeteria staff for all they do to serve our students. The school building looks amazing and it was so wonderful to have hot lunch service on the first day of school.

A very special expression of appreciation and thanks to our wonderful school parent *Sunshine Committee* who strives to lead reach out efforts of love and support and help for those in our community in suffering!

Please contact Michelle Clarke, michelle.clarke@st-gabrielschool.org, if you have any prayer requests that you would like shared in our newsletters.