

***To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together...***

When asked to drop their nets and follow Jesus, our Holy Name of Jesus faculty did just that this year! Operating a school safely while teaching students with diverse needs--and varying responses to the pandemic we are experiencing--has required the HNJ faculty to live out what it means to say yes to being His disciples. Throughout the summer, teachers and staff contributed thousands of volunteer hours to create protocols to support students through the COVID-19 pandemic. While focusing on safety measures, preventative practices, and intervention processes to support learning gaps created by the stress a global pandemic may create on a child, our HNJ faculty has kept the mission of the school at the center of everything they do. In addition, we created an academic vision to guide instruction and decision-making efforts:

***“Holy Name of Jesus School fosters academic excellence in an inclusive environment where our community celebrates and supports all members through student development, innovation, and social justice.”***

Our faculty have truly lived out the mission of educating each HNJ student in order that they may achieve their greatest potential. In creating an inclusive environment with academic support that encourages ALL students to live, learn, and love their best, HNJ cultivates future leaders who embody Christ’s teachings. This year our teachers and students have accomplished the following:

- Successfully and safely offered in-person instruction to all students while providing an optional home learning program for families who preferred that option
- Set academic goals, created instruction objectives, and created observation opportunities for all teachers to learn from one another
- Developed a play-based learning approach in Early Childhood
- Adopted the use of a standardized benchmark test to assess students ability levels in math and English
- Purchased a comprehensive intervention program for the Academic Interventionists to use while supporting students with learning gaps
- Curriculum Committee is creating an Academic Strategic Plan
- Participated in numerous community service projects
- Cultural Linguistic Diversity Committee was developed to strategically address cultural biases hidden within the curriculum
- Opened enrollment for infants and toddlers in our newly developed Little Gators classrooms, which will open in August 2021
- Developed a summer camp program for our students entering PK4 - 7th grade

All of these accomplishments have been grounded in faith and have inspired us to achieve our personal best. All is accomplished through wonder. With wonder, we want to discover more, learn more, achieve more, and become life-long learners. May we never lose our sense of wonder!

Thank you for your support! We can't wait to invite you to our school events once it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we ask you for your support through the following actions:

- Keep us in your prayers; say a rosary for our school as often as you can.
- Spread the good news about our school. Word of mouth is our best form of advertisement.
- Follow us on social media. Our updates are sure to put a smile on your face!
- Support our annual giving appeal. We have 100% participation from our entire faculty and our families have raised over \$90,000 towards our goal of \$100,000 for this school year. Donations can be made through this weekend's second collection or by visiting our website at [www.hnjschool.org/giving](http://www.hnjschool.org/giving).

God bless,  
Kirsch J. Wilberg, HNJ Principal

Good afternoon/morning,

I'm Kirsch Wilberg and I am so very blessed to serve as your school principal; and I am equally delighted to stand before you to provide a report on the recent successes of your Holy Name of Jesus School. As you know, this year has had its challenges and has forced innovation and quick problem-solving strategies upon our teachers and students alike. I am pleased to report that HNJ has far exceeded creating solutions for the challenges that were presented this year, from the national pandemic to multiple inclement weather events. Fr. Mark was gracious enough to allow me to provide an editorial on the Pastor's Page of this week's bulletin. So, I won't read each accomplishment in the entirety.

However, I would like to emphasize that HNJ School has remained opened for in-person instruction since August and has been able to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our school. Our students and teacher have remained and continue to be healthy!

Secondly, we have made advances in our academic achievements and have added programming to better support our families. First of all, our 7th-grade students will receive their letters of acceptance from high schools this week. I have the fortunate opportunity of working very closely with our high school principals, and I am pleased to inform you that I am extremely confident that every one of our students will be accepted into their high school of choice for next year! Secondly, we began strategic interventions in math and English to support struggling learners and have seen improvement in the benchmark testing of all students receiving this

extra support. Lastly, we have put programming in place to hold our very own HNJ School summer camp, for which we already have 180 students enrolled, AND we have formed a partnership with Loyola University to establish 4 new classrooms for infants and toddlers beginning in August, for which we have already accepted 45 students and have 25 on a waitlist.

I can not wait for COVID restrictions to end so that we can invite you back to our school events. In the meantime, keep us in prayer, and please support our Annual Give. We have already collected over \$90K of our lofty goal of \$100K this year. Also, 100% of our teachers and staff have supported this Annual Give as they fully support our school mission and direction. Would you consider helping raise the remaining \$10K during the second collection today or online through our website. Where will your money go? Great questions! Our new Director of Institutional Advancement created a great menu of items our school uses to advance educational opportunities and remain safe. Some of those items are...

To sum it up, your support will help your Holy Name of Jesus School remain a leader in Catholic 21st Century education as it has been for over 100 years thanks to the dedication and support of our Parish community.

If you have a school-age child and are interested in touring our school, let me know before you leave today, and I will make an appointment with Megan Bayer for you. Thank you, and have a blessed day/evening.