



HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HOME COMMUNICATOR

September 12, 2023

On the first day of preschool last week, I was popping into classrooms before the day started to make sure everyone was all set and ready to begin. As I was about to walk into one room, I saw a teacher and aide on their knees praying quietly together. Even though this is not a unique thing to happen at HCS, it was still such a beautiful image.

We know this year will bring so many new things to our students and families. Many parents will be sending their babies off to school for the first time. Students will be meeting new friends and learning all new routines of school. During this last week, we had some tears and nerves from our early childhood students. Yet, we know God is going to work in big ways this year! We are covering each of these children and families in prayer and trusting that God will grow these young hearts and minds.

It is such a privilege to pray for and walk alongside our families. "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Covering this year in prayer,

Julie Moes
Early Childhood Director

SCHOOL-WIDE NEWS

Childwatch

If your child will not be at school at the beginning of the school day, we ask that you call the Childwatch attendance line (616-379-0332) to leave a message with the reason for the absence or tardy. You can call that answering machine at any time during the evening or night if you know

your child won't be at school. Please make a note of that phone number.

Thank you!

Early Release

This week Friday, September 15 is an early release day, with dismissal at 11:10 AM. Our staff will be engaged in valuable professional development during this afternoon. Hudsonville Public buses will run as normal but students riding Unity buses will need to arrange for transportation home.

School Pictures

Middle School students will have their pictures taken on September 19. Elementary school pictures will be taken on September 20 & 21. Please be sure to return your picture packet and payment if you plan to order pictures.

- **Tuesday, September 19** – Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8
- **Wednesday, September 20**– M/W 3 School, M/W/F 4 School, Nature Based 4 School, M/W/F Y5s, Grade 1, Grade 3, Grade 4.
- **Thursday, September 21**– T/Th 3 School, T/Th 4 School, Nature Based 4 School, T/TH/F Y5s, Kindergarten, Grade 2, Grade 5.

HCS Spirit Store

The [Fall 2023 HCS Spirit Store](https://hcs23.itemorder.com/) is open! We have youth and adult apparel, hats, Yeti ramblers, and accessories. Place orders online through Tuesday, September 26. Orders will be delivered to HCS in mid-October and then sent home with your student or set aside for pickup. Visit: <https://hcs23.itemorder.com/>

Faith Campaign

Next week marks the beginning of our annual Faith Campaign. This important fundraiser raises money to assist families through our tuition assistance program as well as help with necessary maintenance on our buildings so we can provide an excellent Christian education safely and without disruption. Our calling partners, J. Milito and Associates, will once again be reaching out to our community for support of this important campaign. Please consider giving what you can to further the mission and this community's commitment to Christian Education.

Moms in Prayer

The Moms in Prayer groups meet at HCS on Fridays, 8:00–9:00 AM., and we alternate between the elementary and middle school buildings each week. We bring praise, thanksgiving, and petitions to God for HCS staff, teachers, and students, including our own children, in simple conversational and confidential prayer. Come pray with us when you can, both voiced prayers and silent prayers are welcome! Our first meeting of the new school year will be this Friday, Sept. 15 in the Preschool Lounge at the Elementary School, and we will be praying specifically for our administrators. Please check in at the main office. See you there!

Chapel

All elementary students will gather in the **west gym** for chapel each Friday from 10:00-10:25 AM. Parents are welcome to join us and may enter through the west gym lobby doors.

Elementary Hot Lunch

The menu as well as other information on the Elementary Hot Lunch Program provided by JenHud Food Service can be found on the [JenHud Food Service website](#).

5th Grade Band & Orchestra

Last week Wednesday, the 5th grade was presented with a musical instrument demonstration by Mr. Knot (Band) and Mrs. Jager (Orchestra). This week, students will have the opportunity to try several musical instruments that look interesting to them. Students will be sent home with an instrument recommendation and information about being in Band or Orchestra following this meeting. Students and parents planning to participate in Band or Orchestra should plan to attend an introductory meeting in the Band or Orchestra Room (near the West Gym) on Monday, Sept. 18, at 6:30 PM for more information.

Mothers of 5th Grade Girls

Save the night of Tuesday, October 3 to attend the 5th Grade Girls Sex Ed. night with your daughter. An informational letter will be sent home with details.

MAP Testing

Students in grades 2-5 will take part in MAP testing from September 18-22. The results from these tests are important, so please avoid appointments and having your child out of school on these scheduled testing days and encourage them to do their best. Thank you!

Chapel

Students and staff will gather in the south gym for chapel from 7:55-8:25 AM on Tuesday and Thursday. Parents are welcome to join us! If you would like to view the Middle School Chapels at a later time, you can also find recordings on our website - [Chapel](#).

- Tuesday, September 12 – Joy DeWindt leading chapel
- Thursday, September 13 – Breakfast Club (students only)

Appointment Reminders

1) Please include the **Middle School Office** (msoffice@4hcs.org or 616-379-0338) on any correspondence concerning appointments or upcoming absences.

2) Between the hours of 8:00 AM–2:30 PM, please make sure you use the **Circle Drive** (bus loop) in front of the school office to drop off or pick up your child. The Parent Loop is for before and after school drop-offs/pick-ups.

Hot Lunch

Hot lunch will begin in the middle school next week Wednesday, September 20 with Jets Pizza. The full menu is listed on our [website](#).

School Pictures

All middle school students will have school pictures taken next week Tuesday, September 19 during school beginning at 8:30 AM. All students will bring home school picture ordering packets today. PLEASE be sure that if you wish to order pictures, this envelope is completed and your check is enclosed and brought back to school on Tuesday morning, September 19.

Parents Drop-off and Pick-up Details

Please remember to pull as far forward as possible – even around the corner – and load/unload quickly when dropping off and picking up your children. **ALSO**, please use **BOTH LANES** to enter off of VanBuren and utilize the zipper merge so traffic doesn't get backed up onto the street.

Sus Manos Gleaners Service Projects

HCMS will be partnering with this local ministry to help provide food to the hungry world with after-school service projects throughout the year. ANY middle school student can sign up here: [SUS MANOS](#) for the project this week Wednesday. Students of Mr. Huisman, Mr. Broersma, and Mrs. Hoekstra have the first chance to sign up for the project for next week Tuesday, Sept. 19. A bus will transport the students to Sus Manos after school, and they will need to get picked up at 2464 Wilshire by 5:00 PM. Parents and siblings are welcome. Direct questions to Jackie Sietsema.

FACES Program

We are happy to share that this fall we will partner with the FACES program, which welcomes Guatemalan students to West Michigan. This year's program starts on Saturday, October 14 and ends on Saturday, December 9. This cultural exchange prepares students between the ages of 10 to 17 to be Cultural Ambassadors of their country, and their visit is designed to promote global understanding and friendship between young people from different cultures.

All Cultural Ambassadors bring International Medical Insurance, and all school cost-related expenses will be covered. We would like to invite you to [LEARN MORE](#) about the FACES Program and the possibility of becoming a Host Family for one of these students for 8 Weeks.

You can contact Gaby Padilla, State Coordinator, at gaby.padilla@facesandcultures.com, schedule a 30 Minute Information Meeting on her [CALENDAR](#), or complete the [Host Family Form](#). Feel free to contact the middle school office with any questions as well.

PCB

PARENTS' CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS



Septemberfest – September 16

Come out and support our school at the annual arts and craft show this Saturday, September 16 from 9 AM to 2 PM at the Hudsonville Fairgrounds. This will be your one stop shop! Shop our 200+ vendors in all five barns along with many more outside booths. Tickets are \$2 with kids 12 and under free. Strollers are welcome. VIP tickets are available that will allow you early entry before the crowds at 8:15am. The VIP passes also include a shopping bag full of local business coupons. These are available to purchase on our Facebook page. There are limited bags available so get yours soon! Cost is \$10. Please help us spread the word by liking us on Facebook, and sharing us with your friends. We can not wait to see you all there!

Septemberfest Bake Sale

It's time for the Septemberfest bake sale fundraiser! Please help support our school by providing baked goods to be sold at Septemberfest. We are looking for cookies, pies, cupcakes, cakes, breads, and more! If you don't bake but have a mom or grandma who does, maybe see if they would consider helping out and baking some goodies for the event. We ask that you have items packaged and ready to be sold. Please drop off donations on the tables outside the main office at the elementary building on the morning of September 15. Thank you so much for your support!



Harvest Family Fun Day

Saturday, October 7 from 3-5 is our Harvest Family Fun Day Event. Plan on attending rain or shine. (Will be held in the West gym if it rains) We would love to see everyone come out for food, fun and community. Even if you cannot come the entire time, please feel free to stop in anytime between 3 and 5. There will be a small cost of \$5 per child (adults are free). Cotton candy/donuts and cider/popcorn, bounce house, tons of fun games and prizes! **New this year:** If you have a cinch sack/backpack you are encouraged to bring it with you to use for prizes. **Volunteers:** You should have received an email last week, please read it! It contains details regarding the event and the game/food area that you are serving in.

We are once again asking for donations from you! Please bring the following to the elementary main connector by October 6th. These items are given away as prizes at 2 of our games.

*** Kindergarten – Grade 3: One or more boxes of cereal**

*** Grade 4th – 8th: 12 pack of pop**

Questions please email Jenni Walters (jenniwalters@sbcglobal.net)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Employment Opportunity: Post Family Farm

Post Family Farm in Hudsonville is looking to hire energetic ADULTS for seasonal work for our Fall season. Our Fall season runs from September 5, 2023 – November 4, 2023. Opportunities include donut makers, tour guides, Fun Farm Day workers and Saturday Festival workers. Donut making involves working with several others in our bakery making donuts, filling orders and running the cash register. Tour guides take a group of children, teachers and parents around the farm both on and off a tractor (training provided). Festival and Fun Farm Day workers may work in donuts, office, tickets, drive the pumpkin train or drive a tractor to the pumpkin patch. No previous experience is required for any position. Work days and hours are very flexible to fit your schedule. Please contact Julie at Post Family Farm, if you have any interest in working in a fun, farm atmosphere. Phone – 616-669-1964, email – tours@postfamilyfarm.com

CALENDAR

September 15	Early Release at 11:10
September 16	Septemberfest
September 18	5th Grade Band/Orchestra Meeting
September 19	School Pictures – Middle School
September 20–21	School Pictures – Elementary
September 20	Hot Lunch Begins – Middle School
September 26	6th Grade Dunes Day
September 28	6th Grade Dunes Day
October 3	5th Grade Girls Sex Ed. Night
October 7	Harvest Family Fun Day
October 10	Band/Orchestra/Choir concert at Fair Haven Church
October 18	Middle School Fall Fitness Feat
October 19–20	CEA Convention (no school for students)
October 23	Limited Busing AM & PM
October 27	End of First 9 Weeks

View the full [HCS Calendar on our website](#).