



“The lives of the saints are nothing, but the Gospel put into practice.” St. Francis de Sales

Dear Parents,

I look forward to welcoming all our students to campus on Monday morning! This weekend, I hope you enjoy the last few days of family time before the school year begins. In preparation for Monday, here are a few important pieces of information to help you have a great start to the school year.

This message is a bit lengthy, but I hope that it will provide the important information that you will need in the first week of school.

### **Morning Arrival**

Students can be dropped off starting at 7:30 in the morning. Students are expected to be in their classroom by 8:00, so please plan to arrive to campus with enough time for your child to walk to the building.

On the first day of school, the carline will be open for parents to drop-off students beginning at 7:30. Many families do choose to walk their child to the building on the first day of school, and you are welcome to do that as well.

Parents are invited to park in the Grace parking lot in the front of the campus as well as the Hope parking lot on the west side of campus. Parents are expected to accompany their students if they park in either lot. The Hope parking lot is not a drop-off location. Thank you for your help with keeping our students safe. Please do not park in the parking spaces on the north side of the campus. These are reserved for faculty and staff.

Below are the locations for the student drop-off for the first day.

- **PK Arrival:** Families are welcome to walk their student to the classroom door of the Joy Building.
- **K-1 Arrival:** Families are welcome to walk their students in grades K-1 to the classroom door during the first week of school. If you plan to walk your child to the classroom, please be prepared to sign-in prior to entering the Faith Building.
- **2-5 Arrival:** Families are welcome to walk their students to the doors of the building.
- **Middle School (6-8):** Students should report to the gym on the first day of school. Parents are welcome to walk their student to the door of the gym.

## School Pass App

Last year, we used the School Pass App for visitors to campus as well as to record early dismissals and late arrivals to campus. This year, we will use the School Pass App for these features as well as for the dismissal process.

In order to assist with all these functions, it is important that you download the School Pass App. Please note that you need to use the email address that you have listed in your FACTS account in order to properly link you to our Holy Family School. The school code for Holy Family Catholic School is 4455. Directions for how to download the App can be found here: [How to download the SchoolPass app | Parents & Parent/Driver Manual | School Help Site \(screenstepslive.com\)](#).

For dismissal purposes, there is no need to designate your pick-up choice if you will be using the carline or the parent pick up option by walking to the door of the gym. Parents will need to designate your child's dismissal option if your child is walking home, walking to Savio, attending the Hive, going home with a friend, and participating in a club or athletic activity. Please do not select the bus option since the school does not use a school bus. Directions for how to change your child's afterschool activities can be found here: [Making Student Changes \(absent/bus/carpool etc\) | Parents & Parent/Driver Manual | School Help Site \(screenstepslive.com\)](#).

Families can also indicate when their child will have a change in their schedule including late arrivals, early dismissals, and absences. Directions for how to change your child's schedule can be found here: [Making Student Changes \(absent/bus/carpool etc\) | Parents & Parent/Driver Manual | School Help Site \(screenstepslive.com\)](#).

## Dismissal

The first few days of dismissal will take longer. We appreciate your patience as new families, students, and faculty learn the dismissal routine.

This year, families will continue to have several options for dismissal. Families can pick up their child through the carline, parent pick-up, walk home, or designate that the student will participate in an afterschool activity.

In preparation for Monday, please create a sign with your "carpool name." This will include a 5-digit number and your last name. You can find this information in the driver tab in your app. Next week, students will receive a carline tag that will be sent home per family. You should use your sign throughout the year.

Please do not arrive more than 15 minutes before the dismissal time for your oldest child. If you have children in the 3:20 and 3:30 dismissal time, we will keep your children in the gym and dismiss them together during the 3:30 time.

There are several options for how to pick up your child(ren):

### ***Driving: Carline***

*With the new app, there is no need for families to check-in once they arrive to campus. Please have the sign visible, and our staff will communicate and coordinate the student pick-up.*

*For safety reasons, we ask that families pull up close to the curb and remain in the vehicle.*

*For families using the 3:20 dismissal, please use the entrance on the west side of campus and drive through the back of the campus to the pick-up location which is near the gym on the east side of campus. Once your child has been picked up, please drive to the exit on Neenah.*

*For families using the 3:30 dismissal, please use the entrance on the west side of the Saint Vincent de Paul Church. Please wait in the carline until the 3:20 dismissal line is complete. Once the 3:20 dismissal is finished, a staff member will direct parents to drive through the back of the campus to the pick-up location which is near the gym on the east side of campus. Once your child has been picked up, please drive to the exit on Neenah.*

### ***Parent Walk-Up, parking in Grace***

*With the new app, there is no need for families to check-in once they arrive to campus. Parents should line up and have their sign visible, and our staff will communicate and coordinate the student pick-up.*

*For safety reasons, we ask that parents supervise their children after they have been dismissed. Students should not use balls, play with sticks, climb trees, or run through campus near the road, or throw rocks.*

### ***Dismissal to Savio***

*Dismissal to Savio is available for students with siblings enrolled at Savio and/or parents who work at Savio. Parents will select this option on School Pass under the “activity” tab. Students will be escorted from the Holy Family campus and brought to a Savio staff member. The Savio student is expected to pick up their younger sibling(s) at Savio.*

### ***Walkers and cyclists***

*Parents who wish for their children to walk or bike off the campus unsupervised or with an older sibling must file a [Walker/Biker Permission form](#). Parents will select this option on School Pass under the “activity” tab. The school does not accept responsibility for Walkers/Bikers following dismissal from their designated check-out location. Walkers and bikers are expected to use the Neenah Avenue sidewalk across the front of the property and the main crosswalk.*

### ***After School Clubs, Sports, and Activities***

*Parents who wish for their children to stay afterschool for a practice, club, or activity can select the option on School Pass under the “activity” tab. Students will be picked up by the appropriate coach or advisor.*

## ***After-school care***

*[The Hive](#) offers afterschool care on the Holy Family Campus. Parents who wish for their children to stay for the Hive can select the option on School Pass under the “activity” tab. Families need to register for The Hive in advance of choosing this option.*

## **Driving Safely on Campus**

It takes every single adult to drive safely on campus to keep the students safe. To provide for the safety of our students and staff, drivers are not permitted to use cell phones while driving on campus. Drivers are expected to follow posted speed limit and direction signs.

## **Summer Reading**

Summer reading projects are due Tuesday, August 20. For more information about the summer reading, please visit our website: [Summer Reading - Holy Family Catholic School \(holyfamilycs.org\)](http://SummerReading-HolyFamilyCatholicSchool(holyfamilycs.org)).

Please reach out to your child’s teacher regarding individual questions for the summer reading projects. For families that are new and just enrolled at Holy Family, our teachers will work with your children regarding the summer reading expectations.

Families are welcome to walk their students in grades 2-4 to the classroom on Tuesday, August 20 to help drop off projects. If you plan to walk your child to the classroom, please be prepared to sign-in prior to entering the Faith Building.

## **Middle School**

The middle school year will begin with a program called Great Expectations. Students will start in the gym, and they will pray, learn more about the middle school expectations, and begin to build relationships with one another.

In their advisory time, they will have an opportunity to get organized and learn about the advisory period and expectations for the year.

## **Advisory**

Each middle school faculty member has an advisory group. There are a total of 14 advisories which means that these are small cohorts of students. These cohorts include students from grades 6, 7, and 8. This is a new program that has been used as a vehicle to help students learn how to advocate for themselves, stay organized, and build other important life-skills.

In the development of this program, a small team reviewed different advisory models from other Catholic schools both in Austin and elsewhere. Ms. Masanda also connected with staff from Savio to discuss their family system. During our review, many people indicated that there was great wisdom in developing cohorts which included students from different grade levels.

Some of the benefits for having students from all three grades together include the following:

- **Peer Learning and Mentorship:** Older students can mentor younger ones, providing guidance and support. This peer-to-peer learning helps reinforce older students' knowledge while giving younger students role models. Older students get the chance to develop leadership skills by taking on responsibilities and helping to guide younger peers.
- **Community Building:** Mixing grades fosters a stronger sense of community and belonging within the school. Students get to know peers outside their immediate age group, creating a more inclusive environment.
- **Diverse Perspectives:** Different age groups bring varied experiences and viewpoints, enriching discussions and activities. This diversity can lead to more well-rounded and inclusive problem-solving and critical thinking.

More information about the advisory program will be shared at the Back to School Night.

Please feel welcome to reach out if you have questions!

God Bless,

Erin Vu