

2023 - 2024

Huron Christian School



# Information Package for **New Families**



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# Welcome to Huron Christian School

Being new at school can be both a very exciting and stressful time for children and their families especially during the first few months. At Huron Christian School, we want to take out the stress and bring in the comfort and excitement through our "New Family Information Program". The "New Family Information Program" was developed with the purpose of easing the transition to a new school for new families, to keep a communication link open while building relationships, to answer any questions families might have about the school, uniforms, events, etc, how they work, and to pray for and share any prayer requests or urgent situations. We will be with you every step of the way answering your questions and ensuring that you are taken care of.

We hope that this handbook acquaints new families with the day to day operation of Huron Christian School, as well as provide a brief explanation of the events/activities held throughout the year. Please refer to the school's website for more in-depth information.

Our school day **begins at 8:45 am** and **ends at 3:15 pm**. Huron Christian School runs on a balanced school day which means students have two nutrition breaks and recess times a day. The first runs from 10:15 to 10:50 am and the second from 1:05 to 1:40 pm .

**All students require uniforms.** The purpose of a dress code is to create a positive educational atmosphere, school identity, and community for HCS. There are a variety of uniform options available but each student is required to have the mandatory uniform. This includes the following:

- Boys: Navy, short-sleeved golf shirt and beige pants.
- Girls: Navy, short-sleeved golf shirt and beige pants or kilt.  
Girls can also choose to wear the tunic with the white blouse.

Our volunteer program is called The Participation Points Program, and was developed to enrich school programs, reduce costs and build a strong sense of community between students, staff and parents/guardians. Our hope is to encourage volunteer participation in all school activities and events, ensure fundraising targets are met. We hope to reduce operation costs through increased participation. Our goal with the Points Program is to increase awareness/ appreciation for the amount of effort required for various activities, dispel perception of inequity of involvement, promote a sense of school community and encourage social interaction.

HCS has continued to **provide quality education with Biblical values** in a safe and caring environment for **over 60 years to families in Huron County**. We are active in seeking to be Christ's light and showcase His love to those around us. To you all, we wish a very happy and successful year. A year in which each one of us grows in our understanding of God the Creator, of His creation, and our role in the world He's created. Schooling is more than courses, homework, and sports. It is learning to live together and learning to accept that we are individuals each with our own God-given talents and abilities. As we all work together for the glory of God, we will grow as individuals and as a community. May the Lord, who has abundantly blessed us in the past continue to lead and direct us in the future.

# Calendar of Events

## July-August

**Clean-up & Repairs.** Many times at the end of the school year we are in need of volunteers to clean-up from the year before and then to ready the school again for the coming year.

**Participation Points.** Accumulation begins August 1st to July 31st. Policy and forms are available online at [huronchristianschool.ca](http://huronchristianschool.ca)



## September

**First day of School.** Everyone is invited to our opening assembly at 9:00am. Students, staff and families gather in the gym to start the year off together. We sing and are introduced to our new staff members, students and their families.

**The HCS Happenings.** A weekly e-newsletter called the HCS Happenings is sent to each family (via email) every Tuesday, with messages from the teachers, upcoming events/activities, volunteer opportunities, prayer requests etc.

**Pizza Lunch.** Students have an opportunity to enjoy pizza and chocolate milk weekly! Payment is expected in advance for each term. Look for an email from the office with all the information each term.

**Chapels.** Weekly Chapels are just another way of creating a sense of community in the school. Each week can find the whole student body in the gym for a time of community prayer, praise and worship, a devotional, some announcements and the singing of happy birthday to anyone with a birthday during that week. Each teacher/class gets a chance to lead the chapel, and brings his or her personal flavour to it. Sometimes we have special recognition for sports teams, or individual accomplishments. Family and Friends are always welcome!

**Prayer Pals.** The students are divided up into different Prayer Pal groups led by senior students. Each month the groups enjoy a lunch together and spend time together in prayer. The students are encouraged to pray for their Prayer Pals at home with their families. In addition, these same groups participate in Student Council led activities throughout the year.

**Terry Fox Run.** Each September students, together with students from our neighbouring elementary schools; Clinton Public School and St. Joseph's Catholic School, participate in the annual Terry Fox Run/Walk. The different divisions begin by meeting in one of the schools for a brief introduction, and then the students from all three schools spend about 30-45 minutes walking/running on a course outlined on the school properties. Students are encouraged to bring in their "Toonies for Terry". It's a great way for all three schools to cooperate in a worthwhile fundraiser and build a sense of community between neighbouring schools.

**Sports Begin.** Soccer and Cross Country are the first sports of the year. Cross Country is for students in grades 3-8, while the soccer teams and many of the other sports throughout the year are for students in grades 6-8.



## October

**Theme Assemblies** are usually held once per month. These are focused around our theme for the year or on special occasions ie. Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Christmas, etc. It is a time of praise, worship, and reflection. Parents and friends of our school are always welcome to join our school community at these times.

**Service Project Afternoons** include the Adult Day Away Centre, Soup & More Kitchen, Terry Fox Run and The Food Bank. Descriptions below:

**Soup & More Kitchen.** The Heartland Community Church in Clinton runs a free lunch program called "Soup and More" two days every week. Organizers say that the "more" part of the program is a "desire to show the love of Christ to people in the community". Students from Grade 6-8 participate in this program by serving lunch and helping with cleanup. Part of our mission statement says that, "By the grace of God, Huron Christian School, equips all students to be good stewards of God's creation and serve their community". This program is an excellent way for our students to fulfill that part of our mission statement, which is also an obedient response to Christ's call in our lives.

**Adult Day Away Centre** provides adult day programs in a group setting for dependent adults, such as the frail elderly, individuals with Alzheimer's, or individuals with disabilities. Once a month, one or more of our classes goes to the Centre to provide entertainment for these adults in the form of music, poetry, skits, or any other kind of creative entertaining activities. Our students also spend some time playing games with the clients at the Centre. This is an opportunity for our students to show the love of Christ in action.

**Food Bank.** The "Friends of the Community" food bank is a Clinton food bank which students at HCS support every year. Traditionally we have donated at the Thanksgiving assembly and in January, we have also had additional food drives at other times of the year when the need is great. Some parents have encouraged their children to use their own money to buy food items for this drive. Supporting the food bank is one way of sharing the blessings that God has poured into our lives.

**Professional Development Days.** Be sure to check out the calendar on the website for all the years events including PA Days. Every year at the end of October our teachers participate in a Christian teachers conference that lasts two days giving our students a four day weekend.





## November

**Kindergarten Registration** for the coming school year takes place some time in November. Help us to reach out to anyone you may know that has a little one starting school the following September.

**Fall Membership Meeting.** Society Meetings give you a chance to catch up on what's happening at HCS, vote and plan for the future. 75 points per family who attend!

**Volleyball.** Teams, of students in grades 6-8, compete in the Woodstock District Volleyball Tournament.

**Talent & Services Auction.** This well attended event has the auctioneers auctioning off a huge variety of items including some delicious cakes, homemade wooden products, dinner parties, student made artwork and so much more.

**Report Cards & Teacher Interviews.** Report Cards come home and parent teacher interviews are held at the end of November. Interviews are scheduled through an online system so watch for this email from the office.



## December

**Student Council** plan events for the staff and students of HCS, as well as dress up theme days. To participate in these days, students are asked to bring in a minimum of 25¢. The money we raise as Staff and Students through our Student Council theme-days is donated to a charitable cause.

**Christmas Program.** Friends and family are welcome to attend the Matinee or evening Christmas program the students perform, to share that the story of Christmas is not just about Jesus' birth but it continues with His death, resurrection, present reign and His coming again! This program affects the schedule for our JK/SK students so again be sure to check the calendar online.

**Community Caroling/Skating.** The last day of school before our Christmas break is spent enjoying a time of caroling and skating. The entire school joins together in the gym and then break up into the prayer pal groups to go out into the community singing at banks, grocery stores and many other locations in Clinton. After lunch everyone can participate in a family skate at our local arena ending at 2:30, giving us an early start to the holidays.



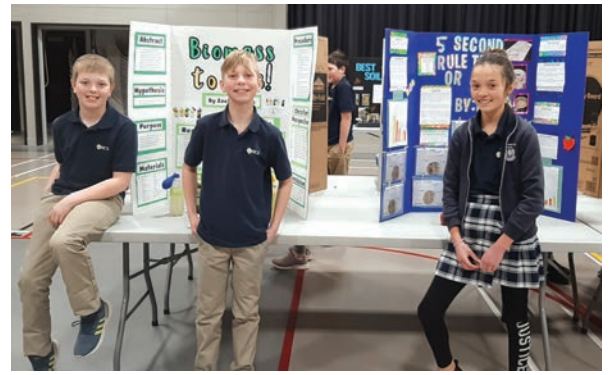
## January

**After School Skating Begins.** An after school special event held on Mondays, between January and March. Kids are either bussed home or to the Clinton Arena and skate until 4:15. Those wishing to come home on the bus, should indicate their wishes to the school, so busing can be arranged.

**Chess Club** begins, during lunch recess. There is a Chess Tournament in April. Grades 4-8 can participate.

**Public Speaking.** Speech writing begins for grades 4-8. Winners from the classes are selected to perform for the school and visitors in the gym and then continue onto the Legion competition. Students in grades 1-3 participate by learning a story.

**Science Fair.** Every other year our school hosts a Science Fair. Projects begin in Jan/Feb and the fair takes place in March. The winners then continue onto the provincial fair.



## February

**All-you-can-eat Pancake & Sausage Dinner.** Each year we wonder what the weather will be like and we wonder how many people will attend the annual meal here at HCS. With many, many volunteers, the Pancake Supper is always a success. Grade 7 & 8 students design the many games children play in the classrooms and hallways. So many people enjoy this time to meet and greet old and new friends. This event is always a wonderful time to socialize while supporting HCS!

**The Pastor's Luncheon.** All our church pastors are invited to visit the classrooms, spend time in fellowship with each other and then enjoy a short program from the students.

**More Sports.** Grades 6-8 try out for teams such as hockey and badminton.

**Battle of the Books.** Students have been reading books all year and are ready to answer questions, regarding those books, in a challenge against other schools! There is both a Junior and Senior Team!

## March

**Easter Assembly.** Students, Family and Friends gather to commemorate Christ's sacrifice and celebrate His victory at a special Assembly!

**Ready Set Alphabet** is a program for children entering JK or SK in the fall to experience Huron Christian School. This program is a half day of school, once a week for 6 weeks. Parents can register their child for a morning or afternoon session and have their child ride the bus to or from school. Please invite any families who are looking to experience christian education.





## April

**Grandparents/Seniors Day.** Every year we welcome our senior friends to Grandparents/Seniors Day at Huron Christian School. Approximately 200-250 seniors join us on this special day. Our visitors have time to talk with old friends, time to visit with their young friends in the classroom and then have lunch in the gym. Once the delicious meal is devoured, it's time to enjoy a lovely program presented by all of the students. Each year our students are thrilled to have our senior visitors join us, just to say thanks for their support and prayers throughout the year!

**Musical.** Every 3 years, the school puts on a Musical! Students are involved in acting, singing, set design and stage crew.



## May

**Celebration of Learning** is an evening event that showcases all school and individual classroom work celebrating how our students have learned about this wonderful world the Lord has made.

**Track and Field** is held this month and all students from JK-Gr. 8 participate. The events are held at the Catholic high school as well as our school and many volunteers are needed.



## June

**District Track & Field Meet** is held in Strathroy, this event takes place at the beginning of June.

**Class Trips.** June is a big month for class trips in all grades! Every other year, Grades 7 & 8 travel to Ottawa and Montreal. Other class trips include the Zoo, Niagara Falls, Huron County Gael and museum...

**Awards Assembly.** During the last Chapel of the year, students who earned scripture memorization awards and the grades 8 awards are celebrated today.

**Graduation** ceremonies take place on the Thursday before the last day of school. The grade 8 students are celebrated in the evening starting with a dinner with parents and teachers and ending with a ceremony in the gym.

**Last Day Assembly.** As we end the year all students, family and friends are invited to gather on the last day of school for a fun assembly that includes some great entertainment as well as a time to reflect and praise the Lord for a wonderful year!





## **Our Mission**

By the grace of God, Huron Christian School:

Provides an exceptional Christ-centred education.

Teaches that God and His Word shine in all areas of learning.

Values all children as God's image bearers who have a place in His plan.

Equips all students to be good stewards of God's creation and serve their community.

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