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HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

9/12/25

Upcoming Important Dates

- 9/12: Hot lunch orders for the week of 9/15 are due by 8 AM in Digital Academy
- 9/15: PTO Meeting, 6 PM, Upper Church Hall
- 9/17: Wendy's Fundraiser to benefit the 5th grade Nature's Classroom trip- see flyer coming soon!
- 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](#)



Bazaar Food Prep!

Letter from the Principal: Gearing up for the Bazaar



Dear Holy Family Academy Community:

We're finishing up our first, 5-day week of school this year! The mornings feel like fall, but we still have great, warm weather for our outdoor recesses, gym, and practices. It feels like school is officially in full swing! Next week, we begin our Fall round of MAP testing for grades 3-8. The test data assists our teachers inform instruction as we continue forward in our school year.

We are nearing one month out from our annual Fall Bazaar! If you are new to our community, the bazaar here at the parish has been a long standing tradition of food, games, fun, and fundraising to support the school. It is held Friday through Sunday the week after Columbus Day weekend, which is October 17th-19th. Preparations begin much sooner! The church kitchen was fired up earlier this week making the traditional meat pies, and there is another round of meat pie baking coming up next week. Our school kitchen will be used to prepare bazaar food a few days during the week leading up to the bazaar, which is why you will notice our hot lunch menu availability is different that week. Please see pg. 2 of this memo for the link to the volunteer opportunities. All of the bazaar volunteer slots count towards the volunteer commitment policy, and they are a lot of fun to work alongside both school and parish families.

Our cross-country team starts their racing schedule early next week and chess club is ready to go in October! We are also already planning for additional activities and sports throughout the year. Please see further in the memo to let us know your interests for planning purposes.

I wish all of our families a fantastic weekend, and we look forward to seeing all of our students on Monday morning!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Goguen
Principal

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

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](#)
- [Bazaar Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Extended Care/Hot Lunch Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Log Your Volunteer Hours HERE](#)



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.

Join the PTO to help plan special events to support the school, teachers, and families. Please [click here to stay connected to upcoming PTO events.](#)

STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Christina Sicard
Pre Kindergarten 3 day Teacher

I have a Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education and have been teaching mostly Preschool and Kindergarten for 21 years. I had so many great teachers growing up but my two absolute favorites were my Kindergarten and 4th grade teachers. They were both amazing people. I came to HFA in 2021 after teaching in some great public schools. This is my 5th year here and I love it! I love to incorporate the Catholic faith into everything we do. It helps preschoolers to become more empathetic and caring of their peers. I love to go to the beach and spend time in Maine. I also love when all my children are home to visit & we can spend time together.

Pray with
our school

on
Hallow



HFA families will receive a Hallow subscription to support their faith and prayer life! Parents: keep an eye on your email inbox for 1 subscription per family.



Extended Care Program & Substitute Teachers

HFA is seeking applicants interested in helping with our Extended Care program, particularly in the morning and on Thursday afternoons, and serving as substitute teachers. If you enjoy working with children and have a flexible schedule, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact the school office for details and an application.



Chess Club

Chess club will start on the **first Thursday of October.**

Please see Digital Academy for the sign up and permission form.



Other Activities

We are looking for community members who may be interested to coordinate/coach the following activities:

- Yearbook Club
- Girls on the Run
- Middle School Girls Spring Volleyball
- Please contact Mrs. Goguen if interested.



Basketball Interest

We're prepping for basketball season, which usually runs late November-February. Please [click here if your student is interested so we can begin season planning!](#)

Searching for Sacraments?

Annunciation Parish offers several programs for those of all ages seeking to be baptized, receive first communion, be confirmed or have their marriage blessed. If you have been looking for ways to grow closer to Jesus Christ through the Catholic church please contact Mrs. Maura Sweeney through the parish office to set a time to discuss your journey of faith and how we can help you take the next steps closer to Christ. Her office number is 978-632-0253 ext. 5 and her email is religioused@annunciationgardner.org.



Class Spotlight: Mrs. Judkins & Mrs. Gosselin's PREK5

Our preschool room is full of excitement this time of year. We are learning the routines, making new friends and having a ton of fun. We started introducing the alphabet, and have crafts and coloring papers to go along with each letter. We have also started our weekly Bible lesson, starting with the Old Testament and the story of Creation. The children really like watching the short videos on each topic, as well as the small booklet that they get to take home each week. We also love our specials! Students get to participate in gym, art and music each week. We also started our yearly tradition of having the third grade class (Book Buddies) come down each Friday afternoon and read to us. There are so many amazing things about preschool, and we look forward to a great year to come!



School Drop-Off

- **Families with a student in grades 4-8 only and 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 or cross walks**
- **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.**

Monday Morning Community Announcements

For Monday morning community announcements, only PREK will meet their teachers outside. All K-8 students will go into school as usual, drop off their belongings, participate in the morning routine and join as a class for prayers and announcements at 8:05 AM.

We move our morning prayers and announcements into the school during inclement weather and the winter.

Reminder: hot lunch orders are due in Digital Academy on Friday morning at 8 AM the week before the meal service.

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.***
- ***K-4 classes will begin dismissal at 2:40 PM and end their dismissal at 2:50 PM.***
- ***Grades 5-8 classes begin dismissal at 2:45 PM.***

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.

