



Disciple Dispatch

School Begins August 25

“Oh, Happy Day!”

A Look Ahead:

Wed Aug 18 *It's Still Summer Pool Party* 6-9pm

Tues Aug 24 *Meet and Greet Your Teacher* 5-6 pm

Wed Aug 25 **First Day of Classes Gr K-8** 8:00 am

Parent Rosary 8:00 am

All School Mass 9:00 am

Parent Coffee in the Courtyard 9:45 am

Mon Aug 30 *All Parent Meeting* 6:30 pm

Fri Sept 3 – Mon Sept 6 *Labor Day Weekend*

Tues Sept 7 **PRK 3 Orientation** 10:00 am

Wed Sept 8 **PRK 4 Orientation** 10:00 am

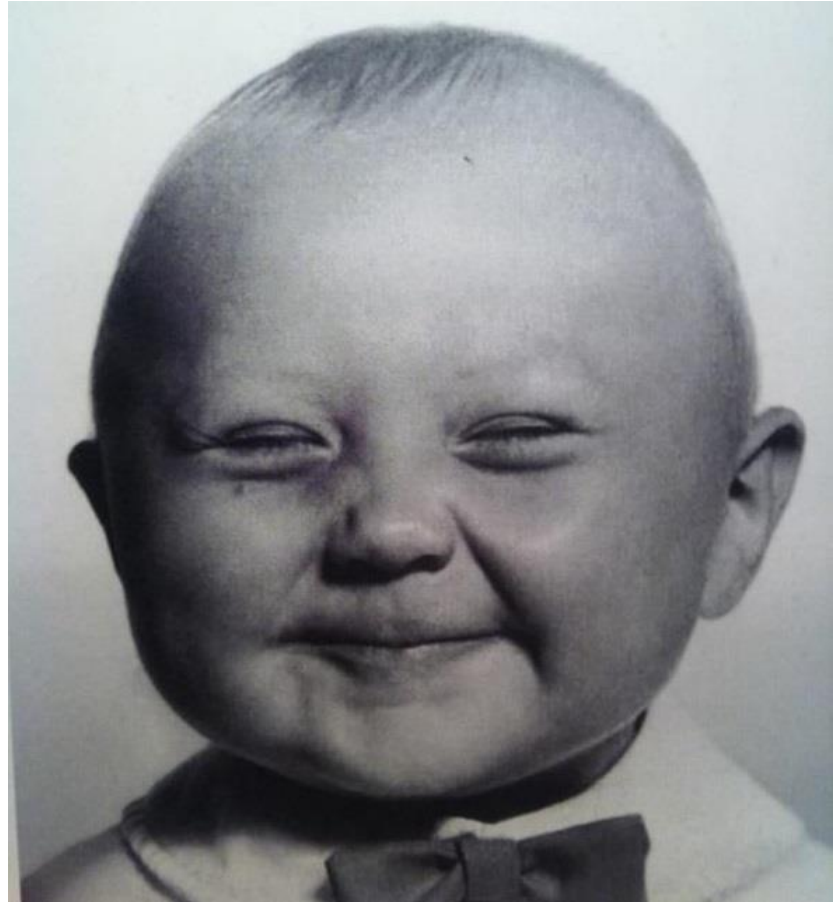
Young 5's Orientation Noon

Thurs Sept 9 **PRK 3 First Day of Classes** 8:00 am

Fri Sept 10 **PRK4 First Day of Classes** 8:00 am

Young 5's First Day of Class Noon

SMILES EVERYONE! Per the directives of the Diocese of Grand Rapids Catholic Schools for the 2021-22 school year, face masks are **not mandated** but suggested meaning **optional**. This includes both staff and students.



WELCOME TO OUR IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SCHOOL FAMILY To date, we have added 18 new families and there are more on the way! Please look for the “unfamiliar face” and introduce yourself at Mass these coming weekends or at the **“It's Still Summer” Pool Party on Aug 18**. May we be the handshake and the smile of Christ who invites the stranger to become friends!



“IT'S STILL SUMMER” POOL PARTY! After restrictions of last year forced a cancellation, the fine ladies of your IHM Home and School Association have arranged for an evening of FREE family FUN at the **Ridgemoor Swim Club, 2435 Inverness Rd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546, Wednesday August 18 from 6-9 pm**. Ice cream treats included. Bring the WHOLE family!

MEET AND GREET YOUR TEACHER Kick those back-to-school-scares to the curb! The school doors will open between 5-6pm on Tuesday August 24 when you and your kiddos will be greeted with smiles and directed to their new classroom. Bring all their school supplies, meet their teacher and classmates. **This is for Students in grades K-8**. Preschoolers will do this on your **orientation day**. (see above *A Look Ahead*)

DID YOU SIGN UP FOR THE IHM SCHOOL APP? Don't delay! It's the preferred way to report an absence or tardy for your kids and its where you'll get updates/cancellations/links to the website. Go to the APP store on your smart phone and look for **IHM Catholic School**. The **red cross** at the top means you're in the right spot! *(Note for families using the APP last year: IT Teacher Mrs. DeVries suggests it might be wise to delete the APP from last year and then download it again to refresh the program. It may have had updates you missed.)*



THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER Join us and other parents for the annual **First Day of School Parent Rosary, 8am Wednesday Aug 25** in the front of school by the Statue of our Lady. Bring “the littles” along too, as we dedicate the school year to Our Blessed Mother; for her protection, guidance and grace. AND THEN...

CELEBRATE MASS at 9am Join us as we gather as a school community for the first time in a LONG time, all together in the church at the All School Mass. AND THEN...

COME FOR COFFEE IN THE COURTYARD The Home and School Association welcomes parents back with an annual coffee to catch up and meet new parents. This year, weather permitting, we plan to gather right outside of church in the courtyard. “Littles” are welcome here too!

PARENTS OF KINDERGARTNERS: Wednesday August 25, Thursday August 26 and Friday August 27, **ALL kindergartners will be dismissed at 11:15 am** regardless if you’ve signed them up for full-day kindergartner or Kindergarten enrichment. Please pick them up in the regular pick-up line in the large parking lot at 11:15am on those three days only. **This is for Kindergartners only, and only for these three days. All other grades will go the full day from 8am 3:15pm.**

NOW SERVING: FEDERAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM Congress has extended the National School Hot Lunch Program for the entire 2021-22 School year.



This means your child(ren) may have a hot lunch every day **at no extra charge to you.** Our meals at IHM are prepared fresh daily by the Catholic Central Hot Lunch Organization headed by IHM’s own Eileen McCaffrey O’Brien. Ala Carte milk is also available at no cost to you, should your kid(s) opt to bring their own lunch. **HOT LUNCH WILL BEGIN ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AUG 25.** Simply have your child tell their teacher if they plan to receive a hot lunch that day. The August Menu is attached to this email. **Even though**

everyone will receive a “free” hot lunch, filling out the forms attached to this email and returning them determines how much federal funding we receive at IHM for other school programs.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS Beginning next week, the school office will be open **Monday through Thursday from 9:00am until 2:00pm. (August 16-19) Then again on Monday and Tuesday Aug 23 and 24 from 9:00am until 2:00pm**

IHM SCHOOL GENTLY-USED-UNIFORM CLOSET WILL BE OPEN NEXT WEEK Tuesday through Thursday August 17, 18 19 in the gym lobby. Take what fits, bring from home what doesn’t. Those donating, please sort style and approximate size. PLEASE leave the hangers here at school. Thank you.

GYM UNIFORM SHIRTS FOR GRADES 5-8 will be available for sale for \$10 during school office hours next week and once school begins. Any t-shirt with an IHM logo on it will be acceptable for gym uniform purposes. Plain or IHM logo mesh navy shorts are required for gym class for girls and boys grades 5-8.

ALL PARENT BACK TO SCHOOL MEETING MONDAY AUG 30 6:30 pm Please plan to have at least ONE parent attend this very important meeting regarding the new school year, our activities, plans, protocols and goals. (Kids are encouraged to stay home and get a good night’s rest. 😊) The Main meeting will be kept to 30 min. Break -out meetings, per select grades only, will be announced by your kid’s teacher(s)

ON THIS THE FEAST DAY OF ST CLARE, let us lift our hearts in gratitude for: the simple gift of being able to gather again as a Faith community; for the Hope of a holy and fruitful year ahead; and for the Love of Christ which will forever bind us together no matter what the future brings. Amen!

