



Welcome back to school!

Dear Families,

Welcome back to another year of meaningful growth and learning rooted in our Catholic faith! Thank you for continuing to be part of our MACS community. Your partnership, support, and dedication make all the difference. At MACS, we are deeply committed to nurturing the whole child intellectually, spiritually, morally, and physically. With the collaboration of our devoted families, staff, and community, we look forward to a school year filled with growth, discovery, and joyful learning as we work together to prepare our students for lives rooted in faith, virtue, and excellence.

As we begin this new year, we ask you to review the updated [Family Handbook](#). It includes important changes and reminders to help us stay aligned and informed throughout the school year. After reviewing the handbook, please sign and return [the acknowledgment form](#) to indicate that you have read and understood the updates and policies.

Please join us! St. Charles/Holy Ghost Open House | 1-4:30 PM | August 20, 2025

- Take school pictures
- Drop off supplies and paperwork
- Meet teachers and friends (Teachers' will have [presentations](#) at Holy Ghost)

MACS Community Welcome Back Picnic & Prayer | 5:00 PM at McDonell Central Catholic High School

After the St. Charles and Holy Ghost Open Houses, all MACS families are invited to McDonell High School for an evening of **faith, food, and fun!**

- We'll begin with **prayer on the front lawn at 5:30 PM**
- Then enjoy a **complimentary picnic-style dinner**
- Join in on **games, activities, and fellowship** with MACS students, families, and staff

The first day of school for all Kindergarteners at St. Charles and 3rd graders at Holy Ghost is **August 25th**. We will start the day at our normal time (7:35-Holy Ghost and 7:40-St. Charles) and will conclude the day right after lunch at 11:40 (bussing will not be provided). **All 3K-Grade 5 students will begin school on August 26th**. Bussing for K-5 will be provided daily beginning on August 26th. Please call Chippewa Yellow Bus to set up your child's bussing if you have not already done so.

Monday, August 25th will be a 3K & 4K parent meeting day (more information to come). The school will run five days a week, there will be no 4K busing this first week of school. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes will be on Fridays for 4K and Tuesdays & Thursdays for 3K and will start TBD.

If you are interested in our afterschool program at Holy Ghost or St. Charles for this coming 25-26 school year, please contact Jen Gawinski at 715-723-2161 or j.gawinski@macs.k12.wi.us. Spots are limited so please call as soon as you can to get the paperwork completed to hold your spot for the fall.

Please fill out the required [Diocesan Comprehensive Form](#) for each child. This is a fillable form if you would like to download it and email the completed form back. You can also bring the hard copy to your child's school. Feel free to sign up your students for breakfast using [THIS](#) fillable form. Hard copies will also be available at our open house in August. At the bottom of this page, you will find links to the class lists, school supply lists, school picture information, open house presentation schedule, and school calendar as well as "Meet the Principal" PDFs. We will send out more updates and building-specific information in early August, but please reach out with any questions or concerns in the meantime.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Jamie Dodge
Principal
St. Charles Preschool and Primary School
j.dodge@macs.k12.wi.us
715-723-5827

Mrs. Gwen Doyle
Principal
Holy Ghost Elementary School
g.doyle@macs.k12.wi.us
715-723-6478

Quick Links:

[25-26 Kindergarten or New Student Checklist](#) / [Handbook](#) / [System Calendar](#) / [Class List \(HG/SC\)](#) / [School Supply List \(HG/SC 3K-2nd\)](#) / [Meet the Principal \(HG/SC\)](#) / [Photography Code \(HG/SC\)](#) / [HG Open House Presentation Schedule](#) / [SC Teachers will be sending out a video](#) / [Lunch Menu](#) / [Breakfast Menu](#)

Helpful Information:

New Staff Members:

- Kelsey Sobieck - Kindergarten (SC)
- Max Blodgett - Second Grade (SC)
- Kristin Renneke - Intervention (HG)
- Christina Simon - Intervention (HG)
- Samantha Englert - Lead Cook (HG)

Pictures/Bios coming soon!

School Assemblies:

- ALL ARE WELCOME!
- During this time, we pray together as a whole school for the needs of others, acknowledge birthdays, share any special announcements and talk about our Virtue of the Month.
 - Merry Monday at St. Charles 7:45-8:00.
 - Terrific Tuesday at Holy Ghost 7:40-8:00.
- Wednesday is Mass day for the students at all schools. St. Charles and Holy Ghost Schools will hold their Masses at 8:30 a.m. at St Charles Church and Holy Ghost Church. Please join us when you are able.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- All of our families are asked to give the gift of their time and talents by [volunteering](#) a minimum of 30 hours per school year.
- Please share these volunteer opportunities with any family members who would be willing to help out our schools.
 - St. Charles: (Please email j.gawinski@macs.k12.wi.us if you are interested!)
 - Library
 - Recess Helper from 11:00-12:15
 - Lunch Helper from 10:50-11:50
 - Stop by the SC office and help with copying, laminating, and cutting.
 - - Please contact the Office at 715-723-5827.
 - Holy Ghost: (Please email g.doyle@macs.k12.wi.us if you are interested!)
 - Library
 - Recess Helper from 11:15-12:00
 - Lunch Helper from 10:50-11:40
 - Would you like to lead a drama, robotics, nature, or board games club after school?

Transportation

- Buses will continue to drop off and pick up students at the front door at St. Charles and the back door at Holy Ghost. The doors will be open from 7:20-7:35 (Holy Ghost) and 7:40 (St. Charles) each morning. Please follow the drop off procedures for each school. School begins at **7:40 a.m.** at St. Charles **and 7:35 a.m.** at Holy Ghost.
- Any student arriving after that time will be marked tardy. Please arrive on time so that your child can prepare for his/her day.
- The school day will end at **2:30 p.m.** at St. Charles and Holy Ghost. Any students who are not picked up by 2:45 pm will be sent to early childhood and fees will be assessed.
- Please call the bus company at 715-726-2454 if you have any questions regarding your child's bus numbers for this school year.
- Remember, for the safety of our students and staff, all school doors will be locked during school hours. Please use the buzzer located at the front door of both schools for entry. Be sure to sign in at the front office upon arrival and sign out upon departure.
- Bus transportation arrangements should be made through the bus company by parents prior to the first day of school. Call them at 715-726-2454. No child will be allowed to remain behind at the school, walk or ride with someone else without a written note or parent contact with the school early in the day. Additionally, after school care is not provided at any other school. Please do not route your child to another school to await siblings or parent pick up. Remind your child(ren) that they can not make any transportation decisions on their own. Do not allow your child to run across the street to get to the school yard or into your car. These rules allow us to transport all children safely to and from school.

Handbook Changes/Highlights

* For both St. Charles and Holy Ghost, medication must be delivered to the school by the parent or legal guardian.

* **Our instructional day for 3K-2 begins promptly at 7:40 a.m., and for grades 3-5, it begins at 7:35 a.m.** Students are considered tardy if they are not in the building by these times. If a student arrives after the start of the school day, parents **must** escort their child to the office and sign them in.

* **Vacations during the school year** should be planned around the school calendar, and work will **not be provided ahead of time** for such absences.

* After **10 unplanned absences or tardies**, a **doctor's note** will be required. The administrator will call parent/guardians and send a letter. During the call a meeting with the administrator will be set to go over a plan and discuss possible referral to Chippewa County Juvenile Services for violation of Wisconsin's Compulsory Attendance Law.

* For Repeated Behavioral Acts and beyond, students may be assigned tasks within the school building as a consequence. These may include cleaning, organizing materials, assisting in maintaining common areas, or other housekeeping responsibilities. This approach reinforces accountability while fostering a sense of responsibility for their learning environment and replaces the non-virtuous habit with a good habit. Administrator/Interventionist/Guidance Counselor will observe student behavior where it is happening most often. If continued after strategies or redirection have been implemented this could result in an in-school suspension. (Please review **Behavior Philosophy, Policy and Procedures** section within the handbook)

* No food can be shared with other children on field trips or at lunch. This is an important health and safety rule.

Dress Code: (We strongly encourage parents to read this in its entirety on pages 24-26 of the [handbook](#))

* **Pants:** Students may wear **solid black, gray, navy blue or khaki dress pants**. No joggers, cargo pants or leggings. **Joggers** are athletic-style pants that are typically made of soft, stretchy material, often featuring an elastic waistband, tapered legs, and fitted cuffs at the ankles. **Leggings and biker shorts are only permitted under skirts or dresses at all times, including out-of-uniform days.**

* **Sweaters/Sweatshirts: Solid white, red, pink, yellow, gray, black or any shade of blue sweaters or non-hooded sweatshirts.** Logos, including MACS logos, should be 3x3 inches or less. Hooded sweatshirts/sweaters are allowed only on non uniform days. MACS sweatshirts must have logos that are 3x3 or smaller unless on Fridays.

* **Makeup, including mascara, may only be worn for special events.** Hair color must be natural or can be colored black, brown, or blonde, and free of tinsel and beads.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (Hands)

Our Home and School parent volunteers have been hard at work providing special opportunities for our students, parents and staff. We are so blessed to have dedicated parent volunteers. We would like to especially thank our officers: Abby Petefish, Barb Berg, Samantha O'Connell, and Ashley Rubenzer. Thank you ladies for all of your hard work and dedication! As always, the door is open for your involvement and volunteerism. **We really would love to have more involved parents!** Our bi-monthly all-parent meetings dates and times will be coming out soon!

Come visit our table at Welcome Back Wednesday and ask about how to help with our major events of the year:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
|  Harvest Hoedown |  Santa's Work Shop |  Spring Event |
|  Parent-Teacher Conference |  Snowflake Dance |  Spring Ice Cream Social |
- Meals

Food Service / Milk Money / Field Trips / Other Fees

A reminder to all families that all fees, including lunch and other school-specific fees, can be found in FACTS. Please check FACTS before school starts to ensure that fees are paid. The USDA sets food service prices for all students. See below for current lunch prices. Payments can be made online (set up AHD through FACTS) or sent to the school office. Please use an envelope when sending any money to school. Always identify the child's name, amount enclosed, and destination (hot lunch, milk, student subscription, field trip, etc.). In the case of lunch or milk money, payments can be sent to Holy Ghost, St. Charles, or the Central Office for the entire family. You will receive a statement from the Central Office if your child shows a negative balance for your family lunch account. Please take care of your account in a timely manner to avoid having to pay a substantial amount to catch up. Our breakfast and lunch menus can be found [HERE](#) on our MACS website.

- Hot Lunch (students)..... \$2.85 per day
- Cold lunch Milk..... \$0.50 each
- Hot Lunch (guest)\$4.65 per day
- Breakfast (students)..... \$1.50 per day

Please be sure to check [FACTS](#) to verify that your emergency contact information and pick up contacts are listed in each of your student's accounts.

St. Charles and Holy Ghost Happenings

Save the Date 2025



DATE

August, 14-15, 18-21

Wednesday, August 20

EVENT

Teacher and Staff In-Service Workdays

Welcome Back Wednesday!

St. Charles/Holy Ghost Open House ~ 1:00-4:30 p.m.
MACS Family Fun Night
~ 5:00-7:30 p.m. @ McDonell High School
(Prayer @ 5:30pm on the front lawn.)

Monday, August 25

Half day for Kindergarten and 3rd graders , 7:35 (Holy Ghost) 7:40 (St. Charles) -11:40 am.
Bussing will NOT be provided.

3K & 4K Parents:

You will be required to sign up for a 15-20 minute orientation time with your child's teacher on this day. Orientation sign-up details will be shared soon.

Tuesday, August 26

Full day for all students 3K-5 (7:35 (HG) 7:40 (SC) -2:30 pm)

Wednesday, August 27

St. Charles/Holy Ghost All School Masses @ 8:30 a.m.

Monday, September 1

Labor Day No School

Wednesday, September 3, 10, 17, 24

St Charles/Holy Ghost All School Masses @ 8:30 am

Tuesday, September 11

St. Charles & Holy Ghost School Picture Retake Day

Friday, October 3

SAVE THE DATE: Parent Teacher Conferences 8-3:30pm
(There will not be evening times available this year)