

A Note from Mrs. Yarber

Welcome to the month of February. We are proud of our students' efforts and behavior in January as we focused on our virtue, self-control. Moving forward, respect is the virtue for February. When we reflect on respect, God has always given guidance on how to treat one another; "Do to others as you would have them do to you" Luke 6:31. Our students will participate in activities which highlight this virtue.

In alignment with our focus aimed at instructional excellence, we are leveraging our early release Wednesdays to focus on using data to inform our instructional planning. We also are growing our practice around research-based instructional moves that heighten student engagement and offer opportunities to differentiate learning experiences to meet the needs of all learners. Our teachers are beginning to explore the use of student-friendly learning targets to help share with students the "road map" of the lesson and help them become aware of their own learning expectations.

Finally, please take a moment to look at the "dates to remember". February is full of activities and celebrations, such as Catholic Schools Week.

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Office Hours 7:30am - 3:30pm

School Hours

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri

7:50 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Bus riders leave at 2:30

Every Wednesday

7:50 a.m. - 1:50 p.m.

Bus riders leave at 1:30

February's Community Service Project: Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

"Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others." PHILIPPIANS 2:4

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a charity that runs a night-time drop-in center that helps homeless men, women and children survive the peril of living on the streets. They also operate a soup kitchen that serves many hungry people every week. This month students and faculty of HCS are asked to bring in individually packaged cookies, fruit cups, tuna, chicken snack packs, chips, crackers, cheese sticks, yogurt cups, cereal, pop tarts, breakfast bars, soup or pasta in a cup, and bottled water. Other things to bring in are laundry detergent pods, paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues. Your help and generosity are greatly appreciated!

-written by Chi Chi Uptergrove 8th grade student



February Virtue Saint

Saint Francis of Assisi

One time, Francis came to a town called Gubbio. The people in Gubbio had a big problem. A mean, hungry wolf was eating their sheep and their chickens. He had even killed a few people!

Everyone was scared. The farmers worried about their animals. The parents worried about their children. Nobody went outside anymore. Even the hunters were too scared to go after the wolf. Only Francis wasn't scared.

"Somebody needs to help these people," he thought. "I'm going to talk to this wolf."

The people of Gubbio were really excited that Francis wanted to help them.

They offered him their best hunting weapons and sturdy shields to protect himself, but Francis wouldn't take them. "This wolf is not my enemy," he said softly. "I don't want to hurt him. And God will protect me better than any shield could." So a woman led Francis to the cave where the wolf lived, and Francis went inside.

At first, Wolf was very angry that Francis had disturbed his peace. "Who is this smelly weirdo?" he thought to himself as he growled at Francis.

"He didn't even knock!"

Maybe I should make him my mid-morning snack." But as he crept toward Francis, getting ready to pounce, the holy man suddenly started talking to him.

The wolf was surprised how gentle his voice sounded.

"Dear Wolf," Francis said, "I know I look tasty, but if you eat me, you'll only get hungry again. Wouldn't it be better if you had food that lasted for the rest of your life?" This sounded interesting. The wolf sat down and perked up his ears.

When Francis saw that he had the wolf's attention, he kept talking. "I'm here to tell you about the people of Gubbio," he said. "They're very nice folks, really. But if you eat all of their sheep, they will be hungry, and hungry people get cranky - just like hungry wolves. And think about the children. Everyone is so scared of you that they can't play outside anymore. Being inside all the time is really boring!"

Wolf kept listening. He wanted the people of Gubbio to have food and for the children to play outside, but he also needed to eat. What was he supposed to do?

Francis thought about this problem, too. Then he had an idea. "Hey Wolf!" He said, "God gave you so many gifts, you don't need to be a villain. You're so strong and scary, you would make a great protector for the village! If the people of Gubbio promise to feed you, will you promise to guard the village and keep them safe?" The Wolf agreed.

When the people of Gubbio heard about this plan, they thought Francis was nuts. Could this mean, scary creature really be their protector? But when they saw how gentle Wolf and Francis were with each other, they started to warm up to the idea. Wolf had changed, and they were ready to change too. They fed Wolf breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and in exchange, Wolf made sure that all the children in the village were safe. Wolf began to love the villagers, and the villagers loved the wolf. And Wolf was never hungry again.



February Virtue Prayer

Respect prayer

God of life and love, you created us in your image and sent your Son to bring us life. Instill in us a respect for all life, from conception to natural death. Empower us to work for justice for the poor. Nourish us that we may bring food to the hungry. Inspire us to cherish the fragile life of the unborn. Strengthen us to bring comfort to the chronically ill. Teach us to treat the aging with dignity and respect. Bring us one day into the glory of everlasting life. We ask through Christ our Lord.



Luke 18 2022

The Luke 18 team is looking forward to being with the 7th and 8th grade students Feb 18-20. Upon arrival we will need waivers, permission slips, and medication instructions (if any). More detailed information will be emailed to registrants. Forms will be available at arrival, but to expedite check-in, having these completed prior to arrival will be tremendously helpful. All volunteers will need to be Diocesan Child Protection Policy compliant, contact Heather at the parish office (566-2958) for details about what items you may need for compliance.



Pictures from a past LUKE retreat





APACHE CASH RAFFLE

Grand Prize is
\$2,500!

2nd Prize: \$500
and 8 \$100 Winners!

\$25 TICKETS. BUY 3, GET 1 FREE. ENDS 3/4/22

HOPE (Holy Childhood Organization of Parents and Educators) is sponsoring their annual APACHE CASH RAFFLE. Hope provides resources for our teachers and all the fun memorable experiences for our students here at HCS. So far this school year HOPE has funded a surprise ice cream truck visit, the Fall Fest complete with Rainbow Ranch petting zoo and a pumpkin patch, and the Polar Express at the park with more fun still to come!

Tickets are \$25 each, buy 3 get 1 free, buy 10 get 5 free. Each school family received their own link to purchase in an email. Tickets can also be purchased at bit.ly/HCS-2022-Raffle or paper tickets are available in the school lobby and have been sent home with the students. Two \$100 winners will be chosen each Friday throughout the raffle; it ends March 4 with a \$500 and \$2500 winner. Please support HOPE so they can continue their amazing support of our teachers and students.

Dates to Remember

Please check the school website for the most up-to-date calendar. The calendar is under "Current Students" and "School Calendar".

Feb 2	Technology Meeting @ 6:00 pm
Feb 2	Roller Skating Party @ Skate City 5-7pm
Feb 3	3rd quarter Progress reports - view on Option C
Feb 4	Munchkin Basketball
Feb 7	Freshman Orientation (zoom in PM)
Feb 9	8th grade student visit to MHS
Feb 11	Jr Beta 2:50-4:00
Feb 14	Valentine's day - dress in Valentine colors
Feb 15	8th grade high school registration AM
Feb 16	School Board Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Feb 18	No School - Teacher inservice
Feb 18-20	Luke 18
Feb 21	No School - Presidents day
Feb 22	Bright Star theater performance during school for HCS students
Feb 24	Athletic Board Meeting @ 6:00
Feb 25	4th grade assessment
Feb 25	Spirit Day
Feb 25	Swinging into Spring 7-10pm
March 2	Ash Wednesday
March 4	10:50 early dismissal (Bus service 10:30)
March 4	End of 3rd quarter
March 7	No AM or PM bus service (HCS has school)

STEM Opportunities

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy is offering a few Saturday STEM programs in our area below. Please use **this link** and navigate to the programs in our area.



Service Shout Outs

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

- Bonni Wolters-thank you for always stepping up to fill in for Mrs. Schneider's class! You are always amazing-especially during this trying time. We could not have done this without you!
- Thank you, Karen Kinzel, for taking over our scrip program. You are doing an amazing job and we appreciate the time and effort you put into making this program a success!

Featured Activities

The 7th and 8th Grade Holy Childhood girls' basketball team won first place in the Diocesan tournament on Jan 9th at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Fairview Heights. The girls kept a lead on the St. Peter and Paul Falcons, and won the game with the final score of 29-19. Avery Beer said, "I was proud of the team for how far we've come during the season and was very excited about the win."

Written by Chi Chi Uptergrove, 8th grade



First row: Kate Brennan, Alanna Nelson, Peyton Hamilton, Juliana Hart
Second row: Coach Josh Fritz, Hannah Kilian, Avery Beer, Jordyn Fritz, Chi Chi Uptergrove, Emma Amann, Coach Adam Uptergrove



Left to right Front row: Austin Wuebbels, Gideon Love, Luke Beck
Second row: Ethan Kinzel, Raylan Cahill, Noah Woodrome, Brandon Klein, Pete Meng
Third row: Coach Meng and Coach Owens
Not pictured: Owen Elbe and Gabriel Beuschel (Juniors Parochial boys)

HCS Junior Parochial boys, 2022 Belleville Diocesan basketball champion!

In the championship game we played Blessed Sacrament, a team we faced and lost to earlier in the season. It was close at the half 17-16, but we pulled ahead in the 3rd quarter and kept our lead to the end winning 44-31! Our win today was a true team effort, and we owe a lot to Coach Owens. "I thank God every day for my good health and for the opportunity to play under an amazing coach in front of the supportive HCS family of fans," stated Luke Beck, 6th grade. "Winning Diocesan was a great ending to a fun season. I enjoyed having Coach Jacoy as my coach. Our team worked really well together and always had fun," stated Austin Wuebbels, 6th grade.

Written by Gideon Love, 6th grade

The Holy Childhood Apaches 8th-grade boys basketball team celebrated on Sunday, January 16 with a Belleville Diocesan Championship. The 8th-grade team took home the trophy with a 44-33 win over the St John the Baptist Hornets. The 8th grade played one of their best games of the year with a balanced team effort using everyone on the court, en route to giving Holy Childhood their 4th Diocesan Championship of this school year. Eli Woodrome, who has been a leader of this team since this group began playing together in 5th grade, said that he was "... proud of how we worked together as a team and am grateful for the great crowd of people that came out to support us."

Written by Owen Dressler, 8th grade HCS Parochial Basketball player



Featured Activities (continued)

Holy Childhood 8th Grade Girls Take First Place in St. John Smithton Tournament



The Holy Childhood School Apaches opened the 8th grade girls' volleyball season last week at the St. John Catholic volleyball tournament in Smithton. In first round action on Monday, HCS took on the St. James Trojans-Millstadt. The first set got off to a flying start with Taylor Cahill recording six aces in a nine-serve run, followed by Avery Beer with a run of seven serves. Out to an early 16-1 lead, the Apaches never looked back and took the first set 25-5. The second set did not go as well, however, with missed serves

and unforced errors by the Apaches that allowed St James to win the second set 27-25. The third set went much better with the Apaches dominating 15-4, with solid play at the net by Bella Mejia.

In the second round of the tournament on Wednesday, the Apaches faced Blessed Sacrament-Belleville. The Apaches didn't mess around, winning in straight sets 25-18 and 25-13. Cahill and Beer, and Hannah Killian all went on nice service runs during both sets, with Izzy Bridegroom serving out the last three to win the first set. Chi Chi Uptergrove had a nice night with some thundering spikes, resulting in 8 kills out of 11 attempts that really set the tone for the evening.

In Thursday night's semifinal action the Apaches played St Teresa-Belleville 7th grade team, again winning in straight sets 25-8 and 25-15. Lefty Emma Amann played well in this matchup as right-side hitter with a couple kills.

Friday, the Apaches made it a quick night against rival Queen of Peace- Belleville in the championship game. HCS came out strong and won the first set 25-15 and the second set 25-23 to secure first place in the tournament. Uptergrove had a stellar night, with 10 aces and eight kills at outside hitter. Jordyn Fritz was solid at the net in the middle hitter position with some nice net play to keep the rallies going. When asked about the strong start to the first week of the season head coach Sara Beer responded, "The girls improved every game, and they were a lot of fun to watch!"

This week Holy Childhood is scheduled to face St. John-Smithton at home Tuesday night and at St Clare-O'Fallon Thursday night.



February 2022
Volume 1
Issue 7