

# The Gator Gazette



Holy Name of Jesus School Parent Newsletter

December 9, 2025

## Principal's Perspective

Dear Holy Name of Jesus School Community,

Last week, I had the opportunity to give tours to more than 20 HNJ parents, grandparents, alumni, and parents of alumni through our new building. Everyone was struck by the true scale of the space once inside. The gym is especially impressive; you simply cannot grasp its size until you "step through the doors." Our guests were also delighted by the dedicated art and music rooms, the student bathrooms on the second and third floors, and the large elevator designed to accommodate all.

We will offer additional tours on Tuesday, December 16, and Wednesday, December 17. I hope you can join us to see the new construction and learn how this building will create much-needed space in our legacy building for Kindergarten through 7th grade.

This Saturday evening, Holy Name of Jesus will host **Lessons & Carols: A Candlelight Christmas Concert**, featuring a blend of music and readings. My husband and I sing in the 10:30 AM Mass choir each week, and we have been preparing with the group for months. Several HNJ students will also be participating as singers and readers. It will be a beautiful way to ready our hearts and spirits for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

I warmly invite you to join us on **Saturday, December 13 at 7:30 PM in Holy Name of Jesus Church**. I hope to see you there!

Happy Advent!

God Bless,  
Kirsch J. Williams

HOLY NAME OF JESUS CHURCH  
A Community for Others

## LESSONS & CAROLS

A Candlelight Christmas Concert  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 at 7:30PM**  
6367 St. Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70118

**FEATURING**  
Rachel Looney, Irini Hymel,  
Catherine Comardelle,  
& Claire Shackleton, *Soloists*  
Randy Higginbotham  
& Dreux Montegut, *Organ*  
Amy Thiaville, *Violin*  
& the Our Lady of Prompt Succor  
Choral Sextet

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



# Upcoming Important Dates

## Tuesday, December 9

Prayer Vigil and Rosary for Victims of Immigration Raids, 5:30 PM at HNJ Church

## Wednesday, December 10

Back to the Future Family Field Trip at the Saenger

## Thursday, December 11

Choir Performance at Lambeth House, 4:00 PM

## Friday, December 12

NO School Mass

Little Gators Cookies with Santa, 2:00 PM at the Parish Center



## Saturday, December 13

Men's Club Christmas Party (see flyer below)

## Monday, December 15

HNJ Spirit Shirt Day

## Tuesday, December 16

Choir Performs at Royal Sonesta, 12:00 PM

## 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

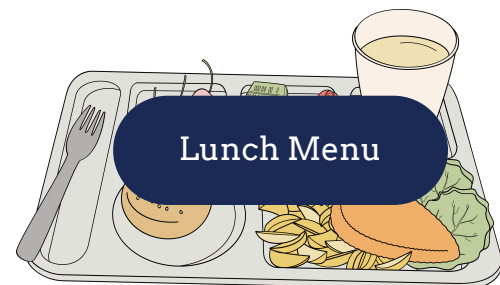
Little Gators Dismissal begins at 10:30 AM

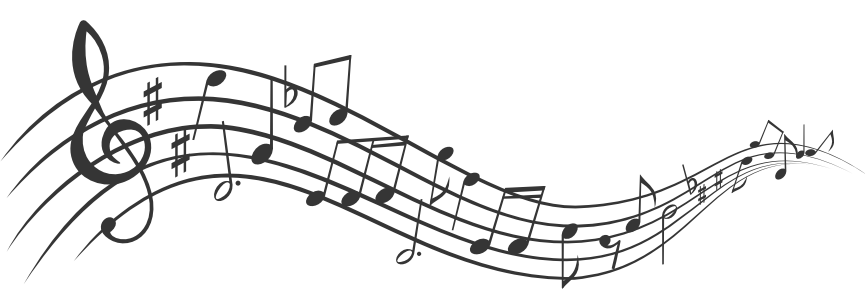
## Monday, December 22 - Friday, January 2

No School - Christmas Holiday

## Monday, January 5

School Resumes





# Music Notes

## HNJ Middle School Choir Christmas Season Performances:


Our choir is proud to present a full set of Christmas music on Tuesday, December 16th at the Royal Sonesta. The performance starts at 12:00 sharp and all are invited to come and watch. The performance is free and open to the public.

The choir will also perform at the Lambeth House this Christmas season.

## Save the Date!

### HNJ Christmas Performances

### Friday, December 19



PK3 - Kindergarten  
8:30 AM  
Rivas Family Auditorium

Dismissal  
Immediately Follows



1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
9:45 AM  
HNJ Church

Congratulations to the following students who will collaborate with Ms. Colleen Maher Bond's Holy Name adult choir for their candlelight Christmas concert, Lessons and Carols. The performance will be on Saturday, December 13 at 7:30pm.

Jose-Antonio Rosales  
Erin Kim  
William Baxter  
Lydia Yurgil  
Louis LeBoeuf  
Karolina Kadkova  
Madeleine Yelton  
Peyton Caside  
Olivia Caside

Rebecca Tseng  
Stella Adams  
Aubree Amedee  
Martina Bullrich  
Arlen Bustamante  
Marguerite Folse  
Highland Jeansonne  
Asa Weathers  
James Zubic



# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

MORGAN SUBERVIELLE,  
SCHOOL COUNSELOR

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



Resilient children stand tall in the face of challenges and use problem-solving skills to forge ahead. They are confident, curious, and independent. Here are some ways you can foster resilience and build coping skills in your child:

- Strike a balance between supporting and overreacting. Let your child struggle with a problem! It stretches your child's mind, creating new connections and helping develop solutions.
- Help your child identify emotions and appropriate responses. Behind every behavior is an emotion. Recognize these emotions, label them, and work through them to help your child develop skills to deal with similar situations in the future.
- Encourage your child to solve their problems. Replace rescuing with teaching coping skills that help children solve problems on their own. Provide a "coping skills box" with a list of activities or items that can help soothe strong emotions – puzzles, putty, fidget toys, etc.
- Model the skills and behaviors you want your child to exhibit. Take advantage of your own difficult moments to help your child navigate big feelings. Tell your child what you're doing to calm your feelings and why.
- Help your child determine their threshold and set their boundaries. If your child is becoming frustrated, identify physical symptoms that you see and offer supportive solutions.

Guha, Nayanika. "5 Tips for Raising a Resilient Child with Strong Coping Skills." Big Life Journal, [https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/raise-a-resilient-child-with-strong-coping-skills?srsId=AfmBOoperpa3DzAJvg\\_CaI7WiNpUMCvZt7NuokL4WgYl00qub\\_mak6gr](https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/raise-a-resilient-child-with-strong-coping-skills?srsId=AfmBOoperpa3DzAJvg_CaI7WiNpUMCvZt7NuokL4WgYl00qub_mak6gr)

DO  
HARD  
THINGS



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





# 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**



# HNJ MEN'S CLUB

## Christmas Party



### Ho Ho Hold My Beer!

Calling all Grill Masters, Truck Unloaders, Event Setter-Uppers, and "Sure, I can help" Legends! You've worked hard and now it's time to enjoy some Holiday Cheer!



SERVED UP BY BLUE OAK



OPEN BAR



ONLY 10 BUCKS PER PERSON



WHEN

Saturday, Dec 13th 7pm to 10pm



WHERE

Henry's Uptown Bar  
5101 Magazine Street

**Pssst: get a sitter  
and bring your wife.**



BUY YOUR  
TICKET TODAY!



Scan or Click to Order



# Holy Name of Jesus

CodeMonkey user insights  
and progress metrics

August, 2025- November, 2025

## SUMMARY:

- Coding Adventure has been the most widely used course so far. CodeMonkey Jr. is right behind it!
- Steady usage each month, but the highest was in September so far!
- 4M Coding is currently the CodeMonkey Classroom with the highest number of challenges solved!



## USAGE STATISTICS:



Student Accounts: **217**

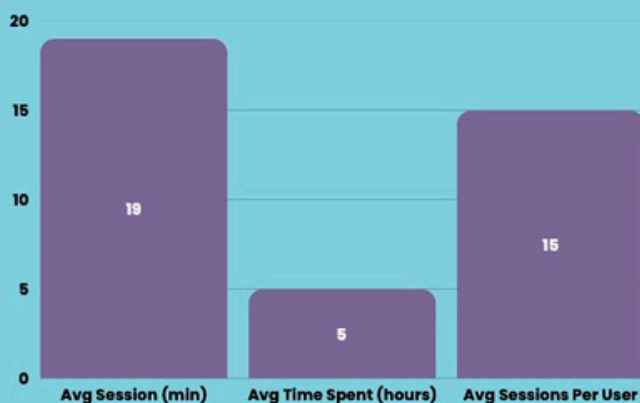


Sessions: **3,329**



Challenges Solved: **13,181**

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:



## COURSES ACCESSED:



## NEXT STEPS AND GOALS:

- Continued support with teacher training to continue high implementation.
- Begin pushing students up into higher courses, such as Banana Tales, as the year progresses and they are ready for more advance coding concepts.
- Discuss enhancing subscription with possible pilot of keyboarding courses.

## SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS:

Active from  
**August 4, 2025- August 4, 2026**

Courses included:



**Customer Success Manager:**

Lauren Rataj

lauren.r@codemonkey.com

# 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
- Pure Imagination
- Choir
- Other HNJ Events!

GOOD  
TIMES



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



# PRAYER VIGIL & ROSARY

## FOR VICTIMS OF IMMIGRATION RAIDS



Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church  
6367 St. Charles Avenue  
Tuesday, December 9 @ 5:30pm  
Livestream at [hnjchurch.org](http://hnjchurch.org)



HOLY NAME of JESUS CHURCH  
A Community for Others

# LESSONS & CAROLS

A Candlelight Christmas Concert  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 at 7:30PM  
6367 St Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70118



**FEATURING**  
Rachel Looney, Irini Hymel,  
Catherine Comardelle,  
& Claire Shackleton, *Soloists*

Randy Higginbotham  
& Dreux Montegut, *Organ*

Amy Thiaville, *Violin*

& the Our Lady of Prompt Succor  
Choral Sextet



*Come, Let Us Adore Him*

# ADVENT

Morning of Reflection for  
Holy Name of Jesus Mothers

Let us join Mary and Joseph on the Road to Bethlehem  
as they await the birth of Jesus.

Friday, December 12, 2025  
9:30-11:30 a.m.

Holy Name of Jesus Parish Center Faber Room  
To confirm attendance, please email [terimarchese@aol.com](mailto:terimarchese@aol.com).



HOLY NAME OF  
JESUS SCHOOL  
A LOYOLA UNIVERSITY PARTNER

## Discover HOLY NAME

**Parents, Grandparents, Alumni & Friends**

Join us for an exclusive tour of Holy Name of Jesus School's construction site, which includes 10 classrooms for Little Gators and PK3, a dedicated early childhood playground, a new gymnasium with elevated running track, concession stand, and coaches' offices, new art and music studios, a new elevator, and student locker rooms and bathrooms.

**Tours:**

Tuesday, December 16, 7:45 a.m.  
Wednesday, December 17, 7:45 a.m.

Pre-Registration Required. HNJ Parents or Grandparents who attend will receive a FREE DRESS PASS for their student.

Please utilize street parking in the neighborhood.  
Hard hats and safety vests provided. Please wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes. Meet at the HNJ Parish Center, 6220 LaSalle Place, at 7:45 a.m.



# 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 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE GOOD NEWS  
PROCLAIMED  
**TO THEM.**

— MATTHEW 11:5 —

THIRD 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

**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



**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 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!

