



Sunday September 17, 2023.

Dear HSS Stakeholders,

Welcome to a brand-new school year at the Heinz Simonitsch School (HSS)! It is with great enthusiasm and anticipation that we kick off another year of learning, growth, and success.

As we embark on this journey together, I want to extend a warm welcome to our returning students and families and extend a heartfelt greeting to all the new faces joining our HSS community. Whether you are a seasoned member of our school or just beginning your HSS adventure, know that you are an essential part of our vibrant and diverse family.

At HSS, we are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and enriching environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our dedicated teachers and staff are ready to guide, inspire, and support each of you on your educational path.

### **School Updates:**

- 1. **New Programs and Initiatives**: This year, we are excited to introduce several new programs and initiatives aimed at enhancing the educational experience. Stay tuned for details on our expanded STEM curriculum, extracurricular activities, and exciting partnerships with local organizations. Robotics will now be offered at school and accessible to all students.
- 2. **Safety Measures**: The health and well-being of our students and staff remain a top priority. We will continue to implement rigorous safety protocols in line with the latest guidance from health authorities to ensure a safe learning environment for all.
- There has been a significant increase in reported dengue cases across the island; "of the 39 confirmed cases of dengue, a total of 20 are among persons in the five to 14 age group." We are therefore asking all parents to ensure our students are carrying to school and actively suing repellants to reduce exposure. For additional information, please visit this link:

https://jis.gov.jm/health-ministry-intensifies-efforts-to-prevent-dengueoutbreak/#:~:text=All%20parishes%20have%20had%20dengue,have%20the%20highest%20 dengue%20activities





3. **Events and Community Engagement**: Throughout the year, we have a calendar filled with engaging events, parent-teacher conferences, and opportunities for community involvement. Keep an eye out for announcements and invitations to get involved. Please see our calendar for AY2023-2024:

https://heinzsimonitschschool.com/calendar-ay-2023-2024/#1694352814563-c7bac3ac-686f

- Upcoming Events this week:
  - Monday September 18, 2023 General Assembly at 8:15am in the auditorium.
  - All extra-curricular activities begin this week; this includes PE sessions and all clubs\ sports after school. (Schedule included in email)
- 4. **Student Achievements**: We are immensely proud of our students' accomplishments, and we will continue to celebrate their achievements in academics, sports, arts, and community service. Please continue to share all updates with us especially for activities that students may participate in outside our school activities; you can email us at <a href="mailto:office@heinz.school">office@heinz.school</a> or send us a WhatsApp at 876-428-3012
- 5. **Communication**: The HSS Newsletter will be your source for updates, important dates, and inspiring stories from our school community. We encourage you to stay connected and reach out with any questions or suggestions.
  - Please also ensure you have joined your class WhatsApp group so you can stay in direct communication with your class teacher or form teacher. (All links will be shared by email to your specific class group later today)





#### **Important Reminders:**

- 1. Parents please desist from the honking on horns while on property; please also communicate same to your drivers and visitors who may visit on your behalf.
- 2. Students with fever or complaints of flu like symptoms should remain home until they are feeling better. Parents please consider the best interest of the entire class and the wider school by ensuring we self-report and manage these issues responsibly.
- 3. For students who may be interested in traveling on the school bus, please contact our team lead, Mr. Johnson to properly register: 876-441-8151 & join the WhatsApp Group:
- Ocho Rios Route: https://chat.whatsapp.com/KGJUHkeQA7G881xOOGt1AY
- Montego Bay Route: <a href="https://chat.whatsapp.com/DXxrujpzYYw40i74pg9Mev">https://chat.whatsapp.com/DXxrujpzYYw40i74pg9Mev</a>
- 4. For students without their new PE gears, please carry comfortable sportswear to change in so that you can participate. Please also take along a yoga mat for your PE classes if you have one. PE gears will arrive later this month and an advisory will be shared.
- 5. If you are still interested in getting additional uniform shirts or skirts (high school only), please visit the office to place your order and complete payment so we can coordinate.

As we look forward to a year of growth, discovery, and success, let us remember that together, we can achieve remarkable things. We are excited to see all the great things our students will achieve this year. Thank you for being a part of the HSS family. Here's to an amazing school year ahead!





#### **Prayer for the Week:**

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we enter into the second week of this new school year, we come before you with grateful hearts for the opportunities and blessings you have provided. We thank you for the gift of education and for the chance to learn and grow in knowledge.

Lord, we ask for your guidance and wisdom in the days ahead. Be with our teachers, who work tirelessly to impart knowledge and inspire young minds. Grant them patience, creativity, and a deep sense of purpose as they shape the future of our students.

We also pray for our students, Lord. Help them to approach each day with enthusiasm and a hunger for learning. May they be open to new ideas, respectful of their peers, and diligent in their studies. Give them the strength to overcome challenges and the courage to ask for help when needed.

Lord, watch over our school community and keep us safe. Protect us from harm and grant us the grace to treat one another with kindness and respect. Help us to build a supportive and inclusive environment where all can thrive.

As we embark on this second week of school, we place our trust in your loving care. May your presence be felt in every classroom, hallway, and gathering. May we remember that, with your guidance, we can achieve great things and make a positive difference in the world.

We offer this prayer in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.