

# The Gator Gazette



Holy Name of Jesus School Parent Newsletter

August 12, 2025

## Principal's Perspective

Dear Holy Name of Jesus School Community,

### **Welcome Back to School!**

There is nothing quite like Meet and Greet with students joyfully rushing to greet one another, excitedly searching for their new classrooms, and the happy buzz of a fresh school year. Those moments Monday afternoon were truly priceless, and we are so grateful to share them with you and your children.

A heartfelt thank-you for ensuring our students arrive each day rested, prepared, and dressed in their **proper uniforms**. Your partnership helps us start each day on the right note and supports the tone of excellence we strive to maintain at HNJ.

We do need your help to ensure the safety and efficiency of our **afternoon carpool**. This year, **all families are required** to display their official family carpool sign clearly on the rearview mirror for our staff to see. If a sign is not visible, cars will be directed to circle the block until the sign is displayed. We will be offering reminders and support for the first two weeks; after that, this expectation will be strictly enforced. This small step makes a big difference in keeping our dismissal process safe, smooth, and stress-free for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

We also want to share an important update from the State of Louisiana. **Bill 409** now requires all non-public schools to license PK3 and PK4 classes in accordance with the regulations outlined in *Bulletin 137*. We are pleased to share that HNJ is already well-positioned to meet these requirements and will easily qualify for licensure. You may notice some adjustments to our Early/Later Gators programs and sign-in/sign-out procedures beginning in the spring semester.

As part of this process, schools must submit the *Child Safety and Welfare Minimum Standards*, a set of policies designed to ensure the highest level of care for our youngest learners. HNJ already meets these standards, and we are proud to maintain such a strong foundation for our students' well-being. You'll find a summary of these standards on the next page of this newsletter.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead—filled with learning, growth, and community!

God Bless,  
Kirsch J. Williams

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



This document is being distributed pursuant to "Charlie's Law," R.S. 17:407.401, and Act 409 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

## Child Safety and Welfare Minimum Standards

1. There shall be a minimum of two staff members present at any facility when more than four children are present, except under an extenuating circumstance that temporarily prevents compliance with this Paragraph.
2. The child-to-staff ratios shall not exceed the following:
  - a. Infants and under one year - 5 to 1
  - b. One year - 7 to 1
  - c. Two years - 10 to 1
  - d. Three years - 13 to 1
  - e. Four years - 15 to 1
  - f. Five years - 19 to 1
3. An average of the child-to-staff ratios may be applied to mixed age groups of children only for groups that include no children under the age of two.
4. When a mixed age group includes children younger than age two, the age of the youngest child determines the child-to-staff ratio for the group.
5. When the nature of a child with special healthcare needs or the number of children with special healthcare needs warrants added care, the center shall add sufficient staff as necessary.
6. Only staff members directly providing care, supervision, or guidance to children shall be counted in the child-to-staff ratio. The same staff members shall not be used to meet the ratio requirements for two different groups of children at the same time.
7. Sufficient staffing needed to satisfy child-to-staff ratios shall be present on the premises during rest time and available to assist as needed. Children ages one and older may be grouped together at rest time with one staff member in each room supervising the resting children.
8. Information regarding required child-to-staff ratios and a phone number to file complaints regarding supervision with the Department of Education shall be posted in each classroom in a location that is visible to parents.
9. Children shall be supervised at all times including on the playground, on field trips, and on nonvehicular excursions.
10. Children shall not be left alone in any room, outdoors, or in vehicles, even momentarily, without staff present.
  - a. The provisions of this Paragraph shall not apply to restroom use as provided in this Section, if a child is being provided services by therapeutic professionals, or if a child is in the custody of a parent or legal guardian.
11. A staff person shall be assigned to supervise specific children whose names and whereabouts the staff person shall know and with whom the staff person shall be physically present. Staff shall be able to state how many children are in their care at all times.
12. A child who is developmentally able may be permitted to use the restroom independently if a staff member is in proximity to and can see the child to ensure immediate intervention to safeguard a child from harm or to assist with an accident while in the restroom.
  - a. An individual who is not a staff member may not enter the restroom area while in use by any child other than his own child.
13. A child age five and older may be permitted to go to and return from the restroom without staff.
14. If a prekindergarten program or early learning center is part of a school with children in kindergarten or older, staff shall ensure that the children enrolled in the prekindergarten program or early learning center are not unsupervised in the restroom at the same time as any older children who are using the restroom. For any facility constructed after January 1, 2026, there shall be designated separate restrooms for the children enrolled in the prekindergarten program or early learning center.
15. Children shall be changed and cleaned immediately following a toileting accident.

LDOE Public School Complaint Line	LDOE Early Childhood Complaint Line	*School Name* Complaint Line
1-877-453-2721	225.342.9905	504-861-1466





## Important Dates



### **Tuesday, August 12**

First Half Day for Group A

(see email from Homeroom Teacher sent 8/4/2025)

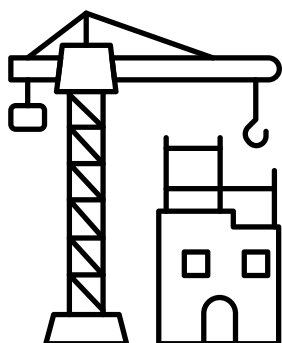
12:00 Dismissal for All

### **Wednesday, August 13**

First Half Day for Group B

(see email from Homeroom teacher sent 8/4/2025)

12:00 Dismissal for All



### **Thursday, August 14**

Full day of school for all students

No Early or Later Gators



### **Friday, August 15**

Full day of school for all students

No Early or Later Gators

Feast of the Assumption Mass, 8:30 AM @ HNJ Church (K - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, parents welcome)

### **Monday, August 18**

First day of Early and Later Gators

### **Wednesday, August 20**

PK3-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Individual School Pictures

### **Thursday, August 21**

Little Gators, 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grade Individual School Pictures

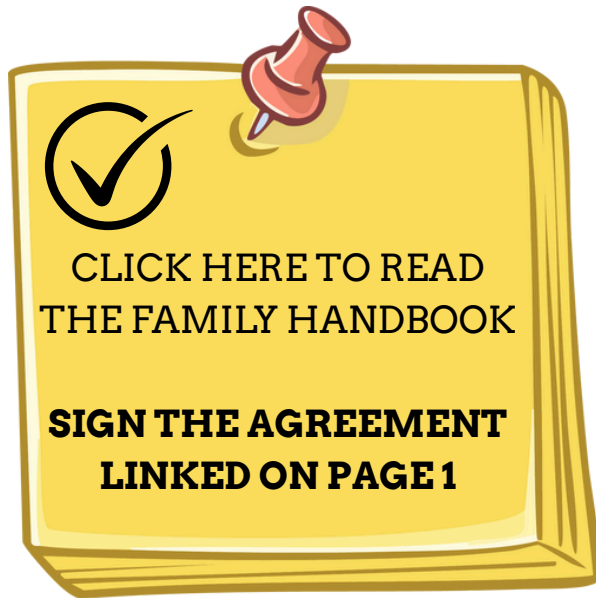


Click here to access  
our Google Calendar!

Click Here  
to see the  
August  
Lunch  
Menu!

# - To do -

The items on this page are required to be completed for each student **BEFORE** the first day of school







We're thrilled to return to Holy Name of Jesus School for another amazing year! Messina's Catering is proud to once again partner with the school to provide a delicious and nutritious lunch program your students will love.

## WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

Our school lunch program features a variety of meal options to keep your child excited about lunchtime, including:

HOT LUNCH      HANDHELD LUNCH      FRESH SALAD  
HAMBURGER      CHEESEBURGER

## PRICING

PK3 - K: \$5.75/ meal

1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: \$6.25/meal (*larger portion*)

All meals include a choice of  
white milk or chocolate milk.

Hot, Handheld, Cheeseburger, and Hamburger Lunches include daily sides of: Vegetable, Starch or Fruit/ Dessert

### 1ST SEMESTER PAYMENT:

PK3 - Kindergarten: \$465.75

1st - 7th Grade: \$506.25

### FULL YEAR PAYMENT:

PK3 - Kindergarten: \$977.50

1st - 7th Grade: \$1,062.50

Take Advantage of Our Convenient Pre-Payment Options! Semester or full-year payments must be made by check only and are due by August 15. Please make checks payable to Messina's Catering & Events and include your child's name and grade in the memo line.

For daily lunch purchases, please create an account through MySchoolBucks at [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com). Instructions to follow soon.







Dear Holy Name of Jesus School Parents,

We're excited to announce that we've partnered with MySchoolBucks to provide a convenient and secure way to manage your child's school meal payments. With MySchoolBucks, you can easily handle meal payments using a credit/debit card or electronic check.

Using MySchoolBucks you can:

- Add funds to your student's meal account
- View meal balances & cafeteria purchases
- Receive low-balance alerts

Getting Started is Easy:

- Download the [mobile app](#) or visit [myschoolbucks.com](#)
- Click "Sign Up for Free" icon
- Fill in your information
- Get Started
- Select your state (Louisiana) and district (Holy Name of Jesus)
- Create your free account
- Add your student
- Add funds to your student's meal account

If you already have a MySchoolBucks account:

- Log into your existing account
- Click "District" at the top of the page
- Click "Add Another School District"
- Select your state (Louisiana) and district (Holy Name of Jesus)
- Add your student
- Follow account setup steps

If you have any questions about getting started with MySchoolBucks call (855) 832-5226. For any general questions please contact [hnlunch@messinascatering.com](mailto:hnlunch@messinascatering.com)



MESSINASCATERING.COM | 504.469.7373 | 916 DAKIN ST. JEFFERSON, LA 70121

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





# WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK IN HNJ ATHLETICS?

A huge thank you to all the HNJ families who came out to support HNJ Day at the Saints Training Camp on July 30! It was a fantastic day filled with cheering on our Saints, enjoying time together as a school community, and showing our Gator pride. Your energy and enthusiasm made the day even more special. Go Saints, Go Gators!



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







# Music Notes

## **3rd Grade Music Class**

If your child is in 3rd grade, he/she will learn how to play the recorder this year using our playful and instructional Recorder Karate curriculum. Please fill out this [RECORDER FORM](#) by **Thursday, August 14** so we can purchase your child's instruments as soon as possible.



## **Middle School Choir**

If your child is in 5th, 6th, or 7th grade and loves to sing, we would love to have him/her join our HNJ Choir! The [Choir Registration 25-26](#) form is linked here and has information that will likely answer many of your questions.

We accept all HNJ **5th, 6th, and 7th grade** children regardless of experience, skill level, or voice type. Usually a large percentage of middle school students join, so please don't miss this opportunity.

Choir rehearsals are once per week from **3-4:30pm**. Our first rehearsal is **Thursday, August 14**.

If your child is interested in joining our first two rehearsals but not yet sure if he/she wants to commit, we would love for your child to come join us on both Thursday, August 14 and Thursday, August 21 in the music room to come see what choir is all about.

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



# Blessing of the Backpacks



**Sunday, August 17**

**10:30 a.m. Family Mass**

*All students are invited to bring their backpacks to church and  
receive a blessing as they start the school year*



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



Holy Name of Jesus PTC

# BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

Bring your blanket or chairs and  
enjoy a back to school BBQ  
dinner with HNJ families!



FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 26

6:00 - 9:00

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP



DINNER ORDER



PLEASE PRE-ORDER MEALS. A LIMITED NUMBER OF  
MEAL TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT.  
DRINKS AND DESSERTS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE  
EVENT. BEER AND WINE AVAILABLE WITH DONATION.





# 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](http://www.hnjchurch.org)

AUGUST 17, 2025

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## ALREADY BLAZING!

— LUKE 12:49 —

TWENTIETH 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](mailto:holyname@hnjchurch.org)

### ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

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

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

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





# Save the Date

HNJ GRANDPARENTS AND  
GRAND-FRIENDS WEEK 2025

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

*Family Mass, 10:30 am at HNJ Church*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

*PK3 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Lunch with Grandparents*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

*PK4 and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch with Grandparents*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

*K and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch with Grandparents*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

*1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch with Grandparents*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

*2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch with Grandparents*

*Grandparents Movie Night, 6:00 PM*

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW



# 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!

