

St. Helen Catholic Academy

Peter Vercessi, Principal

Julie Smith, Assistant Principal



***Opening Parent Presentation:
2023-2024 School Year***



Welcome & Introduction



Thank you.....

Board of Directors:

James Baglino

Frank Bifulco

Maria Ford

James Gillespie

Steve Giusto

Vita Russo

John Spagnuolo

Joseph Trotta



Thank you.....

Home Academy Association
Leadership Team:

Lou Paziienza, President

Roe Barrella, Vice President

Kathy Dalbey, Secretary

Michael Ammirabile, Treasurer





Special Thanks.....

To our Faculty



Regular Bell Schedule

- ▶ **Period 1 – 8:15 – 9:05 am**
- ▶ **Period 2 – 9:05 – 9:55 am**
- ▶ **Period 3 – 9:55 – 10:45 am**
- ▶ **Period 4 – 10:45 – 11:35 am**

Period 5 – 11:35am – 12:25 pm

Period 6 – 12:25 – 1:15 pm

Period 7 – 1:15 – 2:05 pm

Period 8 – 2:05 – 3:00 pm**



Bell Schedules (Early Dismissal)

➤ "A" Day (Periods 1-4)

- Period 1 – 8:15 – 9:10 am
- Period 2 – 9:10 – 10:05 am
- Period 3 – 10:05 – 11:00 am
- Period 4 – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

➤ "B" Days (Periods 5-8)

- Period 5 – 8:15 – 9:10 am
- Period 6 – 9:10 – 10:05 am
- Period 7 – 10:05 – 11:00 am
- Period 8 – 11:00 am – 12:00



Morning/Afternoon Arrivals/Dismissals



83rd St. Entrance (across from Church)

- ▶ Grade 2 (8:00 am arrival begins/2:50 pm dismissal)
- ▶ Grades 5, 7, 8 (8:00 am arrival begins/3:00 pm dismissal)
- ▶ Pre K 4 for All (8:15 am arrival begins/2:30 pm dismissal)
- ▶ 3K for All (8:20 am arrival begins/2:40 pm dismissal)

Main Entrance

- ▶ Grades 3, 4 (8:00 am arrival begins/2:50 pm dismissal)
- ▶ Grade 6 (8:00 am arrival begins/3:00 pm dismissal)

Dooley Hall Entrance

- ▶ Grades K, 1 (8:00 am arrival begins/2:50 pm dismissal)
- ▶ Pre K 3/Pre K 4 (8:20 am arrival begins/2:40 pm dismissal)



Visitor Policy

- ▶ ***In keeping up with recommendations from the New York State Department of Education, the Diocese and many law enforcement agencies, St. Helen Catholic Academy will be a closed campus during the school day.***
- ▶ All visitors seeking to meet with school personnel must have a pre-arranged appointment, which can be verified with security at the main entrance.
- ▶ ***Walk in requests will not be honored.*** Any visitor who does not have an appointment will be asked to call the main office (718-835-4155) to plan a scheduled visit.



Curriculum/Instruction

- New York Common Core Standards & Guidelines
- Materials/texts selected based on compatibility
- Online Texts



Assessments

- ▶ I – Ready: September/October & January/February (Diagnostic/Prescriptive)
- ▶ NYS ELA Exams (Grades 4,6,7): April 10th & 11th
- ▶ NYS Science Exams (Grades 5 & 8): April 22nd
- ▶ NYS Math Exams (Grades 4,6,7): May 7th & 8th
- ▶ NYS Regents Exam in Algebra (Grade 8 eligible students): June 4th



Extracurricular Activities

- **Before School Program** (7:00 – 8:00 am)
 - **After School Program** (3:00 – 6:00 pm)
 - **After School Detention**
(3:00 – 4:00 pm, Monday – Thursday – as needed)
 - **Clubs** (3:00 – 4:00 pm)
 - Complete schedule of Fall activities sent as part of parent mailing (8/24); also, posted to website
- 



First Friday Masses/Special Services

(All masses at 9:00 am)

Grades 1-8 (9/23-6/24), Grades K-8 (1/24-6/2)

- Monday, September 11th: 9/11 Student Prayer Service (in class/PA)
- Thursday, September 14th: Opening Mass (Feast of the Triumph of the Cross)
- October 6th: First Friday Mass/Student Rosary Rally
- Wednesday, November 1st: All Saints' Day Mass
- December 1st: First Friday Mass
- Friday, December 22nd: Christmas Mass
- January 5th: First Friday Mass
- February 2nd: First Friday Mass
- March 1st: First Friday Mass
- Wednesday, March 27th: Easter Mass
- Thursday, May 9th: Ascension Thursday Mass
- June 7th: First Friday Mass



NUT Card Redemptions & Spirit Days

NUT Cards

- ▶ Redemptions on Tuesdays only (see calendar) and last week of classes in June
- ▶ Homeroom teachers collect cards from each student, place them in attendance folders.
- ▶ ***Any student who is dressed down without NUT card will be to be sent to Main Office; calls to home for change of clothes will take place.***
- ▶ All Academy dress code policies will be in effect


Spirit Days

- ▶ Third Wednesday of each month, beginning in October
- ▶ HAA spirit wear information available this evening
- ▶ ***All Academy dress code policies will be in effect***



Dress Code/Grooming Code

- ▶ Any form of dress which is considered by the Administration to be contrary to good hygiene or which is distracting or disruptive in appearance and detrimental to the purpose or conduct of the school will not be permitted.
- ▶ No ripped, torn, or defaced item may be worn.
- ▶ Parents/guardians will be notified if a child comes to school with items that are not appropriate. If no improvement is noticed within a reasonable amount of time, an appointment with the parents/guardians and the Principal will be made.
- ▶ Hair must be a natural color. Streaking, highlighting, lowlights, glints, etc. are not permitted.
- ▶ **Nothing in this policy is meant to prevent a student from attending school with an ethnic hairstyle in connection with his or her race, heritage, or national origin, including, but not limited to, braids or twists.**
- ▶ ***Complete details on these policies can be found on pages 23-25 in the handbook.***



Cell Phone Policy (Applicable for all students)

- ▶ **Cell Phones/Electronic Devices (Found on page 15 of the handbook)**
- ▶ Students should bring their school issued/approved electronic devices to school (e.g. chrome books, calculators) on a daily basis. **All other electronic devices, such as but not limited to I-Pads & Apple watches, must be left at home.** The Academy is not responsible for valuables that are lost or damaged.
- ▶ It is understood and accepted that many students carry cell phones to and from school as a means of communicating with their families to ensure safety and security. Due to the enormous distraction to the educational process during the instructional day, however, **student cell phone use will be restricted during the school day.** Phones will be collected by period 1 homeroom teachers as follows:
- ▶ Students will place their phones in a numbered slot in a portable lock box as teachers pass by their desks.
- ▶ The lock boxes will be locked and placed in a secured teacher closet for the entirety of the regular school day (8:15 AM – 3:00 PM).
- ▶ At the end of period 8, homeroom teachers will remove the portable lock box from their secured closet and ask students to retrieve their phones from their numbered slots as the teacher passes by their desks.
- ▶ **Any students found in possession of an unauthorized electronic device (such as a cell phone, I-Pad, Apple watch, etc.) during the regular school day will have the device confiscated by the Principal. A parent/guardian will be required to come to school to pick up the unauthorized item and a disciplinary consequence will be issued.**



Student Expectations/Behavior

All students are expected to strive for excellent behavior at all times. Behavior problems includes disrespecting authority, including teachers and staff, and other students, teasing, bullying, socially unacceptable behavior, or behavior contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church or the mission of the Academy.



Bullying Prevention

Grades Pre K - 4

- ▶ Class reading of “Have You Filled a Bucket Today?”
- ▶ Follow up discussion with class
- ▶ To be completed over the course of one class session on Friday, September 8th.

Grades 5 - 8

- ▶ Presentation on New York State Dignity Act & Academy Code of Conduct by Principal/Assistant Principal
- ▶ Sessions will take place during the first week of regular classes(9/7-9/13) by the Principal/Assistant Principal

Consequences

Lunch Detention/ Recess Detention

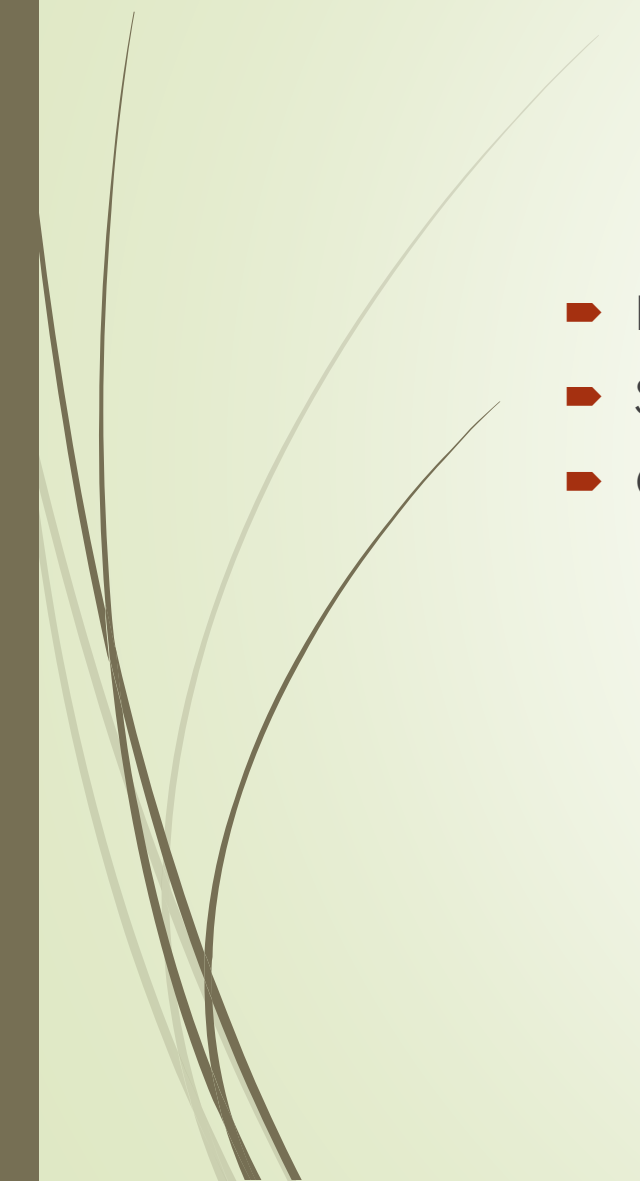
- ▶ Students will purchase lunch/snacks and receive an escort to a designated area where they will be supervised by a staff member.
- ▶ The student(s) will eat, then spend the remainder of the lunch period engaged in homework completion and/or quiet study.
- ▶ For recess detention, students will eat regular lunch with their class, then spend the recess session engaged in homework completion and/or quiet study.

After School Detention

- ▶ **Grades 5-8;** conducted from 3:00 – 4:00 pm, Monday - Thursday
- ▶ Parents/guardians will be notified, via phone call, of an after school detention assignment.
- ▶ Detention will be assigned one day after the contact with a parent/guardian has been made.
- ▶ Students will receive escort to the designated detention room at dismissal (3:00 pm).
- ▶ The student(s) will spend the assigned time engaged in homework completion and/or quiet study.



Counseling Services: PDHP

- ▶ Program for the Development of Human Potential
 - ▶ Scheduled visitation days: Tuesday & Friday
 - ▶ One to one student assistance, class/parent presentations
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Trimesters, Progress Reports, Report Cards and Parent/Teacher Conferences

Trimester 1: September 6 – December 1, 2023

- ▶ Progress Report Period Conclusion: **10/18/23**
- ▶ Progress Report Postings to FACTS: **10/27/23** (4:00 pm)
 - ▶ Report Card Conclusion: **12/1/23**
- ▶ Report Card Posting to FACTS: **12/8/23** (4:00 pm)
- ▶ Parent/Teacher Conferences: **12/12/23** (12:45 – 7:30 pm)

Trimester 2: December 4 – March 15

- ▶ Progress Report Period Conclusion: **1/26/24**
- ▶ Progress Report Postings to FACTS: **2/2/24** (4:00 pm)
 - ▶ Report Card Conclusion: **3/8/24**
- ▶ Report Card Posting to FACTS: **3/15/24** (4:00 pm)
- ▶ Parent/Teacher Conferences: **3/19/24** (12:45 – 7:30 pm)

▶ Trimester 3: March 18 – June 20

- ▶ Progress Report Conclusion: **5/1/24**
- ▶ Progress Report Postings to FACTS: **5/10/24** (4:00 pm)
 - ▶ Report Card Conclusion: **6/20/24**
- ▶ Report Card Posting to FACTS: **6/24/24** (4:00 pm)



Google Classroom & General Parent Communication

- ▶ Teachers using this as a reference for class info and a supplement to homework being written into planners
- ▶ Meet the Teacher Night presentations for each class there
- ▶ Reasonable contact expectations
- ▶ At-risk contact at key points of trimesters
- ▶ Questions/concerns? Teacher first, Administration second



Parent/Student Handbook

- Required reading for all parents/guardians/students
- ***parents/guardians are required to confirm that they have read (with their children) and understand the following items, by clicking on the Google link below:***
- The 2023-2024 Parent-Student handbook:

<https://forms.gle/pBL18ahPqm7FPDgx7>

The Diocese of Brooklyn technology/acceptable use policy:

<https://forms.gle/rLYNvAu5tyFeuv8u9>



Photo/Video/Image Declination Form

- Found in Parent/Guardian section of the website
- Parents & guardians have the right to decline the use of their child's likeness in any capacity (e.g. Diocese/School/Facebook, Pictures/Videos/Etc.)
- Original Request sent out in electronic mailing on August 24th.
- If you **DO NOT** want your child's photo/likeness published or used, please complete and submit the form by ***Monday, September 18th***.



Health & Safety

- Allergy Awareness
 - Nut Aware School
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Birthday Celebrations

- ▶ We will no longer be having one monthly celebration of birthdays at the end of a particular month. Instead, families (who **choose** to send items into school) will be welcomed to send in a treat/snack (e.g. cupcakes, bags of chips, candy) that can be distributed by school staff and enjoyed by the class during their lunch period.
- ▶ Any treats/snacks that are sent in must be limited to items that are not harmful to students, in that particular class, who have been identified with particular food allergies.

Full lunches (e.g. McDonald's happy meals and pizza) will not be allowed for the following reasons:

- ▶ Large scale purchases of lunches can be cost prohibitive to many families
- ▶ Many students will not eat their regular school lunch on days where a "birthday lunch" was brought in and families would not be reimbursed for lunches that are unused/discarded.



Thank you for
your attention!

Teacher sessions begin at 7:30