

Fall 2022



State of the School



Principal's Perspective

Dear Friends and Families of Holy Cross,

It is with great pride that we began our 11th year as Holy Cross Regional Catholic School. I present to you the State of the School Highlights. This report includes the financial report from the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as well as our highlights from last year and additional information about our amazing school.

I am pleased to report that Holy Cross Regional Catholic School did not experience learning loss because of the Pandemic. We were recognized by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as a school of Distinguished Instruction based on the Terra Nova scores of our students. This award was the culmination of students, teachers and parents working together to provide in-person education rooted in our motto "A School United in Faith, Hope, and Love."

We continue to be Holy Cross Strong!

Peace and blessings,

Theresa Healy
Principal

"The fruit of love is service, which is compassion in action." — Mother Teresa



Catholic Identity

God is at the core of who we are and all that we teach. We strengthen our students' Catholic Faith, providing the foundation necessary to live as disciples of Christ.

- All students attend Mass every First Friday and all Fridays during Lent and Advent. In addition, one grade level attends Mass on each Friday throughout the school year.
- Pre-Kindergarteners through 1st graders are paired with 6th through 8th graders respectively, as prayer partners who read, talk, and pray together.
- We have sacramental preparation for First Penance, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- We place a strong emphasis on daily prayer, Sunday Mass and living and celebrating the liturgical year and special feast days.
- We offer opportunities for Confession, Adoration and praying the Rosary.
- Girls in grades 6th through 8th grade are invited to participate in BLAZE. The BLAZE program beautifully balances the everyday struggles of being a middle school girl with the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Junior High students receive instruction in Theology of the Body for Teens.

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Academic Excellence

Holy Cross has a proud tradition of Academic Excellence and is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Holy Cross was officially recognized by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as an Archdiocesan School of Distinguished Instruction for "Academic Growth and Exceeding Potential" with its 2021-22 standardized Terra Nova Test Scores.

- 98% of our students scored at or above the National Average in **Reading**
- 98% of our students scored at or above the National Average in **Language**
- 96% of our students scored at or above the National Average in **Mathematics**

Scholarship

In the 2021-22 school year, there were 49 eighth-grade graduates. These students received \$487,100 in academic scholarships towards their high school tuition.

Neumann Scholarship

The Neumann Scholarship is a full, four-year scholarship to any one of the 17 Archdiocesan high schools. Each year, the Connelly Foundation awards this scholarship to approximately 40 eighth grade students across the Archdiocese. To compete for the scholarship, 460 students qualified to take the independently administered exam, including 18 students from Holy Cross in 2021-22. Over the past 10 years, we have had 11 winners of this prestigious award. In 2021, we had 2 winners, and for the second year in a row, a Holy Cross student achieved the highest overall score in Montgomery County of those who sat for the test.

Rigorous Coursework

- Advanced Honors Mathematics program for those who meet the criteria, for 4th through 8th grade.
- Accelerated Reading Program for Kindergarten through 8th grade.
- STREAM-based education that emphasizes hands-on learning with real-world applications to develop a variety of skill sets including creativity and 21st-century skills.



Spotlight on Academics

Technology and Advanced Capabilities

Holy Cross offers its students many technological capabilities. In 2021-22 Holy Cross implemented a Broadcast Club using state-of-the-art broadcasting equipment purchased using the 2020 Connelly Foundation COVID-19 Response and Recovery Grant. Working in collaboration with two highly-skilled, professional St. Eleanor parishioners, we built the broadcast studio.

- Advance **STREAM** (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) curriculum including the use of the latest equipment and materials: MakerBot 3-D printers, Ozobots, Edison Robots, RobotLab VR technology.
- Leading technology integrated in every classroom and Library using Newline interactive panels that enhance the learning environment.
- **Chromebooks** for each 4th- through 8th-grade student.
- Modern Innovation Station with a dedicated STREAM teacher.
- Fully equipped broadcast studio for student-produced, livestream programming.

Critical Resources

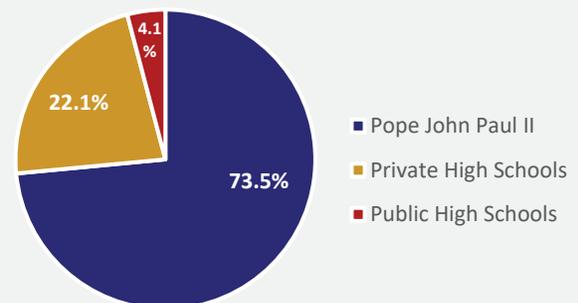
- Full-day Pre-K and Kindergarten programs, five days a week, as well as the after-school CARES Program.
- Weekly instruction in Music, Art, Library Skills, STREAM, Physical Education, and Spanish.
- Reading and Mathematics learning support available five days per week, provided by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.
- Instructional aides on staff who work individually or with small groups for instruction and testing in our dedicated Testing Room.
- Handwriting Without Tears for Pre-K students.
- Wilson Foundations for Language Basics program for Pre-K and Kindergarten students.
- Heggerty Phonological and Phonemic Awareness program Kindergarten – 1st grade.
- Fountas & Pinnell Guided Reading Collection for Kindergarten – 1st grade.



Where do our graduates go?

Holy Cross prepares its students for high school and beyond. 96% of our 2022 graduates are now attending a Catholic high school, academy, or preparatory school in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2022



High School Achievements

Several of our Holy Cross alumni have been named National Merit Scholars.

College

Since our founding as a regional school in 2012, Holy Cross graduates have attended many outstanding colleges and universities, including:

- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Notre Dame
- Villanova University
- Bucknell University
- University of California, Los Angeles
- Drexel University
- Lehigh University
- Penn State University
- St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
- St. Joseph's University
- University of Scranton
- University of Southern California

Board Accomplishments

Advancement

- \$476,522 was raised for EITC for school year 2022-23 and distributed 104 grants to eligible students.
- Increased participation in the EITC program from 44 donors in 2020-21 to 52 donors in 2021-22.
- \$47,799 was raised for the Advancement Fund for 2021-22 from 132 donors.
- We are expecting an EITC need of over \$350,000 for school year 2023-24. Generous donors are needed to meet the need of our students who rely on the tuition funds provided through the EITC program.
- Annual Fund for 2022-23 opened in October with a goal of \$75,000.

Technology & Facilities

- New lights were installed in the Lobby of the school.
- Contract was renewed with GDI for cleaning and light maintenance.
- New student and teacher desks for the old side of the building, new student chairs for new side of the building
- Library/Innovation Station – fully renovated including new flooring and glass partition wall was installed with new student and teacher furniture throughout
- Re-evaluate and plan for replacement of Security Camera Surveillance system
- Computer lab was converted to the Honors Math classroom; STREAM Innovation lab will hold all technology classes
- Maintain and update the refurbishment schedule for planned updates to any and all technology and facilities future needs.

Marketing

- Leveraged new branding across internal and external communications.
- Creation of Parent Ambassador Program
- Fall 2021 Geo Farming campaign, highlighting our school's critical role in creating "digital citizens"
- Cover story on Holy Cross family in November 2021 issue of Upper Providence Living
- Spring 2022 Email/retargeting campaign, supporting Open House/Virtual Tour/One-on-One Visits
- Preliminary planning/development for new Holy Cross website, scheduled to launch in November 2022
- Ongoing recruitment of volunteers to complement the growth and strategic role of the Marketing Committee

Membership

- Conducted nominations and election of 2022-23 Board Officers.
- Self-assessment survey was distributed to the Board to help gauge its overall performance.
- Bill Carroll was honored in June, with a service award for successfully completing two terms on the Board.
- Continued to fill Board vacancies with the addition of Peter Lee, Janice Newton and Peter Catalano, which brought the Board membership to 19.

Established Governance

Holy Cross Regional Catholic School is blessed to have dedicated leadership from the School Board, Pastors, and Administration. Our Board, established in 2015, has been working hard to develop and execute a strategic plan in the areas of finance, facilities, technology, enrollment, marketing, and advancement. Its work helps to promote us as a premiere Catholic school in the area and will keep Holy Cross at the top of its class.

HOLY CROSS REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Jack Kraft – Chair

Maureen Martin – Vice Chair

Lauren Machita – Secretary

Donald Barbuto

William Breslawski

Peter Catalano

Dr. Dennis Debias

Lisa Getts

Paul Fleming

Marie Genuario

Justin Jandrisitz

Paul Klauder

Theodore Kochen

Ursula Lawrence

Peter Lee

Jeff Mehallick

Janice Newton

Tracey Rauh

Loretta Sauermelch

PASTORS

Monsignor Michael T. McCulken – St. Eleanor Parish

Reverend Tadeusz Gorka – Sacred Heart Parish

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Theresa Healy

ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR

Susan Mollahan

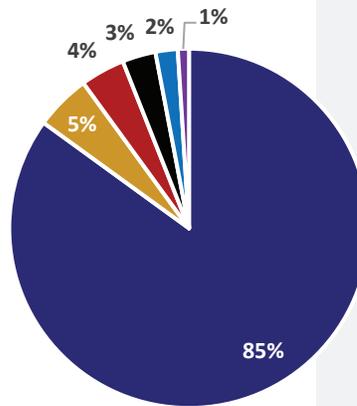
Financial Report

June 30, 2022

Annual Report Summary

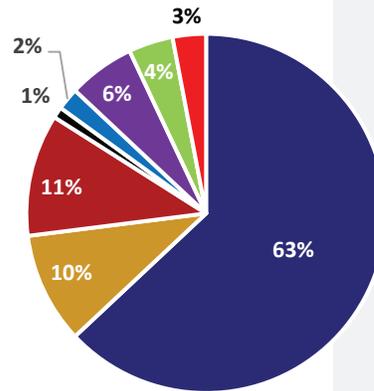
Source of Funds

TUITION	\$2,545,032.00
PARISH SUBSIDY	\$139,425.00
FEES	\$118,362.00
OTHER INCOME	\$76,932.00
CARES	\$76,049.00
SOCIALS/DONATIONS	\$31,478.00
TOTAL	\$2,987,278.00



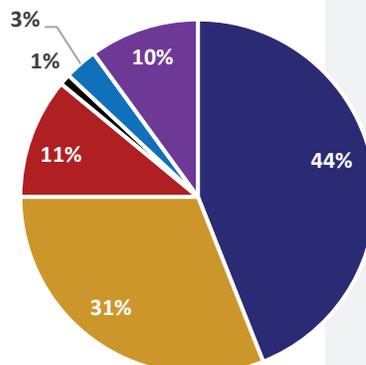
Use of Funds

SALARIES AND BENEFITS	\$1,877,767.00
MAINTENANCE	\$303,288.00
OTHER EXPENSES	\$325,938.00
INSURANCE	\$27,292.00
UTILITIES	\$77,175.00
PENSION	\$177,767.00
BOOKS, SUPPLIES, PRINTING	\$117,267.00
CAPITAL INCLUDING TECHNOLOGY	\$80,784.00
TOTAL	\$2,987,278.00



EANS* Funding

CLASSROOM AND LIBRARY FURNITURE	\$295,529.72
ACADEMIC CURRICULUM	\$205,081.20
TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT	\$71,952.92
LEARNING TOOLS	\$8,693.89
HEALTH & SAFETY EQUIPMENT	\$18,316.30
PREVIOUS COVID RELATED EXPENSES	\$63,723.93
TOTAL	\$663,297.96



*EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EANS Funds

In 2021-22 school year Holy Cross received EANS funding (Educational Assistance for Non-Public Schools), which was Federal funding specifically related to the effects of the Pandemic on educational goals and resources. With this once-in-a-lifetime funding, Holy Cross developed a plan to utilize these funds to enhance, update and provide our students with state-of-the-art learning supplies, curriculum, furniture, and a classroom environment where they can thrive for many years to come. Following the strict guidelines of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and facilitated by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, we were able to develop a modern and fully functional Library and Innovation Station where students can have hands-on experiences in STREAM. New classroom furniture for students and teachers was also installed.

The Library and Innovation Station renovation was made possible by two generous donations from our school and parish community. We would like to say a special thanks to Lawrence DiPiano and J.P. Mascaro & Sons for their generous contribution to complete this renovation and make this new learning space amazing.

Student News

Giving Back

Striving to recognize the needs of others in our community, Holy Cross participates in many service projects throughout the school year. Here are some highlights of our gift of service in 2021-22 school year:

- Joy of Socks – collected 1,731 pairs of socks for the homeless
- “Souper” bowl – collected canned goods for a local food pantry
- Thanksgiving meal food drive for Martha’s Choice Marketplace, Norristown
- Toy Drive for the patients at St. Christopher’s Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

Sharing Talents

From our parish community and beyond, the God-given talents of Holy Cross students are on display:

- 3 students named as “Artists of the Week” through the Artsonia platform
- 3 students selected to perform with the Archdiocesan Chorus at Archbishop Wood High School
- Reading Olympics took place virtually again this year through the Montgomery County IU for our 4th – 8th graders
 - JV (4th and 5th grade) had 35 students participated and earned 2 red ribbons and 1 green ribbon
 - Varsity (6th, 7th, and 8th grade) 40 students participated and earned 3 red ribbons and 1 green ribbon
- All Saints Day program with our first grade
- 7th grade Christmas Tableau and Wax Museum
- 8th grade Living Stations
- 21 students in 8th grade participated in the Broadcasting Club and fully produced a morning program that was livestreamed to every classroom

New Innovation Station

Holy Cross is FULL STREAM ahead with the addition of a new Innovation Station that was completed over the summer. The new Library/Media/Innovation center provides a state-of-the-art environment for students to gain hands-on STREAM experience with a committed STREAM teacher. To officially dedicate this space to Blessed Carlo Acutis, a millennial who is on the path to sainthood, a window decal with the image of Blessed Carlo will be prominent for all who enter the room. A blessing and dedication ceremony for the Innovation Station is planned for November 2022.



“To always be close to Jesus, that is my life’s plan.”

– Blessed Carlo Acutis

“We never second-guessed our decision to move our children from PVSD to Holy Cross last year. Time and time again Holy Cross goes above and beyond. Teaching children not only Math and Science, but also to have Faith and to be kind.”

– Parent of two Holy Cross students



HOLY CROSS
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A SCHOOL UNITED IN FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

701 Locust Street
 Collegetown, PA 19426

hcrc.school

How You Can Help?

Parents are considering Catholic education for their children now more than ever. That's why financial assistance for our students is equally critical. Continued commitment to EITC and ongoing contributions to our Annual Advancement Fund are making Catholic education a reality for more than 18% of our student body.

EITC (EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT) PROGRAM: UP TO 90% TAX CREDIT FOR YOU WHILE DELIVERING 100% IMPACT FOR A CHILD IN NEED.

Individuals and businesses can take advantage of PA tax credits by designating your state tax dollars to Holy Cross Regional Catholic School. The funds raised through this program are used to provide tuition assistance for families who are experiencing financial hardship.

In 2022-23 we are awarding over \$400,000 to 104 students! Our goal for 2023-24 is to raise \$370,000 to meet the needs of our families who qualify through FACTS for financial aid. We need more EITC participants to make sure that we keep this level of tuition assistance available each year for our Holy Cross families. By participating in the EITC program, Pennsylvania State taxpayers can receive 90% tax credit in return. The EITC program will allow you to make 100% impact in the life of a student.

ANNUAL ADVANCEMENT FUND

The Advancement Fund is a critical component of the Holy Cross operating budget that supports the financial shortfall between tuition and the actual cost of educating a student.

Gifts to the Advancement Fund at Holy Cross directly impact a student's daily life. The fund supports our commitment to modern technology, a safe and progressive learning environment, and provides additional tuition assistance funds for those that may not qualify for other financial aid.

See our donors at www.hcrc.school/supporters-donors

TELL A FRIEND

Do you have a friend, family member or neighbor who is curious about a Catholic education? Have them call us. We're happy to provide a tour and share the amazing activities, academic excellence, and faith-filled environment at the core of Holy Cross Regional Catholic School.



“Without your generous donations, my family may have never been able to afford our girls’ tuitions. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity. We are forever grateful.”

“We found relief in the tuition assistance program and were able to afford both our children attending Holy Cross. I remember feeling like a weight was lifted, my gut instinct was God had answered my prayer.”

– Holy Cross families who were awarded EITC Funds

Give Now

Prayerfully consider supporting Holy Cross Regional Catholic School as we prepare our students for the future.

Donate at www.hcrc.school/support-us-1