

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's mid-term already; the students are hard at work. The first few months of the year have flown by so quickly and we couldn't have done it without lots of help. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Open House and Grandparents' Day. Also, a special thank you to Diane Perrin for donating the cookies for the Grandparents' Day Open House and to Kathy Heard for donating bars. With such great support, we are indeed blessed at Howells Community Catholic School.

A special thanks to all the teachers and staff who have worked so diligently to make this a great beginning.

A few thoughts on Living the Word of God:

Create a small space in your home that suggests a place of prayer. This can be as simple as a statue and a candle or plant on a table, or a beautiful religious picture. If there are special needs that you and your family are remembering in prayer, write them down and place them in this space. These may be prayers for sick or elderly family members or friends, prayers for concerns in the community or our world, or prayers of thanksgiving for blessings received. (photo: HCCS prayer space in the HCCS hallway) (taken from *Celebrating Sundays for Catholic Families*)



Mrs. Carol Vogel

**TOGETHER IN FAITH
STRONG IN SPIRIT, MIND, AND BODY!**



Fall Weather – Are you prepared?

It will soon be jacket weather! Students play outside every day, unless it's raining or extremely cold. Students also walk to lunch every day. So with the change in weather, please make sure your children dress appropriately and bring jackets when needed.



Upcoming Events:

- October 3** – School of Faith; dismiss at 12:00; no buses home
- October 5** – early dismissal 12:30; HCCS & HDC
- October 12** – end of 1st quarter
- October 17** – Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4:00-7:30 pm
- October 20** – Fall Craft Show 9:00-3:00
- October 24** – Late start
- October 26** – Fall Break, no school
- October 31** – Halloween Party in am; costumes optional
School of Faith 1:00-4:00; dismiss at noon

What's happening at HCCS?

- ❖ **Health Checks** were held September 12 by the East Central Health Department. Eyes, ears, dental, weight, and height were checked. Results will be sent home as soon as we receive them.
- ❖ **Terra Nova tests** were given the week of September 24-27. Results will be sent home with Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- ❖ **End of 1st quarter: October 13** Encourage students to work diligently and accurately on all assignments.
- ❖ **Parent-Teacher Conferences: Wed., Oct.18, 4:00-7:30 pm.** Reports cards will be given out at conferences. Please sign and return.
- ❖ **HCCS Craft Show** will be held on **October 20** from 9:00-3:00. Hope to see you there.
- ❖ **Mission Week:** World Mission Sunday is October 21. Students will learn about the missions during the week of Oct. 22-25.
- ❖ **Thank you to everyone who purchased magazines through our online fundraiser!** HCCS has profited over \$333 thus far.
- ❖ **Stay informed!** To check dates, event details, news updates, and other information, please visit our website www.howellscatholic.org.

Thank you to all the grandparents and grandfriends who came to our Grandparents' Day Mass and Open House!



Assessments: *Do you need help understanding all the tests that your child takes?*

- TerraNova is a series of standardized achievement tests used in the United States designed to assess K-12 student achievement in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, vocabulary, spelling, and other areas. This is a pencil/paper test and is given in the fall. The tests are timed.
- STAR Assessments are short tests that provide teachers with data about what your child has learned and areas where they may need extra help. STAR tests are computer adaptive, which means they adjust for the ability of the student. This means that no two children are taking the exact same test. Your child takes a STAR test for both reading and math. These are tests of general achievement.
- DIBELS assessments check a student's reading fluency and comprehension. These standardized tests are given individually where the student reads short one-minute passages to evaluate development of reading skills.
- Norm-referenced tests: These tests measure students against a national "norm" or average in order to rank students against each other. Both the Terra Nova and the STAR assessments are norm-referenced.
- Criterion-referenced tests: These tests measure student performance against a standard or specific goal. Unit and chapter tests are usually criterion-referenced, as well as the STAR tests.
- DIBELS tests are given 3 times a year – fall, winter, spring
- **STAR testing took place Sept. 10-21 for grades 1-6.** Information will be sent home at Parent-Teacher Conferences. STAR tests are given 3 times a year – fall, winter, spring
- **Terra Nova testing took place Sept 24-27 for grades 3-6.** We will be sending information home as soon as we receive the results. Terra Nova tests are given once a year in the fall.

