

THE HFCA NEWS



Holy Family Catholic Academy

Home of the Mighty Phoenix



We are God's children building His kingdom with joyful hearts filled with faith, compassion, kindness, love, and a desire for learning.



HFCA celebrated graduation with 19 students finishing 8th grade. We wish them the best for the future and are looking forward to hearing about their achievements in high school.

Notes for our Summer Break

We wish all of our HFCA families a wonderful and restful Summer Break. This is a special time that families can share with loved ones and make special memories.

Thursday, June 1, is our last day of school, and students will be dismissed at 12:00 noon. Check for information in this newsletter on changes in Summer Assignments, Supply Lists for 2023-2023, the Used Uniform Sale, and other upcoming events in August.

Don't forget to order your 22-23 HFCA Yearbook.

Information is on page 3. You will order directly from the yearbook company at www.treering.com, and you can have your yearbook sent directly to your home.



Summer Office Hours

June 5-30, Mon - Thur. 9:00 - 2:00

Closed on Fridays

Closed during July. Leave a phone message and we will respond.

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Changes in Summer Assignments

HFCA would like to make any summer assignments meaningful and stress-free for our students. So, instead of assigning packets of work that students are expected to complete during their break, teachers are asking students to keep their Math and Language skills strong by using IXL. Students can sign on to skills for this and next year's grade levels.

Students have used IXL here at school and should be familiar with the process for signing on.

Reading -

We also want to encourage our students to read during the summer.

Students should try to read any book of their choosing for at least 20 minutes a day. More information on the benefits of daily reading is in this newsletter.

If you need some ideas for good books to read at specific grade levels, you can take a look at the following:

<https://goodbooksforcatholickids.com/my-book-lists/>

Calendar

Thur., June 1 Last Day of School

Noon Dismissal

Wed., Aug. 2 Used Uniform Sale 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Sun., Aug. 13 Back to School Mass 10:00 am
Open House 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Mon., Aug. 14 First Day of School
8:00 am - 3:30 pm**

Wed. Aug. 23 Meet the Teacher Night 6:30-8:00 pm

Thur., Aug. 31 Back to School Potluck 6:30 pm

2023-2024 Supply Lists

The Classroom Supply Lists for 2023-2024 will be posted on the HFCA website by the middle of June. We are in the process of updating the lists.

Be sure to follow and like us on Social Media

Facebook – Public Page

<https://www.facebook.com/hfca.irving>

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/hfca_irving/

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/holyfamacad>

About HFCA's Yearbook for 2022-2023 -

To order this year's yearbook, visit www.treering.com and enter the passcode listed below. When you purchase, choose the option to have your yearbook delivered to your home so you will receive it as early as possible.



CAPTURE YOUR MEMORIES IN THIS YEAR'S

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC ACADEMY YEARBOOK!

Customize Your 2 Free Pages

Add photos from your computer, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive & more.

Answer fun Memory Questions to help remember the year.

The 2 Custom Pages are FREE and are printed ONLY in your book. Want more pages? Each additional 2 pages is just \$0.99.

treering

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook

Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

- 1 Go to: www.treering.com/validate
- 2 Enter your school's passcode:
1016322575541991

Regular price: **\$17.15**

Create Custom Pages by: May 9



Keep reading this summer!

Here is information on the benefits of reading only 20 minutes each day.

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

A student who reads

5:00

minutes per day

A student who reads

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to

1.8 MILLION

words per year
and scores in

90th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

will be exposed to

282,000

words per year
and scores in

50th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

will be exposed to

8,000

words per year
and scores in

10th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

Source: Nagy, Anderson and Herman, 1987

Read with your child 20 minutes every day.

The Children's Reading Foundation



Why Reading?

Early exposure to language is the greatest factor in language development and learning to read. By reading together every day, you stimulate and strengthen your child's language and literacy skills. It is that simple. By reading and talking with your child each day, you bond with them and model the love of reading, which will benefit them in school and throughout life.

Neuroscience provides compelling evidence that **85 - 90 percent of brain growth occurs in the first five years of life. This affects not only cognitive skills but also emotional development.**

Fostering your child's cognitive development is just as important as nurturing his or her emotional and physical development. Cognitive development includes language skills, information processing, reasoning, intelligence, and memory.

The best way an adult can help a child's cognitive development is to read with them every day, beginning at birth. When children are young, they learn language from the speech they hear. By reading with a child, you introduce many more words than those used in day-to-day communication.

Reading Research

Reading builds brains, fostering early learning and creating connections in the brain that promote language, cognitive, and social and emotional development.



By reading with your child, you also help cultivate a lasting love of reading. Reading for pleasure can help prevent conditions such as stress, depression and dementia. (University of Liverpool)

Decades of early literacy research, from Durkin (1966), Bus van Ijzendoorn, and Pellegrini (1995), to Neuman and Celano (2006), provide convincing evidence that the interactions young children enjoy at home with their caregivers, especially conversation and hearing stories read aloud specifically play a significant role in academic success and beyond. (www.scholastic.com)

A data set analysis of nearly 100,000 U.S. school children found that **access to printed materials — and not poverty — is the “critical variable affecting reading acquisition.”** ([McQuillan, 1996](#))

MRI scans show increased brain activity in children whose parents read with them regularly. ([WebMD](#))

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Reading From Birth

It is never too early to read with your child. From day one, your child is learning every waking moment. In the first three years of your child's life, **700 new connections between cells in the brain are formed each second** (Center on the Developing Child). This is a rate faster than any other time in his or her life. You build your child's listening, memory, vocabulary skills, and more when you read together.

Keep on Reading

While parents have a tendency to stop reading with their children once they read independently, these are the years to continue reading! As you read together, you bond with your child, and help build his or her vocabulary.



Engaging Reading

Reading with your children isn't just about reading what's written on the page. By using dramatic voices, pointing to different pictures on the page, and asking your child to predict what will happen next, you're engaging them on many different levels.

Paper vs. Electronic

Neuroscience research shows that paper-based content is better connected to memory in our brains (Bangor University). So while electronics are becoming more and more prevalent in our day-to-day life, keep printed books the main form of reading in your home.



When reading an e-book, the moment that book becomes interactive, the part of the brain engaged in the activity changes and it no longer is an activity that builds literacy skills. There is no give and take here, electronics should be an enhancement and not a replacement.



Vaccinations

It is important students are current with their routine childhood vaccinations before school starts in August, and yes, they can get vaccinated or boosted with the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time.

When summer rolls around, it's usually a collective sigh of relief and a number of important things are delayed until the very last minute before school starts up again in August. Please don't wait to schedule an appointment with your child's Pediatrician for an annual wellness check. Your child will then be caught up on any vaccinations he or she may need for the upcoming school year. Updated vaccination records can be brought to the school office or emailed to Stacy Rasberry at: srasberry@hfca-irving.org