



Important Notes from Mrs. Luzzo August 8, 2024

Don't forget to ROAR!

Happy summer, HTCS families. It's hard to believe we are just one week from the official first day of the 24-25 school year! I hope you are all weathering Storm Debby safely and soundly, and that you are looking forward to the new school year as much as we are. Please see below for lots of important information about the beginning weeks of school.

Back-to-School Family Event - Our annual back-to-school family event is scheduled for **5:30 PM** on **Monday, 8/12**, in the multipurpose room (mpr). Please access the mpr via the door in *Holy Hall* that we will have open. We ask that at least one adult from every family attend this event. Be sure to check in and pick up your family information packet from Ms. Nicole as this contains a lot of important information as well as your car tags. We will have a brief meeting to go over some important information, and you will have an opportunity to drop off your children's supplies when you visit the classrooms. We look forward to seeing all of our returning families, as well as to welcoming our new families.

First day of school for Kindergarten through 5th grade students - The first day of school for K-5th grade is **Wednesday, 8/14**. It is a half day with noon pick up and no aftercare. Students should wear their REGULAR uniform on the first day of school as we will not attend Mass the first day.

First Day of School for K3 and K4 - The first day of school for our preschoolers is **Monday, 8/19**. This is a full day of school and aftercare is available for those who signed up.

First School Mass - Students will attend Mass at **9 AM** on **Thursday, 8/15**, in honor of the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. K-5th grade students should wear their Mass day uniforms this day.

First Day Helpful Instructions - On the first day of school for all students, we ask that they come in as they will do for the rest of the school year via the car line. Please refer to the drop off maps links. These can be found on the school's website. We understand that the first day can be hard for some parents and students. We promise for those students that need some extra love and attention, we will be there to walk them to their classroom, give lots of encouragement, and take pictures. We find that by starting drop off this way from day one, it makes the transition to school much easier in the long run; along with keeping our school

secure. This is why it's so important to attend the back-to-school night, so that you can go to your child's classroom, meet the teacher, and explore their new environment. This is also a great time to grab a few pictures.

Car Line Procedures - Please see below for lots of important information:

- For **morning drop off**, drive past the church on 8th Avenue N and use the last entrance on the left into the lot. Please do not enter the lot using the first entrance closest to the church as parishioners will be crossing there to attend morning Mass. Drive around to the back of the church, through the open gates. Once through the gates, your child may exit the car, head to the sidewalk, and follow that into the school. There will be faculty outside to assist your children, but it is imperative they are ready to get out once your car is stopped and it is safe to do so. Some helpful notes:

- Please stay single file at all times and do not pass other cars unless directed to do so by a faculty member.
- Pull off to the side and unbuckle your child (if he cannot do it on his own) and ensure all belongings are ready before pulling through the gates.
- Backpacks should be zipped and all food/drink finished. Students should not enter school with unfinished food and drinks.
- Please let us know if you have child locks on, so that we can come and help open the door. Otherwise, we expect your child to be able to do so. Of course, we will help preschoolers, especially at the beginning of the school year.
- Parents should remain in the car and off cell phones at all times.
- Please have your child step out of the car first, then turn around and grab their bookbag and other items. This is much safer than a child trying to get out of the car with the backpack on.
- There is no need to wait until you are at the awning to have your child exit the car; except when it is raining.

- For **afternoon pick up**, please enter the lot the same way as in the morning and stay in your car while you wait. Pull as far up as you can to allow as many cars as we can get in and off 8th Avenue N. If you are the first car, please pull all the way up to the gate (please don't stop at the awning- unless it's heavily raining). Some helpful notes:

- Please stay single file at all times and do not pass other cars unless directed to do so by a faculty member.
- An HTCS staff member will assist students who need help getting into the car. You can pull up and off to the side to buckle students who need to be buckled.
- Wait for a signal from a faculty member to pull forward.
- Please, absolutely NO CELL PHONES, even hands free! We need your undivided attention during this brief time for the safety of all students and faculty members.

- On **half days (noon dismissal)**, we ask that families form two car lines (vs. the single line on regular dismissal days). This is to get all cars off of 8th Avenue N. and avoid a back up. Because students will be walking through the cars, all cars must remain stopped until all students are safely in their cars. We ask that you wait for an HTCS staff member to tell you when it is safe to move forward. This may take a little more time than our single line dismissal, but it's for the safety of both our students and their families. We promise to get you out as quickly as we can.

School Masses - We will attend Masses on most Wednesdays beginning on **8/21**. As always, families are welcome to attend school Masses and their children may sit with them during Mass.

Hot Lunch - This year all hot lunch orders for Kindergarten through 5th grade must be done through FACTS. Please pay attention to the ordering window for each month. All lunch menus can be found on our school website (www.holytrinitynmb.com). Go to "Important Links" > "Student Services". There you will find links to the menus along with lots of other useful information. Please note that items that say "K4 ONLY" do NOT apply to Hot Lunch. Due to the way that FACTS is set up, all Cafeteria items for each day are listed. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Hines at ehines@chalestondiocese.org.

Spirit Rock - Please see attached for information about booking the Spirit Rock for your child's special occasion.

Back-to-School Blood Drive - Social outreach is a key component of the HTCS school culture and we support this belief through various activities throughout the school year. One social outreach activity is our blood drive which we hold two to three times every year. Our first one is scheduled for **Monday, 8/26**, from **10 AM-1 PM**. Please see attached information to schedule your appointment. Donate and save a life!

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.*