

The Gator Gazette



Holy Name of Jesus School Parent Newsletter

March 10, 2026

A Message from Father Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ

Dear HNJ Community, Pax Christi—Peace of Christ!

I am writing to let you know that I will be stepping down as pastor of HNJ Parish and School on April 6, 2026, in order to take on my new mission as Novice Director for the Jesuits. On the one hand, I'm terribly sorry to leave a work and community that I love so much (you!). On the other hand, I'm deeply grateful for the time I have had with you, and I am also honored and moved by the Jesuits' trust in me as I take on this important role for our province.

This announcement may seem abrupt and surprising to you, but I have been expecting "the call" for a while now. I am the longest-serving pastor of HNJ for over 40 years. So, my time has come. What necessitated this particular move is that our current novice director has just been named the next provincial of the UCS province. This appointment requires him to leave his role as novice director fairly quickly. Because I have previously served in this role, I am uniquely qualified to slip right into this position.

You can think of a novice director as a seminary director. I will be living and working with men in the first two years of their lives as Jesuits. They will not yet have taken religious vows, so together each individual novice and I will discern if this indeed is the life to which God is calling them. To have served as novice director for ten years before coming to HNJ was one of the greatest honors of my life, and I found the work deeply fulfilling. To be asked a second time was beyond my imagination.

I leave Holy Name with gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together. Many will look back on this period of our history and relish the enormously successful Capital Campaign, which has allowed us to do some wonderful and much-needed renovations to our church in addition to constructing a huge new classroom and gymnasium building. While I cannot be more proud of us for those achievements, they are not the things that bring me the most joy as I look back on my time at Holy Name. As I leave here, I am most grateful for the smiles and warm hugs of our children, for the many adults becoming full Catholics through our parish, for the faithful "old guard" who have remained loyal to this community in good times and in bad, for our increase in young adults and young families who now regularly worship here, and for our expanded work with the poor and the forgotten.

What will happen next? On the evening of April 6th, we will have a party celebrating our wonderful years together (mark your calendars!!). Then, Father Eddie Gros, SJ, will take over as acting pastor until our new pastor arrives on July 1, 2026.

And I'm delighted to introduce you to your new pastor! Father Mark Kramer, SJ, will be joining you in the summer. I am delighted that such a loving and talented priest has been chosen for this role. Father Kramer was pastor of our Jesuit parish in Grand Coteau, LA, for many years, which included overseeing St. Ignatius Catholic School. He was wildly successful in this role and was beloved by the parishioners and the school community alike. He will be a magnificent pastor of HNJ Parish and School.

Please indulge me with one last favor. It is important to me that I remain "light on my feet" as a Jesuit and a man of religious poverty. If you felt inclined to give me a gift that I would have to pack in my bag, please instead make a contribution in my name to our campaign.

I cannot thank you enough for providing me with some of the happiest years of my life. You will remain in my heart forever. Please pray for me as I move to our Denver Novitiate to help form some new future pastors of Holy Name of Jesus!

Yours in Christ,
Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ

Upcoming Important Dates

Wednesday, March 11

Discover HNJ Construction Tour (see flyer below)



Thursday, March 12

Honor Roll Ceremony (3rd - 7th Grade)

Friday, March 13

School Prayer Service (K-7th, parents welcome, seating limited)

Gym Floor Signing (all students)

Troop 55 Lenten Fish Fry (see flyer below)



Saturday, March 14

Mom and Mister (see flyer below)



Monday, March 16

HNJ Spirit Shirt Day

Tuesday, March 17

Green shirt spirit day - Happy St. Patrick's Day! (spirit shirt guidelines apply)

Wednesday, March 18

Discover HNJ Construction Tour (see flyer below)

Thursday, March 19

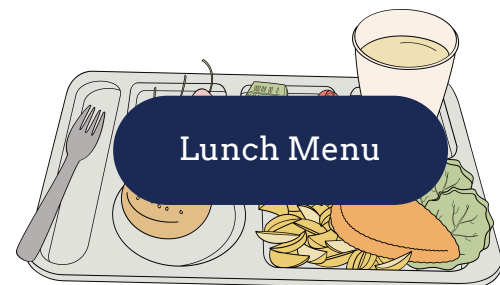
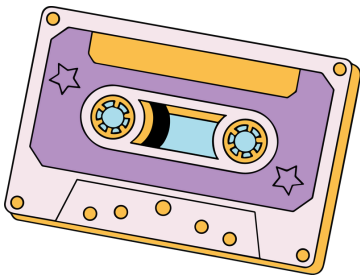
Men's Club General Meeting, 6:00 PM

Saturday, March 21

HNJ Spring Gala @ Val's (see flyer below)

Monday, March 23 - Sunday, March 29

Scholastic Book Fair



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

MORGAN SUBERVIELLE,
SCHOOL COUNSELOR

msubervielle@hnjschool.org

Frenemies

"A "frenemy" often appears as a friend but may secretly feel resentment or jealousy. This mix of companionship and competition can lead to widespread rumors in class, passive-aggressive comments in the lunchroom, or rivalry in group projects. For students trying to navigate through the social maze of school, recognizing and understanding frenemy relationships is key.

How parents can help:

- Teach children to notice friendship red flags.
- Foster self and mutual respect by highlighting the importance of respect and modeling respecting others in all interactions.
- Promote honest conversations by encouraging children to share their thoughts and worries about friendships.
- Offer support or reflection when relationships hit rocky patches.

FRENEMIES

unhealthy friendships



Mrs. Bell
The CRAFTY
Counselor

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



JOIN US FOR
HNJ
GALA 2026

Glamour Shots

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026
7-11 PM

VALS
4632 FRERET STREET
NEW ORLEANS

HNJSCHOOL.ORG/GALA-AUCTION

DONATIONS NEEDED

Auction 2026



Beach Houses * Art * Vacations * Jewelry
Restaurants * Hosting Dinner Parties
Fun Family Experiences * Memberships
Spa Days * Gift Cards * Home Decor Items * Tickets

Donate at hnjschool.org/gala-auction

\$20
EACH



**HNJ GALA
AIRBRUSHED
HATS**

Pre-order yours today and
get it airbrushed at the Gala!

ONECAU.SE/_EXWAN1

HOLY NAME
OF JESUS
SCHOOL

Tuition/Cash
RAFFLE

Purchase a ticket for a chance to win your choice of
either a \$5,000 tuition credit for the 2026-2027
school year OR a \$2,500 cash prize. Raffle will
convert to a 50/50 drawing if minimum is not met.
Winner will be drawn on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

The winner need not be present.

Gaming License: G-0004386

\$50 each or 3/\$100



**COMING
SOON**



This year's Book Fair will be operating on a **cashless system** to provide a convenient and efficient shopping experience for all students and families

1. Preview the Book Fair – Click the links below to explore available titles and get your children excited about their selections.
2. Create an E-Wallet – Set up a digital wallet account using the links provided below. This account will allow you to add funds that your child can use during their shopping visit.
3. Click on the book fair schedule link to view the shopping schedule for all grades.

[Book Fair Schedule](#)

[Early Childhood
eWallet sign up](#)

[1st-7th eWallet
sign up](#)



HNJ CITY PARK NIGHT

Wednesday, April 1 | 6:00 – 9:00 PM
City Park Carousel Gardens Amusement Park

Advanced Wristbands (purchased by Tuesday, March 31):
First four wristbands \$20 each
Each additional wristband \$15 each

Onsite Wristbands:
\$25 each



[Click here](#)
[to](#)
[volunteer!](#)

Additional Information:

- Wristbands required for anyone age 2 or older
 - Includes access to all open rides
- City Park concessions are cashless and will be open
 - No outside food and drink allowed

Questions?

Contact Lizzie Frein at lizziefrein@gmail.com or 225.803.6288



HNJ'S ANNUAL TENNIS + PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

HNJ'S Annual Tennis + Pickleball
Tournament

Music, Food, Drinks, Prizes
City Park

4.15.26 | 9:00 AM

To Register scan the QR code below
Or click [here](#)

Sponsorship Opportunities
Click [here](#)



Save the Date

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

45TH ANNUAL

**LEE GARDEMAL
MEMORIAL**



GATOR RUN

Hosted by Holy Name of Jesus



VARIOUS RACES FOR ALL AGES | THERE WILL BE PRIZES

DATE: Saturday, May 9, 2026

LOCATION: Audubon Park Station 10

New Orleans, LA

SAVE THE DATE

Grand Gators
Year-End Luncheon
Tuesday, May 5, 2026
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
HNJ Parish Center

Please RSVP and Sign Up to bring
a Cinco de Mayo themed dish

It's Time for our READ-A-THON

March 1-15, 2026
Register today! It's easy!

- Then, email your link to friends & family
- Share on Facebook
- Record your minutes
- Win prizes
- Raise money for HNJ School

Top Homerooms that read the most
minutes and raise the most money
win...

- *Free Dress Day
- *Pizza Party
- *Octavia Books Gift Card for Teacher

Individual prizes for top readers and
top money raised...

- *Octavia Books Gift Card



2026-2027

Parent-Teacher Club Board Nominations



Self-Nominations or
Nominations of other
parents will be accepted.
Nominations will close
Monday, April 13.



\$15
PER PLATE
KIDS ONLY
\$11

Catfish, Shrimp or Combo
includes french fries, french
bread & potato salad.

Fresh, Authentic
Louisiana
Seafood!

TROOP 55

FISH FRY

FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY FEB 27,
MARCH 13 & 27

St. Francis of Assisi
Church Yard
6 pm until 8 pm





MOM & MISTER



Saturday, March 14 | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

CLICK TO REGISTER & COME READY TO PLAY!




AFTER-SCHOOL Newcomb Tutoring Program

with Tulane University



DOES YOUR KID NEED TUTORING HELP?


WE PROVIDE:

FREE WEEKLY TUTORING SESSIONS
BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL OPTIONS

SIGN UP TODAY!



ANT.SUPERVISORS@GMAIL.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.

Tour Dates:

Feb. 25, March 11, March 18, March 30
April 1, April 15, April 16, April 29, April 30, May 5, May 6

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. All tours will meet at the HNJ Parish Center, 6220 LaSalle Place, at 7:45 a.m.

REGISTER -->




ANNA KRAMER
YOUNG ELSA




6th Grader Anna Kramer will be playing Young Elsa in Jefferson Performing Art's FROZEN the musical, which opens this Friday. The show is double cast. She will be performing on only March 6,8, and 14. Tickets available at www.jpas.org.

RIISING
PK4 - 7TH
GRADE



JUNE 1-5

SOAR INTO SUMMER

JUNE 8-12

GALACTIC ADVENTURES

JUNE 15-18

CAMP CAMP

JUNE 22-26

MAD SCIENCE LAB

JULY 13-17

SPORTS MASHUP

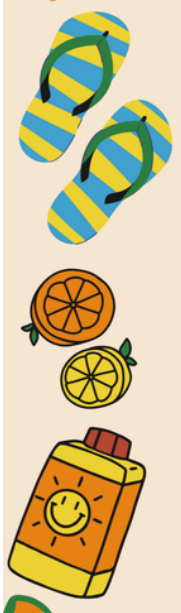
JULY 20-24

MESSY MASTERPIECES

JULY 27-31

END SUMMER WITH A SPLASH
+ ACADEMIC JUMP START

CLICK THE FLYER FOR
REGISTRATION INFORMATION



PLAYFUL PALS

A PLAY THERAPY GROUP FOR CHILDREN AGES
3 TO 7 YEARS OLD TO INCREASE:

- ✓ Emotional Regulation Skills
- ✓ Peer Play Skills
- ✓ Joint Attention Development
- ✓ Positive communication skills

Where: Nourish Counseling Studio

CONTACT INFO@NOURISHINNOLA.COM OR
VISIT NOURISHINNO.LA.COM FOR MORE
INFORMATION



Share Your Culture with Us to Create an Authentic Learning Experience

Fill out **THIS** survey to share your culture with us!



Save the Date
for HNJ's

TENNIS
n
TEQUILA

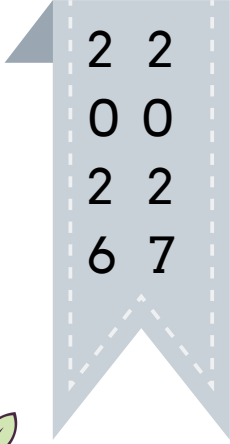
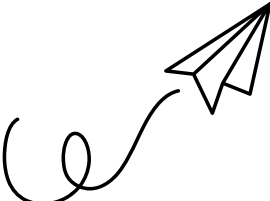
Annual Tennis and
Pickleball
Tournament

4.15.26



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
- 17: First Day of Early/Later Gators



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

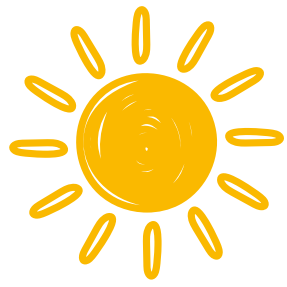


March

- 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.

**DEADLINE FOR SPRING GRAND
OPENING INSTALLATION:
MARCH 20, 2026**

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!



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!

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!





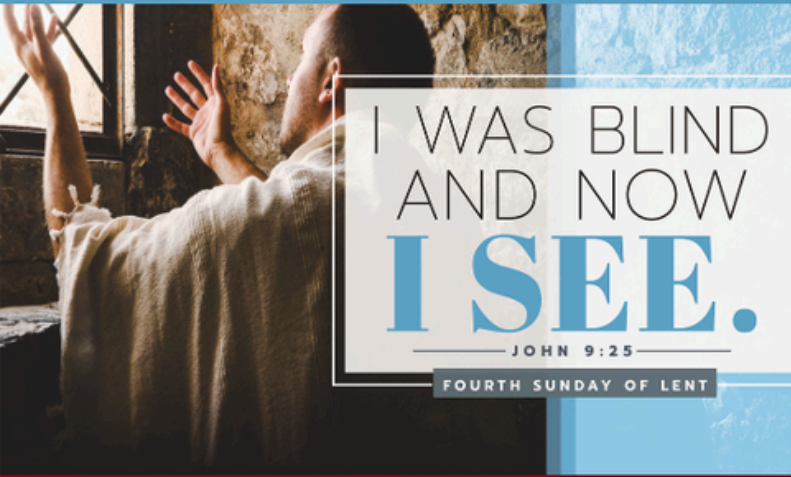
HOLY NAME of JESUS CHURCH

A Community for Others

6367 St. Charles Avenue New Orleans, LA 70118
On the Campus of Loyola University • www.hnjchurch.org

MARCH 15, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



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



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

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

