



Holy Trinity

Catholic School

A Ministry of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish

Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo: August 16, 2023 - Welcome to a new school year! We are so excited to see our returning families, as well as to welcome many new families. Faculty and staff have worked diligently all summer to prepare for a great school year, and today was a wonderful start! Below is a LOT of important information for your review. Thank you for trusting us with your most precious gifts, your children. We will love them and care for them every day and we are excited to partner with you to ensure their personal, spiritual, and academic success.

First full day - Tomorrow, Thursday, 8/17, is our first full day of school. Arrival is 7:35-7:55 AM and pick up is from 2:50-3:05 PM out back behind the church. Aftercare until 5 PM begins tomorrow as well. If you are a Seton bus rider or sibling, be sure you have reviewed the information sent out from Mrs. Hines for specifics about pick up and snack in aftercare.

Sports Meetings - Thursday, 8/17, 3 PM OR 5 PM - Please plan to attend one of these mandatory meetings if your child would like to participate in any sports this school year. Important information will be presented.

Hot lunch forms - If your child would like to enjoy hot lunches in August and/or September, forms are due **tomorrow, Thursday, 8/17**. No late forms will be accepted to provide ample time to order the correct amount of food.

BTS Packet - Please return all signed forms by **Friday, August 18**.

Facebook - If you have not already done so, please like our school Facebook page ([\(5\) Facebook](#)) and check it frequently. Reminders about and photos of school events are often shared through our Facebook page.

Website - The school has a VERY informative website ([Holy Trinity Catholic School | North Myrtle Beach, SC \(holytrinitynmb.com\)](#)). PLEASE... check the website for answers to questions about school events, hot lunch, volunteer opportunities, and PTO information.

Morning drop off/Afternoon pick up - Thank you to all families for a fairly smooth drop off and pick up today. Please keep the following in mind to ensure we get your children to and from the cars efficiently and safely:

- Remain in your cars at all times. We will help children get to and from your cars.
- The car line is a cell phone free zone at all times.
- In the morning, children should be ready to exit their cars as soon as you are through the gate area and come to a complete stop. We can accommodate every car pulling up to the sidewalk/awning area - unless it is raining. Once exiting the cars, they should go to the sidewalk and follow it to the back door where a teacher will be waiting.
- In the afternoon, have your school logo car sign displayed in your front windshield. This helps us call students and get them outside as you are pulling up.
- In the afternoon, if you need to buckle your child in a car seat, please pull forward and park in a space once you are safely out of the car line.
- On all half days where there is no aftercare, we will always do two car lines for the afternoon pick up to facilitate keeping families off 8th Avenue N.
- Go to the last entrance into the parking lot past the church on 8th Avenue N. and follow the line around behind the church. We are asked not to cut through the lot area closest to the church as parishioners are parking and accessing the church there.

Water bottles - All students should bring a refillable, sealable water bottle to school every day. No fast-food drink containers (or food items) should be brought to school due to the amount of technology we have throughout the building that can be damaged by accidental spills.

Snack - All students (except First Steps students who are provided with one through the First Steps program) should bring a snack every day - even on half days.

Non-OLSS Catholic Families - You will be receiving a form tomorrow to take to your pastors regarding the subsidy the Bishop has asked them to pay to HTCS to help offset some of the subsidy OLSS provides for them to attend HTCS. These forms are due back by **Friday, 9/1**.

Preschool Families - You will be receiving a form tomorrow that must be completed and returned by **Friday, 9/1**, in order for your child to go to Specials and/or Speech. This form is a DSS requirement and can be confusing, but it simply means they will not be in their K4 classroom when they are with a qualified Specials teacher or the Speech Pathologist.

Thank you, thank you for partnering with us. It is going to be a GREAT school year! If you refer a new family to our school, you are eligible to receive a \$100 tuition credit when they enroll. Please share our Facebook page, school website, and special event information with others you may know. We are always looking to welcome new families into our unique school community.

WHY CATHOLIC EDUCATION STILL MATTERS IN 10 REASONS

1 An Incarnational View of the World

Catholic School students learn that God is present and active in their lives and in the world. They learn to recognize the "footprints of God" in their daily experiences, especially in the midst of life's challenges. They develop a sense of "sacramental awareness". They see the signs of God's love around them, and become instruments of God's grace in their own neighborhoods, communities and the world. In an incarnational view of the world, there is no such thing as a secular subject as all learning helps to develop and bring to full bloom that image of God that is in each person.

2 Immersion in the Paschal Mystery

Our lives are a series of small and not so small dyings and risings. In union with the Paschal Mystery, we realize that there is redemptive power in suffering, and in the power of the cross. In it lies the answer to the mystery of all of life's successes and failures. In the experience of the Paschal Mystery, we also realize the need for community. Like Jesus, we encounter our own Simon of Cyrenes to help us along the way. Wins and losses on the athletic field, As and Fs in class, and laughter and tears in our lives are the way we participate in Jesus' dying and rising.

3 The Value of Relationships as a Reflection of the Divine

Catholic school students learn to experience God's grace and presence in their lives through their relationships with family, friends and teachers. The loving and supportive relationships they experience are reflections of the love and life-giving dynamic of the Trinity. As a community we celebrate our successes and achievements. We share grief and downfalls. We unite together in solidarity, and even challenge each other to become better reflections of the divine. We are made for community.



4 A Nuanced View of Scripture

Catholic school students are given the opportunity to explore the beauty and richness of Sacred Scripture seen through the lens of faith and lived out in daily practice. They experience the ongoing revelation of God in Scripture as the One who leads the Israelites through the promised land, and who redeems them through His cross and resurrection. They also come to view the human person as created in God's image and likeness, and destined for eternal life. They learn to apply Scripture to their own lives as a tool for prayer and the true guide for virtuous living.

5 Civic Engagement

In recent research, it has been reported that private school graduates are significantly more likely to actively participate in civic activities than their public school counterparts. Catholic Schools were ranked #1 in the percentage of graduates who actively participate in civic and community activities such as voting, volunteering, letter-writing to legislators, Catholic Concerns Day, and donations to charity, not just for a tax write-off, but out of a sense of the requirements of justice.

6 Service for the Common Good

Catholic schools promote service as an essential component of their curriculum. Many Catholic schools have service programs from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Higher education programs such as the Jesuit or Dominican Volunteer Corps promote service at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Diocesan organizations such as Catholic Family Services provide resources and help to people from all walks of life. Catholic school students learn that since community is at the heart of who we are, there are no strangers, only brothers and sisters in the Lord. We have a responsibility to respond to the needs of others because we are all part of God's family.

7 Discipline as a Faith Expectation

Catholic schools promote self-discipline through clarity of moral vision that is based on the Gospel.

Students are challenged to be Christ-like in word and action. They are asked to examine their choices and action in light of the Ten Commandments and the Gospel law of love. They are given a theological foundation for ethical behavior.

Students are not good because they act in accord with rules and expectations. Rather, because students are good, i.e. sons and daughters of God, they are expected to act and make choices that are in keeping with this dignity.

8 The Centrality of Arts, Ritual, Drama, Music to the Life of Faith

Through Catholic education, students are exposed to the richness of the religious tradition. Music, Art, Literature, Drama and Ritual are rooted in the rich history of the Church, and find their truest glory as an expression of divine praise.

9 The Fullness of the Catholic Identity at the Heart of the Church

Catholic education has always been at the heart of the Catholic mission. Catholic education, and the students who are the product of it, have been called the "greatest work of the Church". They have been entrusted with the fullness of faith and have been charged with the mission of evangelization. They are to go out into the world and share the gifts they have received, as doctors, lawyers, policemen, firemen, businessmen and women, teachers, priests and religious, all as Catholic school graduates. Catholic school graduates are a leaven in society, helping the broader community to be the best that it can be.

10 Personal Excellence as a Spiritual Goal

Catholic school students learn that excellence is a response to God's blessings. Academic excellence is not a gospel value in and of itself. The Sermon on the Mount doesn't say "Blessed are you who get all A's." Education must have an altruistic orientation. Students learn so as to help others, and make a difference in the world around them.

Written by: Reverend Ronald J. Nuzzi