



Holy Spirit
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Saints' Stories & News

September 4, 2009

REFLECTIONS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL – Raymond E. Johnson

Good Judgment – It Matters Most



For our children life, at times, is a complicated experience in which confusing moral situations arise. Ambiguous moral messages from television, from music, the internet, the media, even friends (peer pressure) complicate their sense of moral cohesion and direction and can negatively effect their decisions and concomitant behavior.

How are we, as parents and the school, to respond? Working closely together how can we provide our children with a moral compass? How can we equip them to make wise decisions stemming, at times, from complex situations and at other times, from awkward, hurtful, and confusing situations that are, when taken in context, simply a part of the maturation process of growing up?

Speaking as a father, grandfather, former middle school and high school teacher and coach, university dean of admissions and as a head of school we would, I believe, be prudent to attend to the personal traits needed to cope with moral situations that are either unknown or too complex to anticipate. When our students know, understand, experience, and have the innate desire to exhibit these traits they will have a better grip on what it takes and what it means to be a judicious person and a moral-problem solver. They will have good judgment.

How is good judgment acquired? How does good judgment become assimilated into a child's character? Here are some thoughts on the matter learned over 35 years of experience.

The teaching of good judgment or practical wisdom is a complex, time intensive process that must be pursued as intentionally and persistently as learning to write a good paragraph or mastering the basic math facts. It must command equal importance to achieving good grades.

Good judgment at Holy Spirit Episcopal School is taught through a comprehensive curriculum and excellence in instruction. By definition our curriculum includes what is taught during the school day and instruction is how the curriculum is specifically taught.

The curriculum includes but is not limited to the core academic subjects, the arts, athletics, recess, chapel, school meetings, field trips, ECO-Link experiences, community service, rules, regulations, hallway chats, and prayer.

Instruction includes classroom teaching, advising, coaching, the manner in which students are greeted, treated, engaged, supported, guided, corrected, disciplined, and encouraged.

Curriculum and instruction merge when a student enters the door of literature that confronts vexing life challenges and opportunities, the door of history that teaches the moral struggles and lessons of others, the door of mathematics that requires order and exactness or the door of science that brings to life the ethical conundrums and hopeful possibilities of science. As the study of these



conventional courses touch upon the religious, economic, political and social traditions that imbue our culture, children are required to think prudently, objectively, critically and to make informed decisions.

There is another and more abstract strategy and approach for our students to learn to be judicious or wise in practice, especially when taught a medley of effective and observable traits.

- Hearing both sides in decision making
- Avoiding hasty decisions in decision making
- Seeking advice in decision making
- Consider likely consequences and outcomes in decision making
- Consider how others have treated equivalent problems in decision making
- Moderate the pressures of one's self interests in decision making
- Give careful consideration to the opinions of more experienced people in decision making
- Weigh how others will be affected in decision making

While these traits can be described to students and we can study role models who have displayed these traits, and even expect students to inculcate them, we can only teach students to be judicious by having them practice these traits at a reasonable and age appropriate level. For example, a discussion of what is appropriate dress for the dance, or can we have a free dress day, or what will be our class slogan lend themselves to the cultivation of a judicious style, better understanding, and regular practice. On a more abstract but nevertheless effective level there is also this approach. Good judgment is a matter of mistake-avoidance or as I have shared with students over the years, "The trouble with trouble is that it begins with fun. Have a clear sense of where you are and what is going on because a lack of understanding and poor judgment on your part is apt to lead you where you absolutely do not want to go."

There is nothing wrong with telling a child no. There is, however, something inherently wrong and indeed irresponsible in failing to tell a child what not to do choosing, instead, language that asks a child to carry out ambiguous, ill defined prescriptions of good judgment.

The late philosopher Gilbert Ryle clearly framed the essence of mistake-avoidance when he wrote:

People sometimes grumble at the Ten Commandments on the score that most of them are prohibitions, and not positive injunctions. They have not realized that the notice 'Keep off the grass' licenses us to walk anywhere else we choose, where the notice, 'Keep to the gravel' leaves us with almost no freedom of movement. Similarly to have learned a method is to have learned to take care against specific kinds of risk, muddle, blind alley, waste, etc. But carefully keeping away from this cliff and that morass leaves the rest of the countryside open to us to walk lightheartedly in.

It is interesting to note that Ryle has gone beyond the teaching or learning of moral precepts making a compelling case that precepts guide disciplined behavior and lend themselves to good judgment.

He adds this:

If I teach you twenty kinds of things that would make your sonnet a bad sonnet or argument a bad argument, I have still left you an indefinite amount of elbow-room within which to construct your own sonnet or argument....

I would add this. Learning English grammar is not intended to dictate or smother what a student can say. Rather learning English grammar is an exercise in learning what not to say in order to communicate effectively and well. Mistake-avoidance is really about freedom and room within boundaries and space limits to perform and achieve with distinction.



And finally the acquisition of good judgment is taught and learned through the discipline study of Old and New Testament. Knowing about God and learning from God's word in an intellectual sense is an important aspect of acquiring good judgment. Knowing God, that is, having an ever-deepening relationship with God is an even more important aspect in acquiring practical wisdom. Prayer provides a basic form of expressing our relationships with God. Through prayer children learn to express needs for themselves and others, to give praise and thanksgiving and to ask for strength, discipline, insight, and guidance. When adults feel assured of their relationship with God and children see adults look confidently and hopefully to God for good judgment something deeply and truly religious becomes understandable to them. It is called practical, wisdom, faithfully and trustfully rooted in God's word.

The task of moral educators – family, school, and church united in the support and education of each child – is analogous to the task of the diligent gardener. Sowing the seeds carefully and nurturing their healthy growth will yield a bountiful harvest. Sowing the seeds of good judgment and nurturing their healthy growth and development, will over time, yield judicious young adults.

I remain convinced. The enduring skill and influence that will enable our students to lead productive lives, to be accomplished, responsible, and caring men and women is good judgment. Name the virtue – honesty, courage, dignity, trust, respect, responsibility, altruism, self discipline, fairness. All are rooted in judiciousness.

The foundation virtue of judiciousness runs like a red thread through our curriculum and instruction and knits together our community where we take deliberate aim at teaching, encouraging and expecting our children to make good decisions.

Learning what Aristotle called moral archery, acquiring the skills and experience early on in life to hit the target of good judgment, will serve our children well for a lifetime. The responsibility for teaching moral archery to our children belongs to all of us. This opportunity awaits us each day and is one we must and will continue to seize. The impact of this commitment will transform and enrich our children's lives giving them a listening ear, a discerning mind, a confident voice, and a grateful heart. There is not doubt. Good judgment matters most!

GENERAL INFORMATION

**HAVE A SAFE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
NO SCHOOL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7—All Programs Closed**

TECHNOLOGY CLUB BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8

This year's Technology Club is open to *kindergarten through 6th grade* students. The kindergarten through 3rd grade students will be using various interactive educational sites to reinforce:

- keyboarding and mouse skills,
- letter/sound recognition, and
- reading, writing and math skills.

4th through 6th grade students will explore using *Web 2.0* programs, video making/editing, and the basics of computer programming and gaming.

Sessions are scheduled to begin *Tuesday, September, 8* as follows:

- *Tuesday 3:30- 4:30 PM Grades K – 3*
- *Thursday 3:30- 4:30 PM Grades 4 – 6*



If your child is interested in participating, please sign and return the attached flyer or contact me at AMRobinson@hses.org if you have questions.



James Peoples



Alex Gogola, David King, Cade DelaGarza, Rohan Patel



Athena Grace Petkas, Riko Ichio

CHAPEL BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS 2009

SEPTEMBER – Thursday, September 10
OCTOBER – Thursday, October 8
NOVEMBER – Thursday, November 19
DECEMBER – Thursday, December 3



CHAPEL BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS 2010

JANUARY – Thursday, January 21
FEBRUARY – Thursday, February 25
MARCH – Thursday, March 25
APRIL/MAY – Tuesday, April 27
JUNE/JULY – Thursday, May 13



HOLY EUCHARIST—SEPTEMBER 15



The first Holy Eucharist for 1st through 8th grade students will be held on Tuesday, September 15, at 8:25 AM. The MS Ensemble Choir will be leading the service music. Parents and the Holy Spirit community are always welcome at all of our chapel services.



CHESS CLUB BEGINS SEPTEMBER 16



Holy Spirit Chess Club is open to students enrolled at HSES in grades K – 8. The mission of the Chess Club is to provide opportunity for students to develop a love of chess through instruction, play, and competition. The first meeting will be Wednesday, September 16, from 3:30 – 4:30 PM, Room 505 (Mrs. Daniels' music room). Registration information will be available September 4. If you have any questions, please call Virginia Goble at 713-468-5138, ext. 265. You do not need to know how to play—we'll teach you! Chess sets are provided.

PARENT MEETING – CTP4 OVERVIEW



SEPTEMBER 16 AT 8:15 AM AND SEPTEMBER 17 AT 6:30 PM

Holy Spirit is in the process of moving away from using the Stanford 10 Achievement Test and replacing it with the Comprehensive Testing Program 4 (CTP4). The CTP4 is a comprehensive achievement test developed for the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) to serve the needs of high achieving students and schools that aspire to higher standards. The CTP4 is a rigorously designed series of assessments in reading, writing, and mathematics designed to collect basic information about student achievement. It is designed to distinguish learning among students at the highest level. In addition, students take reasoning tests, intended to describe the student's facility with subtle, abstract relationships expressed in words or numbers, and yield measures of his or her ability to recognize logical relationships in unfamiliar contexts. Having both reasoning and achievement tests in the same battery enables the school to compare the results as a guide in working with



individual students. Taken together, these scores help determine if a student is working up to potential or falling behind.

Please mark your calendars to attend the parents' meeting on **Wednesday, September 16 at 8:15 AM or Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall** to learn more about this test, why we are using it in Middle School and field testing it in grades 3 and 4 in November.

 **PICTURE DAY – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22** 

Class and individual pictures of our EC – MS students will be taken on Tuesday, September 22. Please be sure your children wear their **official dress uniforms**. All girls need to wear their ties, **making sure that the loop is right side out**. **Middle school students must wear their blazers**. Since fifth grade will be at Sky Ranch this day, their pictures will be taken on the retake/absentee photo day (date yet to be determined). Below is the schedule.

8:15-8:25	Specials and Staff individual pictures	10:00-10:20	Clowns/Teddy Bears
8:25-8:40	8 th grade	10:20-10:40	Ladybugs/Dolphins
8:40-9:00	3 rd grade	10:40-11:00	Goldfish/Scottie Dogs
9:00-9:20	2 nd grade	11:00-11:20	4 th Grade
9:20-9:40	1 st grade	11:20-11:40	6 th Grade
9:40-10:00	Kindergarten	11:40-12:00	7 th Grade
		12:00-12:20	Staff

LOWER SCHOOL

 **SUMMER READING AWARDS – SEPTEMBER 8** 

Parents of students in grades 1st through 4th are invited to attend the summer reading awards, Tuesday, September 8, at 8:25 AM in the church. All students who completed their summer reading will be recognized at this time. Students should wear their official dress uniforms.

 **JUNIOR FCA BEGINS SEPTEMBER 9** 

Each Wednesday morning, starting September 9, 1st through 4th graders have the wonderful opportunity to meet in room 503 from 7:30 – 8:00 AM for a fun-filled Bible study about our great and mighty God! As we listen to stories, read scriptures and play games, we grow in our knowledge of God's love for us and how He wants us to live for and serve Him each and every day at school, at home and in every area of our lives. We have an awesome God and we want the world to know!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

 **8TH GRADE PARENT AND STUDENT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14** 

Miss Leisenring will be conducting our annual 8th grade parent and student meeting to discuss high schools and the application process. The meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, at 7:45 AM. The meeting will be in Room 503 (Mrs. Hogan's room). *At least 1 parent for each student needs to attend this meeting.* ISEE materials and other application information will be handed out during this meeting.



STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS – WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

Student Council is a middle school organization at HSES that exists to provide service outreach and opportunities to develop leadership skills, as well as improve the quality of life on our campus. Mr. Ballard is the sponsor of this organization. Class representatives are elected for each 5th – 8th grade advisory. 6th – 8th grade students may run for office during the week of September 14, with elections held on Friday, September 18. Mr. Ballard will meet with students who are interested in running for office on Wednesday, September 9 during lunch.

COSTA RICA EXCHANGE PROGRAM PARENT MEETING SEPTEMBER 22

Parents of 5th through 8th graders who are interested in participating in Holy Spirit's Costa Rica Exchange Program should mark Tuesday, September 22 on their calendars. The introductory meeting to the program will be held in the LRC at 6:30 PM and run until about 7:15 PM.

The meeting will cover basics such as how the program is run, who can participate, responsibilities of students, tentative costs, dates, and what Holy Spirit students can expect during their visit. *Even if parents are uncertain whether this is an experience for their child,* they should come to get first-hand information, keeping in mind that 5th and 6th graders will have another opportunity to visit Costa Rica in 2012. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Mrs. DuPre at cldupre@hses.org.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

SHOWCHOR AND ENSEMBLE CHOIR

The Showchoir, grades 1 through 4, meets on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 AM in room 505. We have a few chairs vacant for those students who want to make a joyful noise and perform for various events here at Holy Spirit during the school year. The Ensemble Choir, grades 5 through 8, meets on Wednesday mornings at 8:20 AM in room 505. This choir sings for Eucharist, special events, and participates in the MS Production in April.

“THE DRUM” MEETING – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

“*The Drum*”, the 3rd and 4th grade musical, is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, and Thursday, October 15. Moms and Dads who would like to help with the costumes and scenery are invited to come to a meeting on Thursday, September 10 at 8:45 AM (after chapel) in room 503. “*The Drum*” is a fable from India, and a story of generosity. Along with the musical, the third and fourth grade students will be involved in a small service project to accent their study of this fable. Come on Thursday, September 10 and learn more about the project and the musical. See Mrs. Hogan for details, or you may email her at DBHogan@hses.org

“DEAR EDWINA” AUDITIONS – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Auditions! Auditions! Auditions! The Middle School Broadway Junior Musical, set for April 2010, is entitled “*Dear Edwina*”. Sixth through eighth grade students may audition for the various parts on Saturday, September 19, in room 503 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Auditions sheets can be found outside room 503 and students may sign up for a 10-minute time slot. Generally in MS, students are asked to sing a verse of a song (16 measures), present a monologue which can be a poem, a story, or entertaining jokes, and a ‘cold’ reading of the script. Parents are asked to stay with their students, as the time for auditions is limited, and students may leave as soon as they are finished. As a reminder,



those students in *Ensemble Choir* who attend all rehearsals and performances will be a part of the cast. If you have questions concerning the show or the auditions, please contact Mrs. Hogan.

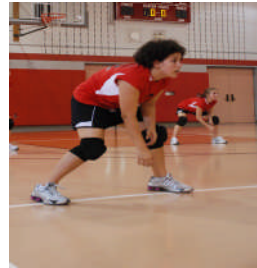
ATHLETICS

ATHLETICS INFORMATION

Please check our website at www.hses.org for athletic information, or call the Sports Line at 713-468-5130 extension 2809.



Tobi Oguntona – 7th Grade



Elizabeth Daniel – 8th Grade



Celie Olguin – 6th Grade



Graham Doll – 7th Grade

PTO SECTION

FAMILY FUN NIGHT – SEPTEMBER 11

Parents: just say no to cooking on September 11 and join us for dinner at the September Family Fun Night at Jason's Deli on I-10. Come meet us starting at 6:30 PM, relax with the kids and help Holy Spirit at the same time. Ten percent of the evening's proceeds will go back to HSES. Parents will need to bring the attached flyer for the school to receive credit. Contact Wendy Wall at wcommunication@earthlink.net with any questions.

SALLY FOSTER FUNDRAISING

A HUGE thank you to all of the parents participating in the Sally Foster and Entertainment Book fundraiser! All Entertainment books are \$20 and all checks and order forms are due back to your homeroom teacher on *September 15*. Orders will be delivered on *October 6*. Contact Wendy Wall at wcommunication@earthlink.net with any questions.

NOW SHOWING

The PTO is hosting an HSES Movie Night for the entire family. Bring a blanket and watch *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* under the stars on *Friday, September 18* at 7:45 PM on the field. Tickets



are \$10 per family – on sale starting Sept. 8. All concessions are just \$1.00 and you receive FREE popcorn with concession purchase! Questions? Contact Connie Hill at constance_hill@yahoo.com.

 **GOT PLANS?** 

FamFest is right around the corner—*October 2*, to be exact! T-shirts and tickets will be on sale during morning car pool on *Monday, September 14* and *Wednesday, September 16*. Shirts are \$12.

The FamFest committee is collecting large coffee containers with lids. Please turn them in to front office. Also, we are looking for a few good face painters. Please contact Connie Hill at constance_hill@yahoo.com or Courtenay McNew at themcnews@sbcglobal.net.

 **GRACIAS!** 

The PTO would like to thank the parents, teachers and administration for their support. Parents, you can still join the PTO at any time; so if you have not joined yet, please get a form from the front office and fill it out. Also, the e-mail address given on the form goes to the PTO only – the school does not receive this contact information. Finally, it's okay if you cannot make the meetings.

 **DID YOU KNOW?** 

Did you know that the funds raised by the PTO pay for things tuition does not cover? For example, last year the PTO paid for upgrades to the Lower School playground to make it safer for our children.

 **USED UNIFORMS NEEDED** 

Now that we all have cleaned out the old uniforms from last year to make room for new ones that fit, please feel free drop off your old, gently used uniforms in the main office. We will be happy to take them and sell them to a family who needs them.

ADVANCEMENT

 **SISSY GREGORY AUCTION PHOTOS!** 

Back by popular demand, Sissy Gregory, our favorite Holy Spirit Photographer, will once again be taking 11" x 14" black and white pictures for the auction this year. Since 2003, Sissy's portraits have been a big hit and a cherished auction item. Sign-up will be available in the front office beginning Monday, September 21st. Each individual portrait is \$100; additional siblings in the picture add \$25 each. Sign up early as Sissy will only be taking 50 pictures this year!

ALUMNI

 **HSES GRADUATE, JERSEY GATES, CLASS OF 2006 IN THE NEWS** 

The following is an excerpt from TexasHoops.com, posted on August 26, 2009:

Shooting guard [Jersey Gates](#), then a junior, welcomed the challenge of taking over that leadership role. He led his team to a 26-3 record and the District 24-3A title. Gates' mission for the 2009-10 season, despite Navasota [High School] only being in its first week of school, has been imprinted in every varsity player.



“We have 11 people coming back this year, and we're all trying to make it to state,” said Gates, a 6-foot-2, 185-pound senior. “Our first goal is to win district and get to the playoffs. Our next goal is to get past the same team that's knocked us out the playoffs three years in a row.” Gates said he will do everything he can to make sure his team makes it to Austin. He averaged 18 points, six rebounds and five assists as a junior and hopes to further improve on his rebounding and defense for the upcoming season.. “He's not easy, but that has really helped a lot. Listening to him and getting advice, it's been great. He's always been there, and he's helped a whole bunch.”

We want to hear from our graduates! Please send any and all alumni news to Robyn LaRocca, at development@hses.org



Date: 9/11/09

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

HSES Family Fun Night

**Parents and guardians—
Just say NO to cooking!
Meet us at the Jason's Deli
on the I-10 feeder for an
evening of relaxation and
fun with the kids!**

***Jason's Deli
10321 Katy Freeway
713.467.2007***

***Bring this Flyer and 10% of
the evening's proceeds will
go to Holy Spirit!***

**Questions? E-mail Wendy Wall
at
communication@earthlink.net**



**Holy Spirit
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL**

PTO

Parent Teacher Organization



Holy Spirit Episcopal School Movie Night September 18th, 2009

Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory
Rated: G

HSES Field - 7:45 p.m.

Bring a blanket and watch a movie under the stars.

Purchase your tickets now!

All preorder forms, along with your payment of just \$10.00, are due Wednesday, September 16th.

Tickets will also be available for purchase starting 30 minutes prior to show time at the HSES field.



Door Prizes!

First 30 families to purchase tickets will be entered in drawing for grand prize!
Two additional prize drawings at the movie!



**Only \$10
For the ENTIRE
Family!!**

\$1.00 concessions to support PTO
FREE Popcorn with purchase!
Please no outside food or drink.

**Questions? Contact Connie Hill at
constance_hill@yahoo.com**

HSES Movie Night Ticket Preorder Form

Preorder by Sept. 16th Tickets also sold at the door. \$10.00 per family
Please put eldest child's info below.

Child's Name

Teacher

Parent Phone

Please return form along with payment.

Cash

ALL PREORDER SALES FINAL

Check # _____

Please make checks payable to HSES; memo PTO Movie



Holy Spirit
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

got plans?

Mark your calendars, save the date.
This years **FamFest** is going to be GREAT!

October 2nd, 2009

Prepurchase t-shirts, don't wait in line!
You can wear your shirt at least three times.
Isn't that cool to wear them to school!

All preorder forms, along with your payment of just **\$10.00** per shirt, are due **Friday, September 4th**. Shirts will be available for purchase in morning carpool on **Monday, Sept. 14th** and **Wednesday, Sept. 16th**. The price will be \$12.00 per shirt at that time, so preorder yours today and save!

Questions? Contact Connie Hill at constance_hill@yahoo.com or
Courtenay McNew at themcnews@sbcglobal.net

FamFest T-shirt Preorder Form

Order by Sept. 4th \$10.00 each

If ordering for more than one child, please put eldest child's info below.

Child's Name	Teacher	Parent Phone
_____ YXS	_____ AS	TOTAL NO. OF SHIRTS _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK # _____
_____ YS	_____ AM	
_____ YM	_____ AL	
_____ YL	_____ AXL	
	_____ AXXL	

ALL PREORDER SALES FINAL

Please make checks payable to
HSES; memo: FamFest

When: Beginning Tuesday,
September 8, 2009
Tuesdays: K-3
Thursdays: 4-6th

Time: 3:30-4:30 PM

Where: Lower School
Computer Lab



Tech @ HSES Technology Club!

K-3rd Grades:

- ❖ Interactive Educational Games!
 - Reinforce reading and writing skills
- ❖ Keyboarding and mouse skills!

4-6th Grades:

- ❖ LEARN ABOUT WEB 2.0*
- ❖ VIDEO MAKING/ EDITING
- ❖ BASIC COMPUTER PROGRAMMING/GAMING



*What is web 2.0? Websites that allow users to create, interact, use or change content ie. wikis, blogs, social networking sites

Student's Name _____ Grade _____ Teacher's Name _____

Cost per month \$75.00 - Checks payable to Alison Robinson

Parent/Guardian Cell# _____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____
Parent/Guardian Email _____