



## Thursday Letter – January 28, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last night Fr. John and Fr. Luis announced the decision to move Holy Family Catholic School into one facility for the 2010-2011 school year. This decision was recommended and supported by the finance councils at both parishes, the Holy Family Catholic School finance committee, the Holy Family School Board, and the CFO of the Diocese of Joliet. The decision was approved by Bishop Sartain as well. The location for the school will be our current east campus in Bensenville. It is extremely important to note, however, that Holy Family Catholic School will continue to be supported by BOTH St. Joseph Parish and St. Charles Borromeo Parish. Holy Family Catholic School is the parish school for both parishes, and will remain so for many years to come.

Holy Family has worked extremely hard this year to grow. As one of our parents put it, "We have clearly positioned our students, and our school, for great success." With your help, Holy Family has participated in numerous community events throughout Addison and Bensenville. Our Parent Club sponsored Bensenville's Music in the Park throughout the summer. Our students, staff, and parents spent an entire morning working the food pantry at St. Joseph's right before Thanksgiving. We also have united community traditions by singing at the Addison Village Tree Lighting ceremony **and** decorating a Christmas tree in Bensenville's Town Center in November.

Our staff and leadership boards are continuing to work on keeping certain former traditions from both St. Joseph and St. Charles Borromeo intact while creating new ones to establish ourselves as Holy Family. We are striving to unite our family- Holy Family.

Both of our parish communities have come together in support of our school. St. Joseph and St. Charles Borromeo Parishes have united their annual auction dinners in support of our school. Many, many parishioners are returning the annual appeal pledge cards that we recently mailed home to all St. Joseph and St. Charles Borromeo parishioners. The Religious Ed. programs are working with our students and our families as our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and 8<sup>th</sup> graders prepare for their sacraments; and having gotten to know many parishioners throughout the past few months, I know they are constantly praying for our students and our school. I can also say that surrounding community parishes are supporting the continued growth of Holy Family Catholic School by letting me come in and speak about our school, letting us leave flyers at their church, and letting us run ads about next year's registration in their bulletins.

While we will be moving into one building next year; that is **all** that it is. Our programs **will** stay the same. We are **not** eliminating any teaching positions or programs, and we are **not** combining classes. We will continue to provide a resource teacher, a social worker, a solid specials curriculum, Spanish to our junior high students, Homework Hero, hot lunch 5 days a week, before and after care, band, piano, choir, art club, chess club, yearbook, and a successful athletics program. In fact, we are going to strengthen our communication by purchasing an on-line grading component so that parents will have daily access to their children's grades. The staff will receive training on this program and do a trial run 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year, so that next year we can go live with the program.

Next year, our uniforms will be the official Holy Family uniform from Corporate Casuals. Students will not be allowed to wear St. Joseph or St. Charles Borromeo uniforms (including gym uniforms), as that decision was made by the CORE committee to aid the transition process. There is a link to the online store from our school website.

While our mission, Catholic identity, programming, curriculum, and quality of education will all remain the same, there will be a logistic change as a result of moving to one building. Next year, we will begin school at 8am and dismiss at 2:30. This time of 6 ½ hours still keeps us well above the state mandated 5 ½ hours, and is only a half hour shorter than our current day. Students can be dropped off as early as 7:40am (morning care is available at 7:00 if needed). The first bell will ring at 7:50, and school will begin at 8am. Bensenville District 2 will provide am and pm bussing to any student living within District 2 that lives 1.8 miles away from Holy Family. In speaking with Addison School District 4, an afternoon bus can be provided at St. Joseph's for any students residing in the boundaries of District 4 in need of pm transportation home. We will still provide shuttling back and forth between the two parishes, if it is needed. We will continue to be as creative and accommodating to you as possible.

I am very proud of our students, our families, and our staff for their dedication to our school. We will continue to create more and more opportunities for our students as we grow. Registration packets will go home in next week's Thursday packet. We are asking all families to register before March 15<sup>th</sup> to help guide us in our planning.

As always, my door is open at any time. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments that you may have. As I close, I want to say thank you for welcoming me not only into your community, but into your hearts. I look forward to many, many more years together.

*Please visit our website at [www.hfcatholic.org](http://www.hfcatholic.org) for updated information, news, upcoming events, school calendar, and fun pictures of our school and kids!*

God Bless,

Mrs. Corie Alimento