



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL STATE OF THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

We are all members of God's TEAM!

May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This was a year of much joy and countless blessings, but it was also a year that held unforeseen challenges and time away from things we love most; being with your children, teaching them, and learning from them and with them. Although many milestones and activities were missed at school, we all became more engaged in family life, prayer time, and finding ways to teach, communicate, and stay in touch with one another.

To our amazing parents and your extended family members, thank you for being the parent, teacher, caregiver and motivator to your children. You juggled work, school and home, and did it all with grace. You assisted us with your help and feedback, you walked with us as we navigated distance learning, and you lovingly addressed the educational, emotional and spiritual needs of your children. Our school year theme of all of us being a part of God's TEAM was evident and alive!

Thank you to our cherished students. You tried your best and worked with us to learn new concepts and review foundational skills. Most of all, you found ways to stay connected to one another, to respond to the needs of others, and to grow in knowledge and faith. We are so proud of you and will continue to hold you close in prayer.

Many thanks to our dedicated teachers and staff for looking at learning from new and challenging angles, teaching from the heart and taking calls and emails at all times of the day and night. Even when you were pulled in many directions and given countless tasks, your first priority was the students and the ways you could help them. You missed them as much as they missed you.

In my final message to our sixth grade graduates, I reminded them that events don't define who they are - how they respond to them does. Thank you to all of you for responding with prayer, faith and hope. This year has given us much to be grateful for and plenty of time to reflect and see all that we have accomplished together.

All of us are excited and looking to the coming school year with a sense of hope and gratitude. We love our school, students and families, and are committed to nurturing a faith-filled atmosphere where quality learning and spiritual growth occur.

We are proud of the many things we accomplished as a united school and faith community, but realize there are also things we want to continue to improve and change. Your help and input with our self-study, school year, and distance learning helps give us extra guidance and direction as we celebrate our successes and work on the challenges we face. We thank you.

Finally, before we close for the school year, let us give thanks to God for His continued presence, love and graces in our lives. He is the heart and purpose of our school. May He bless you with a relaxing, fun, faith-filled and healthy summer.

Take care, we will hold you close in our thoughts and prayers,
Mrs. Peterson & the teachers and staff at Holy Family School

SITE VISIT & STRATEGIC PLAN

It seems like such a long time ago, but it was just this past November 18 & 19 that our seven year MNSAA site visit took place. A highly qualified team of six educational members from as close as Long Prairie to as far away as Wayzata visited the school to review our self-evaluation that was based on the MNSAA standards. They also looked over the strategic plan for validity to our current needs, if it was representative of the current and future needs and connected to the self-study challenges. In December we received word from the MNSAA Board of Directors that our seven-year accreditation eligibility status for our K-6 program was renewed and extended through June 30, 2027.

When we received the final report from MNSAA, we reviewed our strategic plan to make any additional changes or revisions. We are eager to begin work on the goals and strategies within our plan. Since this is a living document, we will be adapting and revising the plan to meet the present and future needs of the school, and we will also chart our process yearly. The strategic plan goals were sent home earlier this year. The goals are also in our School Speak portal and handbook.

We are committed to providing outstanding education for your children and are confident our plan will help give us direction and a clear vision for the many things we hope to accomplish.

Important Accomplishments and Celebrations This Year

- As a school community, we celebrated completing our self-study, MNSAA visit, and accreditation renewal status from MNSAA.
- Our school year goal of working together on God's TEAM was present in the outreach projects the students completed, in the ways our school community grew in knowledge and faith, and in the many ways people worked as a TEAM during these past couple months to help one another academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.
- Also, to tie in with our theme of TEAM, students were trained in "How To Be the Nice Kid" and had an assembly in September on this and a follow-up assembly with parents present as well during Catholic School's Week.
- Our school and/or church were filled to capacity for Grandparent Day, the Christmas Pageant, and Parent Day. These special occasions helped us recognize those who have such an important role in our students' lives.
- The school saw an increase in enrollment for the fifth year in a row. According to our registrations for the coming year, that trend will continue once again for the 2020 - 2021 school year.
- All of our fifth and sixth graders had individual Chrome books this year, and we hope to purchase additional books or technology equipment in our other grades as well.
- This school year we not only celebrated the 25th year of Springfest at HFS, we raised an all-time high of over \$82,000 from this one day event.
- Although the building might have closed in March, school didn't. Parents, students, teachers and staff worked together to assist in learning, lighten spirits and give hope to others, and find creative and amazing ways to virtually do field trips, Mothers Day, Graduation, and so much more!

2019-2020 School Budget as of April 30, 2020

These charts reflect our school budget as of April 30, 2020. The complete school year budget runs from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 - year-end fiscal reports are available in the Fall. Even with the unforeseen circumstances at the end of this school year, and with a number of expenses still outstanding, the school is projecting a positive balance once again this year. We thank you for your commitment to your tuition pledges and your involvement in fundraisers. We also thank the parishes for their generous subsidy to the school.

