

Important for the Week of July 26, 2020

Dear **HFGS Families, Faculty, Staff, Students, and Friends,**

Our sincere condolences to Louise Gill (mom), Ethan (incoming 6th Grade), and the entire Gill Family

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of LAPD Deputy Dennis Gill and Tiffany Gill (incoming 10th Grade of HFHS) in a tragic car accident during an off-duty vacation in Oregon yesterday. Ethan was with his Dad and sister and was the only survivor during the fatal car crash. He was met with his mom Louise. During this terrible loss and profound anguish in the Gill family and in our community, let us offer our loving support and prayers to Louise and Ethan.

With Fr. Jim, our High School administration, priests, deacons, GS administration, faculty, staff, and with your moral support, we will be able to stand by Louise and Ethan during this time of pain. Our counselors, Ms. Justine Plocher and Dr. Kathleen Fitzgerald will be providing assistance in coping with grief and confusion at this time to the Gill family and other families at HFGS. Our faculty and I will have Ethan and a few classmates and friends come and spend some time here at HFGS. This way, Ethan and the others can do sports, robotics, reading, math, and playtime to help in the process of healing, after the wake and funeral services that will be held at Hollywood Hills. Many thanks in advance for the volunteerism of Mr. Clark, Coach Johnson, Mrs. Nelson, Miss Isaac, Mr. Romero, Mr. Kiladjian, Mrs. Liberda, Mr. Makhoul, Ms. Huntley, Ms. Talavera, Mrs. Samuy, and more.

Counseling services are available for any student or family who needs support during this difficult time. Counseling sessions are available over the phone, video conferencing, or face-to-face. Please contact Justine Plocher at 626.421.7296 or jplocher@hfgsglendale.org.

Justine Plocher, MA, AMFT
Register Associate Marriage and Family Therapist
Registration No. AMFT 109582
Holy Family Catholic Grade School
Supervised by Dr. Kathleen A. Fitzgerald PsyD., LMFT

A Catholic prayer for the deceased to say and share...

Loving and merciful God,
We entrust **Dennis Gill (Dad) and Tiffany Gill (Child)** to your mercy.
You loved both greatly in this life;
Now that both are freed from all its cares
Give them happiness and peace for ever.
Welcome **Dennis and Tiffany** now into paradise
Where there will be no more sorrow.
No more weeping or pain,
But only peace and joy
With Jesus, your Son
And the Holy Spirit
Forever and ever, Amen.

Sixth and Final Week of Summer School

Thanks to Mrs. Teresa Nelson, our faculty, and our Summer School families! This week is the final week and I am grateful as well for the positive feedback shared by our families about their Distance learning experience of our summer school program. Great job for the academic time and success gained by our students!

Reopening School in the Fall

Please continue to enjoy your summer and in a few weeks' time, we shall be starting school. If we were to acquire a waiver to open via in-person teaching, this may bring joy to many of you. Please know that we are able to spin around to either of these two modalities of Distance Learning and/or In-Person instructions. While we are waiting for the LA County to be off the monitoring watch list, we are completing our PPE and preparing every classroom for an in-person teaching.

Superintendent Paul Escala of the Department of Catholic Schools has emphasized three significant priorities given the unique nature of the coming school year. DCS has outlined the following priorities for the coming school year:

- Protect the health and safety of students, staff, and families.
- Support the integrity of student learning and faith formation.
- Develop resources to protect and uphold our schools.

The staff at the DCS will be calibrating its tasks, projects, and initiatives around these three priorities. For our *STAR Window 1*, we will assess students during Window 1 even though we will be in distance learning to begin the year. Renaissance Learning has put together some resources for remote learning. We will also send out additional information closer to the window and will be hearing more from our assistant superintendents and academic excellence mentors in the coming weeks.

Please **mark the following dates** for our school's **brief orientation per grade level, pick up of textbooks and materials, and meetings with our faculty and Vice-Principals**. We can hold our meeting either indoor (GS Auditorium) or outside (small yard). We will wear our masks and maintain social distancing of six feet apart. If you choose to Zoom and pick up the items later, we will provide you the Zoom conference details as well. This will also be a good forum to ask some questions and make any clarification.

Monday, August 17, 2020

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Principal and Teachers' Welcome Meeting & Prayer
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. - TK and Kindergarten
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – 1st Grade
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. – 2nd Grade
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. - 3rd Grade
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – 4th Grade

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Principal and Teachers' Welcome Meeting & Prayer
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – 5th Grade
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – 6th Grade

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. – 7th Grade
 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – 8th Grade

We are grateful that you have chosen and registered your child at Holy Family Grade School and with that decision, we recognize you as the most important educators of your child(ren) and we join you to shape a living community of shared visions. At HFGS and its current modality of teaching, we help students comprehend that each person is unique and valuable. We unite with you in assisting students appreciate each child's special place in the family, the Church, and the society that we live in. We encourage you to provide us your feedback in the ongoing development of your child(ren). Study shows that such a partnership results in higher attendance and lower dropout rates; and that we all share that great sense of community. Each child contributes to an educational community filled with love and concern – a community that helps create a better world. *(Family, Community, and Maintaining High Standards in Catholic Schools)*

Finally, our theme for the academic year 2020 - 2021 is **OPTIMISM**. So, let's stay positive and wait for better things to come our way.

Thank you and continued prayers of wisdom, hope, and peace,
 Dr. Suelto

References:

Fr. Jim's Message on page 2

<https://hfglendale.org/bulletins>

Grade School Website Calendar

<http://localendar.com/public/HFGS-Bulldogs>

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Their Mission, and Core Values

<https://www.bvmsisters.org/>

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” Helen Keller

