

A WELCOME MESSAGE

August 25, 2019

Dear HFGS Families, Faculty, Staff, and Students,

Greetings and Blessings of a New School Year!

On behalf of the HFGS Administration, Fr. Jim Bevacqua (our Pastor), Faculty, Staff, PTO Board President Tony Makhoul, Consultative School Board President Michael O'Brien, and Board members, it is my pleasure to extend a warm and earnest welcome to you as we commence the school year 2019 - 2020 at Holy Family Grade School!

Our first day and first week is the time to reconnect with old friends and welcome new ones. We all welcome you and send you our best wishes toward a dynamic and productive year ahead of us. We hope that you will all quickly feel at home and become active in the events of our school through the PTO and your child's school and classroom faith-based and curriculum programs.

A BIG Thank YOU to Fr. Jim, Deacon Ron, and our wonderful, generous, and supportive donors! We have a lot of great news to share with you – the first one is our new fence and play yard, one of the big projects in our church's Master Plan. You shall see the following improvement upon your return and fully completed after a few more weeks:

- Chain link fence was changed to new iron fence with pilasters and gates at key entry points;
- Additional lighting in key areas;
- Block wall at corners;
- A reconfigured and redesigned parking lot to accommodate hardscape and softscape playground;
- An incorporation of multiple playground games on new concrete surface;
- The creation of a green play zone with artificial turf;
- An updated age-appropriate play equipment and a fitness area along East Lomita Avenue;
- An installation of code required handicap ramp and trash enclosure along East Lomita Avenue;
- An improvement of the lunch area along East Elk Avenue;
- A provision a new landscape and irrigation;

On top of the above improvement of our facilities and the usual programs we offer, we shall have these as well:

- An enhanced ASC, After School Care program

- An online Spanish curriculum using the IXL program
- Swimming lessons affiliated with some neighboring park pools
- Our school's re-certification by WCEA (Western Catholic Educational Association) and WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) Accrediting Commission for Schools' full and clear accreditation of Holy Family Grade School through June 30, 2026!
- Faculty's Faith Formation / Catechesis re-certification

Our focus is to exceed our previous years' accomplishments in all academic subjects and other aspects of our educational system.

Going back to construction, we just need a few more weeks for final touch ups and completion of our school's major project. These include the clipping of a few thin post tops, final installation of the AstroTurf, padded flooring for the playground and the fitness areas, the painting job on the ground and the fence. After the cement was poured a few weeks ago, a curing time prior to painting is necessary. Thus, the yard painting is anticipated to be completed toward this mid-September or just before September ends. With that expectation, the children will temporarily eat their snacks and lunch inside the classrooms. They go out and play in the small and the big yards during their break time.

We believe that all our school goals can be achieved with everybody's support and cooperation. Here at HFGS, we value your input and look forward to a quality home-school working relationship to continue with our successes.

The Theme for this school year is **SERENITY**.

Here are a couple of things to serve as a guide as we begin our first week of school on **Monday, August 26th**:

1. The **Entrance Gate** for all families will be on Elk Avenue. Please enjoy the walk from the church parking lot to the regular gate that is used for drop off in the morning and pick-up during dismissal.
2. Thanks to many of our families who availed of the two days of early delivery of school supplies last week. For those who will be assisting their child to carry all the **classroom supplies**, please make sure that the items are all labeled with your child's name and you may proceed to deliver these straight to the classroom between 7:30 a.m. and 7:55 a.m. tomorrow. **We kindly request that all students proceed straight to the classroom to leave their backpacks and will go down to the GS auditorium for the 8:00 a.m. general assembly.**

3. The First School Day - **Student General Assembly** will be held in the Grade School Auditorium at 8:00 a.m. Our Student Council will lead the Morning Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, Patriotic Song, and announcements. Fr. Jim, our Pastor, will welcome all our families. We will briefly introduce our faculty and staff for this school year. You are welcome to stay and witness our first day assembly. There will be seats on the sides and back as well as hallways available for parents and guests.

4. Our amazing PTO Board will be serving **coffee and donuts** by the lunch area where the vending machines are – a wonderful tradition to welcome all families.

5. It is brilliant if you had already placed your **lunch** orders for August and September. However, if you have not, please download the order form from the school website, print, fill it out, enclose your check payment addressed to HAPPY LUNCH, and submit both form and check to the office as soon as you can.

6. On **Wednesday, September 4th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. will be our Back-to-School Night** – an orientation for all our parents. The general sessions will begin in the Grade School Auditorium and followed by grade level presentations in specific classrooms. There will be an open forum for any further inquiries and clarification in the classroom.

7. Our highly-qualified educators, both by merit of academic accomplishments and/or teaching experiences, have faithfully dedicated themselves to teach and serve our young children:
 - Transitional Kindergarten (TK) – Miss Alexa Isaac
 - Kindergarten (K) – Mrs. Teresa Nelson (Vice-Principal for Primary Grades – TK – 2nd & Athletic Director
 - 1st Grade – Miss Justine Bote
 - 2nd Grade – Miss Elisha Ty
 - 3rd Grade – Mrs. Pamela Wardle
 - 4th Grade – Ms. Katharine Monahan Huntley (Vice-Principal for Elementary Grades – 3rd through 5th & Dean of Discipline)
 - 5th Grade – Mr. Clarence Clark
 - 6th Grade – Mr. Jared Soliman
 - 7th Grade – Mr. Krikor Kiladjian

- 8th Grade – Mrs. Ashley Liberda (Vice-Principal for Middle School – 6th – 8th & Student Council Moderator)
- Technology & Online Spanish – Ms. Maria Talavera
- Technology & Online Spanish Assistant – Mr. Mauricio Romero
- Music – Mr. Tomas Makiling
- Physical Education, Sports & Fitness Consultant – Mr. Karl Johnson
- Art – Mrs. Courtney Abruzzo
- Band / Musical Instruments – Mrs. Cheryl Lopez
- Counselor – Ms. Justine Ploucher

The other members of our staff will be presented during the Back-to- School Night. Once again, our grade school family welcomes you and your child. We are proud of our commitment to high academic, behavioral, and extra-curricular expectations for the children. In partnership with you, let us work together and see these goals achieved. Thank you and we look forward to see you!

Sincerely,
Dr. Fidela Suelto, Principal

Half-Days and Our General School Schedule

We observe half days only during the 1st Tuesday of each month for faculty meetings, professional development, and days before holidays or the start of a long break. Our school general / daily schedule follows:

- 8:00 a.m.** - Start of School
- 10:15 a.m.** – Recess for all grade levels (9:45 a.m. for TK and Kinder)
- 10:45 a.m.** - End of Recess
- 11:15 a.m.** - Lower Grade Lunch (12:00 noon End)
- 12:15 noon** - Start of Upper Grade Lunch
- 1:00 p.m.** - End of Upper Grade Lunch
- 3:00 p.m.** – Dismissal (2:50 p.m. for TK and 2:55 p.m. for Kinder)

School Mass

All the students must be in school by 7:45 a.m. the latest on Tuesdays. The students must all be seated at Church by 7:55 a.m. We begin with our First Mass for the Year on Tuesday, August 27th. Teachers and volunteer parents cross the students over to church and carry with them the STOP Sign. Mass begins at 8:00 a.m. TK and Kinder students will join the church assembly beginning in January, 2020. The next 4 months will be a prayer service done by TK and Kindergarten classes on a monthly basis and some religious preparations before they join the entire school at church in January.

Morning and After-School Care:

Morning Care: Mr. Rene Martinez (3rd Grade Room)

ASC Adult Supervisors:

Director: Miss Marissa Bribiesca

TK, Kindergarten, & 1st Grade: Mrs. Salud Moreno (TK Room)

2nd and 3rd Grade: Ms. Mais Alazraei (Kinder Room)

4th and 5th Grade: Mrs. Ofie Ruta (6th Grade Room)

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade: Mrs. Kimberlee Thomas (8th Grade Room)

Gate Duty: Miss Raziel Pelongco

EXPECTATIONS

The Day Care Program is a privilege and both parents and students are expected to support all policies and procedures. The discipline guidelines are consistent with regular school hours.

DAILY SCHEDULE

6:30 A.M. – 7:30 A.M. Study/Quiet time

3:00- 3:05 P.M. – Roll Call and Snacks

3:05 -3:45 P.M. – Play Time

3:45 -4:30 P.M. – Supervised Homework

4:30 -5:30 P.M. – Reading / Arts & Crafts / Board Games / Educational Movie

½ Day Schedule (First Tuesday of Month)

12:00-12:10 P.M. – Attendance

12:10-12:40 P.M. - Lunch Time

12:40-1:30 P.M. – Play Time

1:30-2:30 P.M. - Supervised Homework

2:30-3:30 P.M. – Cooking

3:30-4:30 P.M. – Arts and Crafts

4:30-5:30 P.M. – Arts and Crafts / Reading

5:30-6:00 P.M. – Wrap-up and Clean-up

BULLDOG: Our School Mascot

The bulldog's general appearance suggests stability, vigor, and strength. The disposition should be composed and kind, resolute and courageous A bulldog does best in a loving environment, free from fear and neglect. He is happiest when there are people around. A bulldog learns easily with firm but gentle training.