

The Gator Gazette



Holy Name of Jesus School Parent Newsletter

January 13, 2026

Principal's Perspective

Dear Holy Name of Jesus School Community,

We are in the midst of our re-enrollment season, and I want to pause to sincerely thank our families for the many ways you contribute to the culture and spirit of HNJ. The partnership between home and school is at the heart of who we are, and we are deeply grateful for the trust you place in us each day by entrusting your children to our care. Your commitment, engagement, and shared values help create a community rooted in faith, academic excellence, and genuine care for one another. As we plan for the year ahead, your continued support allows us to strengthen our programs, retain exceptional faculty, and ensure that HNJ remains a place where every child is known, challenged, and loved.

Summer camp has been an important topic across Louisiana this year, particularly for PK4 families, due to new state licensing requirements for programs serving four-year-olds. We want to clearly communicate that HNJ **will** offer summer camp for rising PK4 students. We are fortunate to already operate a licensed daycare, and we will extend that license to the spaces used for four-year-olds during the summer. In addition, we will hire counselors who meet all state requirements and will fully comply with all state standards.

Because this licensing structure requires consistent enrollment and staffing, rising PK4 students will be required to enroll for the *entire summer program*. Also, campers who have not turned 5 by June 1, 2026, will be placed in the PK4 group. These policies are a direct result of the state licensing requirements and are necessary for us to remain in compliance while providing a safe, high-quality experience for our youngest campers. As many programs across the state are unable to accommodate four-year-olds this summer, space at HNJ will be limited. Enrollment will open first to our current families, making it important to register by March 6, 2026. Additional information, including pricing, will be shared soon.

You can find more information regarding camp here: <https://hnjschool.org/summer-at-hnj>

We are proud to be positioned to support our families continuously—from infants through seventh grade—and we look forward to another summer and school year growing together.

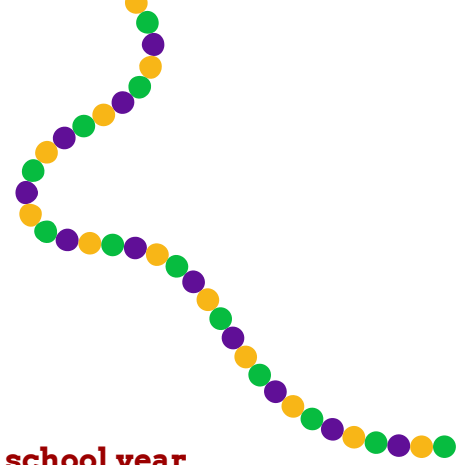
God Bless,
Kirsch J. Williams

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





Upcoming Important Dates



Wednesday, January 14
Winter Sports Team Photos

Friday, January 16
Re-enrollment due for all students returning in the 26-27 school year
Early Dismissal, No Later Gators (PK3 - 7th Grade)
Parent Teacher Conferences by teacher request (PK3 - 7th Grade) 1:00 - 6:00 PM
Normal Day for Little Gators

Monday, January 19
No School For Students (LG - 7th Grade) - Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Thursday, January 22
Men's Club General Meeting, 6:00 PM



Saturday, January 24
Dad and Darling Night (see flyer below)

Sunday, January 25 - Saturday, January 31
Catholic Schools Week

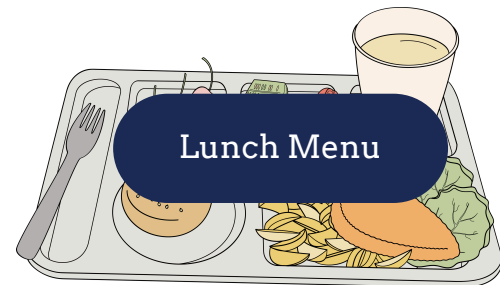


Sunday, January 25
Alumni Mass (see flyer below)



Monday, January 26
HNJ Spirit Shirt Day
Little Gators - Kindergarten 26-27 Admissions Decisions Released

Monday, January 26 - Thursday, January 29
Discover HNJ Tours (more info coming soon)





January 5, 2026

Dear Holy Name of Jesus School Families,

We remain dedicated to fostering personal excellence at Holy Name of Jesus School, a commitment that drives our consistent success. Our identity as a Cognia School of Distinction, along with our exceptional educators, programs, and collaboration with Loyola, continues to set us apart.



Academic Excellence & Growth

Over the past six years, our students have consistently shown academic growth in math and language arts, reflecting school-wide progress. We are proud that our students continue to surpass national averages in both math and English. This success is supported by our refined approach to teaching, assessing, and celebrating our Ignatian core beliefs. We continue to expand our diverse course offerings, including student-choice electives for middle school, an enhanced foreign language curriculum, a variety of athletic options, and an unmatched fine arts program.

Excitement for Our Foundations for the Future Capital Campaign Completion!

We are thrilled to share that all students attending Holy Name of Jesus School in the 2026-2027 school year will experience the benefits of our new facility! The projected completion date for this project—a long-held dream for our community—is May 2026. The new building will offer a host of thoughtfully-designed additions, including:

- A fully-equipped, regulation-size **gymnasium** with a concession stand, locker rooms, and coaches' offices
- An elevated **running track**
- A new **art studio** and **music room**
- A new full-sized **elevator**
- **New bathrooms** on the 2nd and 3rd floors
- Ten new **classrooms** for our **Little Gators** and **PK3** students
- A new Little Gators playground, allowing for the **expansion of the existing Little Yard** for K-2nd
- Providing more space in the main building for **more purposeful spaces** for **PK4-7th Grade**



We are grateful for your continued partnership and are happy to open re-enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year. Tuition and fees directly support competitive compensation for our dedicated teachers, sustain our exceptional academic programs, maintain low student-to-teacher ratios, and enable continued investment in our historic campus. Retaining talented educators is a top priority at HNJ, with approximately 70% of our budget allocated to salaries and benefits. In a profession that is historically undercompensated nationwide, we are committed to doing our part to better support and value our teachers.

For the 2026-2027 school year, we have taken steps to simplify the tuition structure for our families. While the tuition increase is in line with the national inflation rate to cover operational costs and increased salaries, we have structured our fees to provide significant value and transparency:

- **All-Inclusive Fee Structure:** Unlike many other institutions, HNJ does not charge separate fees for church parish support, technology, PTC, yearbooks, or payment plans.
- **Supplies Included:** To simplify your back-to-school experience, all school supplies are included in the cost of tuition.
- **Family-Centered Discounts:** HNJ is one of only a few schools in Uptown New Orleans offering a sibling discount for elementary and middle school students.
- **Simplified Building Fee:** The building fee is assessed per family rather than per student, regardless of grade levels. This covers all students in the family, including Little Gators and Early Childhood.



We understand that a tuition increase can present challenges. If this affects your ability to continue enrollment, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are committed to assisting and retaining our families as we expand our school. More information will be provided soon regarding the following.

- We offer a financial aid application, which can be completed through **FACTS**.
- We encourage all rising Kindergarten students to apply for **Arete and Aspiring Scholars**.

We are grateful for your continued partnership and are happy to open re-enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year.

May God continue to bless our school,

Rev. Mark E. Thibodeaux

Kirsch J. Williams

Rev. Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ, Pastor

Kirsch J. Williams, Principal

Holy Name of Jesus School Re-Enrollment Timeline
 Re-enrollment for current Little Gators through 6th Grade: January 5-16, 2026
 New Students Accepted Rising Little Gators through Kindergarten: January 26, 2026
 New Students Accepted Rising 1st through 7th Grade: February 2, 2026



2026-2027 Tuition Rates

Tuition for 1st-7th Grade Students				
	Annual Tuition	Building Fee* (per family)	Registration Fee*	Total
1 Child	\$9,450	\$950	\$150	\$10,550
2 Children	\$18,428	\$950	\$300	\$19,678
3 Children	\$26,933	\$950	\$450	\$28,333

*Non-refundable

Tuition for Early Childhood				
	Annual Tuition	Building Fee* (per family)	Registration Fee*	Total
Youngest/Only Students:				
PK3	\$13,300	\$950	\$150	\$14,400
PK4	\$13,300	\$950	\$150	\$14,400
Kindergarten	\$11,300	\$950	\$150	\$12,400
Sibling Rate:				
PK3	\$13,300	\$0	\$150	\$13,450
PK4	\$13,300	\$0	\$150	\$13,450
Kindergarten	\$11,300	\$0	\$150	\$11,450

*Non-refundable

Tuition for Infant, PK1, PK2 Students				
	Annual Tuition	Building Fee* (per family)	Registration Fee*	Total
Youngest/Only Students:				
Infant (Under 12 months on 08/01/26)	\$19,220	\$950	\$150	\$20,320
One Year Old (Must be 12 months by 08/01/26)	\$17,000	\$950	\$150	\$18,100
Two Year Old (Must be 24 months by 08/01/26)	\$15,980	\$950	\$150	\$17,080
Sibling Rate:				
Infant (Under 12 months on 08/01/26)	\$19,220	\$0	\$150	\$19,370
One Year Old (Must be 12 months by 08/01/26)	\$17,000	\$0	\$150	\$17,150
Two Year Old (Must be 24 months by 08/01/26)	\$15,980	\$0	\$150	\$16,130

*Non-refundable

Multi-student tuition discounts apply to students in 1st-7th only. Building fee is per family regardless of grade levels. HNJ does not charge separate fees for church parish support, technology, PTC, yearbook, payment plans, etc. All school supplies are included.

Tuition payment plans are annual, semi-annual, or 11 months from June to April. Families can opt to pay monthly or bi-monthly. Tuition paid annually (by May 15, 2026) will receive a \$350 discount upon payment. Tuition paid semi-annually (by May 15, 2026 and December 15, 2026) will receive a \$175 discount per payment.

The registration fee is due at re-enrollment to secure admission.

Students who withdraw after submitting the enrollment contract will forfeit all fees.

After May 1st, a student who withdraws will be responsible for all fees (\$1,100) and one month's tuition. All payments will continue per the agreement schedule signed at registration until this requirement is satisfied.

After June 1st, a student who withdraws will forfeit all fees (\$1,100) and is responsible for the total annual tuition for each student in the family who withdraws. All payments will continue per the agreement schedule signed at registration.

2026-2027 Re-Enrollment Instructions: Holy Name of Jesus School

Dear Families,

Thank you for entrusting your children to Holy Name of Jesus School. Our students and families are essential to our community, and we look forward to welcoming you back. Please follow the instructions below to complete the re-enrollment process for the upcoming school year.

Important Dates & Fees

- **Deadline:** Re-enrollment must be completed by 11:59 PM on Friday, January 16th.
- **Registration Fee:** A \$150 registration fee will be charged to your FACTS account upon submission.
- **Late Penalty:** Failure to complete the packet and pay the registration fee by the deadline will result in a \$500 late fee.
- **Enrollment Security:** To secure your child's spot for the 2026-2027 school year, the packet must be submitted, and the fee received. After the re-enrollment period ends, all vacant spots will be opened to new applicants.

How to Re-Enroll

The online process takes approximately 15 minutes. Your progress is saved if you pause and return later.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. **Log In:** Access the [Family Portal](#) using your existing credentials.
2. **Navigate:** Click on the **Apply / Enroll** link in the left-hand menu.
3. **Select:** Click on **Enrollment / Re-Enrollment**.
4. **Open:** Select the link labeled **Click here to open Enrollment**.
5. **Start:** Locate your child's name and click **Start Enrollment Packet**.
 - o Note: If your child is not returning, please click **Will Not Enroll**.
6. **Finalize:** The process is only complete once you have selected a FACTS tuition payment plan for next year and clicked **Submit**.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am here to help!

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Addison
Director of Student Affairs and Outreach
kaddison@hnschool.org



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

MORGAN SUBERVIELLE,
SCHOOL COUNSELOR

msubervielle@hnjschool.org

Good Sleep Habits

Now that the holiday season is over, it's time to establish our daily routines again! Getting enough sleep is essential for a child's academic success. Insufficient sleep can lead to difficulties in concentration and hinder their ability to learn effectively.

Effects of Insufficient Sleep on Academic Performance

Lack of sleep has been linked to lower academic achievement in middle school, high school, and college. It can also result in higher rates of absenteeism and tardiness. For optimal performance, most younger children (ages 5-12) require 10-12 hours of sleep per night, while adolescents (ages 13-18) need about 8-10 hours per night.

Tips for Establishing a Good Nighttime Routine

To help your child get back into a healthy sleep routine, here are some tips:

- **Consistent Bedtime:** Determine a consistent bedtime for your child and stick to it every night. A regular sleep schedule helps your child relax and fall asleep more easily. Consider setting aside time for a calming bedtime routine, such as taking a bath or shower, reading together, and tucking them in with a good-night message.
- **Limit Electronics:** Encourage your child to turn off electronic devices at least 1 hour before bedtime. The blue light emitted by screens can interfere with the body's natural sleep-wake cycle, making it harder to fall asleep.
- **Create a Calm Environment:** Ensure a quiet and calm setting in your home, especially when younger children are trying to sleep. Minimize noise and distractions to help them drift off peacefully.

By following these tips, you can help your child establish a healthy nighttime routine and ensure they are well-rested for school. Remember, a good night's sleep is the foundation for academic success!

For more information about developing a good sleep routine, click here:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/healthy-living/sleep/Pages/Healthy-Sleep-Habits-How-Many-Hours-Does-Your-Child-Need.aspx>

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





Music Notes

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.**

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



**Sports,
Music, &
More!**

LATER GATORS SPRING ACTIVITIES REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



**Soccer
Basketball
Volleyball**

**Guitar
Piano
Voice**

Philosophy

Click for more information



Come Join Us

**Celebrate Catholic Schools Week and
our Annual Alumni Mass**

Sunday, January 25 at 10:30 AM

- **Bring the whole family to this kid-friendly service**
- **Help us honor our 2026 Distinguished Graduate Nominee**
- **Hear the Annual Report from Principal Kirsch Williams**
- **Re-connect with other HNJ alumni**



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





THE HOLY NAME 7TH GRADE CLASS
INVITES YOU TO

Darling Dance

COME DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY WITH
YOUR HOLY NAME DARLING!

JANUARY

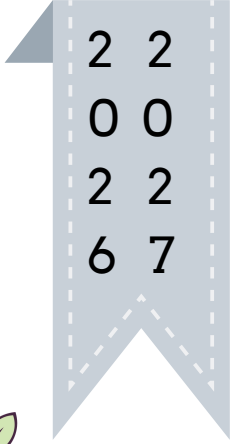
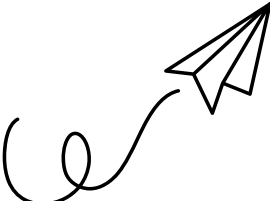
SATURDAY | **24** | 6PM - 8 PM
2026

HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

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





TENTATIVE School Days 2026-2027
 Applies to all students (LG-7th) unless otherwise noted



August

11 & 12: First Two Half Days
 13: First Full Day for all students

September

4: Half Day - Teacher Professional Development
 7: No School - Labor Day
 25: Half Day - Teacher Professional Development



October

15: Half Day, Prospective Student Open House
 16: PK3 - 7th Grade No School - Parent Teacher Conferences (Little Gators regular day)
 30: Half Day - Teacher Professional Development



November

13: Half Day - Gator Fest Set Up
 16: No School - Gator Fest Clean Up
 23-27: No School - Thanksgiving Break

December

18: Christmas Programs, dismissal immediately follows
 21-31: No School - Christmas Break



January

1: No School - Christmas Break
 4: No School - Teacher Professional Development
 15: PK3 - 7th Grade Half Day - Parent Teacher Conferences (Little Gators regular day)
 18: No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



February

4: Half Day - Mardi Gras
 5-12: No School - Mardi Gras Break



March

25: Half Day - Easter
 26-31: No School - Easter Break



April

1-2: No School - Easter Break
 30: Half Day - Teacher Professional Development



May

21: 7th Grade last day
 27: PK3, PK4, Kindergarten last day
 28: 1st-6th End of Year Mass (dismissal immediately follows)





FAMILY DAY at the fest!

Book it!

SUNDAY
MARCH 15
2026

10 AM - 2 PM



Bring the magic of books to life with a full day of stories, activities & discovery.

**FREE BOOKS, FREE FOOD & FUN
FOR READERS OF ALL AGES!**

The New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University will take place on March 12-15, 2026, featuring local, regional and national authors participating in moderated panel discussions and keynote lectures on the uptown campus. The Festival will continue to engage the local community through specially curated events that highlight New Orleans as a hub for important literary conversations. New in 2026, the Festival will expand to include an additional day of programming on Sunday, March 15, dedicated to young readers and their families. *Family Day at the Fest* will feature educational activities and special programming in partnership with Scholastic and the City of New Orleans.

In 2010, the New Orleans Book Festival hosted by the City of New Orleans was established to create a free event for the children of New Orleans and their families to celebrate reading. By 2013, the festival had attracted a total of 10,000 attendees and donated 35,000 books to children of the community. In 2026, Family Day at the Festival will continue this tradition and remain a place for people from different backgrounds and neighborhoods to come together for a shared love of reading and learning.

A single book can change a young person's life. Providing young people in our community with exposure to new voices and giving them access to engaging literary experiences fosters their imaginations and positively affects them and their families. This joyful, high-energy celebration brings literature to life with live author readings, interactive performances, book giveaways and hands-on activities for kids of all ages. Admission is free and open to the public, thanks to generous support of our sponsors.



The **NEW ORLEANS
BOOK FESTIVAL**
at Tulane University

march
15



FAMILY DAY at the fest!

Family Day at the New Orleans Book Festival is a family-centered, free event that will include lively author presentations, book readings, book-related activities and a book distribution. It will be open and accessible to all children of our community and their families, and the Festival will work with public schools to encourage participation. Attendees will enjoy a full schedule of presentations, activities and entertainment.

Family Day is designed to be a dynamic and fun experience for all ages. A diverse selection of authors and presenters will interact with students and sign books throughout the day. Book characters will walk around the festival grounds creating a lively atmosphere. Children will find something that appeals to all reading levels, backgrounds and reading interests. As part of the Family Day programming, the Festival will host outreach programs including author visits to local schools. On the day of the Festival, organizers will engage a bus service to provide all day round trip transportation to and from the festival grounds from various locations throughout the Greater New Orleans area. To participate in programming, the Festival also plans to engage local partners whose mission includes literacy and family-centered initiatives. The mission of the New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane is to support and nurture a literary community by connecting readers of all ages and backgrounds with local and national authors through experiences that celebrate the power of literacy and ideas. The New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University is housed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization within the structure of and is presented in partnership with Tulane University. The Festival is made possible by the support of Tulane University and the generosity of individuals, corporations and literacy and family foundations.

The HNJ Yearbook Committee needs your photos!

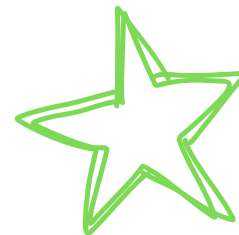
We need pictures from this school year! If you have photos from any of these past events, or any future HNJ events, please submit them to us!

- 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!



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.

JANE SMITH CLASS OF 2025

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



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!

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NEW ORLEANS' DIAPER DRIVE

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.

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

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.



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





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

JANUARY 18, 2026

SECOND 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)

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)
(for by Appointment)

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

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

WWW.HNJC.HURCH.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 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.



**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

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