

## Our Mission

In the context of a Catholic community, Sacred Heart Grade School strives to help students fulfill the potential of their God given talents and abilities by guiding them to develop themselves spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally, aesthetically, and socially.



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Follow us on Twitter @SacredHeartGS or text "follow SacredHeartGS" to 40404 to receive text updates.

Visit the Sacred Heart Grade School website shgs.us for news and

information.

Remember to follow us on Instagram sacred\_heart\_grade\_school and like our page on Facebook.



# The Sacred Heart of the Matter

Charleston, WV

~ Sacred Heart Grade School ~

January 2021

Dear parents,

Earlier this week we received news that our faculty and staff members over 50 would be receiving the COVID-19 vaccination within the week. Upon hearing this, I felt something that I hadn't felt in a long time. At first, I wasn't sure what I was feeling! Initially, I thought it was joy or excitement. There was also overwhelming relief mixed in and, of course, happiness. However, those were all feelings I had experienced in different ways during the past year, and I was pretty sure that this emotion hadn't visited me for quite some time. Upon talking to several of our teachers, I realized I wasn't the only one unsure of her emotions or who started to cry upon hearing the news.

After reflecting on those initial moments following our notification, I now realize what I felt. It was indeed a feeling I hadn't felt in many months. It was hope.

While we have been planning and operating with hope since last March, and have remained ever-hopeful, inspired by our children, our SHGS family, and our faith, I can honestly say that moment was the first time I had truly felt hope in a long time.

We have been working so hard together for many months, and we have many months of hard work ahead of us, but I am thankful for feeling hope. Please continue to pray for those affected by the virus and for our faculty and staff as we move forward, with hope.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

With love,

Susan Malinoski

## **2021-2022 SHGS REGISTRATION DATES**

**Mark your calendars!** Registration forms will be emailed to our current families (Tiny Hearts through fourth grade) on **Friday, January 8**. Please turn in your application by **Friday, January 15** to ensure a spot for your child/children next school year.

Applications not submitted within the window of opportunity will lose their first consideration status. Applications may be **mailed to the school or dropped off at the front door of SHGS Monday 1/11-Friday 1/15 9:00 am-3:00 p.m.** Please note that emailed applications will not be accepted.

### **January 8—January 15**

Application window opens for students currently enrolled at SHGS (and their siblings) who will be entering our Tiny Hearts through Grade 5, along with those children enrolled at Sacred Heart Early Learning Center. If you have a child who is not currently enrolled at SHGS whom you wish to be considered for admissions for the next academic year, please call the office to request a **sibling application**.

### **January 19—January 22**

Application window opens for Sacred Heart parishioners who **do not** currently have children enrolled at SHGS.

### **January 25**

Admission to SHGS is opened to the general public.





## **TINY HEARTS, ECE AND PRE-K PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Our Tiny Hearts, ECE and Pre-K Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for

**Wednesday, February 3**

**8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**

Appointments can be made by calling the school office beginning **Wednesday, January 13.**

These conferences will be held using Google Meet or Zoom. Teachers will be in touch with those details.

There will be **no school or ASC** for Tiny Hearts, ECE AND PRE-K classes (only) on this day.

## **SHGS DAY OF GIVING 2021**

Mark your calendars now for the 3rd annual SHGS Day of Giving!

**Wednesday, February 3, 2021**

**7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.**

Donations to the Funding Our Future Campaign will fund  
**New LED classroom lighting for the second floor**  
**Technology upgrades**  
**Innovative programs and capital improvements**

**Details and additional information will be shared via email soon!**



## **THANK YOU!**

- To SHGS Faculty & Staff who continue to go above and beyond in order to reach and support our children!
- To our Homeroom Coordinators and teachers for organizing fun Christmas parties for the children!
- To PVA Steering and Hospitality for providing delicious and generous Christmas treats for our faculty and staff.
- To SHGS families for exceeding our goal (100 boxes) and filling **150** food boxes during our Clay County Food Drive!

## **MAP GROWTH ASSESSMENT DATES**

Due to COVID, the winter MAP testing window has been changed.

**Students in grades 1-5 will be taking the MAP test between February 8-23, 2021.**

Your child's teacher will let you know what day your child will be testing.

Kindergarten will be testing during a separate window.

Kindergarten teachers will communicate with those families about test dates.

Students participating in the virtual attendance option will receive information about testing remotely as they did in the fall.

## **SHGS VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE**

In order to accommodate safety protocols for COVID-19, the SHGS Open House will take the form of a virtual video tour featuring our 5th graders. The virtual tour link will be available on our website and our Facebook page and will be distributed to the families of prospective students for the 2021-2022 school year.



# **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021**

Sacred Heart Grade School will join hundreds of schools across the nation the week of **February 1-5** to celebrate the achievements of Catholic Schools. Below is a *tentative*, general outline of our week-long celebration. Additional details will be shared as we get closer to our celebration.

## **Monday, February 1**      **We celebrate our nation.**

- \*Red, White, and Blue Dress Down Day
- \*Community service projects begin. These will be determined by student and classroom proposals.
- \*Classroom door decorating

## **Tuesday, February 2**      **We appreciate our faculty and staff.**

- \*Lunch for SHGS faculty & staff provided by SHGS PVA.
- \*Teachers will share personal stories with students related to service projects.

## **Wednesday, February 3**      **We celebrate our community.**

- \*SHGS Day of Giving, Red & White Spirit Dress Down Day
- \*Donations may be sent in Day of Giving envelope to be provided. Thank you!
- \*Students will give their time by sorting and collecting items from donation drives.

## **Thursday, February 4**      **We celebrate our students.**

- \*Dress Down Day
- \*Classroom Board Game time (no electronic games)
- \*Ice Cream, pizza, and music during lunch time & Sock Hop during recess

## **Friday, February 5**      **We celebrate vocations.**

- \*School wide writing project throughout the week creating a spiritual bouquet for Bishop Brennan.



## **COVID EXPOSURE REPORTING**

As positive COVID-19 cases continue to increase in our local community, communication between home and school continues to be important. Please direct COVID-19 exposures, positive tests, or questions to the SHGS office or email [smalinowski@sacredheartgradeschool.org](mailto:smalinowski@sacredheartgradeschool.org).

Virtual participation has been designed to support our students who are ill and to encourage students to stay home if they are sick so that we can keep our school community healthy. Planning for virtual learning, in addition to in person learning, requires significant time and effort from the teachers. Therefore, it should be utilized primarily in the cases of illness, quarantine, or exposure. Students who miss school for reasons other than illness should contact the school office for approval prior to virtual participation. Students who are ill with any symptoms should stay home from school. If your child will be absent from school, please communicate with the school office as soon as possible in the morning. Letting us know before school starts will help make the day go more smoothly for everyone.

Students who are ill will remain out of school for 3 days with improving symptoms. A negative COVID test or documentation/communication of another condition from the student's physician (eg. strep throat, ear infection) will be required for a student to return to school. Students may attend school virtually for the days they are home if they are well enough and the office has been notified by a parent prior to the student logging on. Students who are sent home sick during the school day will follow the guidelines for three days of improving symptoms and a negative COVID test or documentation of another condition to return. Students who leave during the school day will **not** participate virtually for the remainder of that day. They may begin to participate virtually on their first full day of the absence. If a student misses class due to illness, it is important that the parent touch base with the teacher about make up work and other details.



## **SCHOOL CLOSINGS/DELAYS DUE TO SNOW/ICE**



Remember that school closings and delays are texted through Parent Alert, are announced on the SHGS website, and are tweeted through @SacredHeartGS.

- 1) SHGS/CCHS will **not** follow **any** of the Kanawha County Schools' weather-related procedures.
- 2) Families may connect to the SHGS website or listen to the radio/television for changes to SHGS/CCHS schedules. The following stations will be notified by 6:15 a.m. if there are changes to be made: WV Public Radio, WCHS, WCHS-TV, WSAZ-TV, WOWK TV, V100, 96.1, and WKAZ.
- 3) The SHGS website will be updated, a tweet will be sent through @SacredHeartGS, and a Parent Alert text will be sent. Plans for the day (whether remote learning, E-day, or a day off) will be included in the announcement of the closure.
- 4) If SHGS is closed due to inclement weather the closure applies to all classes TH-5th grade.
- 5) If no announcements are made for SHGS/CCHS, classes will be held on the regular schedule.
- 6) If a two-hour delay is announced, classes will start promptly at 10 a.m. The building will not open until 9:30 to give staff time to get to school. Please do not drop off your children before 9:30.
- 7) As always, if you cannot get your child to school for health or safety reasons, please notify the school.

## **CONDOLENCES**

To Jocelyn Campbell in the loss of her maternal great-grandmother

To Harry Salutillo in the loss of his paternal grandfather

To Owen and Harper Stapleton in the loss of their maternal grandfather

We pray that in this time of loss, you will feel God's love and find comfort in the presence of the Lord.



## **2021-2022 CCHS REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**NEW STUDENTS FOR 2021-2022** –The Admissions Committee has released its schedule for the upcoming school year. Please note that there are changes in our format and events to accommodate safety protocols for COVID-19. Applications for all grade levels will be available online ([www.charlestoncatholic-crw.org](http://www.charlestoncatholic-crw.org)) after January 1, 2021. Applications will be completed and submitted online. Detailed instructions are available on the CCHS website.

**Virtual Admissions Open Houses for Prospective Parents will be held via Google Meet.** Each session will include a meeting with Mrs. Hoyer and Mrs. Herrick and an opportunity for questions and answers. Times and dates are included below.

**January 27th** Virtual Admissions Open House via Google Meet at 9 am

**February 2nd** Virtual Admissions Open House via Google Meet at 7 pm

**February 3rd** Virtual Admissions Open House via Google Meet at 9 am

**February 4th** Virtual Admissions Open House via Google Meet at 7 pm

**February 10th** Virtual Admissions Open House via Google Meet at 9 am

**Week of February 15-19, dates and times TBA** – Virtual visits for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students; students will receive a virtual tour, meet Mrs. Hoyer and Mrs. Herrick, talk with a group of CCHS seniors, and “drop in” to sixth grade classes.

**Monday, February 22** – deadline for receipt of applications of students currently attending Catholic schools who wish to be given first consideration. Applications from area Catholic schools received after this date lose “first consideration” status and are placed in the general pool of applicants.

**Tuesday, February 23** - first day applications will be processed from students in non-Catholic schools

**Monday, March 1**– deadline for all non-Catholic school students to submit applications who want to be considered in the first round of acceptances

**Friday, March 12** – first round of acceptance letters mailed (for applicants whose files are completed by March 1 – applications received after March 1<sup>st</sup> will be reviewed periodically by the Admissions Committee and notification as to enrollment status will be mailed at that time)

## **SHGS BOOK FAIR UPDATE**

One of the most beloved traditions at Sacred Heart Grade School is the Book Fair. It is a wonderful way to encourage and nurture the love of reading in our children. It is also a time that teachers rebuild their classrooms with literature that is specific to helping educate their students. However, due to the current circumstances surrounding COVID-19, we will not be able to host the fair in the traditional sense. While this will be disappointing to the students, it provides an opportunity to adapt and contribute new ideas to this tradition.

This year we are going to involve our local bookstore, Taylor Books, and provide an opportunity for our school community to enhance the school library. Traditionally, Scholastic has provided all the items for our fair. This year we wanted to incorporate our local bookstore as a way of giving back to the community. **Taylor Books will donate 20% of its proceeds purchased by anyone in the Sacred Heart Grade School Community March 1st-March 5th.** The proceeds will go towards the needs of our school library. All that is required at the time of purchase is to remark you are a Sacred Heart Grade School affiliate. March is National Reading Month and the month of Dr. Seuss’s birthday, so this will be a wonderful way to celebrate our love of reading and books!

The Book Fair is also invaluable to the teachers. In years past, they would select books based on the needs of their curriculum and students purchased these books on their behalf. The teachers at Sacred Heart have not only given their time, energy, and hearts to their students, they have given from their own pockets. In addition to their routine classroom duties, they have been tasked with a multitude of other responsibilities. As always, they have far exceeded expectations and risen to the occasion. Let us too rise to the occasion and help rebuild their classroom libraries with the resources that aid our children. What better time to invest in the classroom library than Dr. Seuss’s birthday! **The week of March 1st we will also be collecting funds to build back the classroom with resources they need. Please send a monetary contribution in an envelope marked ‘Book Fair’ to your child’s homeroom teacher.** Hopefully, we can inspire the love of reading with the added additions provided by your gift. Thank you in advance for adapting to this unusual year and providing the resources needed by our faculty and children!

-The PVA Book Fair Committee

## **PARENT INFORMATION REGARDING TUITION ASSISTANCE**

### **2021-2022 Diocesan Assistance Program is open**

For the 30th consecutive year, the Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) is striving to keep Catholic school education affordable for Catholic families who desire it for their children but who may need some financial assistance to make that dream a reality. Thanks to the ongoing and genuine commitment of The Most Reverend Mark Brennan to the Catholic schools in our Diocese, funds have, once again, been allocated for distribution to Catholic families in need of financial assistance.

Applying for TAP through FACTS is easy and affordable. You are encouraged to apply if your child is already enrolled or has been accepted by one of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Who is eligible?** Any Catholic student accepted for the 2021-2022 school year in any Diocesan Catholic school (PK thru grade 12) and who belongs to a parish included on the drop-down list as part of the on-line application is eligible. Determinations are based upon a family's degree of need relative to all other applicants.

**How do I apply?** Applications are made on-line. **Go to [www.factsmtg.com](http://www.factsmtg.com)**, click on "Grant & Aid Assessment" and log in. If you do not have Internet access, contact your school office for assistance.

**Cost?** The application fee is \$35. The Diocese will pay \$17.50 and families pay the other \$17.50.

**Grants:** Diocesan grants for Catholic families who have completed their applications and show financial need will receive up to 50% of the child's tuition.

**Phase I Deadline:** In order to receive notification in late May, applications (including all required documentation and payment of the fee) are to be received by FACTS by April 30, 2021. Phase I is intended for families with children currently enrolled or already accepted for the 2021-2022 school year in any Catholic school in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

**Phase II Deadline:** In order to receive notification in early September, all applications for 2021-2022 (including required documentation and payment of the fee) must be received by FACTS no later than August 14, 2021. This is a firm deadline. Phase II is intended for families new to the school or who have had a life-changing event (i.e. birth, death, loss of job, major illness). If an application was submitted during Phase I, please contact the school. Please do not submit a second application.

Note 1: No assistance will be available from the Diocese or from any school unless:

1. an application is completed in full (all questions answered) and submitted
2. all required documentation is provided, and
3. the family portion (\$17.50) of the application fee is paid by the deadline.

Note 2: only one application per family should be submitted per school year. If you made an error or had a life event change, please do NOT submit a second application. Contact your principal and your application can be updated by FACTS.

If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Sheila Kerekes in the Sacred Heart Parish rectory office at 304-342-8175.

**Sacred Heart Grade School**  
**Learn more. Serve many. Love all.**



# January 2021 Calendar\*

Wednesday, January 6

-January Dress Down Day & Birthday Lunch

Friday, January 8

-Returning student applications emailed to families

(If needed, please request sibling application from the office)

-Final day to notify SHGS office that your virtual option student will return to in-person learning for the 3rd nine weeks

Monday, January 11-

-2021-2022 Returning student, sibling, & ELC application

Friday, January 15

window for first consideration

Wednesday, January 13

-Preschool parents may begin calling for conference appointments (conferences 2/3)

Friday, January 15

-Final day to register for virtual option for the 3rd nine weeks

Monday, January 18

-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-no school for all grades

Tuesday, January 19

-Grades 1-5 return to in-person learning

-Parishioner application window opens

Friday, January 22

-End of second nine weeks

Monday, January 25

-SHGS admissions opens to the public

Friday, January 29

-2nd quarter report card day

Monday, February 1-

-Catholic Schools Week

Friday, February 5

Wednesday, February 3

-SHGS Day of Giving

-TH, ECE, Pre-K parent/teacher conferences online

(no school or ASC for TH, ECE, or Pre-K)

\*Please note that due to COVID-19 this calendar is subject to change .

