

The Gator Gazette

Holy Name of Jesus School Parent Newsletter

DECEMBER 5, 2023



PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Holy Name of Jesus Community,

This past Sunday began the season of Advent. Last Friday, Fr. Mark spoke to the students about preparing for Jesus, which requires some preparation. He talked about how preparing for a hurricane during hurricane season requires us to have certain items on hand. During Advent, our "Hurricane Jesus" preparedness kit is the Advent Wreath. Our students will notice these wreaths in their classrooms. Several students have asked me the meaning of the colors of the candles on the wreath, so I am sharing that with you:

- Advent week 1 – Hope: Prophecy Candle (purple)
- Advent week 2 – Peace: Bethlehem Candle (purple)
- Advent week 3 – Joy: Shepherd's Candle (pink)
- Advent week 4 – Love: Angel's Candle (purple)

Since Advent is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas, HNJ students and faculty are also using the Hallow App to help us focus our prayers, music, and meditations. We have partnered with Hallow this year, and, therefore, have a free month for our families to use this resource. We choose Advent as the time to share this gift with you. Check out Hallow here: <https://app.hallow.com/home>

We hope this will help your family as you prepare your hearts for the birth of baby Jesus.

Tomorrow, I am having surgery on my right hand again. I will be slow to answer emails for a few weeks. During December, please copy Mrs. Blum (student support and Little Gators), Mrs. King (Academics), or Ms. Southwick (student activities) on emails you send to me. I appreciate your patience and support!

Lastly, the principal growth plan survey closes this Friday, December 8, 2023, so that the Department of Catholic Education and Faith Formation can review them in a timely manner. [Please use this link to complete the family survey.](#) Thank you for taking the time to complete yours.

God Bless,

Kirsch J. Williams

TO WONDER...TO ACHIEVE...TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...TOGETHER



What's Important This Week & Next

Thursday, December 7

- Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 5:30 p.m.
- HNJ Community Dinner, 6:30 p.m. (Parish Center)

Friday, December 8

- School Mass, Immaculate Conception (PK3-7th), 7L sponsoring, 8:30 a.m.
- Loyola Women's Basketball Game, 12:30 p.m.
- Movie Night - Polar Express, 6 p.m.

Monday, December 11

- HNJ Spirit Shirt Day

Thursday, December 14

- Honorable Gator Ceremony, 8:05 a.m.
- Choir Performance at Lambeth House

Friday, December 15

- School Mass (2nd-7th), 6W sponsoring, 8:30 a.m.
- Liturgy of the Word (PK4-1st), 1B and PK4L sponsoring, 9:45 a.m.
- Middle School Christmas Social, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 18

- HNJ Spirit Shirt Day

Thursday, December 21

- Saints or Christmas Spirit Shirt Day
- School Mass (2nd-7th), 6Z sponsoring, 8:30 a.m.
- Choir Performance at Christmas Fest, 5 p.m.
- 4th Grade Choir Members Performance at HNJ Church, 7 p.m.

Friday, December 22

- Early Childhood Christmas Program, 8:30 a.m., Willoz Auditorium
- Lower and Middle School Christmas Program, 9:45 a.m., Church
- Early Dismissal, LG-7th Grade
- No Later Gators



Quick Links



The Power of God-The Power of Hope:

A reflection for the First Week of Advent by Nikki Bouvier



As a child, I remember the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas as being the most magical of the year! My heart was filled with joyful anticipation—expectant hope that December 25th would bring all of my heart's desires! My siblings and I would scour the sales ads and Toys R Us catalogs marking the trinkets that we believed would bring us the most joy. Now, my amazon wish list contains much more practical items— a new curling iron, a new wallet, a new book. Items that would bring me joy, for sure, but are neither magical nor necessities. Are these items really the desires of my heart?

As an adult, I don't think the desires of my heart can really be bought at a store. I want a life filled with love, peace, and joy. I want more time to spend with my family and friends... I want better health... I

want a husband... I want one more hug from my mom...

Amazon definitely can't deliver these things. Even Santa, with his magic, isn't able to leave those wrapped in a bow under the tree on Christmas morning... despite the popular songs. But, I am a Christian and doesn't Christ promise us the desire of our hearts?

Jesus says, "All things are possible to him who believes." (Mark 9:23)

Really God: *all* things...?

All of the desires of my heart?

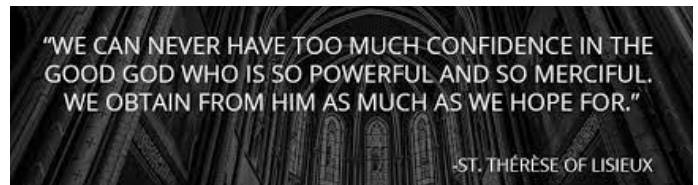
Do I dare to believe that God can make more time in a day—more joy in a day?

Do I dare hope for so much?

St. Thérèse of Lisieux wrote, "We can never have too much confidence in the good God who is so powerful and so merciful. We obtain from him as much as we hope for" (Story of a Soul, 12).

And so, as advent begins, I begin to hope. I hope that with Christ's birth I find more joy, love, and peace in my life. I hope with confidence that peace will be found in the midst of the mess. I hope with anticipation that I too, like David and John the Baptist, will leap with joy before the Lord.

I see the star in the sky (on top of my tree)... and I hope.



I wrap my presents for my nieces... and I hope.

I kneel down in prayer... and I hope.

Heavenly Father, Creator of all, renew my sense of wonder this advent! Reignite my belief that with Christ all things are possible and that You are the source of all joy! Help me to find love; help me to remember that love is hidden in the sacrificial gift of self.

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You are peace and that You choose to share it with me today and everyday that I ask for it.

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of the Holy Name of Jesus community! Bless every student, parent, staff, and supporter of HNJ... may we never stop hoping in Your goodness.

Amen.



Hallow

FIND PEACE IN GOD THIS ADVENT

LIZZIE VELASQUEZ MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER

"The Hallow app helped me open up my front door to Jesus and reminded me I have never and will never be ALONE thanks to Him."

FR. JOSH JOHNSON AUTHOR & PODCAST HOST

"The resources on this app draw me to reorient my attention to the face of God and the voice of Christ."



TO WONDER...TO ACHIEVE...TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...TOGETHER



PRAY EVERY DAY THIS

ADVENT

"This app has been an answer for
my weary soul. I am finding peace
for the very first time."

Find Peace in Prayer this Advent with Hallow

hallow.com/pray

Scan with your phone



Download on
App Store



Get in on
Google Play



Daily Prayers

Start your day with the Daily Gospel, Rosary, Examen, or one of over 10,000 sessions, including daily meditations, homilies, reflections, and Bible studies.



Family Content

Pray as a family with weekly Mass Prep, or guide your little ones with introductory prayer sessions for ages 3 and up as well as sacrament prep.



Bible Stories & Sleep Content

Close your day with Christ with an Examen, Night Prayer, or a Rosary with guests like Bishop Barron, Mark Wahlberg, and Jonathan Roumie.

TO WONDER...TO ACHIEVE...TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...TOGETHER



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - GUS GOUDELOCKE '22

Holy Name of Jesus alumnus Gus Goudelocke '22 is a freshman at Jesuit High School, and his family recently shared an outstanding academic achievement. Gus took the PSAT 8/9 and scored in the 99th percentile, with a perfect score (720) on the math section!

He continues to work hard in school and credits his teachers at Holy Name of Jesus for giving him a strong foundation to work hard, achieve excellence, and be a leader in his school. He thanks Mr. Jeff Zschiedrich for helping him develop a love of math.

Gus is a member of Mu Alpha Theta math honor society and serves on the Jesuit math competition team.

We are so proud of you, Gus! Keep working hard and doing great things!



OPERATION HOMESTRETCH CAMPAIGN REPORTING

How are we doing so far?

Total number of pledges & gifts received: 624
Total amount pledged: \$6,412,423
Total in the bank: \$3,288,539
Remaining amount to be collected: \$3,123,884
In arrears: \$176,690
% of return: 97%

*As of 10/31/2023

In arrears = past due payments

% of return = anticipated % of pledges that we expect to be fulfilled based on current rate of payment

—\$7,000,000 New Stretch Goal

—\$6,900,000

—\$6,800,000

—\$6,700,000

—\$6,600,000

—\$6,500,000

—\$6,400,000

—\$6,300,000

—\$6,200,000

—\$6,100,000

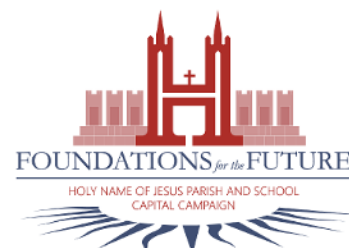
—\$6,000,000

—Currently Pledged: \$6,600,000 (12/5/2023)

GIVE NOW



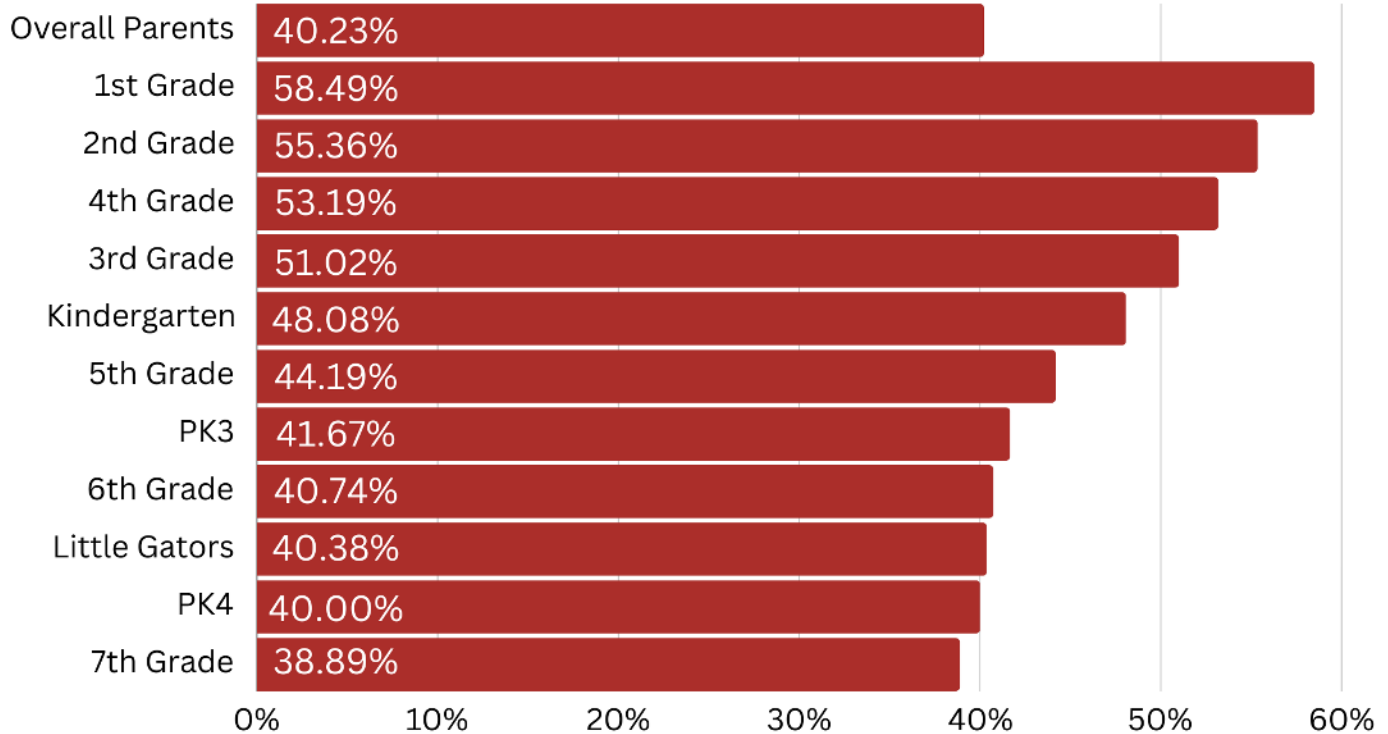
—Original Goal: \$5,000,000



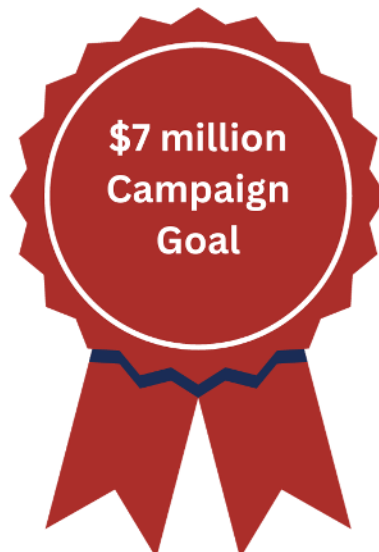
TO WONDER...TO ACHIEVE...TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...TOGETHER



Capital Campaign Parent Leaderboard by Grade



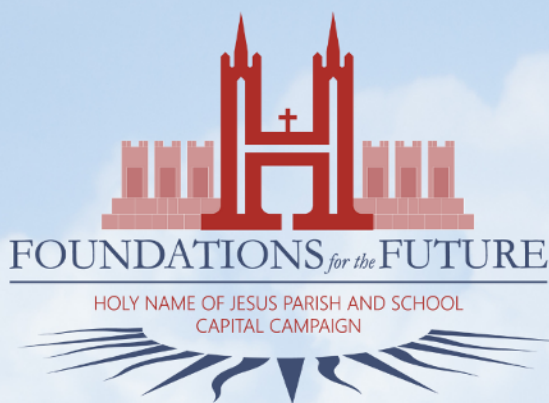
Help us Reach our Campaign Goals!



By helping us get to 100% Parent Participation, you not only help us reach our \$7 million campaign goal, but you also help us show that our **WHOLE COMMUNITY** is **ALL IN** when we approach Major Foundations for Grant Funding for our Gym.

TO WONDER...TO ACHIEVE...TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...TOGETHER





OPERATION HOMESTRETCH TO THE FINISH LINE! DEADLINE: 12/31/23



School-Wide Incentives

THANK
YOU

50% Parent Participation

**All students have
“Hilarious Hair & Hat Day”**

75% Parent Participation

**All students get an
Ice Cream Party**

90% Parent Participation

**Free Dress for the
Whole School for One Week**

100% Parent Participation

School-Wide Party & Celebration Fest

WOW

Grade Level Incentives



75% Parent Participation in a Grade Level

**All students in grade level get a Cookie
Cake party at end of the school day**

100% Parent Participation in a Grade Level

**All students in grade level get
Free Dress for One Week**

Counselor's Corner

Today's children have grown up with a vast array of electronic devices at their fingertips. They can't imagine a world without smartphones, tablets, and the internet.

The advances in technology mean today's parents are the first generation who have to figure out how to limit screen time for children. While digital devices can provide endless hours of entertainment and educational content, unlimited screen time can be harmful. Here

are some ways parents can help curb the negative effects of too much screen time:



- Educate yourself on electronics and the devices your child uses
- Model healthy electronic use
- Create "Technology-Free Zones" in your home (i.e. your dining room table, in the car, in bedrooms, during family fun nights)
- Set Aside Times to Unplug (i.e. an hour before bedtime)
- Schedule "Screen Free Night" for the whole family once a week or month
- Use Parental Controls
- Explain Why You're Limiting Screen Time
- Encourage Other Activities
- Make Screen Time a Privilege

Music Notes...

Holy Name of Jesus Church Christmas Concert

Select 3rd and 4th grade HNJ student vocalists will collaborate and perform at 7:00 p.m., December 21, under the direction of Colleen Maher. Please come and support our young singers as they join the Holy Name of Jesus Church (adult) Choir!

Middle School Choir News

On Thursday, December 14, our HNJ Choir will proudly present their set list of Christmas carols at the Lambeth House, featuring JT Hassell, on the piano. Please wish our middle school singers the very best as they sing out in the community. This is a closed event.

Our HNJ choir is scheduled to perform at NOLA Christmas Fest on Thursday, December 21, at 6 p.m. on the main stage. All are welcome!

Get your tickets, and come on out to Nola Christmas Fest **2024!** <https://nolachristmasfest.com/>

Our very own Later Gators voice teacher, soprano Julia Tuneberg, will be performing at her Graduate Recital Fri. 12/15 | 7 PM at Christ Church Cathedral, 2919 St. Charles Ave.



HNJ MIDDLE SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15


6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

HNJ BASEMENT

[Click here to register](#)

TO WONDER...TO ACHIEVE...TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...TOGETHER





please join us for

SNEAUX

Loyola University Marquette Horseshoe

6 DECEMBER

6:00 - 8:00pm

Free entry

Enjoy cookies, pictures
with Santa, train rides, hot
chocolate, free shirts,
Sneaux, learn about
Christmas & holidays
around the world and so
much more!



CHRISTMAS Donation Drive

DONATIONS SUPPORT THE HARRY THOMPSON CENTER



BRING YOUR ITEMS TO SNEAUX
ON DECEMBER 6TH
6 - 8 PM

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

ITEMS THAT ARE NEEDED:
HATS AND GLOVES

SPONSORED BY LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
WOLF PACK FOR LIFE





HOLY NAME OF JESUS COMMUNITY DINNER & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

6:30 p.m.

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH CENTER

All Holy Name of Jesus Parish and School
families are invited as we celebrate the
festive season and give thanks for our
many wonderful parish volunteers.



YOU'RE INVITED TO

HOLIDAY MOVIE NIGHT

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE THEATRE DEPT.



**8TH
DEC**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM
WILLOZ FAMILY AUDITORIUM**

**POPCORN & HOT CHOCOLATE INCLUDED
WITH EVERY TICKET PURCHASE**

Plus - a visit from SANTA
and a Family Holiday Photo-Op

Tickets: www.showtix4u.com/events/hnj

TO WONDER...TO ACHIEVE...TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...TOGETHER





**GRAB YOUR PAJAMAS AND SNUGGLE IN
AS WE CELEBRATE THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS...**

**\$15
INCLUDES MOVIE, POPCORN & HOT
CHOCOLATE**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF THE
NEW PROJECTOR FOR THE SCHOOL**

TO WONDER...TO ACHIEVE...TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...TOGETHER





HNJ MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY, DEC. 9TH

TCHOUP YARD



7PM-10PM

\$20 PER PERSON

**PRE-REGISTER ONLINE AT
HNJMENSCLUB.ORG/SHOP**





The 3rd Grade Brownies are collecting new,
unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots.
Please send your donations with your child to
school. Collection boxes are located in the
office.



The deadline is DECEMBER 14th!

Thank you!



GATOR ATHLETICS



HNJ at the Loyola Women's Basketball Game!

The Holy Name community is invited to attend the annual Loyola Women's Basketball Day Game on Friday, December 8 when they take on LSU Alexandria at Loyola University Sports Complex. Following lunch at HNJ, students from PreK3 thru 7th grade will walk over to the game with their teachers for tipoff at 12:30pm and arrive back on campus about 2:30 pm. On game day, students will be allowed to wear their HNJ spirit shirt with uniform bottoms per spirit day guidelines in the handbook.

The cost for the event is free, but parents will have to submit a signed permission form Loyola Basketball Game **by 12pm on Wednesday, December 6 for your child to participate.** Please see your email from Coach Langston Terrel for the permission form. Special arrangements will be made for students who do not have a form submitted by the deadline. Concessions will be sold at the game if your child desires a snack while enjoying the action.

HNJ Night at the Pelicans Game!

Come out and support our Pelicans as they take on the Utah Jazz on Thursday, December 28 at 7:00 p.m. Don't miss out on a fun night of basketball with Holy Name and the Pels. Please see the flyer on the next page for ordering information. **All submissions should be turned into the front office by Wednesday, December 6.** A portion of the ticket sales will benefit Holy Name of Jesus Athletics.





HOLY NAME OF JESUS



PELICANS VS. JAZZ

THURSDAY, DEC. 28 • 7:00PM

Don't miss out on a fun night of basketball with Holy Name of Jesus! A portion of the ticket sales will benefit Holy Name of Jesus.

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6

SUBMIT FORM TO: SCHOOL OFFICE

YOUR INFO

Name: _____

Group Name/Student ID: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER

Credit Card #: _____

CVV#: _____ Expiration: _____ Billing Zip: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

☐ CHECK ☐ MONEY ORDER

Check #: _____

Check Payable to: _____



LOCATION	#SEATS	PRICE	TOTAL	LOCATION
LOWER END		\$65		Lower Sideline
BALCONY END		\$25		Lower End
PARKING		\$20		Balcony Sideline
TOTAL ENCLOSED				Balcony End
				HUB Club

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DENTON HUNTER AT 504-593-4748 OR DENTON.HUNTER@PELICANS.COM

TO WONDER...TO ACHIEVE...TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...TOGETHER



HNJ Parish Updates



HOLY NAME of JESUS CHURCH
A Community for Others

6367 St. Charles Avenue New Orleans, LA 70118
On the Campus of Loyola University • www.hnjchurch.org

DECEMBER 10, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS TIMES
Saturday Vigil 4 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
University Mass 9 p.m. (Ignatius Chapel)
(when Loyola University is in session)
Weekdays 7 a.m. (Church)
Weekdays 12 p.m. (Ignatius Chapel)
Saturday 8:30 a.m. (Church)

RECONCILIATION
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 7:30-8:00 a.m.
(enter through side door of Church closest to Marquette Hall)
Saturday 3:30-4:45 p.m.
Sunday 8:15-8:45 p.m. (Ignatius Chapel)
(when Loyola University is in session)
(or by Appointment)

PARISH CENTER
6220 LaSalle Place
New Orleans, LA 70118
(located 4 blocks north of St. Charles Ave.)

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
(closed 12-1 p.m. for lunch)
Phone: 504-866-7430
Fax: 504-866-9391
Email: holyname@hnjchurch.org

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS
Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

*Join us for Mass at
Holy Name of Jesus Church*

Weekday Masses

7 a.m. (Church)
12 p.m. (Ignatius Chapel on
Loyola University Campus)

Saturday Vigil

4:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses

8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

GRANDPARENTS CLUB

Holy Name of Jesus School has formed a brand new grandparents club called the Grand Gators! The purpose of the club will be to give our grandparents an opportunity to become involved in the life of the school through volunteering, fundraising, event planning, and more. If you are interested in becoming involved, please complete the form linked below, and share your contact information with us. Thank you for your interest!

Families: Keep your Grandparents informed! Make sure to update your family's RenWeb account to add Grandparents' contact information so they can receive updates from HNJ.

**Click here to get involved
with our Grandparents Club**

Parent Teacher Club Updates

Volunteer Interest Form

HNJ is extremely fortunate to have an amazing community that is able to produce fantastic events that benefit our students and families. However, these events cannot happen without help from parent volunteers. We know your time is precious and limited, and your support and help to make these events happen is greatly appreciated not only by the event chairs but by our children. Volunteering for HNJ events is also lots of fun; new friends are made and good times are had by all. All of these events are open to all families at HNJ (all are family friendly except the Tennis Tournament and Gala, which are for adults only!).

The school is asking all parents to consider becoming a volunteer to help plan and execute school events. We have created a Volunteer Interest Form so you can indicate specific areas of interest. **NOTE: this form is NOT the official volunteer sign-up form for the events.** The specific event sign-ups with time slots will be sent out closer to the events. This form is a planning tool for the PTC and event chairs to help us recruit leaders and committee members.

Thank you in advance for your help and support! Reach out to PTC President Ana Rice (anaerice@gmail.com) with any questions. Thank you for your consideration!

[Click here to become a volunteer](#)





HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL

A LOYOLA UNIVERSITY PARTNER

Mission

Holy Name of Jesus School is an inclusive community dedicated to teaching children confidence, compassion, and integrity while staying committed to academic excellence and the Catholic faith.

Core Beliefs

- Find God in everyone and everything
- Strive for personal excellence
- Are boys and girls for others
- Open eyes with faith, open ears with truth, and open hearts with love

Academic Vision

Holy Name of Jesus School fosters academic excellence in an inclusive environment where our community celebrates and supports all members through student development, innovation, and social justice.

Motto: To wonder, to achieve, to make a difference, together

Decisions: Student-centered

In implementing this academic vision, Holy Name of Jesus School is committed to:

GOAL #1

Meeting the needs of ALL students by utilizing data to differentiate instruction in order to grow as individuals academically, spiritually, and socially

GOAL #2

Delivering engaging, collaborative, project-based opportunities where students develop an inquisitive approach to learning

Goal #3

Providing ongoing opportunities to highlight, promote, and celebrate our own and other's backgrounds, cultures, and differences

Learn more about Holy Name of Jesus School

www.hnjschool.org

504-861-1466