

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS AVAILABLE TO GESU STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The following is a list of activities, organizations and special events held throughout the year at Gesu. These descriptions have been provided to assist students and their families in learning about the many opportunities available to them. While many of the items described are limited to Gesu students, a number of activities are open to all children in the Parish.

This directory of extracurriculars and organizations is subdivided by topical classifications: religious, academic, fine arts, and civic. There is also a description of parish committees and a few words about your PTO.

For most of the listings you will find the coordinators (teachers and parents), the approximate time of the year of the given activity, a description of the activity, and general eligibility. Please note that eligibility refers to the pool from which students may be drawn. In some cases, all students may participate. In other instances, students may participate based on particular qualifications. In some activities, a limited number of volunteers are asked to participate.

Finally, although accuracy is a goal of the committee that assembled this directory, the listings are for the school year 2007-2008 and changes or modifications in the program may occur. We hope you will find this directory helpful!

RELIGIOUS OPPORTUNITIES

ALL-SCHOOL LITURGIES/WEEKLY LITURGIES

Eligibility: Grades K through 8
Dates: Throughout the school year
Description: Parents are welcome to attend student Masses held in Gesu Church. Students in grades 3-8 will attend weekly Mass together at 8:30 a.m. on Fridays.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

Eligibility: Parish children generally receive these sacraments during Second Grade, but parental prerogative for a different time frame may be taken when appropriate.
Dates: January 23 and 30, 2008 for First Reconciliation; May 4, 2008 for First Communion
Coordinators: Sister Dianne Selva, sfcc and Second Grade teachers
Description: Children receive appropriate sacramental instruction. Parents attend series of two evening classes to prepare the children and to participate in these events.

ALTAR SERVERS

Eligibility: Parish children at seventh and eighth grade levels. Children in grade six are invited to begin their training in the spring, and are welcomed at the Holy Thursday liturgy.
Dates: Year long
Coordinators: Sister Jeanne Tighe, sfcc and Jane Lewis
Description: Assistance at masses, funerals, and weddings.

MOMS IN TOUCH

Eligibility: All Gesu Moms
Coordinator: Debbie Bruening
Description: This is an organization of moms who meet weekly on Tuesday mornings to pray for their children and the school community. Please contact Mrs. Bruening for more information.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Eligibility: Grade 3
Dates: December 16, 2007 7:00 p.m. Church of the Gesu
Coordinators: Emily Schetter, Holly Kramer, and Shelly Calabrese
Description: Reading and performance of the Gospel story of the Nativity.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

GESU SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECTS

Eligibility: Grades K through 8
Dates: Throughout the year
Coordinators: Faculty Peace and Justice Committee (Karen Knaus, Chairperson)
Faculty Missions Committee (Emily Schetter and Rosemary Nemeth Chairpersons)
Description: Variety of projects involving services and outreach to the community including the Fall Mission Project; Honduras Collection; Halloween Candy Drive; Thanksgiving Food Drive; Christmas sharing; cards for the homebound; Rainbow Day (Grades K through 6) a collection of new school and art supplies; Soup Lunch; Hike for Hunger; St. Pat's Hunger Center; involvement with Gesu Parish Social Concerns Committee and Refugee assistance.

RECYCLING

Eligibility: All Grades
Dates: Throughout the year
Coordinators: Margaret Schreiber
Description: All school effort to recycle, reuse, and reduce to help the environment. Receptacles are placed throughout the school building and students and staff are involved in announcements on the GESU News and in the preparation of materials to be taken to the recycling center.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Eligibility: Grades 5 through 8
Dates: Throughout the year
Coordinators: Karen Knaus and Josie Jones
Description: Student representatives form a student activities and service group. Officers and homeroom Representatives are elected by their peers at the onset of the school year.

G E S U NEWS CREW TV 4

Eligibility: Grades 5 through 8 with Guests from all Grades
Dates: Throughout the school year
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: Students prepare live television broadcasts for school viewing. Involves reporting, writing, performance, audio/video production, mixing, editing, and music. *Adults with audio/video production experience are welcome to share their expertise. Parents are welcome to visit when their children are on the show.

JUNIOR HIGH YEARBOOK

Eligibility: Grades 7 and 8
Dates: December through March
Coordinators: Marianne Relic, Monica Matia, and Maura Dacey
Description: Interested students who enjoy the creative and detailed work of the assembly of the annual yearbook spend two afternoons per week after school completing this project.

2:45 CLUB

Eligibility: Grades K through 6 children of working parents
Dates: School Year
Coordinator: Rosemary Nemeth
Description: After-school program that offers a variety of enrichment activities for children in a safe, fun, friendly atmosphere for children of working parents.

BOY SCOUTS

Eligibility: Parish boys who have completed fifth grade or are eleven years old
Dates: Throughout the year
Description: Outdoor activities including camping, hiking, swimming and canoeing, and tours of historical sites and sporting events.

CUB SCOUTS

Eligibility: Parish boys in grades 1 through 5
Dates: Throughout the year
Description: Engagement in crafts and motor activities, community service.

GIRL SCOUTS/ BROWNIES

Eligibility: Parish girls in grades K for Daisies, 1 - 3 for Brownies, 4 -6 for Juniors, 7 - 8 for Cadets.
Dates: Throughout the year
Description: Activities are geared toward making friends, learning to work cooperatively, building a sense of community responsiveness, living according to religious & traditional values.

ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Eligibility: Grades 4 through 8
Dates: NASA's Astronaut Day in the fall; NASA Space Camp during Christmas break and one spring outing TBA
Coordinators: Rosemary Nemeth
Description: Hands-on astronomy opportunities are provided.

CAREER DAY

Eligibility: Grades 5 through 8
Dates: April 4, 2008
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: Adult Volunteers from the community meet with students to share information about their professions. Facilitators act as hosts. *Adult volunteers are greatly appreciated.

CHESS CLUB

Eligibility: Grades 4 through 8
Dates: Begins in January for eight Tuesdays
Coordinators: Mary Carol Jones and Debbie O'Shaughnessy
Description: Players of all levels will enjoy the chance to learn more about the game of chess and play with other students who are at their own level of experience. A chess clinic for inexperienced players will also be offered on Tuesday afternoons in October. Please call Miss Jones for more information.

C.O.S.I. ON WHEELS

Eligibility: Grades 1-5
Date: November 16, 2007
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: Hands-on science presentations and assemblies- "Investigating Energy".
*Parent volunteers are most appreciated and needed for set-up the day before and assistance during the assemblies and hands-on activities.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

Eligibility: Grades K through 8
Dates: September through April - meeting days set by team managers
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: Long-term creative problem-solving experience. Teams of seven students work with parent/team managers outside of school time to prepare for local performances at Gesu on March 5 and 6, 2008 and Region 16 competition on March 15, 2008. Multiple talents and teamwork are developed and applied. *Parent involvement is required.

ECONOMICS AMERICA

Eligibility: Grade 3
Dates: Throughout the year
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: Variety of activities and curricular units based on the concepts and application of Economics as developed by the Economics America , Ashland University

EDUCATIONAL SPEAKERS

Eligibility: All Grades
Description: Throughout the year, many adults come to share their expertise with Gesu students.

AN EVENING AT SPOTLIGHT DISCOVERY

Eligibility: Children in grades 1, 2, and 3 and their grandparents or significant adults
Date: February 8, 2008
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: Gesu hosts a creative evening of hands-on scientific exploration and fun for primary

children and their special adult guests.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Eligibility: Grade 5
Dates: September 18, 2007
Coordinator: Marjorie Gessner
Description: Students enjoy hands-on experiences in the life and earth sciences and observe seasonal natural habitats. They attend a field study session at Shaker Lakes Nature Center.
*Parent volunteers are needed.

FUTURE PROBLEM-SOLVING COMPETITION

Eligibility: Grades 5 through 8
Dates: Mondays in September through May
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: Four-member teams use the six steps of problem-solving to write sets of solutions for significant global challenges that affect the future. Writing packets are evaluated and scored by trained evaluators. The third packet is the qualifier for the State Bowl.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Eligibility: Grades K through 3
Dates: Throughout the year
Coordinators: Jean Ann Sexton and classroom teachers
Description: Representatives from the business community share their expertise with students and teachers in 5 week sessions.

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS PROGRAM

Eligibility: Grade level participation varies
Dates: Late spring
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: Program of shared inquiry with classic literature in a small group setting. Parent-leaders meet with students during one period per week for 4 weeks. *Parent volunteers needed.

KNOWLEDGE MASTER OPEN

Eligibility: Grades 5 through 8
Dates: December 5, 2007 grades 7 & 8 January 23, 2008 grades 5 & 6
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: National computer-based competition in which teams answer interdisciplinary curriculum-based questions.

MATH CLUB

Eligibility: Grade 4
Dates: Wednesdays from 2:45-3:30 p.m.
Coordinator: Beth Uzzo
Description: Math club offers after-school opportunities for any fourth grade student who feels that he/she needs a little extra practice in math. We review current concepts that we are learning in the classroom. Come every week or only when you need a little extra help!

MEMORY MAKERS CLUB

Eligibility: Grades 4 through 8
Dates: Fridays monthly from September-April
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton and Marcy Tyler
Description: The Memory Makers Club offers an opportunity for children to learn how to use photos and memories and organize them into creative and decorative albums while having fun by sharing with each other.

MIDWEST ACADEMIC TALENT SEARCH

Eligibility: Grades 7 and 8
Dates: January, February 2008
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: Academic above-level testing program sponsored by Northwestern University. Qualifying students participate in SAT I and ACT testing.

MIDWEST ACADEMIC TALENT SEARCH FOR YOUNG STUDENTS

Eligibility: Grade 6
Dates: January 26, 2008
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: Academic above-level testing program sponsored by Northwestern University. Qualifying students participate in EXPLORE testing through ACT.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE

Eligibility: Grades 5 through 8
Dates: November, December
Coordinators: Jean Ann Sexton, Josie Jones, and Lynn Grabiec
Description: National competition in geography. Optional oral competition culminates in selection of the school finalist who competes for a place at the state competition. School finals are broadcast live from the Gesu Communications Center on Channel GESU 4.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

Eligibility: Grades 5 through 8
Dates: April, May
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton, Karen Knaus, Josie Jones, and Lynn Grabiec
Description: National competition: Written examination culminates in selection of top ten student scholars. Gesu's performance is subsequently ranked in comparison with other schools.

NEWS BOWL

Eligibility: Grades 4 through 6 in Social Studies Classes, Grades 7 and 8 extra curricular
Dates: January through April
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton, Marjorie Gessner, Colleen Clemens, Lynn Grabiec, and Josie Jones
Description: Statewide and national competition: on-line competition that tests students' knowledge of current events occurring in January and February in world and national news.

POWER OF THE PEN

Eligibility: Grades 7 and 8
Dates: January, March, and May
Coordinator: Dottie Rule
Description: Creative writing competition on district, regional, and statewide levels.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Eligibility: Grade 8
Date: June
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: Students with an A minus average from grades 4 through 8, who are highly motivated and possess leadership qualities and integrity, are eligible for consideration for an award from the President of the United States and the Department of Education.

READERS'S DIGEST NATIONAL WORD POWER CHALLENGE

Eligibility: Grade level participation varies
Dates: October-January
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: Students enhance vocabulary through the use of context clues to find definitions.

SCIENCE CLUB

Eligibility: Grades 4 through 6
Dates: Fall through March
Coordinators: Rosemary Nemeth and Marjorie Gessner
Description: Monthly meetings where club members engage in hands-on science experiments.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD AT GESU

Eligibility: Grades 4 through 6
Date: February
Coordinator: Rosemary Nemeth and Marjorie Gessner
Description: One enjoyable evening filled with science competitions and hands-on science experiments.

STATE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Eligibility: Grades 4 through 6
Date: March 15, 2008
Coordinator: Rosemary Nemeth and Marjorie Gessner
Description: Students from the intermediate grades in the State of Ohio's public and private schools compete in science categories at Cleveland State University. The winners from the Gesu Science Olympiad represent our school in the statewide tournament.

SPOTLIGHT DISCOVERY 2008 – “TIME for Science”

Eligibility: Children who have completed grades K through 5
Dates: June 9-13, 2008
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: A hands-on science day camp developed by the faculty of Gesu to provide an opportunity for children to use their curiosity, creativity and problem-solving skills in science-related activities and have fun with friends in the process. *Volunteers in grades 6-8 may submit a letter stating the desire and reasons for a position to help the staff.

STOCK MARKET GAME

Eligibility: Grade 5
Dates: Spring
Coordinator: Marjorie Gessner, Colleen Clemens, and Lynn Grabiec
Description: Simulation game in which teams of students follow the stock market and complete their own buy/sell transactions. All 5th grade students participate during math classes.

STOCK MARKET CLUB

Eligibility: Grades 7 and 8
Dates: Thursdays after school in 10-week sessions during fall and spring
Coordinator: Mary Carol Jones
Description: Students participate in after school sessions to play the Stock Market simulation game and to conduct trading.

WORDMASTERS CHALLENGE

Eligibility: Grade 4 TBS classes; optional for Grades 5 through 8
Dates: November through April
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: National competition of 3 analogy-solving meets held in school throughout the year.

FINE ARTS

ART APPRECIATION PROGRAM

Eligibility: Grades K through 6
Dates: October through May
Coordinator: Marianne Sheridan
Description: Parent volunteers meet monthly with students to introduce prominent artists and their works by means of lecture, slides, prints.

GESU CHORAL CLUB

Eligibility: Grades 5 through 8
Dates: Tuesdays, October 9, 2007 through April, 2008 from 2:45-4:00 p.m.
Coordinator: Mary-Jo Widmann
Description: Students who enjoy singing may use this opportunity for musical growth. As the year progresses, singers may use their musical talents at various occasions in school and in the community.

MUSIC CELEBRATIONS

Eligibility: Grades K through 8
Dates: School Year
Coordinator: Mary Jo Widmann
Description: Students prepare and perform musical presentations throughout the year. There will be solo and ensemble performances in song, dance, and instrumental music in class and at liturgies.

RECORDER PROGRAM

Eligibility: Grades 3 through 6
Dates: Throughout the year
Coordinator: Mary Jo Widmann
Description: Children are introduced to note reading and music theory by playing the recorder.

CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Eligibility: Grades 5 through 8
Dates: Auditions in May
Coordinator: Mary Jo Widmann
Description: Students selected for vocal ability and coached to audition.

BAND

Eligibility: Grades 4 through 8
Dates: September through June
Coordinator: Sara Tamburro
Description: Members meet weekly during school for lessons and group band rehearsal. A variety of music is rehearsed and performed.

PERFORMING ARTS ASSEMBLIES

Eligibility: Grades K through 8
Dates: Throughout the year
Coordinator: Jean Ann Sexton
Description: PTO-sponsored assemblies such as the Great Lakes Theatre Festival School Residency, Young Audiences, COSI on Wheels, Playhouse Square Foundation, The Cleveland Play House, Colonial Day

SPORTS

GESU BOOSTERS

Eligibility: Parents of children in Grades K through 8
Dates: Board meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
Coordinator: Mike Barrett
Description: The Gesu Boosters support the intramural and CYO sports programs coordinated by the Athletic Director, Brian McLaughlin.