



Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo December 8, 2023

Don't forget to ROAR!

Happy Friday and Happy Advent! I hope your Christmas preparations are going well. We are very busy here at school still trying to focus on learning while enjoying some fun activities. Have a blessed weekend and thank you for all your continued support.

Volunteers - We still need recess and lunch volunteers. Sometimes our regulars have to be out and we are in desperate need of a list of backups. Please contact Ms. Nicole for more information. *Reminder... If you received tuition assistance this year, this is a great opportunity for you to meet your obligation for giving back to the school.*

Our Lady of Guadalupe - Each year, the OLSS Hispanic community conducts a celebration to honor Our Lady Of Guadalupe. This year's celebration will take place on **Tuesday, 12/12**, at **6:30 PM** with a procession starting outside the Church. Afterwards there will be a rosary, a reenactment of this holy event, and then Mass at 7:30 PM. This year's ceremony is especially unique as the Hispanic community will be displaying a new image of Our Lady which was sent from the basilica in Mexico City. All are welcome!

Science Fair - 3rd-5th grade science fair "Topic and Purpose" is due by **Wednesday, 12/13**. The science fair has been scheduled for Catholic Schools Week at the end of January.

Christmas Show - Our annual Christmas show is at **6 PM** on **Thursday, 12/14**. Students are asked to report to their classrooms at **5:30 PM** (not before, please) and parents are asked to head to the multipurpose room for a brief PTO meeting. Information has been sent regarding costumes/attire for the show.

Snow Ball - All families are invited to attend the first annual PTO Snow Ball on **Friday, 1/26/24**, to celebrate the 15th year of HTCS. For more information, please see the attached flier or the school Facebook event page at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/6675397072528890>. Tickets will be on sale at the PTO meeting before the Christmas show on Thursday, 12/14. Payment by cash, check, or FACTS is acceptable.

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. Information is on our school website: <https://holytrinitynmb.com/get-involved#panel--10>.

School Website - Please check our website for all the information on what's happening at HTCS – from sports, due dates, forms, important links, etc. - It's all there!

Requests from Mrs. Hines: Next **Friday, 12/15**, students may enjoy a dress down day for free if they wear their favorite Christmas clothing. After the first of the year we will be cracking down on uniforms. By now, everyone should have gotten all their uniform pieces. Please take note of PE shirts vs spirit wear. Also proper footwear and hair accessories.

With the cooler temperatures, students want to wear sweaters, jackets, hoodies etc. in the building. Only HTCS uniform items are allowed. Non-uniform items can only be worn outside. *If it is too cold for shorts, wear pants, but not both at the same time.* If in doubt, please refer to the uniform policy: https://holytrinitynmb.com/sites/trinitynmb/files/holy_trinity_catholic_school_uniform_dress_code_2023-2024_.pdf.

Items to work on with your child at home: All students kindergarten and older should be able to do the following things on their own as they are essential life skills:

- Tie their shoes
- Zip their jacket
- Button up clothing
- Know parents' full legal names
- Recite at least one parent's phone number
- Recite home address

Reminder: No outside food deliveries will be accepted for students. We always make sure students have a snack and lunch. If we have to provide them, your FACTS account will be billed accordingly.

Send your child with a refillable and sealable water bottle, preferably with an attached straw that closes (no restaurant cups with lids and straws, please) and a snack daily (no snack needed for our First Steps kiddos, but they still need a water bottle 😊).

A Catholic Perspective on Santa Claus: Around this time of year, it's common to see the Christmas celebration filled with marketing and consumerism, opening its doors to its employee of the month: "Santa Claus." Christmas is the feast of the birth of the Son of God made man, but every year, Catholics face the challenge of trying to catch Jesus from the midst of so many parties, meals, presents, ornaments, responsibilities, etc. Santa Claus is based on St. Nicholas of Bari (or Myra), a fourth-century Catholic bishop in Turkey. ("Santa Claus" comes from the Dutch *Sinterklaas*, which means "St. Nicholas."). To give a deeper meaning to this Santa Claus tradition, we must promote St. Nicholas' example, who teaches us to be generous, to give to those in need and to have a deep love for our neighbor. He teaches us to be attentive to the needs of others, to turn away from our selfishness, and to detach ourselves not only of material things, but also of our own selves and our time. With all of this in mind, the heart of Christmas is still the child Jesus, who is the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary in a stable in Bethlehem for the salvation of all peoples.

[The real Santa Claus was Catholic? \(denvercatholic.org\)](http://denvercatholic.org)

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.*