

# Holy Child Catholic School

## Catholic Education Honor Roll Application 2019-2024

1. **Enter the school's website.** <http://holychildcatholicschool.org>

2. **What is the school's mission statement?**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Holy Child Catholic School is to advance the development of the soul, mind and body through implementation of a rigorous classical curriculum; to foster spiritual and intellectual growth; to develop stewardship of God's gifts and inspire a love for the Eucharist and evangelization.

**SCHOOL MOTTO**

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

3. **What is the school's educational philosophy?**

PHILOSOPHY - Curriculum Guide Holy Child Catholic School is a Christ-centered school where the daily life of the teachers and students revolves around and is permeated by the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are guided and inspired by the example of our Blessed Mother. Our principal goal is the development of the whole child in accordance with the mission of the Church: the salvation of souls. The philosophy of the school in general, and the religious education program in particular, is that the school be a continuation of each family's role in "passing on the faith" to its children. The school views the parents as primary in the teaching of values and spirituality, and provides ample opportunities for the parents to be involved in the educational process.

4. **Select the response that describes the "type" of school.** Parochial or parish

5. **In which diocese is the school located?** Santa Fe

6. **What is the governing model?** Pastor and Superintendent

### Additional details

<b>7a. How many Board members do you have?</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7b. How many Board members are Catholic?</b>	<b>7</b>

### Professional Staff

<b>8a. What is the total number of full-time (&gt;30 hours) teaching faculty? (Note: The count should include administrators who currently teach.)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8b. Percentage of full-time faculty who are practicing Catholics?</b>	<b>92.8</b>
<b>8c. What is the total number of part-time faculty (&lt; 30 hours)?</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>8d. Percentage of the part-time faculty who are practicing Catholics?</b>	<b>100</b>
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**Number of faculty and staff who are:**

	<b>Not Available</b>	<b>Full-time (&gt; = 30 hours)</b>	<b>Part-time(&lt;30 hours)</b>
<b>9a. Religious sisters</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>9b. Religious brothers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>9c. Members of the clergy</b>	<b>X</b>		

**10. Which of the following are explicitly stated in the school's mission statement, policies, or publications?**

The school is a place of encountering God and his love and truth.

The school has Christ as its foundation.

The school is a community united with the Church.

The school is faithful to the Magisterium.

The school provides frequent opportunities for prayer, sacred scripture, and the Church's liturgical and sacramental traditions.

The school engages in the integral formation of the human person - spiritual, intellectual, and physical.

The school presents a Christian worldview of humanity emphasizing the dignity of the human person.

The school transmits culture in the light of faith.

The school prepares students to be instruments of Evangelization.

**11. Personnel and other policies are consistent with Catholic teachings and the Church's mission for Catholic education. Yes**

**12. Evaluation of personnel takes into account their commitment to the mission and Catholic identity of the school.**

Administrators	Yes
Faculty	Yes
Staff	Yes

**13. Additional Information**

13a. The Church's mission for Catholic education guides strategic planning and school improvement.	Strongly agree
13b. The school is effective in advancing the Church's mission of evangelization of students.	Strongly agree

13c. The school protects the mission of Catholic education in light of new educational paradigms, consumerist demands, government interference, and threats to religious freedom.	Strongly agree
13d. The school's Catholic identity is prominently featured in marketing materials and publications.	Strongly agree

**14. Describe how the school evaluates its institutional commitment to the Church's teaching on the divine mission of Catholic education.**

Our school is very small and major decisions are made by the principal and the pastor. As principal, I evaluate each aspect of our school according to how I will answer to the Lord about the decision taken. I consider the supernatural aspect of each book they read. I choose instructors according to whether or not they want to be saints and whether I want their spirituality to influence young children. The school consistently reviews its resources to see how they can better bring the light of Christ and the riches of our Catholic Tradition to the student.

**15. The school ensures that operations are faithful to the Code of Canon Law, Catechism of the Catholic Church, and other magisterial teachings of the Church.** Yes

**16. The school community serves, supports, and participates in the activities of the local church.** Strongly agree

**17. Describe how the school is united in service to the broader community.**

Our school has a vibrant Young Vincentians Club which is connected to the Saint Vincent De Paul group at the parish. They are involved in visiting the elderly, writing letters to seminarians and last spring sent school supplies to a school that was destroyed by the hurricane in Puerto Rico. Each year, our Pre-K students make "Jared Boxes" for the terminally ill patients at UNM Children's Hospital. During Lent, we collect money for the poor. Last year, our 8th graders collected money for Albuquerque's damaged Project Defending Life Center.

**18. School documents reflect Catholic teaching that parents are the primary educators of their children.** Yes

**19. How are parents invited to participate in a meaningful partnership with the school?**

Last year, in collaboration with the principal, the school developed a Parent Teacher Committee which meets each month to find ways to foster better communication and utilize the gifts of our parents more. Thanks to feedback from the PTC, this year we opened our school with an orientation to better communicate our curriculum and give more opportunities for parents to chat with all teachers. We also began a new outreach program to be more welcoming to new families with the input of the PTC. Furthermore, the parents are involved in our spirituality committee which coordinates spiritual activities.

**20. The school has policies and procedures to make education accessible to families who share the mission, including large and economically disadvantaged families.** Yes

**21. The school's program assists students to develop respect, kindness, mercy, and forgiveness when interacting with each other, parents, school employees, and volunteers.** Strongly agree.

**22. Does the school have a morality clause or statement that defines expectations for employee behavior to ensure a commitment to Catholic ideals, teachings and principles?** Yes

**23. The school ensures that employees and volunteers understand and respect the teachings of the Catholic Church and moral demands of the Gospel by demonstrating consistency between personal faith and public behavior.** Yes

**24. The school ensures all employees are committed to, and participate in, the religious formation of students.** Strongly agree

**25. How many hours per school year are directed to faculty development which specifically targets the Church's mission?** 35

**26. Specify the qualifications for faculty involved in the formal catechesis of students.**

Teachers are required by the archdiocese to complete their hours for a catechist certification program sponsored by the archdiocese. However, since I as the principal, have a Master's Degree in Theology, I really try to raise the bar and spend time with the teachers before I hire them and make sure their understanding of the faith is beyond that. Each monthly in-service is dedicated to a formal teaching about the faith. Our faculty is currently doing a Catholic book study about education.

**Additional Policies**

27a. The school protects Catholic moral norms in the selection of outside service providers and organizations.	Yes
27b. The school protects Catholic moral norms in the approval of student and faculty organizations, associations, and activities.	Yes

**28. The school ensures opportunities for students to encounter the Living God through: Select all that apply.**

- Recitation of the Rosary
- Devotion to the Sacred Heart
- Devotion to the Immaculate Heart
- Devotion to the Holy Spirit
- First Fridays
- Saint of the Day
- The Feast day of St. Joseph
- The Feast day of Patron Saints
- All Saints/All Souls
- Lenten Activities
- Stations of the Cross
- Advent Prayers
- May Crowning
- Marian Processions
- Adoration/Benediction
- Veneration of Sacred Relics
- Litanies
- Novenas
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Daily Prayers for Others
- Personal Prayer
- Lectio Divina
- The Angelus
- St. Michael/Angel Prayers
- Spiritual Bouquets

Charismatic Prayer  
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
 Sacred Chant  
 Holy Medals and Cards  
 Special Consecrations to Jesus through Mary

Other: Ignatian Meditative Prayer and Journaling. Gazing at Sacred Art. Litany of Loreto.

**29. Frequency of Mass for students:** Daily – optional; Monday thru Thursday (upper school)  
 Monday & Thursday (lower school)

**30. Availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for students:** Semesterly

**31. Based on the response above, estimate the percentage of the student body who participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.** 99

**32. The school ensures that liturgies and the Sacrament of Reconciliation follow Church norms.** Yes

**33. Frequency of Eucharistic Adoration:** Weekly

**34. Based on the response above, estimate the percentage of the student body who participates in Eucharistic Adoration.** 100

**35. The school has the Blessed Sacrament reserved and readily available for student visitation.** Yes

**36. Frequency of prayer:**

Start of class	Always
Start of day	Always
Special events	Always
End of day	Always
Performances	Always
Meetings	Always
Meals	Always
Athletic events	Never (no athletic events)
School assemblies	Always

**37. Describe how the school assists students to ensure experiences in prayer, scripture and sacrament are personal, meaningful, and respectful.**

While our students practice vocal prayer many times throughout the day, we also spend time nurturing the student so that it moves from the head to the heart. Students are exposed to various Lectio Divina techniques so that Scripture is part of their life. As a school, we often spend time discussing the saint of the day after Mass so that the students can reflect on their experiences.

**38. The school community celebrates when students are initiated into a Sacrament (Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation).** Strongly Agree

**39. The school ensures that opportunities for prayer, liturgy, and sacraments are prioritized on the school calendar and daily schedule.** Yes

**40. The school ensures that Sacred Scripture is part of the student experience and life of the school.** Strongly Agree

**41. Frequency of student retreats during the school year: (Not applicable for K-8).**

Annually – required

**42. The school offers formational spiritual retreats for students that include the opportunity for:** Adoration, Extended Silence, Guided Ignatian Retreats

**43. Spiritual direction is available at school from:**

Priest	> 30hr/wk
Religious	Not available
Trained Laity	Not available

**44. Describe how the school supports students in a vocation to the religious life?**

Our founding documents emphasize that our school exists to foster vocations. As a school, we have offered retreats for students with faithful priests and nuns. We also teach the history of religious orders. Furthermore, as a school, we pray for vocations. Our All Saints Day Activities also foster vocations. We are currently researching a Theology of Body curriculum which emphasizes making a gift of your life in service to others in the hopes that students would be more open to sacrificing their lives for others.

**45. Theology coursework and participation in liturgies and devotions is expected of students, including non-Catholic.** Yes

**46. How does the school ensure that students (including non-Catholics) attend required liturgies and participate in the catechetical and spiritual life of the school?**

Our small number of non-Catholics have always participated. It has never been an issue and it is just expected. Currently, a protestant family in our school has signed up for confirmation classes and considering becoming Catholic.

**47. The school provides opportunities for parents to participate in:**

Liturgies, Prayer groups, Adoration/Benediction, School-wide devotions, Adult faith-formation classes, service projects, Rosary and Bible Study.

**48. Faculty are required to attend religious services when student attendance is mandatory.** Yes

**49. The school provides opportunities to faculty for spiritual retreats, prayer, and reflection.** Agree

**50. The school provides opportunities to its governing board for spiritual retreats, prayer, and reflection.** Neither disagree nor agree

**51. What sacred images, icons, artwork, furnishings, or spaces are present in the school? Select all that apply.**

Crucifix in each class

Crucifix in hallways

Images, icons or statues of Christ

Images, icons or statues of Our Lady

Images, icons or statues of Saints

Images of the Sacred Heart

Images of the Immaculate Heart

Picture of the Pope

Scripture quotes

Relics

Holy water fonts

Chapel

Prayer corners

Prayer garden

Marian Grotto

Other,: Saint Houses

**52. The school assists students to understand the relationship between mind, body, and soul and the importance of spiritual, physical, and mental well-being.** Strongly agree

**53. How does the school incorporate the Catechism of the Catholic Church and other materials to ensure students understand and appreciate the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church?**

Currently, the principal is teaching the Nicene Creed one line a week to the entire student body. The teachings are taken from the catechism and the students are learning the prayer in Latin as well. The religion teacher uses the catechism as well.

**54. The school teaches students respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.** Yes

**55. How does the school ensure that athletic programs contribute to student growth in Christian virtue?** No athletic program.

**56. The school ensures that the visual and performing arts foster integral formation and Christian virtue.** Strongly agree

**57. The school ensures that expectations for dress, language, music, and dances aid in the development of modesty and Christian virtue.** Strongly agree

**58. How do student disciplinary policies reflect a commitment to teach virtue?**

As our school is Ignatian, we consistently emphasize the proper formation of the memory, intellect and will. We encourage an Ignatian framework in terms of frequent examination of conscience. Moreover, we highlight the fact that discipline is part of the Christian life.

**59. The school provides for the needs of students with educational, developmental, and physical exceptionalities.** Agree

**60. The school provides for interdisciplinary instruction that exposes underlying relationships among academic disciplines.** Strongly Agree

**61. How does the school teach students to confront materialism and relativism?**

Our rigorous classical curriculum emphasizes the value of the intellectual goods as opposed to superficial values. Our consistent devotion to teach the true, the good and the beautiful is a protection against falling into relativism.

**62. The school provides clear and unambiguous instruction in Catholic moral and social teaching.** Yes

**63. The school teaches responsibility and the right use of freedom.** Strongly agree

**64. The school informs students of the impact of technology on the development of human virtue, how to use it in healthy, productive ways, and the risks associated with overuse/misuse of social media, cyber-bullying, and pornography.** Strongly agree

**65. What are the three most important ideals a Catholic school student should learn before graduation from the school?**

1. I am a beloved child of God. 2. I am devoted to the discipline required to love learning and realize there are no shortcuts to excellence. 3. Knowledge is unified. The subjects I have studied are related and not fragmented as God has order in His Universe. Nothing I have learned is random. All is part of a coherent plan designed by God's Providence.

**66. Sex education, which is a basic right and duty of parents, must always be carried out under their attentive care.** Yes

**67. The school ensures that students are able to explain and defend the Catholic faith.** Strongly agree

**68. How does the school ensure transmission of Catholic culture that allows for a Christian understanding of the world?**

Our students are thoroughly immersed in what is true, good and beautiful from Western Civilization and the Catholic Church in our entire curriculum. Whether it is our recitation of sacred prayers, gazing at beautiful art, memorizing time honored poetry or singing ancient hymns, we have been nurturing the love and desire for beauty in our students. Moreover, our philosophical program teaches the difference between a rational view of the world and one that is nihilistic. By the time they leave they should instinctively know what is the good and the complementarity between faith and reason.

**69. The school ensures that curriculum standards, guides, texts, and pedagogy integrate the truths of the Catholic faith.** Strongly agree

**Additional Information**

70a. The school emphasizes Catholic contributions to theology, philosophy, ethics, literature, science, mathematics, and the visual and performing arts.	Strongly agree
70b. The faculty challenge students to evaluate history in the context of Catholic moral and social teachings.	Strongly agree
70c. The faculty challenge students to evaluate civic (and for high schools economic) concepts and events within the context of Catholic moral and social teachings.	Strongly agree
70d. The school ensures that students gain cultural literacy and fluency in language, idioms, stories, civics, and knowledge that form the American experience.	Strongly agree
70e. The school ensures that students understand the impact of a Catholic worldview on language, idioms, intellectual tradition, and stories of western culture.	Strongly agree

**71. Attach a PDF of major works and authors studied in grade 6-12 literature classes. (See below).**

**72. The science program presents significant contributions of Catholic scientists such as Mendel, Lavoisier, Pasteur, Galileo, Gregor, Volta, and Copernicus.** Yes

**73. The school presents the topics of creation, evolution, the environment, and genetics in the context of Church teachings and in opposition to secular materialism and scientism.** Yes

**74. The school emphasizes and integrates the unity of faith and reason throughout the curriculum.** Strongly agree

## **75. How does the school ensure that students are prepared to evangelize culture and their fellowman?**

By ensuring that students understand the rational basis behind our faith, particularly the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas, are students are equipped to dialogue with their modern counterparts about many issues related to the faith.

**Comments and Additional Explanation. (Please cite individual question with comment):**

### **Reading List from #71 Above:**

#### **Holy Child Catholic School-Mid School Humanities Book List-Year A**

##### **5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade – American Year**

###### **History**

- *Catholic Textbook Project: From Sea to Shining Sea*
- *Father Marquette and the Great Rivers* by August Derleth
- *Mother Seton and the Sisters of Charity* by Alma Power-Waters
- *Kateri Tekakwitha* by Evelyn M. Brown

###### **Literature**

- *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
- *Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
- *I am David* by Anne Holm
- *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare
- *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes

##### **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Christendom Year**

###### **History**

- *Catholic Textbook Project: Light to the Nations I: The History of Christian Civilization*
- *Augustine Came to Kent* by Barbara Willard
- *Saint Elizabeth's Three Crowns* by Blanche Jennings Thompson
- *Saint Benedict: Hero of the Hills* by Mary Fabyan Windeatt
- *Francis and Clare: Saints of Assisi* by Helen Walker Homan

###### **Literature**

- *Beowulf* retold by Ian Sorraillier
- *Divine Comedy: As Told for Young People* by Dante Alighieri – retold by Joseph Tusiani
- *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table* by Roger Lancelyn Green
- *Henry V* by William Shakespeare
- *The Chaucer Storybook* by Eva March Tappan
- *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis