HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

8/28/25

Upcoming Important Dates

- 8/29 & 9/1: No School, Labor Day Weekend
- 9/2: First day of school K & PREK-5 day program/ Gardner Busing Begins for eligible students
- 9/3: First day of school PREK 3 day program
- 9/12: Hot lunch orders for the week of 9/15 are due by 8 AM in Digital Academy
- 9/23: Fall Open House: 5-7PM: see details
- 9/26: Non-uniform day: optional donation for 5th Grade Nature's Classroom and ½ day dismissal at 11:30 AM
- 10/2 & 10/3: Fall pictures in school uniforms

Click Here for the 2025-2026 School Calendar

Class of 2026 on their last, first day at HFA

Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents/Families,

We pray that your family has had a healthy and fun back to school week! The atmosphere on the parish and school property came to life this week between the picnic and the first week of school for grades 1-8. Thank you to the PTO, staff, and everyone who attended and made it a success!

Next week, we're geared up to welcome our littlest shepherds to the HFA campus! We know that the PREK & Kindergarten transition is a big one (coming from a mom about to send her youngest of 4 into K). We promise that we get it and our staff will go out of their way all day to help your child have the best first day of school.

Although our school community has thankfully had a beautiful and joyful week back on campus, it is not lost on me that the tragic event that took place in Minnesota is weighing heavily on the minds of school communities everywhere. If you have not yet had the chance to read it, I encourage you to read my community email with information about HFA's safety and security plans. We are also reflecting on what we have learned from this tragic event and exploring additional ways to strengthen our commitment to the safety and well-being of our community. Thank you for your ongoing dialogue on this important topic.

This edition of our memo has important information about our school arrival on Tuesday 9/2, routine drop off procedures, our upcoming fall open house, and more! We hope you have a restful and wonderful long weekend. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Goguen

School Drop-Off

The school doors open at 7:45 AM each morning. Students should not be dropped off and left on school property without supervision before this time.

Due to the beautiful growth in enrollment, the following changes to school drop off will begin the week of Tuesday, September 2nd when PREK & K join the school year:

- **Families with a student in grades 4-8 only who live outside of Gardner are assigned to drop off behind the school on Regan Street during the regular drop off period of 7:45 AM-8AM.** A staff member will be on Regan Street during this 15 minute period to assist as students use the stairs to enter the HFA property.
- All tardy arrivals, which is after 8 AM, should be dropped off on Nichols Street. A parent/guardian should walk the student into the school and sign the student in.
- Families who live outside of Gardner who have a grade 4-8 student and a younger sibling(s) should still use Nichols Street for drop off.
- The parking lot behind the school will be closed off after 7:30 AM to prepare for student arrivals walking up the stairs to school.

Regardless of where you are assigned to drop off, it is critical that we are good neighbors to our residential, fire department, and business community members:

- Do not block driveways
- Please pull over to allow your child to safely get out of the car while also helping the flow of traffic continue
- Obey the speed limit. Gardner PD will spot check our arrival/dismissal traffic.
- Please be courteous. Mornings are rushed and hectic for everyone. Let's work together to make the start of our day positive.

Gym Days

Mondays: PREK3*, K
Grades 5, 4, 3, 7

Tuesdays: PREK5*, Grade 6

Wednesdays: Grades 1 & 8

Fridays: Grade 2

Students should wear their gym uniforms to school on their designated gym day. We do not reschedule gym if their gym day falls on a holiday or school closure.

*There is no separate gym uniform for PREK

Dismissal

- ***PREK classes will begin dismissal at 2:30 PM and end their dismissal at 2:45 PM***. A PREK student who is not yet picked up by 2:45 PM will be brought to extended care.
- ***K-4 classes will begin dismissal at 2:40 PM and end their dismissal at 2:50 PM***. Any K-4 student who is not picked up by 2:50 PM will be brought to extended care.
- ***Grades 5-8 classes begin dismissal at 2:45 PM.*** Any grades 5-8 students not picked up by 2:50 PM will be brought to extended care.

Dismissal Locations:

- PreK - Front door
- Kindergarten -Side door between the School and Church
- 1st Grade- Front door
- 2nd Grade- Side door between the School and Church
- 3rd Grade- Front door
- 4th Grade- Front door
- 5th-8th Grade- Dismissed out the playground side door (boys bathroom side of the school) and will meet parents/guardians behind the school or walk out front.

Students in grades PREK-4th grade need to have a designated parent/guardian meet them in the school yard at dismissal.

Volunteer Info & Opportunities

HFA strives to keep the cost of tuition as affordable as possible and charges significantly less than the cost of education. This is made possible by fundraising events. Please see the following for information and volunteer opportunities:

- Volunteer Commitment Policy
- BINGO Volunteer Opportunities
- Extended Care/Hot Lunch Volunteer Opportunities
- Log Your Volunteer Hours HERE

Did you know???

BINGO at Holy Rosary Church Hall has generated thousands of dollars that directly saves HFA parents on the cost of tuition. Over the years, BINGO has raised anywhere from $50K-$100K each year that goes directly into the operating budget of HFA, saving parents hundreds of dollars in tuition.

Mr. John Donaldson and his family coordinate and manage BINGO weekly. Please consider signing up to help at one of the upcoming BINGO nights as they cannot do this alone. AND please be sure to say thank you to John and his crew!

Monday Morning Community Announcements

We begin our weekly, community prayers and announcements on Tuesday 9/2. For this particular week, PREK & K students will meet their teachers on the front lawn of the school at the arrival time of 7:45 AM-8 AM. Grades 1-8 will go into the school as usual for their class morning routine, and teachers will escort them outside for morning prayers to begin at 8:05 AM.

Beginning the week of 9/8, grades K-8 will go into school as usual, drop off their daily belonging, participate in the morning routine and join as a class for prayers and announcements. PREK teachers will meet their students on the front lawn. We move our morning prayers and announcements into the school during inclement weather and the winter.

HFA Fridge Flyer

We know there is A LOT of information from the school that parents need to keep track of. To help streamline, we will send home a monthly fridge flyer that lists upcoming key dates. Details and all the happenings at HFA will still be covered in the weekly memos! Check your student's folder!

Fall Open House

Join us for our Fall Open House for parents/guardians!

Date: Tuesday, September 23rd
Time: 5PM-7PM
What: Take a tour of your child's classroom from 5-6PM and then attend the annual meeting with the Principal from 6PM-7PM

To make the Fall Open House and Parent Meeting with the Principal accessible, HFA will provide free extended care during the event. Families must sign up here by 9/19 to ensure coverage. Attendance is strongly encouraged, as parents are responsible for the information discussed. An alternative presentation will be shared with those unable to attend.