



A Plan for Holy Child Academy



Nurturing the Spirit, Challenging the Mind

Dear Holy Child Community,

We are pleased to present a new five-year Strategic Plan for Holy Child Academy (HCA). Thank you to the board of trustees, faculty, administration, and staff for their work on the new plan. Thanks also to the parents and friends of HCA for your contributions and insights, gained principally through last year's very successful NYAIS re-accreditation process, that are an integral part of the Strategic Plan.

A strategic vision that is defined by stretch goals and an aggressive implementation plan is very important for HCA's continued success. The Plan's goals are designed to, (i) **build on our outstanding academic, arts and athletic programs**, (ii) **address the challenges of a world increasingly focused on math, science and technology**, and (iii) **help ensure that HCA continues as Long Island's premier independent Catholic School**. The five goals include:

Identity - Catholic strong! Nurture the spirit, Challenge the mind.

Academic Program - Educate the "whole" student with new emphasis on the math, science and technology curriculum.

Facilities - Maintain and enhance our beautiful campus.

Marketing - Let others know about Long Island's best kept secret, HCA.

Finance and Development - Continued stable, sustainable finances.

We hope that you will take time to read the highlights for each goal and review the implementation plan we've developed. This document will hold us accountable and will challenge us to improve our School while also ensuring that we meet HCA's mission of seeking to know and honor God and each other while we strive to foster excellence in academics, arts and athletics in a climate of wholeness and joy.

Best Regards,

Tom Gambino
Steve Harvey
Co-Chairs of the Board

Art Viscusi
Head of School



Nurturing the Spirit, Challenging the Mind

Philosophy

The philosophy of Holy Child Academy is to develop the talents of each student. Based on the educational tradition of Cornelia Connelly, the school seeks to embody those ideals as well as the qualities of trust, excellence in education, and respect for the individual.

The school's Catholic heritage and its curriculum give Holy Child Academy a distinctive place among Long Island's independent schools. Our faculty-student ratio allows for personalized interaction between teacher and student and the creation of a community atmosphere. The school welcomes students from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, while encouraging an appreciation for the Catholic faith.

Introduction

The curriculum at Holy Child Academy seeks to foster a careful balance of intellectual, spiritual, physical, and emotional development. Guided by a team of skilled, creative educators, students pursue their scholastic careers at Holy Child Academy with enthusiasm and a strong sense of purpose. With academic excellence as a leading priority, other key program elements include the fine and performing arts, spiritual, moral, and ethical guidance, athletics, community service, and extracurricular activities.

Holy Child Academy

Taking the lead for over 60 years.

3

Educational Divisions

Early Childhood
Lower School
Middle School

Average
Class Size

14

Historically high
**ACCEPTANCE
RATES**
into competitive
High Schools

15

Extra
Curricular
**Clubs &
Activities**

Interscholastic
Middle School
**SPORTS
TEAMS**
for Grades

5-8

7^{to}1

**STUDENT
to FACULTY
ratio**

Established
1959

State-of-the-art
**Mac Lab &
TruTouch**
Interactive Boards

Faculty with
Advanced Degrees

95%

Students
of Diverse
FAITHS
Welcomed

Located on

14

Manicured
ACRES

High School
**PLACEMENT
DIRECTOR**

FINANCIAL AID
is available

60

Feeder
Communities

STEAM
INSTRUCTION
at every level



Nurturing the Spirit - Identity

Holy Child Academy shares in the mission of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus which is “to help others to believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world, and to rejoice in the divine presence.” To that end, HCA strives to integrate academic and spiritual enrichment opportunities and to incorporate the teachings of Cornelia Connelly for all who participate in the HCA community.

Implementation Goals

- Foster a faith commitment that engenders a joyous, personal relationship with God in addressing the challenges of the world
- Ensure prayer and worship services are a consistent part of daily school life
- Instill in our students a desire to be lifelong practitioners of the Catholic faith
- Create grade-level service projects
- Create and schedule spiritual renewal days for all constituents

Challenging the Mind - Academic Program

Holy Child's educational approach is rooted in Christian values and expressions and attuned to learning opportunities which enable students to respond to life with joy, zeal, and compassion. Cornelia Connelly "developed an educational system based on trust and reverence for the dignity of every human being." She encouraged Holy Child educators to help students respond to "the wants of the age." To that end, HCA aims to continue to provide students with a premier and superior educational experience that prepares 21st century students for high school and beyond.

Implementation Goals

- Creation of a state-of-the-art Math, Science, and Technology Center
- Increase mastery of STEAM skills and integration of STEAM in the classrooms
- Design a spiraled writing curriculum bridging all disciplines
- Evaluate classroom teaching and assessment techniques to ensure that all disciplines are focusing on the application of critical thinking skills
- Expand programs for middle school students that focus on study skills and high school readiness
- Continually evaluate the curriculum to ensure coordination and integration both vertically and horizontally
- Increase middle school class offerings that include more opportunities for higher achieving students
- Implement a daily schedule that will allow for longer blocks of time for hands-on learning and well-established breaks for students throughout the school day
- Creation of a school band program
- Establish a faculty development program that allows for more opportunities to bring new teaching methods to students
- Increase opportunities for parent education





Enhancing the Learning Environment - Facilities and Grounds

Holy Child Academy is focused on sustaining and improving the physical plant by proactively managing the infrastructure and guiding physical site and security improvements to ensure that the physical environment is motivational. HCA is committed to creating an environmentally friendly campus with a focus on educating the community about the importance of environmental sustainability.

Implementation Goals

- Determine renovations needed to support the planned Math, Science, and Technology Center
- Determine and provide alternative classroom furniture
- Creation of a Living Garden to enhance environmental science programs
- Continue to evaluate and enhance school safety and security
- Create a facility audit with both short-term and long-term maintenance schedules
- Evaluate current space with regards to the school's mission
- Design and plan, where necessary, an environment conducive to a progressive education model

Promoting the HCA Mission & Goals - Marketing

The foundation of our marketing mission is to clearly articulate and communicate Holy Child Academy's core values, academic strengths, and high school readiness to prospective families and current families in our community. It is our goal to boost alumni relations, establish strategic relationships with other local schools and plan community engagements.

Implementation Goals

- Research and deploy a true CRM solution
- Creation of an effective lead strategy with managerial oversight
- Increase digital advertising campaigns online, including social media
- Creation of 2-3 ready-for-screen commercials
- Become actively involved in community events to promote HCA
- Increase social opportunities for community







Ensuring the Future - Finance & Development

Our goal is to ensure that Holy Child Academy's finances are always stable and sustainable. The five-year financial plan will support the requirements of the academic, arts, and athletic programs and the capital requirements of campus facilities, as well as educating the school community in regards to independent school finances and budgeting.

Implementation Goals

- Creation of a five-year financial plan to support the Strategic Plan Goals
- Fund the Math, Science, and Technology Center
- Fund classroom furniture and technology requirements
- Grow the endowment through fund raising and development efforts
- Increase participation of the Annual Fund



Holy Child Academy

Holy Child Academy is part of the Holy Child Network of Schools, encompassing 12 centers of learning in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and California. The Society of the Holy Child Jesus and the Holy Child Network of Schools were founded by Cornelia Connelly, a convert to Catholicism who opened her first school in 1846. While her ideas on education were seen as bold and revolutionary a century and a half ago, they are widely accepted today:

**that children learn best in an atmosphere of love and warmth rather than sternness and repression;
and that the teacher-student relationship should be modeled on that of the parent and child.**