



(502)239-5535
5503 Bardstown Road
Fern Creek, KY
40291

Dear Parents,

The year has come to a graceful end and once again I find myself looking back at the accomplishments of our school year. Academically speaking, our gifted program has taken off with Ms. Romero. We have many students in every grade level taking special lessons that will enhance their classroom learning. A mini lab has been purchased for their use and will provide additional support. Our Governor's Cup teams had quite a successful season with some even making it to the state competition.

Thanks to the generosity of the PTSO this year, we purchased the security gates that protect our students during recess and other times. Monitors have been placed in some offices in order to watch our students throughout the day and ensure their safety. The magazine drive enabled us to purchase a full mobile lab so that teachers have access to computers for the entire class at any time. Software was purchased through the "Casino Nights." The walkathon will bring new Orff instruments to our music classes, a "discovery wheel" to our Spanish classes, videos and books to our counseling department, a skillastic game package to P.E., and a new kiln will be purchased for our art class. Wow, that is amazing.

Be on the lookout for new monitors to be placed in the cafeteria and outside. Hopefully you will be able to view some of this by our picnic date.

No year can be complete without thanking our students for sharing our "wealth" with our community. We have collected over 5 tons of food for Fern Creek/Highview Ministries. We made over 75 baskets of food to give to needy families. Our pull tabs that we collect have allowed us send a child with cancer to a summer camp. We have donated to Ronald McDonald house and to shelter houses. We have formed walks to practice our faith in Respect for Life. The Pregnancy Resource Center has been helped by our donations each year. A family in the St. Gabriel community was given much financial assistance when their house was destroyed by fire. Of course, we were there along with other schools and parishes that helped collect monies for relief efforts in Haiti. Along with these efforts, all grades were responsible for doing their own service projects. You can be very proud of how you and your children reach out to others in the time of need.

With so much, I would like to extend my appreciation to all of the parents, students and staff for their generous help. There are many that volunteer and give of themselves throughout the year. Of this, I am forever grateful. Enjoy the summer break. Take care of yourselves and pray that all are back in August healthy and ready to add to our above list!!

Sincerely,

Pam Huelsman
Principal

May 2010 News You Can Use....

Fern Bowl

Monday, May 17th 12:30-2:30 8th

Wednesday, May 19th 9-11 6th 12:30-2:30 5th

Thursday, May 20th 9-11 3rd 12:30-2:30 7th

Friday, May 21st 12:30-2:30 4th

Mrs. Barrio's Doll Collection from Spain

While visiting her family in Spain last summer, Mrs. Barrio brought back with her some traditional dolls. These dolls represent the various provinces throughout Spain. Her plans are to do a project with the 3rd and 4th grade students. Each different costume will be explained and described using various clothing vocabulary words in each class. Go to www.stgabriel.net to see pictures!!

Vacation Bible School

We'll be setting sail before you know it! High Seas Expedition: Exploring God's Mighty Love is July 12-16, 9:00AM-Noon. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for more information regarding Registration. Next Volunteer meeting is May 19 at 7:00PM in the Library.

Mom's Club

May 6: Play date at St. Gabriel Loft 1

May 13: Play date at Michelle's; call 384-1096 to RSVP and for directions

Playground Pals Playdates will start soon. Watch the website for the full calendar.

Way to go.....

St. Gabriel School is proud to announce that the following students participated in ACT and SAT testing with the Duke University Talent Identification Program. McKenzie Dowdy, Hannah Gartner and Josh Tisone took the ACT, with McKenzie and Hannah qualifying for State Recognition. Patrick Mohr participated by completing the SAT. Congratulations to these students for their motivation and success.

Congratulations . . .

We would like to congratulate the following students from St. Gabriel School for their success in testing through the Center for Talented Youth at John's Hopkins University. The opportunity was provided to the students as a result of their scores on the Terra Nova test. John Maradits received an award of "Distinction" for his score on the SAT. Virginia Kuchenbrod and Claire Shortmann earned "High Honors" on the ACT. Students in the intermediate grades also participated by taking the SCAT. Chelsea Jones, Andrew Spurlock and Michael Kamber earned this privilege. Michael was awarded "High Honors" for his score. We are proud to acknowledge these students as they pursue academic excellence.

2010 Talent Show

The Talent Show is just around the corner. Tryouts will be the week of May 3rd (8th grade the week before DC). Read this flyer for more information. The Talent Show will be Tuesday, May 11, at 1:00 PM in the gym.

Library News

Students who participated in the Outstanding Catholic Reader program should have turned their finished reading lists in by now. If anyone still has one out, please turn it in now. The last week for book check out from the library is the first week of May. All library books are due in the second week of May, so we can begin inventory.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNSELOR, Paulette Stinnett

Wow! The end of another school year—seems like we just put the Christmas decorations away! For our 8th graders, it is the end of their journey at St. Gabriel and the start of a new chapter in their lives. I have watched them grow up—I choke up having to say ‘goodbye’ to them—I will miss them greatly. Summer is almost here—I have included some additional articles I hope are of interest and help to you. They are: Crafty Kids and The road to parenting success. Below are the topics we have been discussing during our Guidance Classes in April:

Kindergarten: Good Touch/Bad Touch Program
4th Grade: Dangers of smoking; self portrait game
1st Grade: Good Touch/Bad Touch Program
5th Grade: no classes
2nd Grade: Good Touch/Bad Touch Program
6th Grade: Life Skills Program
3rd Grade: Good Touch/Bad Touch Program
7th Grade: Life Skills Program
8th Grade: Self Injury; Dating Abuse

UNIFORM/SPIRIT WEAR NEWS

Stock up now for fall with polo shirts and sweatshirts! Also, we have some great spirit items for summer sports—T-Shirts, shorts—all on sale—cheap! We also have St. Gabriel umbrellas to keep you dry—2 sizes—fold-up style and golf size—with lots of pawprints---each only \$20.00. Come in any morning (before 8:00) or afternoon (after 2:45) to the school office and someone will help you.

Crafty Kids

What can you make with cardboard boxes, dental floss, marshmallows, and coat hangers? When doing craft projects with your child, the possibilities are endless. We've taken some easy-to-find items and come up with seven projects that will keep your little one happy, busy, and learning.

ABC mobile

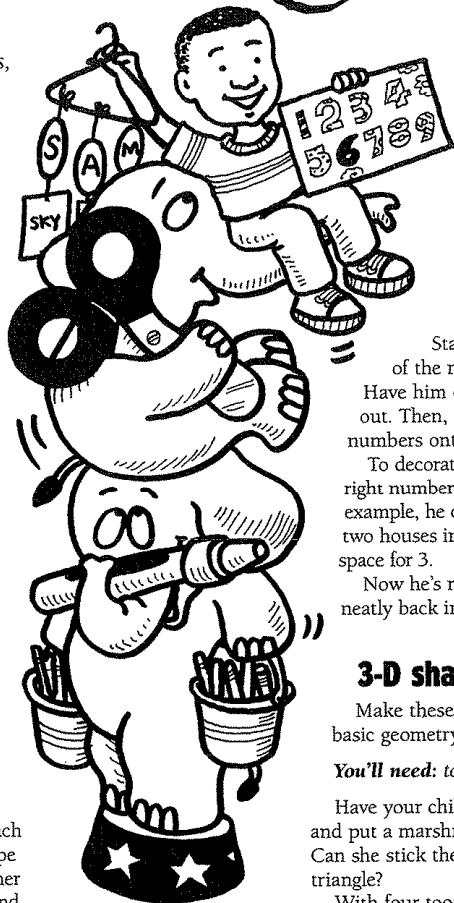
Your child can practice reading skills while creating a colorful mobile. She'll learn to recognize letters, hear beginning sounds in words, spell her name, and identify a few words.

You'll need: old magazines, safety scissors, plastic lids (from coffee cans or carryout containers), tape, hole puncher, yarn, plastic coat hanger, glue, poster board

Have your youngster look through magazines to find each letter of her name in large type (from headlines or ads). Let her carefully cut the letters out and tape each one on a separate plastic lid. Punch a hole at the top of each lid and several more holes at the bottom.

Then, help her string yarn from the bottom of the hanger to the tops of the lids, and tie knots at each end. Suggest that she vary the color and length of the yarn to make her mobile more interesting.

Next, your child can find words in the magazines that begin with each letter of her name. Have her cut them out



and glue them to pieces of poster board. With yarn, help her hang the words from the matching letter on her mobile.

Counting puzzle

Making a number puzzle is a fun way to practice counting and number recognition.

You'll need: 2 equal-size pieces of cardboard (each 8½ x 11 inches or larger), crayons, safety scissors, glue

Start by helping your youngster draw outlines of the numbers 1–9 on one piece of cardboard.

Have him color the numbers and carefully cut them out. Then, he can glue the cardboard with the missing numbers onto the second piece of cardboard.

To decorate his puzzle board, have your child draw the right number of objects for each missing puzzle piece. For example, he could draw one heart in the space for the 1, two houses in the space for the 2, and three fish in the space for 3.

Now he's ready to do his puzzle! Each number will fit neatly back into its hole.

3-D shapes

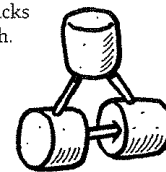
Make these edible shapes with your child. She'll learn basic geometry and work on fine-motor skills, too.

You'll need: toothpicks, marshmallows

Have your child count out three toothpicks and put a marshmallow on one end of each. Can she stick them together to form a triangle?

With four toothpicks and four marshmallows, she could make a square. And with six of each, she might try making a rectangle (two toothpicks for each long side and one for each short side).

You'll have fun experimenting. See who can make the shape with the most sides. Introduce words like pentagon (five sides), hexagon (six sides), and octagon (eight sides). Ask your youngster how many toothpicks and marshmallows she'll need for each.



Early Years

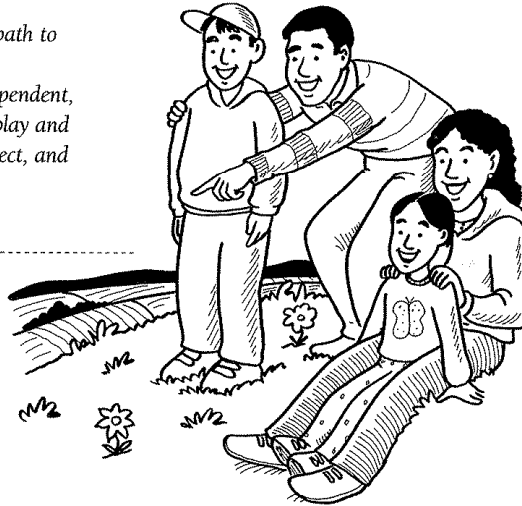
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The Road to Parenting Success

Do you wish you had a map that could help you navigate the path to raising your child?

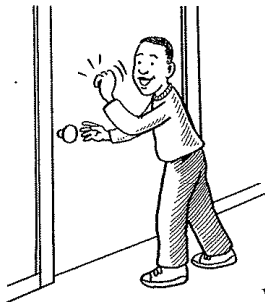
As your youngster grows, he will struggle to become more independent, handle peer pressure from friends, and balance schoolwork with play and other activities. By setting limits, teaching responsibility and respect, and providing motivation, you can help him stay on the right road.

Here are some ideas to guide you.



Set limits

★ Decide what limits are important to your family, and pick a few that you'll be able to stick to. To teach respect for privacy, for example, ask your youngster to knock before opening a closed door. Try to keep rules short and doable for young ones. If there are too many restrictions, your child will have trouble remembering them, which may lead to frustration and acting out.



★ Work with your youngster to establish limits. Although wearing a seat belt is not open to discussion, the amount of time your

child spends playing computer games each week might be worked out together.

★ Avoid confrontations whenever possible. For instance, if you buy only milk and 100% juice, your youngster won't fight to drink soda at home. If you keep the television off during dinner every night, he won't expect to watch it.

★ Choose consequences that match the behavior. Say your child is late for school because he can't decide what to wear. Let him know you will pick out his clothing the next day.

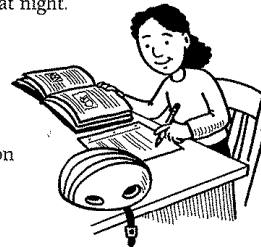
Encourage responsibility

★ Feeling responsible will lead to responsible behavior. One way to make your youngster feel grown-up is to give her chores. Children this age can make their beds, set the table for dinner, vacuum, and do other things around the house. Keep in mind that your child's covers may not be perfectly straight and someone might be missing a spoon, but she's learning anyway!

★ Being responsible for homework is a lesson in itself. Set up routines that will help your youngster succeed. Choose a time (immediately following her after-school snack, right after dinner) and a place (at a desk in her room, at the kitchen table) for homework. *Tip:* Make it a family habit to check briefcases and backpacks before leaving the house in the morning so no one forgets anything.

★ Reward responsible behavior with more responsibility. If your child gets ready for bed without being reminded, let her read for 10 minutes longer that night.

★ Allow your youngster to experience her own consequences. She will learn the price of not being responsible if she forgets her permission slip and can't go on the school field trip.



Teach respect

★ Model respect. Let your child see you hold the door for the next person. Try not to complain about the cashier if your line at the grocery store is moving slowly.

★ Show respect for your child by talking nicely about him to others. When your spouse comes home, share your youngster's good grade on his spelling test rather than talking about how he didn't pick up his toys that day. Your child

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