



HOLY FAMILY
SCHOOL INNER CITY YOUTH
FOUNDATION



2024 Annual Report



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL INNER CITY YOUTH FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2024



For over 30 years...

the Holy Family School Inner City Youth Foundation has supported the operations of Holy Family Catholic School (HFCS) so that it has the resources necessary to provide an exemplary education designed to meet the needs of its students and prepare them for high school.

We are grateful for the generosity and support of our donors and look forward to the future and all the opportunities it will bring for the students of Holy Family.

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A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope this Annual Report conveys some of the spirit and excitement that one can feel just walking down the hallways at Holy Family Catholic School these days. It is quite the place. The School's rich diversity obviously distinguishes it from most other Iowa elementary schools today. Over 95% of the Holy Family students represent diverse racial and cultural backgrounds, with 15 languages spoken among them, and many students are first-generation Americans. The School's educational program reflects that diversity and includes 15 additional teaching days to help reduce learning loss and ease language barriers. Paulette's letter (page 4) describes life in the building better than I can, so I will leave that to her. But I will say this: the School and its dedicated teachers and staff show us all what it means to be "welcoming the stranger."



The Foundation's mission has always been to help ensure that the School had sufficient resources to provide its students with an exemplary, faith-based education. The needs today are similar in many respects to what they were 30+ years ago, and no less significant. The math is pretty simple: the costs to operate the School far exceed what can be raised from tuition, the supporting parishes (3 parishes at first, now 5), and other available sources. The new State-funded "education savings accounts" are a great help for the parents of Holy Family students, because those accounts can be used to pay the School's tuition. But tuition alone doesn't come close to covering the full cost of operating the School (you can see the expected sources of funding for fiscal 2024/25 illustrated on page 5.) And besides the operating support, the Foundation is the primary source for funding the capital expenditures required to maintain or improve the buildings and grounds and enhance the School's educational programs. By necessity, and with the help of many generous donors over 30 years, the Foundation has become the School's backstop, its reserve fund, and its critical partner.

The Foundation Board believes firmly that the education the students receive at Holy Family, and the values and faith they take with them when they graduate, make a huge difference for them, their families, and the communities they will live in. Donations to the Foundation make that happen, and it is life-changing. That's why we do this, and that's why your support is so important.

This Annual Report lists those who made contributions to the Foundation during this past fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2024. Whether you attended our annual golf outing or the Barn Bash, or contributed during our Annual Appeal or Adopt-a-Student campaign, or simply mailed in a check, thank you one and all. Whatever the amount, your contributions make a difference to the Holy Family students and the education they receive.

On behalf of those students, and their families, thank you again for your continued support of Holy Family Catholic School.

William J Noth
Board President



A LETTER FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

As we embark on the 2024-2025 school year, I am thrilled to share that we have a dynamic and enthusiastic group of faculty, staff, and students here at Holy Family Catholic School. The excitement of reuniting as a community has been palpable, and our theme for this year, "Ohana"— Family and Community — perfectly captures the spirit of togetherness we are embracing. Our back-to-school drop-off night and parent meeting night were both met with outstanding attendance, reflecting the strong support and engagement from our community. I am profoundly grateful for your encouragement and warm welcome as I continue my journey as the principal here at Holy Family. As I begin my second year, I am reminded of the incredible sense of belonging and purpose that defines our school.



This year, we are excited to introduce several new enhancements to our school environment. Notably, we have upgraded our playground and added a Greenhouse to complement our Farm to Table Curriculum. These improvements not only enhance our students' learning experiences but also provide a safe and beautiful space for them to play and grow. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our donors whose generosity made these upgrades possible. At the heart of Holy Family Catholic School is our commitment to practicing our faith. This year, we are focused on fostering a sense of family and community through meaningful relationship-building. This approach is crucial in nurturing the holistic development of our students within the framework of our Catholic faith. By emulating the Holy Family's example, we aim to strengthen our growth and build relationships that support both personal and spiritual development.

We continue to be proud of our students' achievements, particularly as schools nationwide navigate the challenges of learning loss. The Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress remains a valuable tool for guiding our instructional decisions, ensuring that each student receives the targeted support they need to thrive.

I am continually inspired by the incredible support Holy Family receives from individuals and organizations like yours. Your contributions are vital in helping us serve our students effectively and foster their growth in faith.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and generosity. Your time, talent, and treasure play a crucial role in fulfilling our mission of providing a faith-filled, quality education. Holy Family is truly a special place, and it is because of supporters like you that we can continue to make a profound impact on our community of learners.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Paulette Neuhalfen-Theisen
Principal, Holy Family Catholic School



EDUCATIONAL NUMBERS

KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 1 MATH

16% Aggressive Growth in Early Math Skills
78% On Track in Early Math Skills

GRADES 2-5

14% Aggressive Growth in Math Fluency
28% Advanced Growth in Math Fluency

MIDDLE SCHOOL

READING

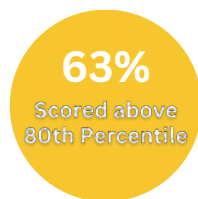
8% Aggressive Growth in Early Reading Skills
68% On Track in Early Reading Skills

16% Aggressive Growth in Reading Fluency
25% Advanced Growth in Reading Fluency

Math
Fluency (80%+)



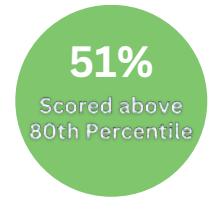
Math
Computation (80%+)



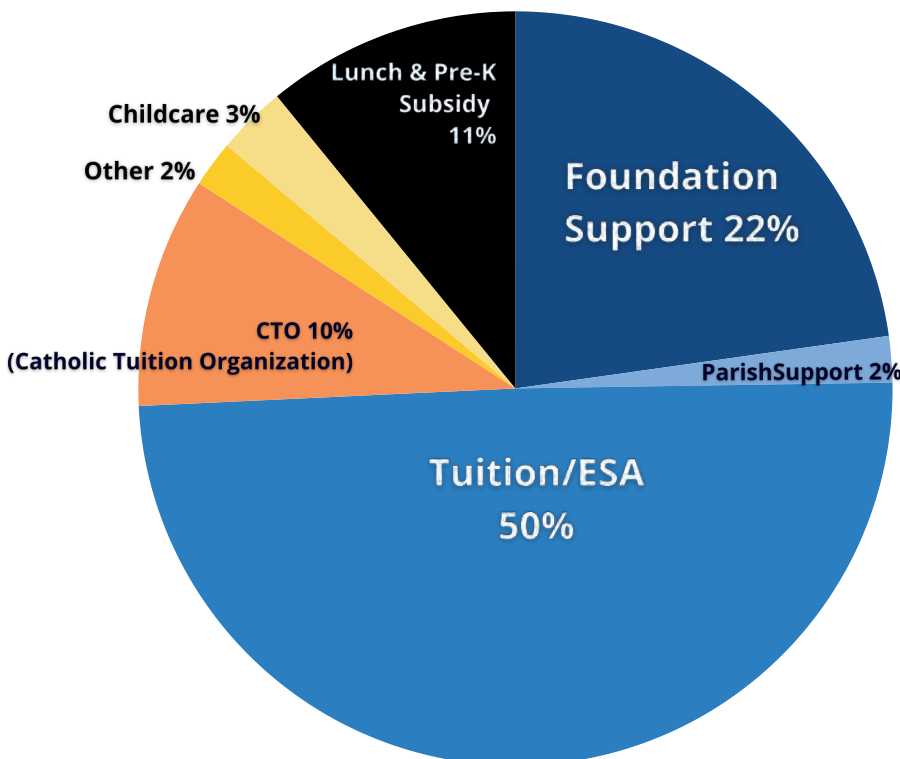
Reading
Fluency (80%+)



Reading Comprehension
Speed (80%+)



EXPECTED SOURCES OF FUNDING-2024/2025



Did you know?

As the only year-round school in the Diocese of Des Moines, Holy Family maximizes student learning with 15 additional school days and breaks throughout the year that are timed to help reduce learning loss.

The financial support that the Foundation provides is critical to the operating budget and long-term sustainability of Holy Family Catholic School.



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Holy Family Band Program

Participation in the band program at Holy Family is open to all students in grades 5-8. Band is recognized nationally as a worthwhile educational activity because of its positive impact on the development of reading, math, motor, physical, social, communication, analytical, and critical thinking skills. Students who play in band at Holy Family can go on to play in concert bands and marching bands at the high school and college level. As students get older, band is an excellent extra-curricular and social activity that can continue throughout their lives.



John Malette, HFCS Band Director and HFCS Band students

At Holy Family, musical skills are nurtured and developed through a well-planned music curriculum designed to teach each student to learn, understand and perform the basic elements of music: melody, pitch, harmony, rhythm, form and note reading. This is accomplished through weekly music classes, starting at the Pre-K level. In 4th Grade, every student receives their own recorder (flute) that they are allowed to keep. Playing recorder is a good introduction to learning other instruments. Beginning in 5th Grade, students can receive weekly band lessons at school. They perform individually, in an ensemble, in our band, and with students from other Des Moines Catholic schools in combined concerts and activities.



8th Grade Manners Class

On May 10th, 2024, the 8th Graders experienced firsthand the importance of good manners! Each year, a few classes are dedicated to covering the basics of dining etiquette and what that entails. Students learn about table settings, decorum, proper attire, and other character building attributes so that they feel confident in formal settings. As a reward for all their work, our classy group dressed in their best and enjoyed a formal lunch at the Des Moines Embassy Club.



This wonderful annual learning experience is made possible because of your support and generous contributions we receive at our annual Barn Bash fundraising event.



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

HFCS Student receives Presidential Scholarship

Congratulations to Holy Family graduate, Anderson Vi, who was recently presented with the Presidential Scholar's Award from Dowling Catholic High School. This award is based on a combination of test scores, grades, essays and teacher recommendations.

Having attending Holy Family since Kindergarten, Anderson admits he will miss the people and the daily routine, but he is looking forward to starting his journey at Dowling Catholic High School this fall. Anderson's mother, Kim Vi, spoke about how Holy Family has shaped her son. "Holy Family has offered my family personalized attention that Anderson wouldn't have received in public school. The discipline and integration of religious education with academics, starting from the pre-k program, have been pivotal. The school has been preparing Anderson for high school since the sixth grade, and although his next step is undecided, he is ready."

Anderson stays busy with a variety of interests including a passion for math, science, and music and can often be found playing piano and saxophone in his free time. "It's a soothing way to to distract myself" he says. Despite his focus on academics and music, Anderson's outstanding athletic skill led him to being selected to join the Iowa Junior All-Stars baseball team for the Midwest regional tournament in 2023.

When asked what motivates him to work so hard, he says, "I've seen the dedication and hard work my parents consistently put into our family. They have instilled in me the values of education, diligence and perseverance. Their love and support mean a great deal to me". Although raised here in Iowa, Anderson's family roots reach back to Vietnam where some of his mother's family still resides. "I would love the opportunity to visit Vietnam again" he says, "...the people are incredibly hospitable, and the cuisine is amazing. Vietnam is the home of numerous natural wonders and diverse areas to discover and study."

For the time being, Anderson's focus will be on the future. "I look forward to meeting new people and making new friends. High school represents a new chapter in my life and promises to be one of the most memorable experiences." A chapter that will most certainly pave the way for even more future success. When asked what his goals are after high school, Anderson shares "my goal is to attend the University of Iowa, which I believe is one of the best places for my major and for studies in the medical field", and we couldn't agree more.



*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.
Psalms: 119:105*



SCHOOL UPDATES

HFCS Playground Upgrades Completed



The School celebrated the recent completion of the playground upgrades and new greenhouse which culminated on August 13th with an official ribbon cutting and blessing from the Most Reverend Bishop Joensen. The area adjacent to the school features a new play structure, including a rubberized play surface and a gaga pit (enclosed area for soccer and similar games). "Not only is the area nicer to look at, it's safer for our kids" says Paulette Theisen, HFCS Principal. "We are grateful for the support we received that allowed us to complete this project in time for the students to use it this year." The new greenhouse will be used to help introduce a 'Farm to Table' curriculum for middle school students along with additional science based projects.



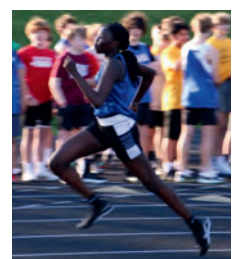
Go Bears!



Athletics Program Updates

HFCS Alumni and ISU Rugby coach, Anthony Frein has been a dedicated force in helping to increase extra curricular activities for Holy Family's students. Goals for this school year will include getting new uniforms for volleyball, basketball and track as well as adding the option of City League Basketball for 3rd and 4th grades, so that all students from grades 3-8 have the ability to play an organized sport through Holy Family. Also added this year will be City League Soccer for boys in 6/7th grade, thus adding a third sport for male students to mirror the offering on the girls' side. "Adding other clubs that interest the students including tutoring, is something we're working towards", said Frein. "These programs work to foster deeper connections and pride within our students and allows them build confidence in themselves" he added.

To assist with costs related to these programs, a new "Bear Closet" online spirit wear store has been created and is accessible through the school's website at www.hfcsdsm.org. Go Bears!!!





WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Join us at our annual golf event!

Our golf event, held each spring, is a chance to enjoy a day on the course with friends. All proceeds benefit our students. This year we had a wonderful day at The Legacy Golf Club. Golfers enjoyed a day on the course catching up with friends and playing a round!

Come to our next Barn Bash, November 9, 2024!

Every fall, we host Barn Bash, a great event. At this dinner and auction, we raise funds for student field trips, special events, school supplies and other school operating expenses.

Follow us on Facebook!

We would love to see more of you on our Facebook page! You can find us by searching our username: @HFCSfoundation.

WAYS TO GIVE

No matter how you choose to give, we appreciate your support of the Foundation and the students of Holy Family Catholic School. Some ways to give include:

Online

You can make a one-time or recurring gift on our website, www.hfcsfoundation.org.

By Mail

Checks can be mailed to:
Holy Family School Inner City Youth Foundation (HFSICYF)
PO Box 8437
Des Moines, IA 50301

Matching Gifts—Contact the Human Resources office of your employer to find out if they will match your donation.

Gifts of Stock—Donating shares of appreciated stock can provide tax benefits while avoiding capital gains.

Bequests/Beneficiary Designations—Designate the Foundation to receive a bequest under your will, or name the Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, financial account or retirement plan.

Donor Advised Funds—Recommend a grant to the Foundation from a donor-advised fund you have created.

Qualified Charitable Distributions—Those age 70-1/2 or older can transfer up to \$100,000 (adjusted annually by IRS) from your IRA accounts each year directly to the Foundation and other charities. The transfers count towards any "required minimum distribution" and you do not recognize taxable income on the transfer.

Note: The above information is for educational purposes only. For legal or tax advice, please consult your advisors.

For general questions, please reach out to us at
info@hfcsfoundation.org or 515-262-7466



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL INNER CITY YOUTH FOUNDATION

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Thanks to all who have generously contributed to the support of our school this past fiscal year.

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PO BOX 8437
DES MOINES, IA 50301
515-262-7466
INFO@HFCFOUNDATION.ORG