

First Day / First Week of School / Important for the Weeks of August 14 and 21, 2023

August 15, 2023 - Memorial of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: A Holy Day of Obligation

Dear HFGS Families, Faculty, Staff, and Students,

We are excited to welcome you all back. Our school administration, faculty, and staff believe that every student when provided with the right supports and opportunities, can learn and will be successful. Here at Holy Family Grade School, it is our strong mission to encourage and develop each student's character, spirit, and academics in excellence starting with our family and faith values. We do have an array of engaging activities during and after school hours to promote student learning and school spirit. Know that both student achievement and good citizenship are helped formed and are recognized inside the classroom and during our monthly student assemblies. There is more to share with you on how we help our students achieve and succeed.

On behalf of the HFGS Administration, Fr. Anthony Garcias (our Pastor), Faculty, Staff, PTO Board President Tony Makhoul, Consultative School Board President Andrew Ko, and Board members, it is my pleasure to extend a warm and earnest welcome to you as we commence the school year 2023 - 2024 at Holy Family Grade School.

Let me introduce the Members of the Clergy, administration, and main faculty who will be serving our children and families this school year:

Leading and assisting from our Church:

Fr. Anthony Garcias, Pastor

Fr. Prosper Hedagbui, Associate Pastor

Fr. John Schiavone (Retired Priest In-Residence)

Deacon Ron Baker, Facilities Manager & Director for Ministry Operations

Mrs. Linda Pelaez-Dorian, Director for Youth Ministries (EDGE & Confirmation)

From our school campus:

Principal - Dr. Fidela Suelto

Transitional Kindergarten - Miss Alana Sacop

Kindergarten - Mrs. Teresa Nelson

1st Grade - Miss Mary Ann Gutierrez

2nd Grade - Mrs. Alexa Isaac Soliman

3rd Grade - Miss Alma Stone

4th Grade - Ms. Katharine Monahan Huntley

5th Grade - Mr. Clarence Clark

6th Grade - Mr. Jose Luis Hernandez

7th Grade - Dr. Krikor Kiladjian

8th Grade - Mrs. Ashley Liberda

Music - Mr. Tomas Makiling

Physical Education & Sports - Coach Karl Johnson

Art - Mr. Nickol Gutierrez

Spanish - Miss Vania Chileno Olivera

Band Director - Mr. Gabriel Martin

School Counselor - Ms. Susanna Boyer

To get you ready for our first day and first week of school, please read the following:

1. Our school maintenance personnel continue to prepare and clean our campus for the return of everyone on Monday, August 21st.

2. On Monday, August 21st, we will open the Elk Avenue gate and the Lomita Avenue gate at 7:30 a.m. for all students and parents to come in.

3. The students will assemble in the yard where the Bulldog mascot is located. By 7:45 a.m., our homeroom teachers will come and get their homeroom class to proceed to their classrooms for backpacks and some school supply bags to be brought to the classroom, and then immediately back again for the 8:00 a.m. 1st Day of School Assembly in the yard.

All parents are invited to sit by the lunch area while our Student Council leads the introduction, morning prayer, pledge of allegiance, and other announcements. The beautiful tradition of welcoming of parents by serving coffee and donuts on the first day of school is continued by our PTO Board. Please proceed to the auditorium once the children are led to their classrooms by their homeroom teachers. Parents and guardians may return to their work or home after having some coffee and donuts, meeting their child's teachers, and their fellow parents on or before 9:00 a.m. By then, we pray that all our children are calmly situated in their classes and are getting to know their new classmates, teachers, and class rules well.

4. All students will be wearing their regular school uniforms except on Tuesday Masses and on PE days. It is important to note that during Tuesday School Masses, every student will come in formal uniform. We celebrate our school Masses with deep reverence by going to Church in formal school outfit. The Altar Servers assigned wear their brown or black leather shoes. All other students wear their clean, all-black athletic shoes. Our first school Mass will be on Tuesday, August 22nd and students must be inside the campus by 7:45 a.m., lining up with their class buddies, heading toward the Church at 7:50 a.m., and finally seated and ready at 7:55 a.m. The liturgical celebration promptly begins at 8:00 a.m. The students supervised by their homeroom teachers and teacher assistants occupy the old wing while parents, guardians, and grandparents who would like to hear Mass as well will please sit in the old wing section of the Church.

5. School parents and guardians will send their child's food and snacks for the day through their child. Otherwise or if there is no time to prepare, parents can easily place their child's lunch orders through Ali Catering Services. There is a morning recess and a lunch recess so please pack enough healthy food items for each day especially if your child is registered at our After School care program or is part of our after school academic and extra-curricular clubs/activities. We do have drinking fountains and a vending machine. The vending machine only dispenses bottled water and baked chips so it is very helpful to pack enough meals, from a simple sandwich to a generous type of meal your child prefers in your child's lunch boxes and bags. The packed food items can surely provide a pause and nourishment during a hectic day.

6. Student pick up on Elk Ave. gate starts at 2:50 p.m. (TK & Kindergarten), 2:55 p.m. (1st and 2nd Grade), 3:00 p.m. (3rd through 8th Grade). There is a grace period provided until 3:15 p.m. and a child that has not been picked up will be sent to our After School Care (Room 13 or the TK Room).

7. From 3:15 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., our extended care student pick up will be on Lomita Ave. gate. Please buzz the door and show your face in the camera. For everyone's safety and peace of mind, please introduce yourself and state the name of your child. Once done and recognized by our ASC Supervisor, you will be allowed entrance to sign out your child and be released to you.

8. The Emergency Information card for each child is extremely important. Your student will only be released to the persons whose names appear on the card and whom you have authorized to pick up.

9. Our extended care program closes at 6:00 p.m. Please read our Parent Handbook to help you understand our school policies and procedures.

10. Wednesday, August 30th at 7:00 p.m. is Back-to-School Night. The program comes in two-fold. First is the general assembly with important announcements held in the GS auditorium; and the second part is attending the HR teacher's introduction of self, grade level standards, curriculum, and specific rules/requirements/highlights per grade level.

Important for the Weeks of August 14 and 21, 2023

Aug. 1 - 18

*Testing, Admissions, & Registration for New Students

*Getting all our students ready with their school supplies, formal/regular/PE uniforms and school athletic shoes (preferably all black). School uniforms are purchased from Dennis Uniform on San Fernando Road while the PE uniforms are available at the school office.

* School cleaning and preparations for the new academic year

Wed, Aug. 16

8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Day #1 Faculty in-service & orientation

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Drop off hours for labelled school supplies in the classrooms

Thurs, Aug. 17

10:15 a.m. - 6:15 p.m. - Day #2 Faculty in-service & orientation

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Drop off hours for labelled school supplies in the classrooms
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Student Council's Planning & Presentation to Faculty
5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. - Orientation for New Families, GS Auditorium (New students and their families will have the opportunity to meet their homeroom teacher during this one-hour orientation.)

Fri. Aug. 18

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. - Holy Mass, HFCC
8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Day #3 Faculty in-service & orientation

Mon. Aug. 21 - First Day of School - Welcome back.

7:30 a.m. - Gates are open on Elk Ave. and Lomita Ave.
7:45 a.m. - Homeroom Teachers will pick up the students from the yard to take them to the classrooms.
8:00 a.m. - 1st Student Assembly Day, Yard
3:00 p.m. - General School Time Dismissal
3:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - After School Care

Tues. Aug. 22

8:00 a.m. - School Mass

Note:

1. Please come earlier to leave bags inside the campus, walk with class buddies, and be ready for the First School Mass of the school year. ALL students will come in their formal school uniform. Those classes with Tuesday PE will change to their PE clothes in the afternoon.
 2. STAR Renaissance Standardized Tests begin.
- 3:30 p.m. - Faculty Meeting

Wed. Aug. 23

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - Band Recruitment Assembly led by Band Director Gabriel Martin

Thurs. Aug. 24

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. - School Blessing (per classroom & office) by Fr. Anthony

Note: The school blessing will take place immediately after the morning prayer, pledge of allegiance, and announcements.

Mon. Aug. 28

8:45 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. - Back-to-School CONFESSIONS

Tues. Aug. 29

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. - School Mass
9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - 4th Grade walking field trip to the Glendale Central Library
3:30 p.m. - Faculty Meeting

Wed. Aug. 30

7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. - Back-to-School Night / PTO General Assembly (All Parents), GS Auditorium

Fri. Sept. 1

*Happy Birthday, Mrs. Maureen Garcia.

*Loaves and Fishes (1st Friday of the month)

7:00 a.m. - Algebra 1 for 8th Grade with Mr. Jose Luis Hernandez begins in 6th Grade Classroom. (Please note that the siblings of Algebra 1 students may avail of a free Morning Care supervision. Morning Care opens at 6:30 a.m.)

11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Start of ALA, Academic League and Ambassadors Program for selected Grades 6, 7, and 8. New meeting place is the classroom across the Prayer Corner, 2nd Floor, Original Building. More details regarding the new ALA program schedule will follow.

Sincerely,
Dr. Suelto

References:

Fr. Anthony's Message

School Calendar

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

