Welcome Packet

Holy Family School

2024 / 2025
Our Mission
Inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and our Catholic tradition, Holy Family School, in cooperation with parents and our parish, seeks to guide all students to become joyful learners who seek first the Kingdom of God.

Our Vision
Holy Family School aims to educate all students academically, spiritually, morally, and socially in a Christ-centered environment. Our goal is to send students forth with faith in God, a love of learning, and to be the light of the world.
Dear Parents and Prospective Parents:

Welcome to Holy Family School! As our mission states, our school, ‘seeks to guide all students to become joyful learners who seek first the Kingdom of God’. This can only be accomplished with support from our parents and parish. We believe HFS is the moral path to your child’s academic future!

As you walk through the doors of Holy Family, you see an atmosphere of learning that is encouraged by parents and carried out by our amazing faculty. The blending of strong academics and faith formation provides our students a solid foundation for life. Our children are taught to ‘Love God and Love others’. Students are given individualized attention in small classes, expected to do the best they can academically, and encouraged to live out the values of service, sacrificial love, humility, and forgiveness.

We believe that helping children grow is an ongoing process whether this be academically, spiritually, morally, or socially. Using the life and teachings of Jesus Christ at the center of all of these lessons is paramount to the success of our students. An HFS graduate is expected to have faith in God, a love of learning, and to be the light of the world.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact me at 815-883-8916 Ext. 11 or nboudreau@hfsschool.com.

God Bless,

Mr. Nathan Boudreau,
Principal
Faith Formation
Spiritual grounding sets our students up not just for success in life, but for happiness! We pray daily, attend Holy Mass weekly, and participate in regular Adoration and Confession. Junior high students participate in an off-campus retreat day. Most liturgies are student-led and student-planned. Faith, morals, and Sacred Scripture are studied daily as a classroom discipline.

Safe Environment
Our school is tucked behind a quiet neighborhood where we are surrounded by woodland and Oglesby’s beautiful Memorial Park. Oglesby police visit our school and classrooms, and their station is only blocks away. All our teachers and volunteers complete the diocesan safe environment program and pass additional training on child wellness. All our teachers and volunteers have complete background checks.

Parental Involvement
This is a family school! Our parents are involved in school activities as coaches, chaperones, classroom helpers, lunchroom helpers, and room parents. Additionally, our parent-run School Club actively promotes the school, participates in fundraising, and establishes a familial atmosphere within our community.

Individual Attention & Tutoring
Our average class size is 16 students, allowing each student the individualized attention he or she deserves. Smaller class size requires all students to work together and reduces isolation and cliques. Our students and their families truly grow up together. Our classroom teachers and aides will make arrangements to provide tutoring and extra help to those students who need it, either during class or after school.
Dear Friends,

There is something different about our school. That is what I hear people say when they come and visit. I’ve always been impressed with the kind atmosphere and the real joy and excitement our students have. It is a special place, and we hope young families in our community consider investing in our small, local Catholic school.

The small class sizes, dedicated teachers, and caring environment set our students up for success. And they do succeed! Our goal is academic excellence – and we monitor student progress very carefully. Catholic school achievement scores exceed the national average at every level, creating a gap that never closes. We are very proud of our students’ accomplishments.

As a certified teacher myself, I take our school and its mission very seriously. But its true mission isn’t limited to the mind, but also to the heart. The greatest benefit of a Catholic school experience is a lifetime of faith – and the peace and happiness that comes with that. Our teachers are not only educators; they are spiritual guides. This is evident in every part of the school, from the classroom to the playground to the cafeteria.

Our community’s roots run deep in the Illinois Valley – we’ve had a Catholic school in Oglesby for the last 121 years! I’m always edified to hear, from so many generations of people, stories of growing up at Holy Family School. Our school is founded on the faith, excellence, and sacrifice of many who came before us, and we are proud to carry the torch!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Paul Carlson

Father Paul Carlson,
Pastor
Proven Academic Program
Our students excel academically in high school, frequently topping the charts at our local high schools before going off to great colleges and careers. Holy Family School is accredited by the AdvancedED Association, recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education, and fulfills the learning standards of the State of Illinois and the Diocese of Peoria. All teachers are qualified and participate in regular professional development opportunities. Curriculum-based measurements are taken three times per year to monitor student growth and guide individual student improvement. The NCEA–MAPS Standardized Testing shows HFS students continually score above grade level each and every year.

Athletics and Engagement
We are proud of our students’ achievements. One can’t drive into Oglesby without seeing a highway sign marking one of our student’s achievements. Sports and healthy competition are an important part of our students’ development. We offer a full IESA-Prairie Conference athletic program. Our students participate in volleyball (G), basketball (B/G), track and field, cheer, baseball, softball, bowling, choir, and scholastic bowl. We also hold the traditional spelling and geography bees.

Community Service and Involvement
As part of our commitment to Christian service, we strive to serve those in need. Our students serve the poor by supporting the local food pantry, stocking the St. Nicholas Mobile Pantry, and by preparing meals for our local homeless shelter. They serve the sick and elderly by providing cards of encouragement. The school also participates in community life by entering floats in city parades and sponsoring a city tee-ball team.
HFS Preschool Plans

Holy Family Preschool focuses on socialization, academics, and kindergarten readiness in a nurturing, faith-centered environment. See the handbook for our preschool philosophy, methods, and policies. Please reach out or come in for a visit. Our program requires children to be 3 years old and fully potty-trained by September 1st to enroll. We hope to make your family a part of our Holy Family Preschool!

We keep tuition affordable through the subsidy provided by the parishioners of Holy Family Church and regular school fundraisers. Football Mania is the only fundraiser we require all families to participate in. The registration fee is due at the time of registration. Because it is primarily used to purchase materials and supplies, it is not refundable.

Preschool is offered both full day (8:10am–2:55pm) and half day (8:10–11:30am). Either option is available for five days per week or three days (Tuesday through Thursday). Extended care is available before and after regular school hours; see the handbook for details. Older children are eligible for the multi-child discount.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preschool Tuition</th>
<th>12-Monthly Payments</th>
<th>10-Monthly Payments</th>
<th>Full Year Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Day, 5 Day</td>
<td>$333</td>
<td>$400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Day, 3 Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half Day, 5 Day</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half Day, 3 Day</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Football Mania Fundraiser</th>
<th>Full Day, 5 Day</th>
<th>45 Football Mania Tickets @ $20 Each</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full 3 Day or Half 5 Day</td>
<td>30 Football Mania Tickets @ $20 Each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Half Day, 3 Day</td>
<td>15 Football Mania Tickets @ $20 Each</td>
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| Registration Fee          | $350                | (Due with Registration Form)       |
Learning with Technology
Our students learn how to use technology safely and responsibly in our Diocesan Circle of Grace curriculum. We also teach its use in all the core subjects. Students use Chromebooks in Junior High and the school operates with Google Suite for Education and FACTS gradebook / school portal.

Before Care / After Care
Childcare is available before school beginning at 7:15 a.m. and after school until 5:00 p.m. in the DeFilippi Technology Center. Come to the dedicated entrance behind the school and ring the bell.

Dress for Success
Kindergarten through 8th grade students follow our dress code of red, white, and black tops with khaki bottoms. The details and requirements are in the handbook—please read carefully before school shopping! We know our students do best when they dress simply and neatly. We still have plenty of school-spirit and themed dress days in which our students can be creative with their outfits.

Hot Lunch Program
While students are always welcome to pack a lunch from home, we serve a hot lunch from Hy-Vee each day for $4.00. Milk (white or chocolate!) is also available. State free and reduced meal discounts are available to qualifying families.
Scholarship & Assistance

You can afford Catholic Education! We are committed to welcoming all families to our school. Assistance for K–8 education is available through the John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship and Holy Family School Tuition Assistance.

Both methods of assistance operate through FACTS Grant & Aid Application, the same platform that is used for your payment plan, billing options, and gradebook monitoring. By completing the FACTS application, you are essentially applying for both forms of assistance. Returning families are reminded not to make a new account, but to update your existing information. Applications must be made each year for financial assistance.

The Spalding Scholarship fund was established in 2003 by the Diocese of Peoria in honor of our first bishop. A published scholar in his own right, Bishop Spalding did much to advance the Catholic school system in our country. Assistance is available to students in grades K–8 whose families are members of a Catholic parish. The Spalding Scholarship represents approximately 30% of assistance received by our families.

Holy Family Tuition Assistance helps cover additional need that is not met by the Spalding Scholarship. While funds are limited, we strive to make sure all who qualify are offered assistance.

FACTS Grant & Aid Application provides an objective and confidential assessment of need. The process includes an application, the upload of supporting financial documents, and a $40 processing fee. Holy Family School will refund this fee if assistance is not recommended.

Facts Grant & Aid factsmgt.com/aid
Spalding Scholarship cdop.org/financial-assistance/
Health and Inclusion
We make every effort to include students who have an IEP or other needs. While we do not offer a special education program, we work to offer the least restrictive environment possible. We endeavor to make health accommodations for those with allergies or other health concerns. Our school secretary, Mrs. Borio, is a registered nurse and does a great job caring for all of our students.

Volunteer Opportunities
Our school runs most efficiently when our families volunteer their time and talents. We encourage families to participate in at least two fundraising efforts each year. The fundraisers certainly help us keep tuition as low as possible, but they also help us to build relationships within our school and local communities. Be on the lookout for our Beer and Wine Fest in October, Craft and Vendor Fair in December, Trivia Night in March, Golf Outing in June, and Bingo several Thursdays a month at Cortileno’s.

Showing our Crusader Spirit!
HFS sweatshirts, t-shirts, embroidered knits, and caps are all available at The Locker Room. Moreover, car magnets are a great way to show our school pride—grab one from the school office.
Football Mania!

Our main fundraiser is Football Mania, making up over 8% of our school’s budget. The raffle-like game gives participants 18 chances to win cash prizes based on the scores of your randomly chosen, three-team lineup each week of the season.

If your three-team lineup for the week has the highest or lowest combined score, you win! There are additional prizes for 2nd, 3rd, going all the way down to 12th place.

The game is easy to play, no skills necessary! You do not need to pick the teams or keep track of the scores—this will be done for you. Each ticket costs $20, with chances of winning better than 16 to 1.

If you don’t currently have a child at Holy Family School—please consider purchasing some Football Mania tickets to help us keep our Catholic School an affordable option.
“The teachers at Holy Family school have really helped me to be prepared for high school. Our classes have challenged us individually so that we can all excel. I'm feeling really confident and prepared for high school!” – Josie, 8th grade

“Learning about the Saints and doing a Saint Report in 5th grade at HFS is the best! I love that we get to present them to the whole school.” – Sierra, 5th grade

“Friendships here are amazing. I have made many great friends since I started in preschool and they are still my friends in 7th grade.” – Landon, 7th grade

“Holy Family sports have helped me grow and learn many new and helpful skills. I love HFS sports because they have taught me to be more social and athletic.” – Bethany, 7th grade

“We get to learn about God and Jesus at Holy Family. I have learned a lot of things about God. You can grow your friendship with Him.” – Owen, 7th grade

“My favorite part about Holy Family School is Catholic Schools Week. During CSW, we dress up, play games, have fun and show off our Crusader pride. I am happy to go to HFS because of all of the fun learning experiences we have.” – Sadie, 6th grade

“I love the welcoming students, amazing teachers and the fun activities at Holy Family, like the school Olympics. We have a lot of fun here!” – Reagan, 5th grade

“It’s so nice to go to a school with younger kids who look up to us. I love visiting the younger classrooms and showing them what they are going to experience when they are older at HFS.” – Sadie, 8th grade

“I love coming to Holy Family because we do so many things here to grow closer to God. My favorite thing is the school Masses and being able to serve, thanks to Father Carlson and the other staff at Holy Family.” – Gavin, 6th grade
HFS Tuition Schedule

All families, of any faith, are welcome at our school—and all families will benefit from parish subsidies. Still, it is the particular mission of a Catholic parish to partner with families actively practicing and raising their children in the Catholic faith. As such, actively practicing Catholics registered and supporting a local parish receive an additional subsidy from their parish of registration. This is reflected in the Active Parishioner Tuition rate.

Catholics are welcome to attend Mass at any Catholic Church. However, we ask those claiming the Active Parishioner rate to attend Mass at their own parish more often than not. If you find your family typically attends Mass at a different parish, please register at that parish. The additional subsidy should be provided by the parish your family attends.

Those not regularly attending Sunday Mass are not eligible for the Active Parishioner rate.

Aside from the parish subsidies, our fundraising helps keep tuition affordable. We try to find fundraisers throughout the year that bring us together as a school, engage the wider community, and provide goods and services that we would need to purchase anyway. These efforts provide for approximately 15% of our budget. Football Mania is the one fundraiser we ask all families to participate in.

The registration and materials fee pays for the purchase of textbooks, classroom supplies, and other equipment our students need. The fee is not refundable since these purchases are made early in the year.

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<th>Active Parishioner Tuition</th>
<th>12-Monthly Payments</th>
<th>10-Monthly Payments</th>
<th>Full Year Payment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Child</td>
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<td>$420</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>3+ Children</td>
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<td>$880</td>
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</tbody>
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| Registration Fee          | $300 Per Student    |

| Football Mania Fundraiser| 45 Football Mania Tickets per family @ $20 Each |
Transfer Grant Opportunity
We’ll partner with you on the move, 50/50

Moving schools can be difficult and uncertain. We want to partner with your family. With permission from the Office of Catholic Schools, Holy Family is happy to offer transferring families a special grant.

New students entering HFS grades 1 through 7 from public school, homeschool, or a Catholic School outside Region 3 are eligible for the transfer grant.

The transfer grant offers a 50% reduction of tuition for the first year and a 25% reduction on the second.

Because of the size of the grant, it takes the place of other programs and financial aid. The reduction of tuition is based on the general or active-parishioner rate, as applicable. Other fees and expenses are listed in the handbook.

Come experience the culture, faith, academic excellence, and safe environment of our Catholic School. We offer this grant because we know you’ll like it here!
Enrollment is Open!
Classes begin August 14th, 2024

New Families
Go to our website: www.oglesbyholyfamily.com. Click ‘New Family Application’ under the ‘About Us’ menu. The website will guide you through the process to set up your FACTS management accounts. Call if you have any questions; we’re happy to help you!

Returning Families
Reenrollment is available through your FACTS Family Portal: familyportal.renweb.com. Our district ID is HFS-IL. Please be sure to update your account – don’t create a new one!