

The Gator Gazette



Holy Name of Jesus School Parent Newsletter

October 21, 2025

Principal's Perspective

Dear Holy Name of Jesus School Community,

What an incredible week at HNJ! Every event reminded us of who we are and why we exist, to form young people in faith, excellence, and service, together as a united school community.

Our **Open House** last Thursday was a wonderful celebration of growth and possibility. With the support of dedicated parent volunteers, enthusiastic students, and a committed faculty, we showcased a school that is thriving and mission-driven. We are truly blessed to be in a season of growth, and we remain grateful to the families and educators who make this progress possible.

Parent-Teacher Conferences followed, reaffirming our shared mission: to partner with families in helping each child *strive for personal excellence*, academically, spiritually, and socially. Our teachers pour their hearts into this vocation, and our parents walk alongside us in faith and trust. Together, we make our mission come alive.

This weekend's Men's Club **Haunted House** and PTC **Trick-or-Trunk** brought laughter, fellowship, and joy to our campus. Thank you to every family, and even Messina's Catering!, who decorated trunks, volunteered time, and created lasting memories for our students.

And in the midst of it all, 14 HNJ Gators were selected to perform with the **2025 Louisiana ACDA All-State Honor Choirs** at the Lafon Performing Arts Center! A special congratulations to 6th grader James Zubic, one of only four students chosen to sing a solo out of more than 200 choir members. Their hard work and talent are a testament to the excellence we strive to cultivate in every student.

Hold on to your hats — Gator Fest is just around the corner, and the spirit of HNJ is only getting stronger!

God Bless,
Kirsch J. Williams

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!



Upcoming Important Dates

Wednesday, October 22

School Picture Re-takes (see flyer below)



Thursday, October 23

PTC Fall Meeting and Social, 6:00 PM (see flyer below)

Friday, October 24

School Mass, 8:30 AM at HNJ Church (K-7th, Parents Welcome)



Monday, October 27

HNJ Spirit Shirt Day

Friday, October 31

Happy Halloween!

NO school mass

Halloween Spirt Shirt Day

Little Gators - Kindergarten Trick or Treat at Loyola, 9:00 AM

House Meetings (2nd - 7th Grade)

Later Gator Ends at 4:45 PM for all students



Monday, November 3 - Thursday, November 6

Middle School Exams

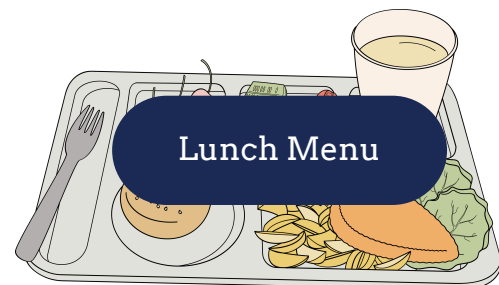
Monday, November 3

REGULAR UNIFORM - No Spirit Shirts due to Mass

All Saints Day School Mass, 8:30 AM at HNJ Church (K-7th, Parents Welcome)

Tuesday, November 4

October Honorable Gator





WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK IN HNJ ATHLETICS?

Cross Country

Last Wednesday, the Cross Country team competed in the NOAL Championship Meet. **Stella Miller** led the way for the 5th/6th Grade Girls, finishing 3rd overall, followed by **Elodie Trahant** in 7th and **Cecilia Johnson** in 31st.

The 7th Grade Girls were paced by **Catalina Rice** (24th) and **Elizabeth Erspamer** (35th).

For the 5th/6th Grade Boys, **Samuel Johnson** (29th), **Aiden Lawson** (30th), and **Anders Ericksen** (31st) led the team's efforts.

Congratulations to all our Gator runners on an outstanding season! The future is bright for this talented group of young athletes.

HNJ Swim Team Shines at St. Martin's Meet

The HNJ Swim Team competed in their second meet of the season Thursday afternoon at St. Martin's, earning an impressive five 1st-place finishes, eight 2nd-place finishes, and two 3rd-place finishes.

Top Gator performers included:

Girls

- Maggie Baxter: 1st in 50 Free (4th Division), 1st in 50 Back (4th Division)
- Lydia Yurgil: 2nd in 50 Free (5th Division), 1st in 50 Back (5th Division)
- Laura Dawson: 2nd in 50 Back (5th Division)
- Miya Ochoa: 2nd in 50 Back (7th Division)
- Lucy Manges: 3rd in 50 Back (7th Division)
- Eleanor Leininger: 2nd in 50 Breast (6th Division)



Boys

- Prescott Worsley: 2nd in 50 Free (4th Division), 2nd in 50 Back (4th Division)
- William Kohrs: 1st in 50 Free (6th Division), 1st in 50 Fly (6th Division)
- George Sternberg: 2nd in 50 Free (6th Division), 2nd in 50 Back (6th Division)
- Evans Treadway: 1st in 50 Back (7th Division), 3rd in 50 Free (7th Division)

Congratulations to all our swimmers on a strong team effort and outstanding results!

Go Gators!

Dear Gator Fans,

The second ordering period for HNJ Fall Sports apparel is now open! The shop features Holy Name-only gear, general Athletics items, and sport-specific apparel for cross country, golf, football, swimming, and volleyball.

To place your order, please use this link: [Fall Sports Apparel](#).

Deadline: All Fall sports apparel orders are due Friday, October 24 at 9:00 AM.

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!



Art to Remember

Over 50 keepsake products featuring
your child's artwork!

Support our HNJ art program!

order forms are here!

Order by **NOVEMBER 7th** for
FREE SHIPPING to HNJ

Click or scan
here to find
your art!



2025 Pumpkin Carving Contest

Thursday, October 30th

Winners will be announced Halloween Morning

*Pumpkins can be delivered to the
basement starting at 7:25am*

*Please write student name and
homeroom on bottom of pumpkin!*

Carve, Paint, or Decorate
your Pumpkin

Free to Participate!



****All pumpkins must go home on October 31st at Carpool!! All Remaining Pumpkins will be Discarded!****

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!





Music Notes

The HNJ music department is pleased to announce that grades K-4 will present grade level student performances during Gator Fest.

Student performances will be in the auditorium so please bring your child to the auditorium 20 minutes prior to his/her start time. Here are the class performance dates and times. Please email Mrs. Ptak at eptak@hnjschool.org with any questions.



Saturday, November 15
11:00-11:05 Kindergarten
11:30 - 11:35 1st grade
12:00 -12:05 2nd grade



Sunday, November 16
12:00-12:05 3rd grade
12:30-12:35 4th grade



Start saving your aluminum cans!

Gator Fest will have collection days that include empty, rinsed aluminum cans for the Can Smash booth! It's never too soon to start saving them!

Love, your Gator Fest Chairs!



6505 SPANISH FORT BLVD. * NEW ORLEANS, LA 70124 * (504) 866-4910
WWW.PATGARINPHOTOGRAPHER.COM

RETAKE PROCEDURES

Retakes are offered for any technically defective photographs (eyes closed, improperly printed and out of focus photographs). Clothing, hair and facial expressions are the responsibility of the student.

If you would like to retake your school photo for Personal Reasons (clothing, hair, smile, etc.) you must enclose \$10.00 AND the complete picture package that was originally purchased.

If we do not receive the \$10.00 fee AND the complete picture package, then your retakes cannot be printed.

A retake day will be scheduled by your school.
Please refer to your school calendar.

PARENT TEACHER COMMITTEE

Fall Meeting and Social



Thursday, October 23

6 PM • Auditorium

Join us for a 50/50 Raffle

(Half to you Half to a hardworking HNJ Faculty or Staff!)

Babysitting provided by the 7th Grade

Hosted by the Parent Teacher Committee

**Click here for Childcare offered by the
7th Grade:** <https://forms.gle/DZgsEPDvABS5MkiC9>

DÍA DE MUERTOS

Dear Families,

We will celebrate Día de los Muertos by creating a school-wide ofrenda to honor and remember loved ones and pets. Students are invited to bring in small framed or printed photographs to be placed on the ofrenda.



TRICK OR TREAT WITH THE GREEKS

October 28th | 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Broadway Street at participating locations
Costumes are encouraged..

TULANE
Office of Fraternity
& Sorority Programs



Let's get creative!

Made by Me

BOOTH

at Gator Fest



JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES

Earrings – clay studs, glitter resin shapes, pom-poms, tassel dangles
Friendship Bracelets – beaded or woven / HNJ colors
Beaded Keychains / Bag Tags – initial beads, sports themes, or mascot colors.
Hair Bows / Scrunchies / Resin Clips – school colors or glittery/funky fabrics.
Button Pins – with fun sayings, doodles, or school spirit designs
Beaded Rings – trendy with glass or plastic beads

FUN & SEASONAL

Resin Key Chains – glitter, pressed flowers, or school colors
Bookmarks – laminated with doodles, tassels, or school themes.
Seasonal Items – Christmas Ornaments, Mardi Gras Sunglasses
Tie-Dye - Pet Bandanas, Tees, Socks, Hats
Mini Plant Pots - painted or decoupaged
Mini Canvases on Easels – painted inspirational quotes or mascots.

GATOR FEST FAVORITES

Slime Jars (already made, labeled)
Bath Bombs | Scented Candles
Seasonal Soaps
Face Glitter



START CRAFTING!

Text Callie Folse to Donate
504-250-8185

**CLICK HERE TO RESERVE
 A GATOR FEST YARD
 SIGN FOR YOUR HOME
 OR BUSINESS!**



GATOR FEST NEEDS YOU!!

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

**ALL FAMILIES ARE ASKED TO SERVE
 TWO 2-HOUR SHIFTS.
 CLICK THIS FLYER TO SIGN UP TODAY!**

**WHEN YOU ARRIVE TO WORK YOUR SHIFT, YOU
 WILL HAVE A QR CODE TO SIGN IN TO LET US
 KNOW YOU WORKED. FOR EVERY SHIFT
 WORKED, YOU WILL BE ENTERED INTO A
 PRIZE DRAWING FOR A
 \$1,000 TUITION CREDIT OR CASH PRIZE!**



GATORS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL

GATOR FEST 2025

NOVEMBER 14-16, 2025

**WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR
 LEADERSHIP POSITIONS ON OUR
 GATOR FEST TEAM!**

Your gift of service is what makes this amazing event run smoothly, providing a fun, safe, enjoyable experience for our community. We are seeking volunteers to serve in various leadership roles to help organize and manage our event.



Scan QR Code or visit
hnjschool.org/gator-fest

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!



PLAYBILL®

annual SAENGER THEATRE field trip
December 10, 2025 @ 7:30pm

BACK TO FUTURE THE MUSICAL



SCAN FOR TICKETS

High School Information

It's an exciting time for our 5th-7th grade students as **high school admissions** events are starting to take place! Middle School students have many opportunities to explore the various Catholic High Schools in order to identify the school that best suits their unique interests and abilities! We strongly encourage students to experience on-campus events, including Open Houses and Spend-a-Days. To schedule a Spend-a-Day experience or to register for other admissions events, visit the website of the high school(s) of your choice. Absences due to Spend-a-Day events are excused, but missed school work is still expected to be completed.



CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

OPEN HOUSE DATES

2025

September 24- HS Information Night-all schools at SAS

Academy of Our Lady	W-October 22	4-7 PM
Academy of the Sacred Heart	Tours on request	
Archbishop Chapelle	Th-November 6	4-6:00 PM
Archbishop Hannan	Th-October 23	4:30-6:30 PM
Archbishop Rummel	W-October 29	4 PM
Archbishop Shaw	Th-October 16	5-8 PM
Brother Martin	Th-November 6	4-7 PM
Cabrini High School	Th-October 2	3:30-6:30 PM
De La Salle	T-October 28	4-7 PM
Holy Cross	W-October 15	6 PM
Jesuit	W-November 5	4:30, 5:30, & 6:30 PM
Mount Carmel Academy	Th-October 9	3-7:30 PM
Pope John Paul II	W-October 29	5-7 PM
St. Augustine	M-November 10	4-7 PM
St. Charles Catholic	W-October 22	5-7:30 PM
St. Katharine Drexel	Th-November 6	5:30-7:30 PM
St. Mary's Academy	W-November 5	6-8 PM
St. Mary's Dominican	Th-October 16	3:30-6:30 PM
St. Michael Special School	Th-October 16	9-11 AM
Saint Paul's	Th-October 30	4-6 PM
St. Scholastica Academy	Th-November 6	4-6:30 PM
St. Therese Academy	W-October 22	5-7 PM
Ursuline Academy	Tours on request	

Questions? Contact Ms. Hughes

HSPT Test Prep at HNJ

6:00 – 7:30 PM

December 2 December 4

December 9 December 11

December 16 December 18

Full, timed practice test Saturday, January 2

\$250 per student.
Textbook included!



To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!



HOUSE SYSTEM: OCTOBER CHALLENGES

Click the symbol for each house to find instructions for the house challenge of the month. We look forward to building community with the house system this year!

House of Excellence



House of Reverence



House of Service



House of Truth and Light



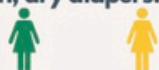
To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!





1 in 2

caregivers struggle to provide their child with clean, dry diapers.



28%

of parents experiencing "diaper need" reported skipping meals to afford diapers.

2,800

amount of diapers a baby will use in the first year.



\$100

spent on diapers in a month.



3 IN 5

parents miss work or school because they can't afford the diapers required to leave their baby in childcare.

Without diapers, babies cannot attend childcare or participate in early childhood education.



Educated women and stable families are critical to solving the larger, systemic problems facing Metropolitan New Orleans.

Little Gators is accepting donations of diapers in collaboration with the Junior League of New Orleans' Diaper Drive. Please bring diapers to donate to the Front Office or Little Gators Entrance. Thank you for your support!

DIAPERS AREN'T BASIC.*

*****They're essential.

**Please support our
DIAPER DRIVE**

All funds and diapers donated benefit the Junior League of New Orleans Diaper Bank

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!



Nourish Counseling Studio Presents:

REGULATE AND RECHARGE:

The Power of Parental Self-Care in Raising Thriving Kids

October 23rd at 12:15pm

\$40 PER FAMILY

Join Haley Thomas, PLPC in exploring the importance of parental self-care through a nervous system lens in this hour-long virtual workshop.



Please email
info@NourishInNola.com
or visit NourishInNola.com
to register!

Altar Servers Needed!



Interested in becoming an altar server at Holy Name of Jesus Church? Any students who have received First Communion are encouraged to sign up. We are in need of altar servers at all weekend masses.

Please contact Kristy Christiansen at kristy.christiansen@gmail.com for details.



HNJ GRAND GATORS CRAFTING DAY!

Join our Grand Gators on Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 10 a.m. at the HNJ Parish Center!

We will be crafting HNJ Sunglasses to sell in the Made-By-Me Booth at Gator Fest. We will provide all the supplies. No talent needed! Come have fun crafting with us!



HOLY NAME OF
JESUS SCHOOL
A LOYOLA UNIVERSITY PARTNER

Alumni HAPPY HOUR

Join us for an HNJ Alumni Meet & Greet
Thursday, October 30, 2025
HNJ School Construction Tour 5 p.m.
Happy Hour (Dutch treat) at The Gilded Perch
inside the Park View Hotel 6-8 p.m.

Parking Available
in the HNJ
Chiu Family Yard

Come see our
renovations and learn
about what's going on
at HNJ School!

RSVP



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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

OCTOBER 26, 2025

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



O GOD,
BE MERCIFUL TO
ME A SINNER.

— LUKE 18:13 —

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 4 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
University Mass 5 p.m. (Loyola Chapel)
(when Loyola University is in session)
Weekdays 7 a.m. (Church)
Weekdays 12:30 p.m. (Loyola Chapel)
Saturday 8:30 a.m. (Church)

RECONCILIATION

Monday & Thursday 7:30-8:00 a.m. (Church)
Saturday 3-3:45 p.m. (Church)
Sunday 4:15-4:50 p.m. (Loyola 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-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
(closed 12-1 p.m. for lunch)
Phone: 504-865-7430
Email: holyname@hnjchurch.org

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

WWW.HNJCHURCH.ORG



PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES



Eat a Steak

But first, pay your dues. Your contribution keeps the beer cold, the steaks sizzling, and helps us host events and fundraisers all year.



Join the WhatsApp Chat

- Announcements and reminders
- Ask what time dismissal is
- Complain about carpool traffic
- Get a plumber recommendation



Events All Year

- Back to School BBQ
- Pumpkin Patch
- Haunted House
- Xmas Party
- Men's Club on the Avenue
- Crawfish Cook-Off

HNJ Men's Club
WhatsApp group

PAY NOW



ORDER YOUR



HNJ Door Hanger

**DOOR HANGERS ARE NOW
IN STOCK IN THE OFFICE!**

\$35 EACH

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

ORDER HERE

HNJ Family Masses

Mark your calendars for our Family Masses featuring family and child-centered liturgies.

September 7 ~ Grandparents Family Mass, 10:30 a.m.

September 21

HNJ School 7th Grade Retreat Family Mass, 10:30 a.m.

November 9 ~ Family Mass, 10:30 a.m.

December 24

Christmas Eve Masses – 4 p.m. & 6 p.m.

January 25

Catholic Schools Week
Family & Alumni Mass, 10:30 a.m.

March 15 ~ Family Mass, 10:30 a.m.

April 5 ~ Easter Family Mass – 11:00 a.m.

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!





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:

2025-2026

GOAL #1

Empower Student
Agency through
Data-Driven
Reflection

2025-2026

GOAL #2

Cultivate
Responsible, Ethical
Learners in a
Digital World

2025-2026

GOAL #3

Build on Home-School
Partnerships Rooted
in Cultural
Celebration

Learn more about Holy Name of Jesus School

www.hnjschool.org

504-861-1466

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!

