

# The Gator Gazette



Holy Name of Jesus School Parent Newsletter

December 16, 2025

## Principal's Perspective

Dear Holy Name of Jesus School Community,

When I think about the most meaningful moments of my life, the births of my children are always at the very top of the list. There is nothing quite like the awe, love, and overwhelming gratitude that comes with welcoming a child into the world. During this Advent and Christmas season, I often reflect on that experience and imagine how Mary must have felt as she prepared to give birth... not just to a baby, but to our Lord and Savior.

When we begin to connect those two moments, the birth of our own children and the coming of Christ, we start to enter more deeply into the true wonder of Christmas. It is a season that invites us to slow down, reflect, and recognize the sacredness of new life, love, and hope. Christmas reminds us that God chose to enter the world in the most humble and human way possible, as a child, entrusted to a family and a community.

At Holy Name of Jesus School, this season is especially meaningful as we walk alongside your children each day. In classrooms, hallways, prayer, and play, we see the beauty of who they are becoming. Advent gives us the opportunity to help students grow not only academically, but spiritually, *learning to recognize God's presence in their lives and in one another.*

**Thank you for sharing your most precious gift(s) with us.** We do not take lightly the trust you place in our school. It is truly an honor to partner with you in forming and nurturing your children's minds, hearts, and faith. Together, as a school community, we help guide them toward becoming compassionate, confident, and faith-filled individuals.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, this week especially, may our families be filled with peace, joy, and moments of quiet wonder. We are grateful for you and for the gift of your children, today and always.

Merry Christmas!

God Bless,  
Kirsch J. Williams

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



# Upcoming Important Dates



## **Wednesday, December 17**

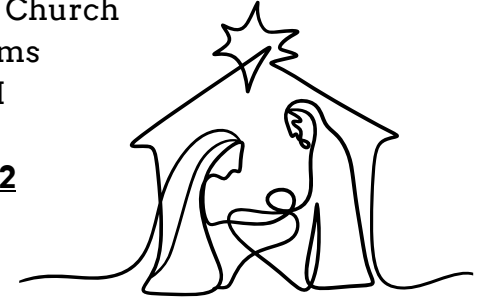
Discover HNJ Tour (see flyer below)

## **Thursday, December 18**

School Mass at 8:30 AM in the Church (K-7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Parents Welcome)  
House Showcase (2<sup>nd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students)

## **Friday, December 19**

PK3 - Kindergarten Christmas Program, 8:30 AM in Rivas Auditorium  
1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Program, 9:45 AM at HNJ Church  
Dismissal Immediately Follows Both Programs  
Little Gators Dismissal begins at 10:30 AM



## **Monday, December 22 - Friday, January 2**

No School - Christmas Holiday

## **Wednesday, December 24**

Family Christmas Eve Mass, 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM at HNJ Church

## **Monday, January 5 - Friday, January 16**

Re-enrollment for LG0 - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students



## **Monday, January 5**

School Resumes  
HNJ Spirit Shirt Day

## **Tuesday, January 6**

King Cake Day

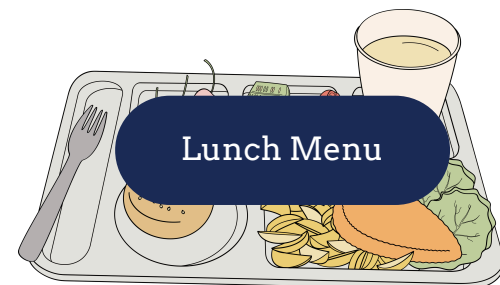
## **Monday, January 12 - Tuesday, January 13**

NWEA Testing (PK4-7<sup>th</sup> Grade)



## **Friday, January 16**

Early Dismissal, No Later Gators (PK3 - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Parent Teacher Conferences (PK3 - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade) 1:00 - 5:00 PM



# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

MORGAN SUBERVIELLE,  
SCHOOL COUNSELOR

[msubervielle@hnjschool.org](mailto:msubervielle@hnjschool.org)

## Educational Games for Children

With the Christmas season upon us there are so many fun games that can be played with your child over the Christmas break. Some games can even be both fun and educational! While some games have obvious academic components, they can also help children develop healthy competitive mindsets and positive social skills. Here are 13 great games for children to play that include apps and online games, board games, games that require no equipment, and other types of games that can be played outside!



### Educational Digital Games:

[ABCmouse.com](http://ABCmouse.com)

ABCYa

Kahoot!

The Oregon Trail App



### Educational Board Games:

Scrabble

Codenames

Yahtzee

### Educational Games with No Equipment:

Red Light, Green Light

Simon Says

Improv Games



### Educational Outside Games:

Follow the Leader

Jump Rope

Spelling Ball



To learn more about the games listed above visit the link below for details:

<https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/best-educational-games-kids>

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



Want to shout out some Gators in next week's Gazette?  
Email text and photos to Kaitlin Southwick at [ksouthwick@hnjschool.org](mailto:ksouthwick@hnjschool.org)

# Gator Spotlight

Holy Name of Jesus proudly recognizes **Christian Strickland**, a Class of 2021 alumnus of HNJ, whose continued success reflects the strong foundation built within our school community.

Christian is a dedicated Scholar-Athlete and key member of the St. Augustine Purple Knights football team, helping lead the program to a State Championship Runner-Up finish. During the 2025–2026 regular season, he anchored the offensive line at left guard, playing a critical role in producing 2,068 rushing yards, allowing zero sacks, and recording 98 pancake blocks. His toughness, consistency, and leadership set the standard in the trenches.

Off the field, Christian's commitment to academics is equally impressive. He earned a 4.03 GPA, achieved Honor Roll recognition every semester, and is a proud member of the National Honor Society. His dedication to excellence earned him recognition as Scholar Athlete of the Week.

Looking ahead, Christian plans to attend Louisiana State University (LSU), where he will major in Kinesiology with aspirations of becoming a Physical Therapist. His future goals reflect a passion for health, movement, and helping others reach their full potential.

Reflecting on his time at Holy Name of Jesus, Christian shared that while he still stays in touch with friends from HNJ, what he misses most is attending school alongside them each day. The relationships and sense of community formed at HNJ continue to play an important role in his journey.

Holy Name of Jesus is proud to celebrate Christian Strickland, and wishes him continued success in all his future endeavors.





**NEW ORLEANS  
YOUTH HARMONY FESTIVAL**

Presented by:  
**HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL AND NOLA VOX**  
New Orleans A Cappella Ensemble



**SIGN UP TODAY!**

Learn to sing in harmony, build confidence and strengthen your vocal skills in a workshop lead by award winning quartet Bruouhaha.

**February 27 & 28**



SPONSORED BY THE JAZZ AND HERITAGE FOUNDATION GRANT. OPEN TO ALL HNJ MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS. REGISTER NOW TO HOLD YOUR CHILD'S SPOT FOR HNJ SCHOOL'S FIRST NEW ORLEANS YOUTH HARMONY FESTIVAL.

[HOLD MY CHILD'S SPOT/REGISTRATION FORM](#)



**NEW ORLEANS  
JAZZ & HERITAGE  
FOUNDATION, INC.**

TM



HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL  
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

*Friday, December 19*

*Early Childhood*

8:30 AM

RIVAS FAMILY AUDITORIUM

PARKING AVAILABLE IN THE CHIU FAMILY YARD FOLLOWING CARPOOL  
AUDITORIUM DOORS OPEN AT 8:05 AM  
*\*DISMISSAL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING\**

*1st-7th Grade*

9:45 AM

HOLY NAME OF JESUS CHURCH

CHURCH DOORS OPEN AT 9:15 AM  
*\*DISMISSAL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING\**



# HNJ SCHOOL BRICK & PAVER SALE

Celebrate your family's connection to Holy Name of Jesus School with a custom brick or paver. Your personalized inscription will be placed at the Mother McAuley Entrance upon completion of our new building. This is a perfect way to make a lasting tribute to the students, families, alumni, and educators who built our HNJ community.



**4x8 BRICK ~ \$400**  
**8x8 PAVER ~ \$800**



# The HNJ Yearbook Committee needs your photos!

We need pictures from this school year! If you have photos from any of these past events, or any future HNJ events, please submit them to us!

- HNJ Athletics
- Gator Fest
- Back to School BBQ
- Class Parties
- Field Trips
- HNJ Goes Totally 80's!
- Choir
- Other HNJ Events!

GOOD  
TIMES



Click the camera  
icon to upload your  
photos directly to our  
yearbook photo  
library!



# THE NUTCRACKER EXPERIENCE

20% off with the code "NUTS20" if tickets are booked before December 17th.

A Holiday Dream Brought to Life Inside  
The DeLaporte Mansion

December 18 – February 1, 2026

1152 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130  
ESCAPE.MY ROOM NEW Orleans

## What to Expect

- Entry to the Delaporte family Christmas party... and an unexpected fall into Clara's dreamworld.
- A unique open-world escape experience: wander the mansion alongside other adventurers at your own pace.
- 10 immersive spaces to explore, including the foyer, playroom, attic, dining room, Clara's bedroom, and more.
- Clara's dream journal: your illustrated guidebook filled with drawings, clues, maps, and missing words to uncover.
- A finale moment & photo opportunity in the courtyard before you exit.
- Perfect for families, friends, and couples – recommended for ages 8+.
- Limited tickets – advance purchase strongly recommended.

## Tickets

- Purchase tickets at [escapemyroom.com](https://escapemyroom.com)
- The Nutcracker experience costs \$37 per guest and \$7 per journal.
- Want to book a group? Contact us about rates at [booking@escapemyroom.com](mailto:booking@escapemyroom.com)
- General questions? Email us at [info@escapemyroom.com](mailto:info@escapemyroom.com)



# HOUSE SYSTEM: NOVEMBER 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!



## Holiday Programs 2025

### Bike Riding Clinic

**Dates:** Mon 12/29, Tue 12/30, Wed 12/31, Fri 1/2

**Times:** 8:00 - 10:00 AM; 30 min. timeslots - up to 3 preferred times

**Off-Site Location:** Reunion Shelter at City Park

**Cost:** \$300 for 4, 30 min. one-on-one sessions



### Handwriting Helpers

**Dates and Times:**

**Session 1:** Mon 12/22, Tue 12/23, Fri 12/26

- 8:00 - 9:00 AM Pre-K Primer
- 9:15 - 10:15 AM Kindergarten Kickstart
- 11:45 - 12:45 PM 1st-2nd Grade

**Session 2:** Mon 12/29, Tue 12/30, Wed 12/31

- 10:45 - 11:45 AM Pre-K Primer
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM Kindergarten Kickstart
- 2:30 - 3:30 PM 1st-2nd Grade

**Cost:** \$250 for 3, 60 min. small group sessions



### Dress to Success

**Dates and Times:**

**Session 1:** Mon 12/22, Tue 12/23, Fri 12/26

- 10:30 - 11:30 AM

**Session 2:** Mon 12/29, Tue 12/30, Wed 12/31

- 1:15 - 2:15 PM

**Ages:** Kindergarten, 1st-2nd grade

**Cost:** \$250 for 3, 60 min. small group sessions



### Handwriting Helpers & Dress to Success BUNDLE

**Dates and Times:**

**Session 1:** Mon 12/22, Tue 12/23, Fri 12/26

- 9:15 - 11:30 AM (15 min. snack break) **HH & Dress to Success; KK**
- 10:30 - 12:45 PM (15 min. snack break) **HH & Dress to Success; 1st-2nd Grade**

**Session 2:** Mon 12/29, Tue 12/30, Wed 12/31

- 12:00 - 2:15 PM (15 min. snack break) **HH & Dress to Success; KK**
- 1:15 - 3:30 PM (15 min. snack break) **HH & Dress to Success; 1st-2nd Grade**

**Cost:** \$450 for 3, 2 hrs. & 15 min. small group sessions (**KK, 1st-2nd Grade**)



### Organization Bootcamp

**Dates and Times:**

**Session 1:** Mon 12/22, Tue 12/23, Fri 12/26

- 1:00 - 1:45 PM / 2:00 - 2:45 PM / 3:00 - 3:45 PM

**Session 2:** Mon 12/29, Tue 12/30, Wed 12/31

- 1:15 - 2:00 PM

**Cost:** \$225 for 3, 45 min. individual sessions



JIN DIAPER BANK

**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

## Holiday Programs 2025 Description

### BIKE RIDING CLINIC

Individualized, one-on-one program for children of any age who are ready to conquer two wheel bike riding. Children are required to bring a bike without training wheels and helmet. Various strategies and activities are taught to ensure success and independence with bike riding by the end of the week. Held at **City Park**.

### HANDWRITING HELPERS

Mini Holiday Session is an academic and enrichment program created to improve **fine motor skills and handwriting performance**.

#### Pre-K Primer:

Will improve fine motor control and skill development, pencil grasp strengthening, drawing a picture of a person, writing first name in capital letters, & reinforcement of correct capital letter formation.

#### Kindergarten Kickstart:

Will work on improving fine motor control and skill development, pencil grasp strengthening, reinforce correct case letter instruction, and mastery of first and last name using lower case letters.

#### Writer's Workshop (1st-2nd):

Will focus on increasing ability to compose and write sentences, provide strategies to decrease reversals, and improve organization of written work on paper.

### DRESS TO SUCCESS

For children 5 years and up, this program builds independence with real-life dressing routines. Kids practice **buttoning, zipping, tying shoelaces, and managing daily clothing tasks** while strengthening fine motor skills. A great fit for children who need extra support to make getting dressed easier and more confident.

### INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION BOOTCAMP

Three, individualized, 45-minute sessions for children in **3rd - 8th grade** who struggle with organizational skills related to the classroom environment and managing their belongings when in school. The sessions will provide the child and require parent involvement with strategies to assist with tackling top three organizational difficulties and implementing strategies to have a more successful and organized year.

Please note we are **CLOSED** on Christmas Day & New Year's Day.



# 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](mailto:kristy.christiansen@gmail.com) for details.





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 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



# THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE.

MATTHEW 1:23

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### 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)

### 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](mailto:holyname@hnjchurch.org)

### 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)

### ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

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

[WWW.HNJCHURCH.ORG](http://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



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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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](http://www.hnjschool.org)**

**504-861-1466**

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

