

Holy Trinity Catholic School

Faith in Our Future

November 2011



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A Look Inside Holy Trinity

Honoring tradition while inspiring innovative and creative programs.

The Holy Trinity Catholic School education is a challenging education. High standards, strong motivation, effective discipline and an atmosphere of caring combine to foster excellence and student achievement. In addition to the rich standard curriculum offerings at Holy Trinity Catholic School, special programs highlighted in this brochure offer enriched academic experiences for our students. We strive for excellence in fulfilling our mission by offering a program which fosters various learning styles and provides a diversity of academic experiences. Certified at the state and regional levels, our association with NCEA-CASI and the National Catholic Education Association help provide programs and instruments for internal and external evaluations on an ongoing basis. Holy Trinity Catholic School is dedicated to the development of the whole child. Extracurricular activities are regarded as an important part of the total learning experience. A variety of choices is offered to reflect the uniqueness of each student, to create a spirit of cooperation, and to foster both leadership and creativity.

Faith in Our School

Our children have been educated at Holy Trinity Catholic School since 1992. We feel blessed to be a part of this school.

First and foremost, Holy Trinity Catholic School has fostered the spiritual growth of our children through study, sacraments, service and example. They are encouraged to be true followers of Jesus Christ in all aspects of their lives.

Our children have been challenged academically and the curriculum has evolved with the changing environment especially in the technology realm. They have ample opportunities to grow outside the classroom with the many extracurricular activities offered.

Holy Trinity Catholic School has provided our children with a wonderful Catholic education of which we are very proud.

~Dr. & Mrs. Wieland

FAITH in Our Future...

Being Catholic means being true to our Baptismal promises: answering God's call to live as Christ did here on earth. Our students are living the Catholic faith in their daily lives through their prayer, works, and service to the community.

Religious Education

Religious education is not simply one subject among many at Holy Trinity Catholic School, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of our school. The overall faith knowledge of our students is measured each year through the National Catholic Education Association Assessment of Catechesis Religious Education (ACRE) standardized assessment. In 2011, **100%** of the eighth grade students at our school scored proficient or advanced compared to the national average of 72.1%. Reaching the advanced level of faith knowledge were **59.3%** of our students compared to 17.3% nationally. The impressive results of the eighth grade students reflect the years of faith instruction that form our students as they become young adults and enter high school.

Student Active Participation

Morning Prayer
Weekly Mass
Reconciliation Services

Prayer Services
School-wide Rosary Recitation
Living Stations of the Cross
Altar Service
Eucharistic Adoration
All Saints Day Parade
Grade Level Retreats

Growing a Culture of Vocations

Each year during March, Holy Trinity Catholic School celebrates Vocation Week as part of a Diocesan effort to grow a culture of vocations in our families, schools, and parishes where talking about priestly and religious vocations with our children is a natural part of our lives as Catholics. Students have a chance to visit with priests, seminarians, and sisters about their lives as a religious and cap off the week with an exciting volleyball game amongst students, staff, and visiting religious.

Annual Service Projects

St. Vincent DePaul Food Drive
St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Drive
Catholic Charities Adopt-a-Family
Birthright Christmas Collection



Faith in Our School

In 2010, we made the decision to transfer our two youngest children to Holy Trinity Catholic School. The school's commitment to the individual needs of each student is made possible by smaller classes with highly qualified teachers who emphasize student accountability and moral responsibility. We are extremely impressed with Holy Trinity's rapid identification and intervention to recover student's skill deficits in critical subjects such as math, reading and speech. We highly recommend our school to any parent interested in proactively changing the course of their child's academic and religious education.
~Mr. & Mrs. Calvert

Builders Club

Builders Club at Holy Trinity Catholic School began several years ago. It is a "student-led" community service organization that operates under school regulations and draws its members from the student body. HTJH Builders Club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Normal. Club members make an impact by selecting projects that meet our communities' needs. Some past projects include volunteering at Festival of Trees, making tie-blankets to be donated, and raising funds through bake sales for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Other projects are ongoing, such as student members volunteering at Safe Harbor serving a meal to those in need each month.

Our School

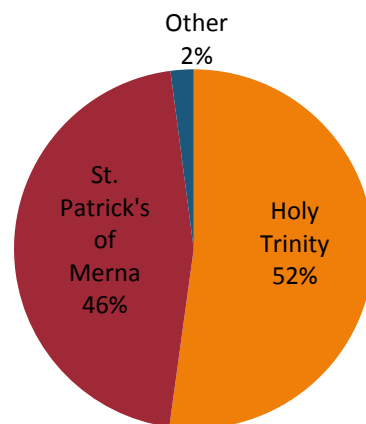
Holy Trinity Staff

36 Certified Teachers
541 Years of Experience
59 Total Staff Members

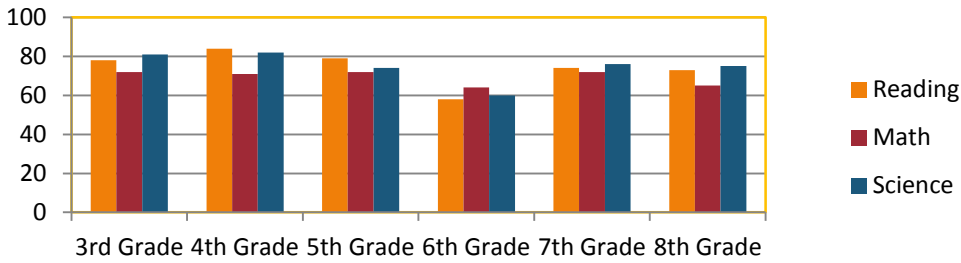
Holy Trinity Students

495 Students
159 Junior High Students
336 Elementary Students

Parish Enrollment



Meeting the Needs of EVERY Child...



Shown above are results of Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) standardized testing taken in the fall of 2011. Listed is the National Percentile Rank (NPR) of our students, which shows their relative position, compared to others in the same grade level in the nation with 50 being the average national score.

Academics

Holy Trinity Catholic School makes effective use of ITBS test data by analyzing student strengths and needs. ITBS measures basic skills that range from facts and conventions through higher-order skills. The performance profile report provided in the results, lists the performance in skill areas on each test for each student. Utilizing the school developed analysis form the teachers review and record student scores to analyze skill performance for their class. This assessment makes visible gaps in instruction and student knowledge, leading to changes in curriculum and teaching practices.

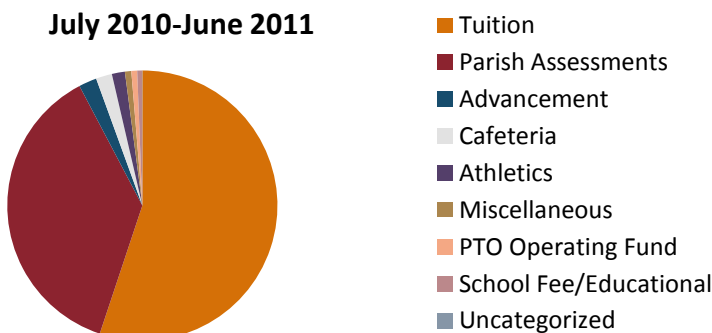
Holy Trinity Catholic School also considers the yearly growth of grade

levels of students by reviewing the grade equivalent scores on each test of ITBS. The expectation is at least one year growth each academic year.

This year, our school will begin tracking student progress with an individual student analysis form to include all available measures of student progress in reading and math at Holy Trinity Catholic School. In addition to ITBS, data will be collected from DIBELS, STAR Reading, Lexia, easyCBM Math, STAR Math, and ALEKS. The compilation and sharing of data, will allow teachers to develop individual student goals each year that lead to deliberate instruction and perpetual student growth.

Income Summary

July 2010-June 2011



Special Services

Holy Trinity Catholic School lives out its mission by providing for the needs of *EVERY child*. Embodying our mission we meet the individual needs of our students with certified specialists on staff who can provide the best instruction in a nurturing setting for students.

Special Education

Holy Trinity School Catholic School has two certified special education teachers with expertise in working with students with a range of disabilities in a variety of settings. These teachers ensure the learning of students with service plans that have been developed in a team effort between our school and the local public school district. The students may need direct instruction in basic skills or they may need instructional support to complete grade-level assignments given in other classrooms. The special education teachers use a variety of techniques to assist students and promote academic mastery.

Speech and Language

Holy Trinity Catholic School is one of the only private schools in the area to have a certified speech language pathologist (SLP) on staff to diagnose and treat students for speech, language and related disorders. Our SLP helps students improve their language and communication skills, and leads them to a stronger academic performance. Holy Trinity Catholic School has developed an intervention program to address minor articulation concerns. The SLP also services students with speech language service plans.

Innovative Programs to Ensure Student SUCCESS..



Math Mastery

Last year, Holy Trinity Catholic School began another chapter in our special services, the Math Mastery program, which is a kindergarten through fifth grade program. Students were assessed using the EasyCBM Math Assessment. The EasyCBM math assessments were developed by University of Oregon which also developed the widely used DIBELS program. The assessments are computer based with each grade having three subtests based on the focal points laid out by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). Utilizing the assessment results and recommendation of teachers, students were selected for additional instruction from the Math Mastery program.

Math Mastery has also begun at the junior high as part of the students' encore selection using the ALEKS software program. Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces is a Web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system. ALEKS provides the advantage of one-on-one instruction and uses adaptive questioning to quickly and accurately determine exactly what a student knows and doesn't know in a course. ALEKS then instructs the student on the topics she is most ready to learn. As a student works through a course, ALEKS periodically reassesses the student to ensure that topics learned are also retained. ALEKS courses are very complete in third grade math intervention program. Their topic coverage and ALEKS avoids multiple-choice questions. A student who shows a high level of mastery of an ALEKS course will be successful in the actual course she is taking.

By duplicating the configuration of our highly successful reading intervention program, including scientifically-researched curriculum, dedicated intervention teacher, and highly knowledgeable teaching staff, we are confident in the impending success of our Math Mastery program.

Reading Revival

“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.” -Dr. Seuss, “I Can Read With My Eyes Shut”

Four years ago, as part of our special services, Holy Trinity Catholic School began Reading Revival, which is a formal reading intervention program. Using the Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) which are a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills, our teachers and reading specialists have assisted our children in making significant strides in reading.

Our Reading Revival program utilizes student assessment data for benchmarking student reading three times each year. The results are used to determine the correct plan of instruction for each student based on individual needs. The reading specialist shares results of benchmark and progress monitoring assessments with teachers. This assists teachers in forming learning groups as well as individual lessons aimed at the necessary content and skills. Reading Revival is also offered through the encore program at the junior high. Students improve their ability to think critically, analyze text, make inferences and make predictions.

Dedicated to a wide variety of scientifically tested materials, Holy Trinity Catholic School is utilizing a web-based computer program. Lexia Reading® is an award-winning,

technology-based program that provides practice, assessment, and instruction to improve all students' reading abilities. Lexia Reading follows the proven approach recommended by the National Reading Panel, Reading First, and leading experts. Students learn skills in sequence, logically building an understanding, while gaining competency and preparing for the next skill.

The Reading Revival program has been extremely successful and contributed to the outstanding reading outcomes of our students. The current fourth grade students are the first class to receive formal reading intervention beginning their kindergarten year. Using DIBELS assessment, in kindergarten 32% of these students qualified for reading intervention. The number of students qualifying for reading intervention services decreased each school year with 9% in 2008 and 8% in 2009. In kindergarten, 5% of these students needed intensive reading intervention services, but by the end of first grade no students required this level of service. Also, in kindergarten 27% of students initially required moderate level of services. This number decreased each year. In September 2010, there were *NO* students in this grade that qualified at any level.

Algebra Classes

For many years, Holy Trinity Catholic School has partnered with Central Catholic High School to provide qualifying students a high school level algebra experience. For this school year, 22 of the 24 students who tested met the criteria for placement in the algebra class.

Holy Trinity Catholic School also began offering an algebra class at our school to eighth grade students a couple of years ago. At the end of the school year, the students are given a proficiency test by the high school in order to determine their mathematics placement the following year. This past May, 16 of the 20 students enrolled in the Holy Trinity algebra class were able to demonstrate proficiency in algebra and move on to geometry.

Special Services Continued...

Challenge Program

The Holy Trinity Challenge program is in its second year. Led by a certified teacher, the Challenge program is a way to help extend students' knowledge and love of learning. The activities provide students with the opportunity to expand their inquiries and enhance their thinking skills in ways that differ from what they accomplish in the classroom. An advanced learner curriculum is being utilized in the program as well as self-study techniques.

Special Classes

Spanish
Computer
Art
Physical Education
Wellness
Library
Music

Academic Programs

Junior Great Books
Young Authors
Scholastic Bowl
MathCounts
Bridge Building

Student Activities

Chess Club
Cub Scouts
Girl Scouts
Chorus
Cantors Ensemble
Band

Steps to Respect

Holy Trinity Catholic School students take part in the nationally known program Steps to Respect. The Steps to Respect bullying prevention program is designed to decrease bullying incidents by increasing bullying awareness in both school staff and students. The research based Steps to Respect

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Developing the *WHOLE* Child...

Junior High Encore Program

Holy Trinity Junior High fosters maximum development of students' intellectual, physical, social and emotional abilities by addressing the unique needs of young adolescents. In addition to our *Core* academic classes, *Encore* classes provide students the opportunity to "explore" a variety of subjects and interests by choosing the classes they take. Academic interventions to remediate and reinforce skill weaknesses are also provided during the *Encore* period.

Our physical education program now offers three classes including Dance, Aerobics & Individual Sports, Health, Wellness & Fitness, as well the traditional PE class. Technology classes include Computer Practices, Business & Marketing, and Advanced Computer in which students are involved in a business simulation. Art classes offered are Painting & Drawing, Painting, Drawing & Sculpting, and Independent Art Study which culminates in an art show for our school community. In addition to Chorus, Music Appreciation, and Music Technology a Keyboard & Guitar class has been added to our



music offerings.

For our all students with a love of literature, the Literature Appreciation class is available. We are also offering Reading Revival to assist students in improving comprehension skills and Math Mastery to develop effective and efficient math skills. We extended the study skills curriculum being taught in library class to offer a study skills class for sixth and seventh grade.

Wanting to pay special attention to our eighth grade students, an additional class of five day a week Spanish was added to our offerings and for those students with the desire to learn the components of effective speaking a Communications class was developed.

It has often been said that junior high school students have been "caught in the middle." As a staff, we hope that by placing them in our school environment, they will now be "right in the middle."

Outdoor Education

The Outdoor Education trip for the seventh grade at East Bay Camp provides students the opportunity to explore the natural world around them and to experience and observe ecosystems, geology, natural history, and local geography for themselves. Although physical exercise and play are integral parts of the experience, the teachers plan curricula so that the Outdoor Education program and the classroom experience enrich one another. Each year, this trip creates lasting memories of friendship for the seventh grade class.

More Grade Level Highlights...

Junior Achievement, Challenger Program, Chick-It-Out, Chicago Art Institute Trip, Geography Fair, Science Fair, State Capitol Visit

Steps to Respect Continued...

program teaches students to recognize, refuse, and report bullying. Holy Trinity students learn through role-playing lessons, discussion sessions, and both small and large group activities that deal within the framework of respecting, caring, and responsible actions.

Rainbows

Holy Trinity Catholic School offers the program Rainbows for God's Children, a peer group for children who live in single parent or stepparent families and children who have experienced a death of a parent. We have sensitive, caring, trained teacher facilitators who help these children put their feelings into words, work through grief, build a stronger sense of self-esteem and begin to accept what has taken place in the family.

Holy Trinity has been delivering the Rainbows program to students in need since 1988. Thanks to our efforts, other schools in area have recently begun similar programs.

RIGHT Start Program

Five years ago, Holy Trinity Catholic School brought to our area The Right S.T.A.R.T. (Students Tackling Abortion Realities Today) program and began sharing it with the other Catholic Schools in the area last year. The purpose of this curriculum is to give compassionate, factional information about Pro-Life issues so that students can make wise choices involving their physical, emotional, and spiritual lives. The program is presented to our eighth grade students and culminates in a beautiful prayer service. The goal of the program to make students informed to that they can make healthy, holy life choices as they enter high school.

Athletics

Holy Trinity School offers a wide variety of athletic opportunities to our students. Athletics for students in fifth and sixth grade build confidence in the sport and focus on skill development. These sports then transition into competitive play in seventh and eighth grade, following all the guidelines of the Illinois Elementary School Association. Holy Trinity School is proud of its long tradition of athletic excellence.

Baseball (7&8)

Softball (7&8)

Cross Country (5-8)

Basketball (5-8)

Volleyball (5-8)

Track (5-8)

Golf (7&8)

Cheerleading (7&8)



**2011 IESA State Title
7AA Boys Basketball**



**2011 IESA 3rd Place
7AA Girls Volleyball**



**2011 IESA 3rd Place
Class A Girls Softball**



Golf at Holy Trinity

In September of 2011, Holy Trinity School participated in the first IESA Golf Tournament. The Holy Trinity golf team traveled to St. Andrews Golf and Country Club in West Chicago. Both the girls and boys division each golfed one 18 hole round of golf for the competition. Holy Trinity had the largest representation from a school and strong finishers for both the girls and boys. This was a great showing that set the stage for a solid foundation in the sport.



The LEARNING Never Ends...

Summer Reading Programs

The Elementary Summer Reading Program began two years ago and meets weekly during the summer. Individual student goals are decided upon under the guidance of our reading specialist. The Accelerated Reader Program is used to guide the students' selection of appropriate reading materials and to check students' reading comprehension.

The Junior High Summer Reading Program is an independent summer reading program. Students are asked to read at least six books from different categories and write a paragraph about each book or draw a favorite scene from each book that they choose to read. The categories are classics, teacher picks, award winners, historical fiction and non-fiction. A raffle is held at the beginning of the school year for all students who participated.

Programs like these serve two purposes. Primarily, the summer reading programs promote the love of reading and literature. Another goal accomplished is the curtailing of summer regression in the area of reading.



Holy Trinity Catholic School

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Junior High
705 N. Roosevelt
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