

CIRCLE OF GRACE
Safe Environment Curriculum
Grade K through Grade 8

Dear Parent,

Out of concern for all God's people and in response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, we have a curriculum for the safe environment education of children and young people supported and mandated by the Seattle Archdiocese.

Dioceses/eparchies are to maintain "safe environment" programs which the diocesan/eparchial bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. They are to be conducted cooperatively with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for minors, parents, ministers, educators, and others about ways to sustain and foster a safe environment for minors. Dioceses/eparchies are to make clear to clergy and members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons with regard to their conduct with minors.

Article 12 - Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

This curriculum is called *Circle of Grace*. It is meant to supplement and be integrated into the excellent programs and curricula for the formation of children and young people in our schools and religious education programs. *Circle of Grace* aims to equip our children and young people by arming them with essential knowledge and skills grounded in the richness of our faith. This curriculum helps children and young people to understand their own (and other's) dignity in mind, body, and spirit.

What is a Circle of Grace?

The Catholic Church teaches that God has created each of us as unique and special. Genesis 1:27 tells us that we are created "male and female in God's image" and that God saw this as "very good." In that goodness, we are meant to respect ourselves and everyone else as persons created and loved by God.

Adults assist children and young people to recognize God's love by helping them to understand that each of us lives and moves in a *Circle of Grace*. You can imagine your own *Circle of Grace* by putting your arms above your head then circle down in front of your body including side to side. This circle, front to back, holds who you are in your body and through your senses. It holds your very essence in mind, heart, soul, and sexuality.

Why is it important to help our children understand the Circle of Grace?

God intends our relationships in life to be experiences of divine love. Respectful, nurturing, loving relationships increase our understanding of our own value and help us to love others. It is never too early to help children and young people understand how very special they are and how relationships in life are called to be sacred. Understanding this can help them to protect the special person they are and to be respectful of others.

Adults, especially parents, as they strive to provide a safe and protective environment, hold the responsibility to help children and young people understand and respect their own dignity and that of others. A truly safe and protective environment is one where children and young people recognize when they are safe or unsafe and know how to bring their concerns, fears, and uncertainties to the trusted adults in their lives.

How is the Circle of Grace curriculum different from other protection programs?

According to research, one in four girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused by age eighteen.² Many protection programs focus on “stranger danger”; however, up to ninety percent (90%) of the time the perpetrator of abuse is known to the child or young person such as a relative or family friend. *Circle of Grace* goes beyond just protection by helping children and young people understand the sacredness of who they are and how to seek help through their relationships with trusted adults. It has a strong parent component throughout the curriculum.

Please feel free to contact your school or parish office if you have questions or want more information.

² www.usccb.org or <http://nccanch.acfhhs.gov>
2023 Circle of Grace Administrator/Director Section

Only 2 weeks until

Trick or Trunk

Wednesday October 25th from
6:30pm-8:00pm



Decorated Vehicles needed!

We need volunteers to decorate their vehicles and hand out candy during the event. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4BA8AA23A4F94-45103264-holy>

Candy needed!

We will be collecting bags of candy to be distributed until 12 noon on Wednesday, October 25th. Please drop off your candy donations to Mrs. Brock in the school office.

Your participation is greatly appreciated to make this event a success. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Flynn-Raab at 206-786-0105.



70's PEACE, LOVE & HFS

Newsletter – Oct 11, 2023

Auction planning is well underway! Procurement letters and online requests are in process; auction sponsorships are coming in (we can use more, see below); we have already received some donations from school families; and we have had lots of our parents sign up to volunteer. A special thanks to our auction leads, listed below, who have agreed to lead one of our auction teams. We still do have a number of lead openings, so please consider becoming a lead yourself. If we all don't pitch in, the auction won't be successful!



Data Review: Jennifer-Graham Poplawski	Spotters: AVAILABLE
Bank: AVAILABLE	Financial/Bank: AVAILABLE
Visuals: Lisette Kelly	Procurement: Katie Butz
Dessert Dash: Eveyln Herren	Recorders: AVAILABLE
Tear-Down/Clean-Up: AVAILABLE	VIP Table: Jessica de Jesus
Runners: AVAILABLE	Student Art: Gretchen Kurth
Material Handling: AVAILABLE	Class Art Overall: Liz Moutzouris
Live Auction Set-Up: AVAILABLE	PK Class Art: Christy Six
Catalog: Katie Mitchell	K Class Art: Krista Trapp
Reservations & Registration: Melissa Patrick	1 st Class Art: Katrina Russell
Item Retrieval: Erin & Alan Moore	2 nd Class Art: Michelle McCormack
Judges: Mike DeJesus	3 rd Class Art: Courtney Zaugg
Decorations: Elissa Sander	4 th Class Art: Dana Lubovich
Silent Auction Set-Up: Holly Bero	5 th Class Art: Eva & Merben Mercadel
Thank You Cards: Kim Montgomery	6 th Class Art: Carolyn Webster
Auctioneers: Mike Graham & Jon Jahns	7 th Class Art: Heather Goh-Helmer & Manuel Chuakay
Games & Raffles: AVAILABLE	8 th Class Art: Liz Moutzouris



Auction items are due **November 27th 2023**. Here is the link to enter

yours: [Auction Donations \(ejoinme.org\)](https://ejoinme.org)

Please note we have had multiple air fryers, a toaster oven & a Roomba style vacuum donated already so won't be accepting any additional ones.

Getaways are our most popular item at the auction, and thus raise the most money for our school. If you have a weekend home/cabin, or know someone who does, we would love to have a couple days stay donated!



Auction Sponsorships: Want to have your family name or business name announced at the auction for everyone to hear and/or have a banner on the HFS campus? Auction sponsorships are available. Reach out to Gretchen for more information.

SCRIP NEWS

Number of weeks left
to meet your profit
dollar commitment:

29 ½

Scrip Store hours this week: **OPEN THURSDAY 8:00-9:30**

NO SCHOOL FRIDAY – CLOSED

Announcements: - We need YOUR help to protect our program

We love when you enlist help from friends and family to support your children and our school through the Scrip Program. We want to make it easy to do, but we do ask that you follow these guidelines to help minimize our financial risk.

- Have non-school families pay you for gift cards, then you pay HFS with your check or cash.
- If friends or family want an account to do on-line purchasing, please just email me their information, then I will set up an account for them and email them with instructions on how to access it. I will disable any account where I don't recognize the family name.
- If you have any concerns or questions about this, please reach out to Lisa Leskovar.

Updates:

- **Qdoba** is now available ONLY as an eGift Card. Physical cards are no longer available.
- **Groupon** is now available ONLY as an eGift Card through RaiseRight.
 - **We have 4 cards in stock**, once they're gone, we can only order eGift Cards.



Q: I don't use the app or order on-line, ***can I still get eGift Cards?***

A: Of course! Just fill in your order form as usual, turn it in with payment, and the eGift Cards will be ordered, printed, and sent home to you.

Did You Know?

You can order cards that aren't on our form? From places like:

- **Instacart \$25 & \$100** earn 4% (also available as eGift Cards for \$25-\$500)
- **Stitchfix \$100** earns 6% (also available as eGift Cards for values of \$10-\$500)
- It could take up to 2 weeks to receive them, depending on when we place our next order.
- Just write a note on the order form.
- Look for your favorite brands at RaiseRight.com.

If you have any questions, whether it's about how to start earning with scrip or about an order or stock on hand, please feel free to email scrip@hfsauburn.com, or contact Lisa Leskovar at lisaeskovar@gmail.com or 253-951-9424.