



ACADEMY OF THE HOLY FAMILY

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024

Dear AHF Families,

As we reflect on the journey of the Holy Family-Jesus, Mary, and Joseph- from Nazareth to Bethlehem, we are reminded of the humility, perseverance, and trust in God that guided their every step. This journey, which led to the birth of Our Savior, is a profound inspiration for our students as they embark on their own path of faith and academic excellence here at AHF.

Our school, named in honor of the same Holy Family, strives to emulate their virtues in all aspects of our educational mission. We are dedicated to nurturing not only the intellectual growth of our young women, but also their spiritual development, ensuring that they leave our school equipped to face the world with wisdom, compassion, and a strong moral compass.

The story of the Holy Family's journey also serves as a poignant reminder during these Advent and Christmas seasons of the importance of family, community, and selfless giving of oneself for others. In this spirit, I extend a heartfelt thank you to you, our parents and guardians, who invest so much in our students' futures and support our mission to provide a Christ-centered education. Your sacrifices and partnership never go unnoticed, and they are the cornerstones of our success.

I must also acknowledge our devoted faculty and staff, who go above and beyond each and every day to educate and inspire our students. Their dedication to fostering an environment of academic rigor and spiritual enrichment is a testament to their vocation and passion for teaching and providing services for our amazing student body. Our incredible School Advisory Board is to be commended for their innate sense of stewardship in giving of their time, talent, and treasures with their expertise in their fields to help sustain and grow our beloved Academy.

My most special recognition goes to the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church, who own and operate our school within their very Motherhouse. Their tireless efforts extend beyond the classroom to include the management of a Food Pantry, care for the infirmed Sisters, and host a homeless shelter. Through these ministries, they embody the true spirit of Christmas, showing us all what it means to live out the Gospel message of love and charity.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remember the reason for our joy and the example set before us by the Holy Family. May we carry their light with us throughout the year, and may our students continue to grow in faith, knowledge, and virtue, inspired by the love and teachings of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

On behalf of the entire AHF community, I wish you all a blessed Advent and Christmas season. Thank you once again for our students and the world that they will one day lead. I wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas, and a joyful New Year. May your homes be filled with peace, love and the warmth of the Holy Family during this special time of year.

Henry Fiore, Jr.

Principal

Academic year 2024-2025 Mid-Term Exam Schedule

Mid-term Exams are 20% of the 1st semester grade and are listed separately on report cards. The 2nd quarter ends on Friday, 12/20/24.

The exam schedule for each day is as follows:

Homeroom: 7:45-8:08
Exam 1: 8:15-9:45
Break: 9:45-10:10 (Everyone to Hanlon Hall for break time)
Exam 2: 10:15-11:45
Lunch: 11:45-12:15
Exam 3: 12:30-2:00 Period E (and make-ups)

	Monday 12/16/24	Tuesday 12/17/24	Wednesday 12/18/24	Thursday 12/19/24	Friday 12/20/24
Exam 1	A	B	C	D	E
Exam 2	F	G	H	I	
Exam 3		L		Christmas party after lunch	

In the event of a 90 minute delay:

Homeroom: 9:15-9:25
Exam 1: 9:30-11:00
Lunch: 11:05-11:35
Exam 2: 11:40- 1:10
Exam 3: 1:15- 2:45

In the event of a 2 hr. delay:

Homeroom: 9:45 – 9:55
Exam 1: 10:00 --11:30
Lunch: 11:35 – 12:05
Exam 2: 12:10 – 1:40
Exam 3: 1:45 - 3:15

In the event of a snow day, all exams are moved ahead. For example: If there is a snow day on Tuesday, exams for periods A & B will be moved to Wednesday. Please check the website for last minute changes

Additional Notes:

Courses in which the teachers assign a project as an exam, that project will be due on the day and time of the above schedule.

Students must be on time and remain in their classroom, silently, until the end of the exam period. Students are also expected to attend all study halls.

Make-up period will be after school on any day after school by appointment with the class teacher. NO exams may be taken ahead of the scheduled exam period.

Day students may be dismissed after the second exam period (11:45) if they have no afternoon exam.

Christmas Break Travel Protocol

Christmas break will be upon us soon. It is best to make preparations from now, as our dorms are closed annually during the Christmas break. Students who are not travelling home are encouraged to visit sponsors in the US or plan on accompanying a friend from school to spend the vacation with her family. **It is imperative that all travel arrangements be emailed to Sr. Rafael (smraf@ahfbaltic.org).** Open communication is essential to ensure the correct travel arrangements.

Please note the following:

- Due to midterm exams, the soonest students may leave would be Friday, Dec. 20 at 10:15 if they have no exam during F period. Otherwise, they will be able to leave at 11:45am
- The dorms re-open on January 5th. Classes start on January 6th.
- We provide transportation only to Framingham, not Logan International Airport in Boston. If you book for Logan, the students will need to board the Logan Express bus for Framingham. We pick up directly only on January 2nd at TF GREEN International Airport in Providence (Warwick) RI and Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks (Hartford) CT. If the students are arriving on a day other than the 2nd, please arrange alternate transportation, such as an Uber or taxi.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at all, and we will be happy to answer them for you.

Don't miss your chance for lasting memories...



We are currently taking pre-purchase orders for this year's AHF Yearbook. To place your purchase, click on the link below:

<https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A01013900>

Order before Dec. 20 and receive the discounted price of \$35
All orders placed from Dec. 20-March 28 will be \$40

March 28 is the absolute cutoff date for ordering.

Updates on Faculty and Staff

Please note the following updates to our faculty/staff.

Sr. Stella Maria, who served as my administrative assistant and finance director for the school and the Order. She is now working strictly for the Order. We recently have contracted with Mr. Joshua Sweeney, who is handling all of the finances for the school. If you have any questions regarding tuition payments or all things financial, he can be reached on Wednesdays at 860-822-9272. His email address is jsweeney@ahfbaltic.org.

Mother Mary Jude is the Director of Admissions now, and Mrs. Tracy Medling will be working with her and helping out in our office as well. The admissions office phone number is 860-822-6279, and her email address is admissions@ahfbaltic.org. Mrs. Medling, who is also working on alumnae relations, may be contacted at tmedling@ahfbaltic.org.

Miss Williams, our English teacher will be our basketball coach this year. She is an experienced basketball coach and teaches every student in the building.

Interviews are currently taking place for our softball coach, soccer coach, and Athletic Director for the upcoming school year. Mr. Michael Roberts retired from AHF recently. We held a warm reception for him in Hanlon Hall and thanked him for his dedication and years of service at AHF.

Important Calendar Updates

Father Brian Romanowski, Vice Chancellor for the Diocese of Norwich recently presided over one of our First Friday school Masses, and officially blessed our newly renovated Hanlon Hall. In keeping with a long standing tradition by Bishop Emeritus Michael R. Cote, in granting all students a “free day off” at the principal’s discretion. I collaborated with my distinguished Vice –Principal, Sr. Rafael, and we chose Thursday, February 13, which will give our senior class the opportunity to not miss a day of classes during their senior trip that week, and extend the February break by one day for our underclassmen.

An updated school year calendar is attached separately in the same email which attached this newsletter. Please note the addition of Thursday, February 13 as a no school day and there will be an early dismissal day on March 28. Dismissal will be at 12 noon on that day, as our faculty and staff will be having professional development that afternoon.



Soon, the winter season will be upon us, there is always a chance for a school delay, cancellation, or early dismissal. For our domestic students and for any family trying to contact the school, please note that all families will receive an email from me clearly indicating the status. It will also be posted on the local Connecticut television stations. We always strive to be proactive in alerting families, students, and faculty members well in advance as much as possible, depending upon the forecast.

In the event we have no school due to inclement weather, the school days will be asynchronous days, so the students will be assigned Google Classroom work, with the understanding that we are at the mercy of the weather, power outages, and no wifi, so this is done with as much flexibility as possible for our students.



Family Advent Prayer

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love.

Help us to live in that love together as a family this Advent.

Prepare our hearts for Christmas. Bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day.

Help us to always trust in you.

Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

Christmas Prayer for Families

Loving God,

During this holy season of Christmas, we ask for your blessing on all families.

Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty.

Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love.

May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to embrace all families.

For this we pray.

Amen.