

Monthly Newsletter

December 2024



Attitude of Gratitude

The holiday season can be a blur of planning, busy work, and stress for many families. Reflecting on the year and what we are grateful for is critical to improving our health, social bonding, and stress relief. Creating an attitude of gratitude is a deliberate practice that might require a mindset shift. Cultivate daily opportunities to be grateful for something or someone in your life, surround yourself with positive people, and live in the present, thankful for what you have now instead of dreading the past or future. Start by writing three things a day or having a conversation with the family at dinner or bedtime. "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Important Announcements

Snow and the Playground

Who doesn't want to go play in the snow after Hastings gets a few inches? Our students often want to go and dive head first once they see it on the playground, but here's a couple of reminders so that kids can have the opportunity!

Step 1: Snow Boots. Wet socks all day feel miserable, and we ask that students wear them or they stay on the concrete (no snow, how sad).

Step 2: Snow Pants. Yes, they take forever to put on and take off, but wet pants are more miserable than wet socks!

Step 3: Gloves and Hats. Staying warm is good.

Inclemental Weather

Snow and cold weather days are not uncommon in our area. If the weather makes it an unsafe environment for students to travel to school, Zion Classical Academy can choose to cancel classes for the day.

ZCA will post on social media, our local television, and local radio broadcasts.

Typically, the office will not be staffed during these days.

Truth, Wisdom, and Virtue

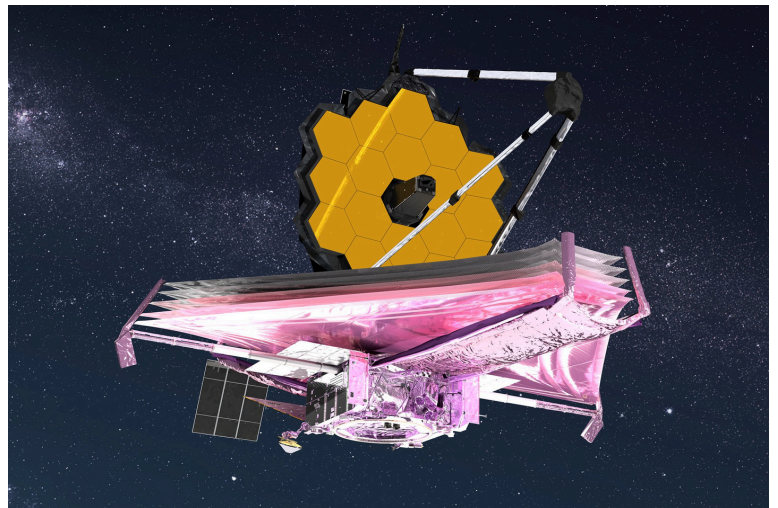
It is important that all members of our school community understand how to live in Truth, Wisdom, and Virtue. During this time of year, we often remember Christ's birth. Truth is that "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). We pursue wisdom, "...and if you look for it as silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God " (Proverbs 2:3-4). All of us continually learn and grow; even as adults, we work toward being virtuous. Though our American culture drives consumerism in front of us, we should pursue self-lessness; "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" (Philippians 2:2).

Veritas
Sapientia
Virtus



Astronomy Club

The astronomy club has been meeting after school on Thursdays. We have learned about the electromagnetic spectrum, how our solar system formed, the formation of planets and moons, and how our sun works. The students will continue to learn more about asteroids, meteors, blue/red shifts, the Big Bang, and black holes. We have plans for observation at Sachtleben Observatory and a trip to our Hastings Museum Planetarium.





Class Parties, Dec. 20th

Our classroom parties for Christmas will be on the morning of December 20th. Teachers and parents will organize festive activities to welcome us into the Christmas break. Students and staff will also participate in a Christmas sing-a-long to lift our spirits. Students will be served lunch and then be dismissed at 12:30 pm.



Important Dates:

- December Reminder: No Christmas Concert
- December 3rd, 6:30 pm, PTU Meeting
- December 7th, 7:30 pm, Astronomy Club @Sachtleben Observatory
- December 10th, 3:40 pm, Astronomy Club @Hastings Museum
- December 13th, No After School Care
- December 20th, 12:30 pm Dismissal



DECEMBER

2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2 Main: Rib Sandwich or Shrimp	3 Main: BBQ Meatballs or Chili	4 Main: Chicken Tacos or Chicken Sandwich	5 Main: Tomato Soup Side: Ham	6 Main: Pizza
9 Main: Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta Side: Dinner Roll	10 Main: Tater tot Casserole	11 Main: Pancake Side: Sausage	12 Main: Chicken Nachos	13 Main: Pizza
16 Main: Mac and Cheese	17 Main: Teriyaki Chicken Rice	18 Main: Ham Side: Dinner Roll	19 Main: Roman Casserole (Ramen Noodles, Chicken, Peas, Carrots)	20 Main: Chicken Strips
23 No School	24 No School	25 No School	26 No School	27 No School
30 No School	31 No School			