

HOLY ANGELS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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*Our Mission: To proclaim the Gospel, serve others, and praise God
as we grow in faith, knowledge, values, and respect.*

ANNUAL REPORT: 2019-2020 School Year

As part of the parish community and relying on the grace of God, Holy Angels School shares in the ministry of teaching the Catholic faith which is practiced daily by forming community, proclaiming the Gospel, serving others, and praising God. With the support of parents and guided by the Holy Spirit, the faculty and staff are dedicated to helping students to grow and mature in faith, knowledge and values by providing a quality curriculum with high academic and behavioral standards. Students and staff gather for Monday Assembly to reflect on the Gospel focus of the week, they come together each week as a faith community to celebrate the Eucharist, and daily prayer is part of the regular experience for all as praise and thanksgiving is offered at the start and end of the school day.

Holy Angels School continues to be viewed as one of the top schools in the archdiocese, maintaining its full accreditation and having received Exemplary Recognition in the area of Student Services during past accreditation reviews. Coming in this year as the new Principal, I knew I had big shoes to fill. Mr. Sternig was very gracious with his time to help me assimilate and carry on the traditions he had firmly set for the school. I took time to observe the curriculum and daily routines, hoping to bring a fresh outlook and renewed excitement for learning to the school, as well student engagement.

Holy Angels School, along with every other school in the country, was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. School was closed for the remainder of the school year starting on March 13th. Teachers quickly came together, and with a two-day turnaround, were able to provide education to the students for the remainder of the school year. The dedication of the teachers to their students - even when presented with the overwhelming challenge of distance learning - far exceeded my expectations.

In the area of curriculum, Holy Angels continues to provide instruction which is aligned to established archdiocesan, state, and national standards. Although the standardized tests have only been partially aligned to new standards, the results continue to reflect an effective curriculum and methodology. At the third grade level, the ability scores of Holy Angels students indicate an average class compared to schools across the country (74th percentile). The achievement scores on subtests reflect expected or greater achievement: English and Language, better than 73% of schools nationally; Mathematics, 71%; Social Studies, 71%; and Science, 83%. The results at the fifth grade level indicate that students are also achieving at an appropriate level in most areas when compared to their ability (71st percentile): English and Language, better than 71% of the schools in the nation; Mathematics, 75%; Social Studies, 75%; and Science, 72%. At the seventh grade level, the results are: English and Language, better than 71% of the schools in the nation; Mathematics, 72%; Social Studies, 70%; and Science, 60%. When compared to projections based on ability tests (68th percentile), Holy Angels students scored slightly below their predicted achievement levels, but did show growth in many of the subject areas compared to the 2018-2019 test results. Review of the test scores continue with the teachers and the implementation of a new and more rigorous math curriculum should help the students' continued growth. English and Language are under review for a new curriculum for the 2021-2022 school year.

When comparing Holy Angels percentiles to other schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, here are the comparisons:

Grade 3	Holy Angels	Archdiocese	Grade 5	Holy Angels	Archdiocese
Total Reading & Language	73	78	Total Reading & Language	71	70
Total Math	71	74	Total Math	75	67
Social Studies	71	74	Social Studies	75	72
Science	83	77	Science	72	68

Grade 7	Holy Angels	Archdiocese
Total Reading & Language	71	84
Total Math	72	71
Social Studies	70	74
Science	60	70

These results indicate there is needed growth. Curriculum changes in Math and English Language Arts will occurring the next couple years. These changes should enhance the learning and help boost our percentiles.

The Archdiocese continues to align its standards to the Wisconsin State Standards and the Holy Angels curriculum is aligned with these standards. The World Language Curriculum continues to include Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and German. Students study all three languages in grades K5 through grade five, focusing on one of the languages during middle school.

The use of technology has been an integral part of instructional practices and can be found in almost every learning area. As new technology provides opportunities to expand learning, Holy Angels continues to explore new resources. Google Docs and Google Classroom have become increasingly important aspects of the education landscape at Holy Angels. A one-to-one technology plan with student-owned Chromebooks is present in middle school. One-to-one technology continues to be implemented in grades one through three with ipads, and in grades four and five with classroom-based Chromebooks. Middle school students utilize personal Chromebooks. When we closed school in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to supply all students in grades K5-5 with a Chromebook or iPad to allow students to communicate with their teachers and participate in distance learning lessons.

The Stehling Project continued to be an important source of financial support as Holy Angels School strives to be a unique, premier and enduring Catholic school. The updates of the school's server and acquisitions of other technology and infrastructure, and installation of cameras at all the school entrances, have allowed the school to keep up with the daily technological demands of the classrooms without interruption to learning. However, the project has ended and planning for the upcoming school year will be impacted. Specifically, the previously expanded services of the Resource Learning Center will return to pre-project levels with student needs being met primarily within the regular classroom setting with support from the RLC. The coordinator of technology position will continue to be funded for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years, through a newly-established Thomas Rolfs Technology Chair.

The official enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year was 235 students in grades K3 through eight. This was a slight decrease from the previous year's enrollment of 245 - as the school completed its transition to one class per grade level. Family size and financial concerns will continue to affect enrollment. The enrollment for 2020-2021 school year is expected to be 235 students. This is a conservative number to account for the uncertainty of whether schools will be allowed to open for in-person learning or if schools will have to start the new school year virtually. This uncertainty may impact the choice parents make to enroll their child(ren) for the upcoming school year. Based on parish census data, it is anticipated that there will be one incoming K5 class for the next several years moving through the subsequent grades. However, improvement in the economy or changes in the local public schools may result in a positive impact on enrollment. Overall, it is anticipated that enrollment numbers will level as the school follows a one-class-per-grade model for the foreseeable future.

Staffing changes due to retirements will again affect the school as three teachers retired at the end of the school year. Some internal shifting of staff will result in the hiring of two full-time staff and a part-time middle school teacher. The addition of these teachers will solidify the already strong and dedicated staff.

The past financial status of the school has been solid with support from Holy Angels Parish and third source funding having a positive effect on efforts to control tuition. For the 2019-2020 school year, the major budgeted sources of income included: Parish Subsidy – 33.8%; Tuition – 39.1%; Fees/Fund Raisers – 10.2%; Foundation Support - 5.7%; Trust Fund Subsidy – 10.2%; and Other Parish Subsidy - 0.1%. 85.1% of the budgeted expenses were for Salaries/Benefits; Instructional Materials – 7.7%; and Utilities/Supplies – 7.1%. The total budget was about \$1,439,866. The tuition for the first child for a Holy Angels family during the school year was \$2850, with discounts offered to multiple child families. Tuition will increase to \$2950 for the 2020-2021 school year. The base pay for teachers was increased for the 2019-2020 school year with a starting salary of \$33,600. It will increase to \$34,272 in 2020-2021. A revised structure of the salary scale has been developed for future teachers contracts based on changes in DPI licensing requirements.

In preparing the budget for the 2020-2021 school year, Holy Angels Parish appeared to be capable of providing financial resources to support the school. The final financial report for 2019-2020 indicated that the parish and school met original projections and is on firm financial ground moving forward. With the adjustment to a one-class-per-grade model, Holy Angels is well-positioned, in terms of demographics and finances, to continue to provide a parish-based program. Other considerations for collaboration continue to be explored as a means to maximize opportunities in areas such as staffing.

This year, in keeping with the Department of Justice safety initiative, Holy Angels was able to use grant money and a gracious donation to purchase and install cameras at all the school entrances. This is one way we can continue to keep our students safe.

Holy Angels students are successful not only while attending Holy Angels, but also during their high school years. Holy Angels students have been recognized by the Optimist Club, West Bend Volunteer Center, and other charitable organizations supported by student efforts. Holy Angels graduates are prominent on high school Honor Rolls, in National Honor Society inductions, in extracurricular activities, and as recipients of college scholarships.

Students continue to be involved in service projects providing help to such groups as: Family Promise, Meals on Wheels, All Saints Parish, Honor Flight, St. Ben's/House of Peace, Project Manana, and more. With the support of interested parents and volunteers, the HAS-HOPE (Holy Angels Students Helping Other People and the Environment) club has been active in serving others in the community. Graduates continue to serve the greater community on outreach trips.

Holy Angels School continues to provide excellent opportunities for academic and spiritual growth in a faith community setting. The positive support of parish members within the community can be effective in recruitment of families to the parish and school and be a source of evangelization. Through continued efforts to identify and develop areas of financial support and enrollment recruitment, it will be possible for the school to continue to meet the formational needs of students today and into the future by being the unique, premier, and enduring Catholic school that is its heritage.