

The Gator Gazette



Holy Name of Jesus School Parent Newsletter

April 14, 2026

Principal's Perspective

Dear Holy Name of Jesus School Community,

We are an Easter people! Thank God for the life of hope we live in our resurrected Lord.

Over the Easter break, the administration spent time in Minneapolis at the National Catholic Educational Association Conference. What a blessing it is every year to stand in the presence of so many others who share the same mission in education! During the conference, we swap ideas and learn from each other. This year, we are bringing back ideas to refine and strengthen some of our current academic and student formation programming. We also learned that comparatively, Holy Name of Jesus continues to be ahead of the standard, serving as a model school in Catholic education! I am proud of our teachers, our leaders, and our community.

During this Easter season, let's continue to celebrate with one another the accomplishments of our school community and each individual student. Particularly, let's keep our class of 2026 in mind as they wrap up their time at Holy Name. Next week, they depart for their class trip where they will spend time in the mountains of North Carolina exploring nature, bonding, and conquering challenges they never knew they could.

Lastly, I would like to remind our community that our school liturgies are back in the church on Fridays at 8:30 AM. We invite you to join us as your schedule permits. It's a great way to end the week. We hope you can join us!

Easter Blessings!

God Bless,
Kirsch J. Williams

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



Upcoming Important Dates

Monday, April 13 - Friday, April 17

Free Dress for students who purchased passes at the Gala



Tuesday, April 14

HNJ Alumni Meeting and Social, 6:00 PM (see flyer below)

Wednesday, April 15

HNJ Tennis and Pickleball Tournament
Discover Holy Name Construction Tour (see flyer below)
Last Day for PTC Board Nominations (see flyer below)

Thursday, April 16

Discover Holy Name Construction Tour (see flyer below)
PK-3 - 2nd Grade Field and Water Day
Men's Club General Meeting, 6:00 PM in the Parish Center



Friday, April 17

School Mass, 8:30 AM @ HNJ Church (K - 7th, Parents Welcome)
3rd - 7th Grade Field and Water Day



Monday, April 20 - Friday, April 24

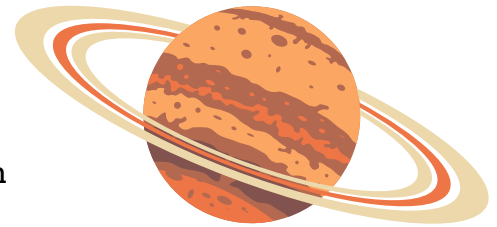
7th Grade Trip to Green River Preserve

Monday, April 20

HNJ Spirit Shirt Day

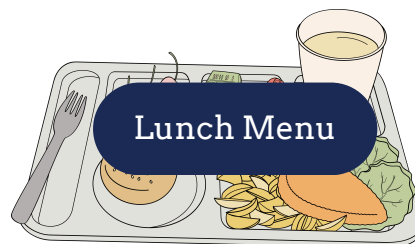
Tuesday, April 21

Kindergarten Field Trip to Planetarium



Friday, April 24

School Mass, 8:30 AM @ HNJ Church (K - 7th, Parents Welcome)
Early Dismissal for PK3 - 6th Grade Students (PK3/PK4 @ 11:45, K-7 @ 12:00)
No Later Gators for PK3 - 7th Grade
Normal Day for Little Gators
Faculty Professional Development PK3 - 7th Grade Teachers

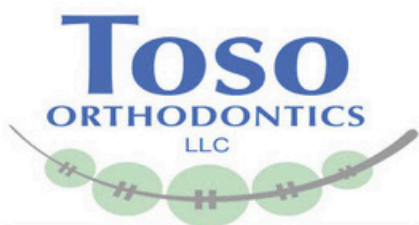


To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!



Thank you!

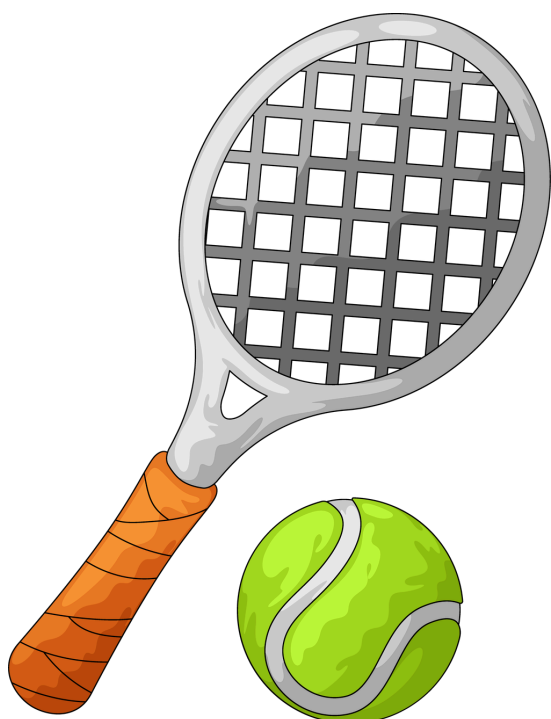
2026 Tennis/Pickleball GOLD & SILVER sponsors



Thank you,
Tennis
Tournament
Sponsors!

Thank you!

2026 Tennis/Pickleball Food & Beverage Sponsors



45th Annual Gator Run

May 9, 2026



Registration is LIVE NOW!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



HNJ Alumni

Share your story!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

We want to hear from you! We would love to hear a story, experience, or testimonial about your time at HNJ. What you submit may be used as a testimonial on our website, social media, admissions brochures, etc. Current and prospective families love to hear about the impact that an HNJ education had on alumni and how it paved the way to their future

HNJ ALUMNI

BOWLING

**TOURNAMENT
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026 | 6-9 PM

ROCK-N-BOWL



**HOLY NAME OF
JESUS SCHOOL**
A LOYOLA UNIVERSITY PARTNER

Alumni **MEETING & SOCIAL**

Join us for an HNJ Alumni Meeting & Social
Tuesday, April 14, 2026
6:00 p.m. - Meeting & Social
6:30 p.m. - HNJ School Construction Tour

Parking Available
in the HNJ
Chiu Family Yard
at 5:45 p.m.

Come learn about
forming our HNJ Alumni
Association and how you
can get involved!

RSVP

HOLY NAME OF JESUS

T.E.A.C.H.E.R.S & S.T.A.F.F

[Sign Up
Here](#)

APPRECIATION WEEK

4/27 - 5/1, 2026

[Wish
Lists](#)

MONDAY

**"Chandler steals the
cheesecake"**

**Lunch hosted by PTC
in the Parish Center.
Donated by Messina's**

TUESDAY

**"The one with all the
coffee and muffins"**

**Breakfast and coffee
in the lounge!**

WEDNESDAY

**"Joey doesn't share
food"**

**Grab & go snacks
in the lounge!**

THURSDAY

**"18 pages
front and back"**

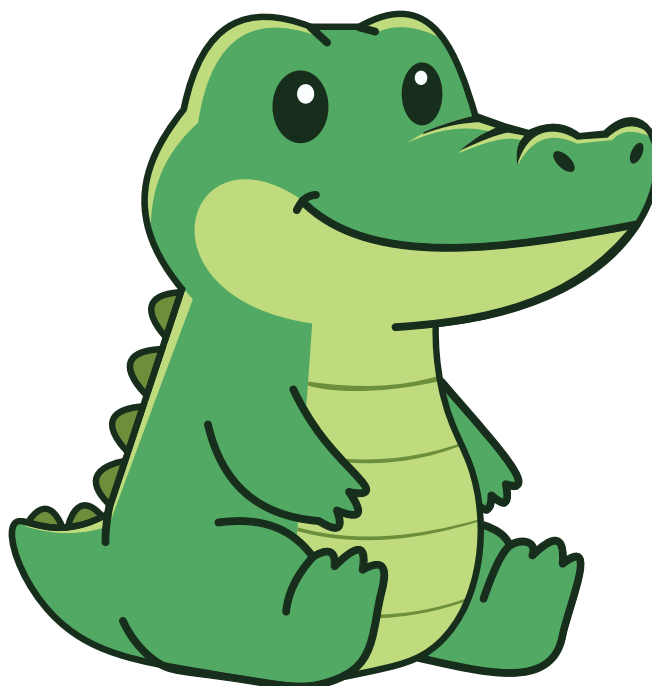
**Teacher supplies
giveaway in the
lounge!**

FRIDAY

**"Well, maybe I don't
need your money. Wait,
wait, I said maybe."**

**Favorites Friday - bring
something from your
teacher's favorites list**

**THANK
YOU FOR
BEING
THERE!**



SUMMER 20 PROGRAMS 26



SUMMER 20 PROGRAMS 26



Happy Plate Club

Food Exploration & Mealtime Skills

- ✓ Fun, supportive food exploration for selective or picky eaters
- ✓ Build confidence trying new foods
- ✓ Develop positive mealtime routines and healthy habits
- ✓ Reduce stress around meals for children and families

Mindful Moves

Movement, Regulation & Body Awareness

- ✓ Gentle movement activities to build body awareness and coordination
- ✓ Mindfulness strategies to support focus & self-regulation
- ✓ Improve balance, motor planning, & calm body control
- ✓ Great for children who benefit from movement & sensory regulation

Ready Readers

Early Literacy & Kindergarten Readiness

- ✓ Build sight words, letter recognition and early reading skills
- ✓ Practice rhyming, phonological awareness and CVC word decoding
- ✓ Guided reading with beginner books to boost confidence
- ✓ Led by experienced speech-language pathologists in a fun, engaging setting

Bike Riding

CLINIC



INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION BOOTCAMP



DRESS TO SUCCESS



Mindful Moves



Ready Readers



SCAN TO
SIGN UP!

Bike Riding Clinic

One-on-One Bike Lessons for Kids of All Ages

- ✓ Bring your bike (no training wheels) & helmet
- ✓ Fun, personalized activities to master two-wheel riding
- ✓ Gain confidence, independence, & new skills in just 1 week

Handwriting Helpers

Pre-K Primer: Fine Motor & Early Writing Skills

Build pencil grasp, fine motor control, & early writing confidence

Kindergarten Kickstart: Fine Motor & Writing Skills

Focus on strengthening pencil grasp, improving fine motor control, reinforcing correct letter case, and mastering first & last names in lowercase letters.

Writer's Workshop (1st-2nd): Writing & Sentence Skills

Build sentence-writing ability, reduce letter reversals, and improve organization of written work.

Cursive Connection: Cursive Writing Skills

Focus on instruction and review of cursive letter formation, improving cursive speed, fluidity, & legibility.

Keyboard Krewe: Keyboard & Typing Skills

For students entering 3rd grade and up: learn proper hand placement, typing techniques, and ergonomics. **Laptop required.**

Dress to Success

Dressing & Daily Living Skills

- ✓ For children 5+ ready to gain independence
- ✓ Practice buttoning, zipping, and tying shoelaces
- ✓ Strengthen fine motor skills
- ✓ Build confidence in daily dressing tasks

Individual Organization BootCamp

Executive Function & Organization Skills

- ✓ For children 3rd-8th grade who need help managing schoolwork & personal belongings
- ✓ Three 45-minute individualized sessions
- ✓ Learn strategies to tackle top organizational challenges
- ✓ Parent-supported tools for a successful, organized school year

Bike Riding

CLINIC



INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION BOOTCAMP



DRESS TO SUCCESS



Mindful Moves



Ready Readers



kim@kim4kidsnola.com 504-517-5437 www.kim4kidsnola.com 4317 El Dorado St., Metairie, LA 70006

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We're excited to share an upcoming course from The Parenting Center, Youth and Social Media: Staying Safe Online. In partnership with the Morgan Rae Center for Hope, we are offering this FREE class for parents focused on navigating online safety and supporting kids in today's digital world.

We would greatly appreciate your help in sharing this opportunity with colleagues and families who may benefit. Please find the class details below, as well as an attached graphic.

Youth and Social Media: Staying Safe Online

Explore the positive and negative aspects of social media, including cyberbullying and its impact on child development. Learn strategies to respond effectively, set healthy boundaries, and normalize regular conversations about online use. One session. Free.

Wednesday, April 29

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Worley Hall (210 State Street)

Register [online](#) or call 504.896.9591



Michael R. Boh Center
for Child Development

2026 Autism Acceptance Month Webinar Series



12:00pm - 12:30pm

How to Identify Safe & Effective Care for Autism
• Dr. Sara Shank

WEEK 1
April 7

12:30pm - 1:00pm

Como identificar una atención segura y eficaz para el autismo
• Dr. Magdalena Houssay



12:00pm - 12:30pm

Early Autism Diagnosis from a Parent/Professional Perspective
• Dr. Lynn Adams

WEEK 3
April 21

12:30pm - 1:00pm

Language-Based Learning Disorders in Children with Autism: Challenges & Treatment
• Dr. Elisa Moran



12:00pm - 12:30pm

Beyond Diagnosis: Matching Referrals to the Individual Needs of Children with Autism
• Dr. Emily Mathis, BCBA-D

WEEK 2
April 14

12:30pm - 1:00pm

From Evaluation to Access & Why Diagnosis Isn't Enough: Bridging the Gap Between Evaluation & School-Based Support Under Bulletin 1508
• Dr. Christiane Graveling



12:00pm - 1:00pm

Toilet Training & Autism: Recognizing Readiness & Supporting Success
• Dr. Eboni Smith-Hollier
• Addie Andrus, BCBA

WEEK 4
April 28

Register Today!

Join us virtually for a **free** 4-part webinar series.

» Tuesdays in April
12:00pm - 1:00pm

Contact us at healthyschools@ochsner.org for more details.



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

2026-2027

Parent-Teacher Club Board Nominations



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



Save the Date
THE LEGACY CONTINUES
45TH ANNUAL
LEE GARDEMAL
MEMORIAL

1979 - 1978 - 1974 - 2012 - 2004 - 2004 (re-run)
45 YEARS

GATOR RUN

Hosted by Holy Name of Jesus 
HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL

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

Grandparents and Friends
Week 2026

September 13 - 18

More details to follow



LSU Health NEW ORLEANS CAMP RAMP UP

Camp Ramp Up: Summer Reading Support for Grades 1–4

Get your child ready for the upcoming school year with **Camp Ramp Up**, a specialized literacy program for children entering grades 1–4. Designed to support both the eager and struggling readers, this program helps combat summer slide while building essential reading skills in a structured and engaging way.

Led by experienced speech-language pathologists and graduate student clinicians, **Camp Ramp Up** uses evidence-based, multisensory phonics approaches tailored to your child's needs. Small group sizes (max of 4 children) ensure personalized attention.

Through interactive lessons, learning games, and plenty of encouragement, your child will strengthen their phonological awareness, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. Whether your reader needs extra help or just a boost, help them start the school year strong with **Camp Ramp Up**!

DATES & TIMES: Monday, July 27 – Friday, July 31, 2026, from 9:00am–12:00pm

FEE: \$400 per camper, plus a \$50 screening fee

LOCATION: NLSU Speech and Hearing Clinic, 9th Floor of 1900 Gravier Street, NOLA 70112

FOR MORE INFO: Leslie Lopez, PhD, Camp Ramp Up Coordinator
Email: llope4@lsuhsc.edu
Phone: (504) 568-4341

A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due upon registration. Before June 1st, your payment is refundable, minus the \$100 deposit. All payments are non-refundable after June 1, 2026.

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!



Ramp up reading readiness for the next school year!



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:

April 15, April 16, April 29, April 30, May 3, 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 -->



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





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

APRIL 19, 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



JESUS HIMSELF DREW NEAR AND WALKED WITH THEM.

LUKE 24:15

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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 3-4:45 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: holynam@hnpjchurch.org

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

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

WWW.HNJCHURCH.ORG

WELCOME To the Brotherhood



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



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.

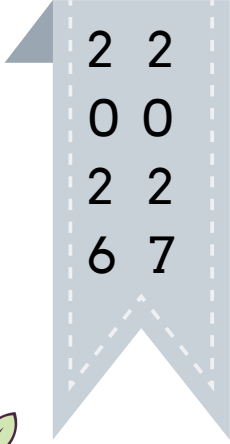
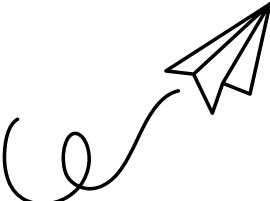
Little Gators is accepting donations of diapers in collaboration with the Junior League of New Orleans' Diaper Drive. Please bring diapers to donate to the Front Office or Little Gators Entrance. Thank you for your support!

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



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~~ **School Resumes - regular day**
- 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

- 5: No School - Teacher Professional Development**
- 25: Half Day - Easter
- 26-31: No School - Easter Break



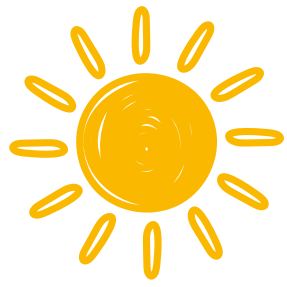
April

- 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)





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!

