

Holy Cross Catholic School Annual Report

Summer 2012

Holy Cross Catholic School, A Consolidated School of Immaculate Conception, Most Holy Trinity & St. Nicholas parishes

Priests and Office Personnel

Fr. Thomas McCabe-
Immaculate Conception
Pastor & Canonical
Administrator

Fr. John Lapensky- Most Holy
Trinity Pastor

Fr. James Adams- St.
Nicholas Pastor

Lisa Reichelt- Principal

Joy Sutton- Development
Director

Theresa Sticha- Office
Manager

Highlights

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Principal's Perspective

I am pleased to present to you the Holy Cross Catholic School Annual Report. This report covers the activities and achievements from September 2011 through June 2012.

The past academic year was filled with changes, challenges and many successes for our school community. We began the year welcoming our new Canonical Administrator, Father McCabe. Father has spent the year getting to know the school

community and sharing with us his experience from his work in Venezuela and other local parishes. He is an enthusiastic supporter of the mission of Catholic education.

Holy Cross School enjoys strong support from the parishes and school families. It is the children and their families that make our school a remarkable place to learn and grow in faith. Our philosophy guides us to work together with families



in providing a Christian atmosphere for academic excellence.



Our Mission: Holy Cross Catholic School exists to educate the whole child spiritually and academically, preparing them to be responsible and respectful members of the global community with Jesus as our model.

Catholic Identity

Our identity as a Catholic School is of primary importance. Teachers are instructors and role models of living a faith filled life. Their Catholic faith impacts their instruction and interactions with the students. Our school day starts and ends with prayer. Weekly celebrations of Holy Eucharist are planned by

the students. We pray together during the year by gathering for Advent Candle Lighting service, Stations of the Cross and Eucharistic Adoration. Intercessory Prayer is an everyday occurrence in the classrooms. A highlight of the 8th grade year is a class retreat where the students reflect on their faith. Our

fabulous Christmas Concert allows us to sing praise to the wonderful God who sent His Son into the world. Together we worship, pray and serve the Lord and one another.

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School Profile

Enrollment	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Pre Kindergarten	38	34	47
Kindergarten	23	17	15
1st Grade	20	21	14
2nd Grade	19	20	24
3rd Grade	24	17	16
4th Grade	19	21	18
5th Grade	20	18	21
6th Grade	15	16	16
7th Grade	11	15	16
8th Grade	12	10	13
TOTAL K-8	201	189	200



Eighth Grade Graduating Class

School Staff

- Principal 1
- Teachers 14
- Office Manager 1
- Development Director 1
- Health Para 1
- Kitchen Crew 3
- Teacher Assistants 3
- After School Care 1
- Custodians 2
- Bus Drivers 3

Total 30

Did you know?

60% of Holy Cross School staff members have earned their Master's Degrees.

16 years = the average number of years teachers at Holy Cross School have been working in education.



Mission Statement

Holy Cross Catholic School exists to educate the whole child spiritually and academically, preparing them to be responsible and respectful members of the global community with Jesus as our model.

Philosophy

We are a Catholic faith community of students, parents and staff working together to provide a caring learning hope filled Christian atmosphere. The positive worth and dignity of each person is affirmed as we strive for academic excellence.

Curriculum and Instruction

This year classroom teachers worked on further development of the Curriculum Handbook. Our handbooks includes: standards, content, skills and benchmarks that drive our instructional decisions. The handbook will continue to be updated as we move toward completion for our accreditation visit in the spring of 2014.

Smartboard use increased greatly this year as the teachers grew more adept at using them in their classrooms. Student engagement in instruction increased which led to gains in student achievement. Three new interactive boards will be installed over the summer. Thank you to everyone who supported our Book Fair. We purchased all our boards through the Scholastic Program Points!

New materials were purchased to complement our science textbooks. The purchases helped teachers provide more interactive lessons for the students.

Holy Cross School follows a schedule for reviewing curriculum materials. This year math materials were examined and a new set of textbooks and support materials have been ordered. Starting in the fall of 2012 students and teachers will use Houghton Mifflin Math for grades K-5. The sixth through eighth grade materials were not changed.

Teachers received training throughout the year and through many venues. We tried using webinars as staff development tool this year. We had varied success depending on the presenter. Members of our staff took classes in these subject areas: technology, learning styles, writer's notebooks, gifted and talented students, literacy strategies and classroom management. In the fall we will attend the Mn Catholic Education Association Convention in Rochester.

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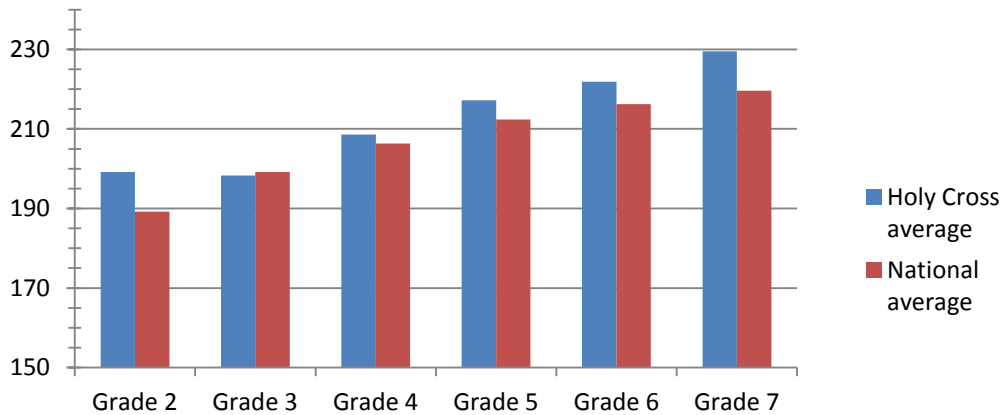
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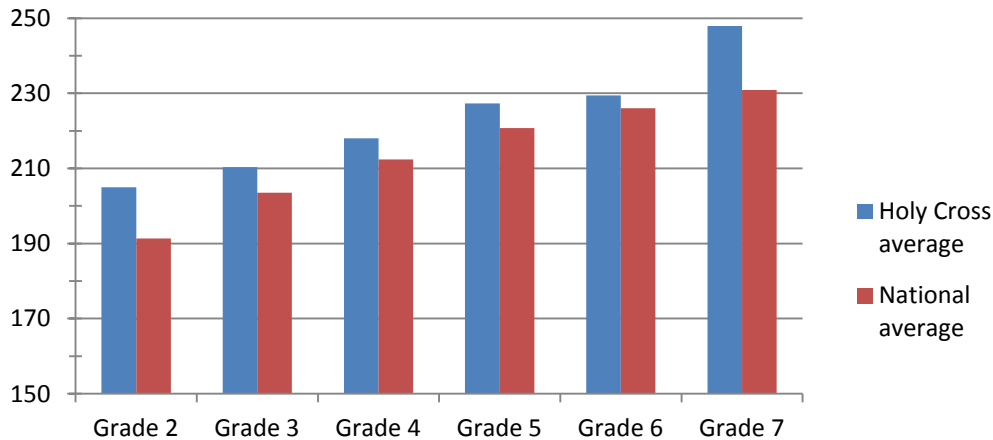
Learner Performance

There are many reasons for us to be proud of the academic achievement of our students. Our rigorous curriculum challenges students to reach their highest potential. Accelerated math and language arts coursework is available in middle school. Over 60% of our middle school students achieved "A" Honor Roll status. Students in the lower grades read over 1,500 books as part of the Reading Counts Incentive program. The graphs below show standardized testing results for grades 2-7.

Holy Cross School -NWEA Map Reading Assessment-Spring 2012



Holy Cross School NWEA Map Math Assessment Results- Spring 2012



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School Boards and CPO

As we raise our children to live as Christians we must teach them to think as individuals, but also to use their talents time and treasure to live as a community in service to one another. As parents we set a visible example for our students through our own involvement in the school and church community. Though we have many roles we work together for the common good.

Holy Cross Catholic School is blessed with many parents who volunteer to be part of leadership organizations. Our governance model consists of two boards: School Board of Directors and School Advisory Board. Each board consists of two representatives from each parish and meets once a

month. The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall direction and financial health of the school. The Advisory Board is responsible for policy review, fundraising, and communications.

The CPO (Crusader Parent Organization) is invaluable to the life of our school. This group of parent volunteers creates a strong community atmosphere in our school by sponsoring events and activities to bring us together to celebrate. The CPO meets monthly. They support school activities by providing hospitality and service. They also conduct fundraising activities to help support the school with special purchases of school equipment.

Go Crusaders



Limbo at the Harvest Dance

School Survey

In May, we sent out our first electronic school survey. We had an excellent level of response. The following are some of the results.

- We asked parents to rate the reasons they chose Holy Cross Catholic School. The results in order of importance are: Academics , Character Development, Student/Teacher Ratio, Catholic Identity and Extra Curricular Activities.
- We asked parents views on academic challenge and student accountability. Overall results showed great support for the rigor of instruction and the expectations for student achievement.
- We asked about the effectiveness of our communication devices. The results showed that there is need for improvement in this area. Electronic communication glitches, web site inaccuracies and delayed communication from staff were cited as issues we should address.

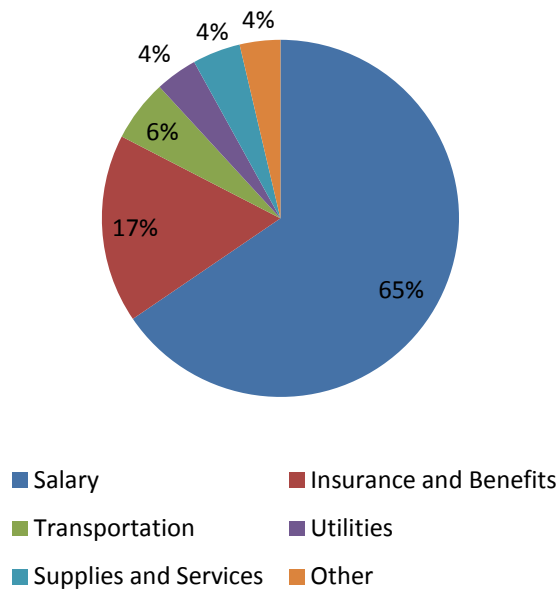
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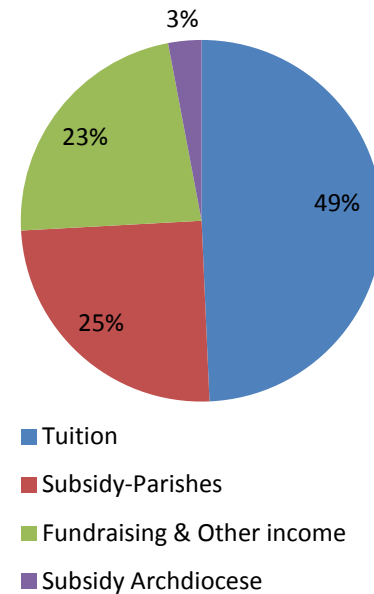
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Finances

**Holy Cross School Expenses
2011-2012**



**Holy Cross School Income
2011-2012**



Extra-Curricular

Athletics continues to be the most popular form of extra-curricular activity for our students. This year our boy's baseball team earned the first place trophy in the Tri County Tournament. Opportunities exist for girls and boys in the middle school to participate in volleyball, basketball, softball and baseball. Ninety percent of our students participate.

In addition to sports, Enrichment Camps are now offered to all students. This year camp offerings included Photography, Drama and Chess. Some of our chess players entered a Regional Tournament in Mankato. The Drama Camp produced a full length play entitled "The Adventures of Robin Hood". Enrichment Camps are made possible through the donations received by the Cost of Education Program. We are grateful for the generosity of our school families and their desire to make Holy Cross School the best place for our children to learn and grow.

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What our parents are saying.....

Here is a sampling of the comments shared on our spring survey:

- Our son, who graduated from Holy Cross, was well prepared for high school and is now an honor student.
- I was really surprised to find out how far ahead the school is when the students hit 9th grade.
- I love that the teacher emails all the parents as much as she does.
- I would like to commend all the support staff on the great job they do. I know it's not easy to feed a school, drive a school bus or monitor recess time.
- I feel that Holy Cross has been the best decision I could have made for my kids and their future.

