



Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo November 3, 2023

Don't forget to ROAR!

Happy Friday and welcome to November. It's hard to believe we are already through the first quarter of the 23-24 school year. Please see below for lots (and I do mean LOTS 😊) of important information about upcoming events and activities at HTCS. Have a wonderful weekend!

Baby Bottles for Life - Thank you for partnering with your child on this wonderful social outreach project to support moms and babies in need in the Grand Strand. Once we are given the grand total amount that was raised, I will share that with the school community.

Operation Christmas Child - Our annual Advent social outreach activity will be taking place this month. Information and boxes were sent home yesterday. Please contact Mrs. Hines for more information and/or additional boxes.

Field Trip Forms - Field trip forms for all grades are due by **Tuesday, 11/7**. Students must be in good standing academically and behaviorally to attend any field trip. If you returned the form without payment, please send in the money with your child's name and the words "field trip" marked on it.

Veterans' Day Celebration - Please see the attached flyer for information about our Veterans' Day program taking place in the multipurpose room on **Friday, 11/10**, at **2:15 PM**. All are welcome to join us as we honor those who have served and/or are currently serving in the armed forces. Students whose families attend may take them home immediately after the service.

Spirit Night - The PTO is sponsoring a Spirit Night at the NMB Chick-fil-A on **Monday, 11/13**, from **3-5 PM**. Mobile orders need to be placed prior to picking up your food. Please see attached flyer for more information.

Surveys - An email was sent out today asking all families to complete a brief survey as part of our annual accreditation process. We need 100% participation so we can retain our accreditation. Please complete the survey prior to **Wednesday, 11/15**. I thank you for your time and valuable input in helping us make HTCS the best it can be.

Forgiveness Mini-Retreat - Please join the HTCS faculty and staff and Deacon Richard from **3:15-4 PM on Thursday, 11/16**, in the multipurpose room as we learn more about forgiveness and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All are welcome!

Safe Environment Program (Empowering God's Children/Teaching Safety) - HTCS faculty will once again present our annual Diocesan-wide safe environment program to all students in grades K-5 on **Tuesday, 11/21**. This year we will present lesson #2. Forms will be coming home soon. More information can be found on-line at: [VIRTUS® Online \(virtusonline.org\)](http://virtusonline.org).

Half Day - We have a half day scheduled for **Tuesday, 11/21**. As with all half days, there will be no aftercare and all students must be picked up at **noon**. Please form two lines for dismissal to keep cars safely off 8th Avenue N.

No school - School will be closed from **Wednesday, 11/22**, through **Friday, 11/24**, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. This holiday, as always, we are thankful for our amazing students and their families, as well as our caring faculty and staff. I pray God's blessings on each and every one of you.

#iGiveCatholic Giving Tuesday - **Tuesday, 11/28**, is National Giving Day. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 (hopefully more) towards the purchase of our own bus. To reach this goal, we need the support of *every* HTCS faculty, staff, and family, as well as all their families and friends. Be a bus booster and spread the word about Giving Tuesday by sharing the link to our Giving Day page: [Give to Holy Trinity Catholic School \(North Myrtle | #iGiveCatholic\)](#).

PTO Spirit Orders - The deadline to order has been extended to **Tuesday, 11/28**. These items make Christmas gifts! See attached flyer for more information.

Family Faith Formation - Our annual Advent faith formation activity is taking place after school on **Thursday, 11/30**. Deacon Richard will teach us about the Jesse Tree, and we will make ornaments to take home for a family Jesse Tree. If your family would like to join us, please complete and return the form by **Friday, 11/10**. Space is limited and no late forms can be accepted as supplies need to be ordered in advance. Thank you for your understanding.

Shoeboxes - Both Mrs. Trexler and Mrs. Gallo are requesting shoeboxes (not the ones for Operation Christmas Child) for projects they are working on with their students. If you have any empty boxes to donate, please feel free to drop them off to the front office or send them in with your child. Thank you in advance for your support.

Christmas Parade - The PTO will have a float in this year's Christmas Parade. This is a great way to market our school and share the Christmas spirit as a school community. Everyone is welcome to join us for this event on **Saturday, 12/2**. More information will be coming home from the PTO. In the meantime, they are looking for animal headbands (like the ones worn in

last year's Christmas show) and wrapped candy. If you have any to donate, please send them to the front office.

Golf Tournament - The PTO is gearing up for their 12th annual golf tournament. This is their major fundraiser for the year, and all proceeds go to support the mission of the school and our students. They are seeking a golf committee chairperson who, along with the PTO and school Leadership team, can help organize the event. You do not need to be a golfer to fill this role. If you, or someone you know, can help the PTO, please contact Mrs. Marisa Slawiak at mslawiak@charlestdiocese.org. More information can be found on our school website: <https://holytrinitynmb.com/get-involved#panel--10>.

DSAC - Please see the attached newsletter from the Diocese of Charleston Catholic Schools Office. HTCS was recognized in a past DSAC newsletter, so it is great to see more good news from other schools as well. Please note... a State of the School newsletter will be coming home from me in the next week or so. It will highlight the amazing things happening here at HTCS as we celebrate our 15th year of providing Catholic education.

All Souls Day: All Souls Day is a holy day set aside for honoring the dead. The day is primarily celebrated in the Catholic Church, but it is also celebrated in the Eastern Orthodox Church and a few other denominations of Christianity. The Anglican church is the largest protestant church to celebrate the holy day. Most protestant denominations do not recognize the holiday and disagree with the theology behind it. According to Catholic belief, the soul of a person who dies can go to one of three places. The first is heaven, where a person who dies in a state of perfect grace and communion with God goes. The second is hell, where those who die in a state of mortal sin are naturally condemned by their choice. The intermediate option is purgatory, which is thought to be where most people, free of mortal sin, but still in a state of lesser (venial) sin, must go. Purgatory is necessary so that souls can be cleansed and perfected before they enter into heaven. There is scriptural basis for this belief. The primary reference is in 2 Maccabees, 12:26 and 12:32. "Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out... Thus made atonement for the dead that they might be free from sin." Additional references are found in Zechariah, Sirach, and the Gospel of Matthew. Jewish tradition also reinforces this belief as well as the tradition and teaching of the Church, which has been affirmed throughout history. Consistent with these teachings and traditions, Catholics believe that through the prayers of the faithful on Earth, the dead are cleansed of their sins so they may enter into heaven. [All Souls' Day - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#)

MISSION STATEMENT: *Holy Trinity Catholic School, a ministry of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, offers to early childhood and elementary school students of diverse ethnic, economic, and religious backgrounds a superior academic program based on Gospel values. Within a family atmosphere, the school strives to develop the spiritual, academic, personal, creative, and physical growth of each student.*

VISION STATEMENT: *Holy Trinity Catholic School students will be fully prepared to transition to middle school possessing critical thinking skills, an ability to work independently as well as collaboratively, and an awareness of what it means to actively live the Gospel values.*