



HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HOME COMMUNICATOR

September 19, 2023

Summer is one of my favorite times of the year – but not for the obvious reasons you may think. Of course we appreciate the change in routine, slower mornings, the Michigan sunshine, and opportunities to travel. But summer also fuels our work as leaders at HCS. Summer is a time for us to reflect on the completed school year and look forward to a new one to come. Summer provides us with time to meet and talk about our mission and vision and how we can live it out even better than we've done in the past. Summer brings the creation of new schedules, new professional development plans, preparing for new students, supporting new teachers, and replenishing our snacks for staff meetings.

This past summer, over 30 teachers participated in an optional summer book study. They chose to spend part of their summer learning and growing professionally with their colleagues. They participated in important conversations about curriculum updates and how to support students as readers and writers, using research to drive their work. The excitement in the air at each meeting was contagious – laughter, sharing stories of summer adventures, connecting with colleagues, and even shedding some tears as colleagues navigated difficult situations in their lives. But the way teachers showed up for the meetings, engaged in meaningful conversations, and demonstrated a growth mindset about making some shifts in their teaching was astonishing. Our teachers and staff at HCS are 100% committed to serving here. They are refueled and refreshed from summer break, and have jumped right into routines, curriculum planning, and team meetings. More importantly, they are welcoming your students into their classroom communities and exemplifying Christ through all they do each day.

As we shift out of summer mode and transition into a new school year, I want to thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child(ren)'s educational journey. We look forward to watching them grow academically and spiritually this year!

In Christ,

Jen Rysdam

Director of Curriculum & Instruction

SCHOOL-WIDE NEWS

IMPORTANT Attendance Information

If your child will not be at school at the beginning of the school day, you must call the Childwatch attendance line (616-379-0332) and leave a message with the reason for the absence or tardy. This is our system to record and confirm student attendance every morning. You can call this automated line at any time during the evening, night or before school in the morning if you know your child won't be at school. **Please make a note of this phone number and use it to report an absence or tardy.** Thank you!

School Pictures

Middle School students will have their pictures taken today. Elementary school pictures will be taken on September 20 & 21. Please be sure to return your picture packet - even if you're not planning 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 rambles, 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

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

Moms in Prayer invites you to have a profound impact on your children and HCS by praying scripturally with other moms each Friday. This week we will be meeting at the Middle School 8:00-9:00 a.m. Check in at the main office and they will direct you where to go. We will be focused on praying for the staff and students in our early childhood classes this week. 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](#).

Cookie Day

This week Friday morning students will have the opportunity to purchase freshly baked chocolate chip cookies for \$.25 each to support the work of our Global Awareness Committee.

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.

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 find recordings on our website- [Chapel](#).

- Tuesday, September 19 - Chris Achterhof leading chapel
- Thursday, September 21 - Staff Praise & Worship leading chapel

Hot Lunch

Hot lunch will begin **this** week Wednesday, September 20 with Jets Pizza! Cheese/Pepperoni \$2.25 per slice. Pop and Chips (limit 1 each) will be sold for \$.50 each. The full menu is listed on our [website](#).

Cookies

Cookies will be for sale at break time on Friday for \$.25 each

PE Shirts

PE Shirts are in! All **6th graders** have one shirt included in their Activity Fee. If you ordered a 2nd shirt, please send in \$8.00. Any **7th & 8th Graders** who have ordered an extra shirt, please send \$8.00 to the office for each ordered shirt.

School Pictures

All middle school students will have school pictures taken TODAY Tuesday, September 19 during school beginning at 8:30 a.m.

6th Grade Dunes Days

6th Grade students will be visiting Saugatuck State Park next Tuesday, September 26 (6A & 6B) and Thursday, September 28 (6C & 6D) to continue their study of the Dunes ecosystem. Students will be hiking through the state park and experiencing what each zone has to offer in this very unique ecosystem found right here in Michigan. This trip is a highlight for a lot of 6th grade students as they interact with their classmates, teachers, and the beautiful creation with which the Lord has blessed us.

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.

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. Students in the homerooms of Mr. Schaap, Mr. Ritsema, and Mr. Brower have the first chance to sign up for the after-school service project next week Tuesday, September 26 at this link: [SUS MANOS](#) (bookmark the link to check future dates). A bus will transport the students to Sus Manos after school and they will need to be picked up at 2464 Wilshere by 5:00. 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 14th and ends on Saturday, December 9th. 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



Harvest Family Fun Day

Saturday, October 7th from 3-5 is our Harvest Family Fun Day Event. Plan on attending rain or shine. The event takes place on the tar (basketball) lot behind the early childhood wing. (Inside it will be held in the West gym) 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

Save The Date

The Heritage Christian 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament will take place on Saturday, November 4, 2023. Watch the Home Communicator for a link to sign up beginning October 2!



CALENDAR

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
November 2	Picture Retakes
November 3	Report Cards Posted
November 7 & 9	Y5s -8th grade Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 10	No School
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Break

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