

Support for Student Spiritual, Personal and Academic Growth

Student Connectedness

Within the school’s community of faith, students are connected to a system of support services, activities and opportunities to assist them in meeting the challenges of the curricular/co-curricular program in order to achieve the student learning expectations.

Holy Angels School provides a safe and caring environment in which the faculty and staff provide the modeling of respect for self and others and a system of support services, activities and opportunities that promote the Student Learning Expectations (SLEs) for achieving successful curricular and co-curricular growth.

Students become proficient at communicating Catholic values through a wide variety of activities, including pledge and morning prayer over closed circuit TV, preparing for school masses by lectoring, participating in offertory processions, enhancing liturgical celebrations with songs, the signing of songs and liturgical dance. Forty-four percent of students in grades sixth through eighth are altar servers. Each student is an active participant of the Holy Childhood Association collecting money for Lenten boxes or quarter savers. Students collect donations for St. Vincent de Paul at Thanksgiving, Adopt-a-Family at Christmas, food drives for the local food pantry and various disaster relief funds. School Student Families have been developed to encourage the sense of a welcoming community. Each week a different student in each class is highlighted for his or her positive and unique qualities. “Student of the Month” awards recognize the students in each class who have demonstrated respect, reverence and responsibility during the previous month. “Ambassadors of Peace” awards recognize the students who demonstrate good decision making and peaceful conflict resolution. A recycling award is given each month to the class that recycles the most aluminum cans. The principal and retreat facilitators conduct a yearly retreat for each class. Eighth grade students have an additional retreat for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

*Photos,
Videos of masses,
Principal recognizes
birthdays, “Star of
the Week” posters in
classrooms,
Retreat binder,
Student of the month
photo album,
Christian Rodriguez
fund,
Katrina Relief,
Wheelchair
Foundation/J.C.
Penny drives to
provide wheelchairs*

*School paper,
Photo albums,
Videos,
Red Ribbon Week
poster
contest,
Walk-jog-a-thon
poster contest and
t-shirt design
contest,
Respect Life
essay contest,
Knights of
Columbus drug
awareness poster
contest*

In order to promote personal development, students are provided a variety of support services. Student leadership skills are encouraged and nurtured through participation in student council and class officer positions. Eighth grade students take leadership roles as class monitors and leaders to the Student Families. Junior high students assist as office helpers. Students are encouraged to use and improve their communication and presentation skills by contributing to the quarterly published school newspaper, Respect Life essay entries, Science Fair entries, as well as individual grade level reports. Physical development, coordination and teamwork are fostered in our sports program. Presently, team members and coaches are available for basketball, flag football, volleyball and baseball teams. In fall of 2006, the school joined CYO to expand the sports program. Students also have the opportunity to explore different ways to demonstrate artistic self-expression through Catholic School Week displays, various poster contests, the Christmas Music Celebration and the Parish Fall Festival and school's Spring Festivals. Art is displayed throughout the school, entered in art contests, displayed at City Hall, Mercy High School, San Francisco and Tanforan and Serramonte Shopping Malls. Choir and Liturgy in Motion express their talents during school masses and prayer services. Choir, band and Liturgy in Motion perform in the Christmas program, the Parish and Spring festivals and at local shopping malls. Additionally, band holds a yearly recital.

*Quarterly reports
from Multi-
Sensory pull-out
program and
Multi-Sensory
folders
Summer school
and summer
tutoring report,
Counseling
referral forms*

Students who have different learning styles that require assistance are provided support from the Title 1 Multi-Sensory Program teacher. The Student Success Team (SST), comprised of the parents and all faculty involved with the student, closely monitors the progress of the child to ensure academic success. If formalized testing is needed, the school has contracted a child psychologist to evaluate students for learning differences. Additional outside testing, for example speech and language development, by appropriate agencies and specialized tutoring may be advised. All students assessed both informally and formally, participate in the Title 1 Multi-Sensory Program. These students are strongly recommended to attend a multi-sensory summer school program or summer tutoring to maintain the academic level achieved during the school year. A remedial summer school program staffed by Holy Angels School faculty members is also offered to fifth through seventh grade students.

Students and families going through difficult times are provided counseling by the school counselor. Classes may also make use of the school counselor for small and large group sessions on conflict resolution, drug awareness and safety issues. Two faculty members conducted “Out of Harms Way” parenting classes to aid parents in teaching their children ways to stay safe. A second program, “Smart and Safe Kids” from the San Francisco Archdiocese, was presented to the children, empowering them with tools to keep themselves safe. The school counselor lends his support and expertise to this program in some classrooms. The principal, faculty, staff and counselor also assist students through periods of grief due to deaths or natural disasters.

Support services include extended care for those children needing before and after school care. The Extended Care Program (ECP) provides a safe environment for students to do homework and receive academic help from day care aides and teachers. Nutritious snacks, inside and outside games and activities are provided as well as a safe place to be with friends. Students in the ECP still have the opportunity to participate in choir, band, Liturgy in Motion, Friday art class, sports and tutoring.

*Extended day
care brochure*

Parent/Community Involvement

The school administration employs a wide range of strategies to ensure that parental and community involvement is integral to the school's support system for students.

Recognizing parents as the primary educators of their children, Holy Angels encourages open communication among parents, the principal, faculty and staff to address the needs and concerns of the students. The Holy Angels Parents' Advisory Council (HAPAC) actively supports the mission of the school and works tirelessly to enhance the school's family spirit. The HAPAC meets at least once a month bringing forth concerns of other parents from the classes they represent. They also discuss ways to improve the school facilities or programs and brainstorm fundraising ideas.

*HAPAC meeting
minutes
Photos of fund
raising events*

HAPAC coordinates many fundraisers throughout the year, to benefit the improvement of school facilities and educational resources. In the last five years, funds have been earmarked for technology equipment and upgrades throughout the school.

Parents are kept informed of upcoming events through the family envelope, weekly e-newsletter, quarterly school newspaper, school web site and numerous flyers. The annual Back-to-School night and individual classroom parent meetings introduce parents to the faculty and staff members and informs them of expectations for their child's grade level. Mandatory parent-teacher conferences are scheduled after first quarter report cards are completed. Conferences are scheduled throughout the year for those parents whose children are struggling or for parents requesting feedback regarding their child's progress. Grades are posted on SnapGrades providing parents and students the opportunity to review grades regularly. Mid-quarter progress reports are also sent home to keep parents informed of their child's progress. Students keep a daily assignment notebook to help themselves and their parents keep track of homework, long-range projects and reports. Class assignments are also posted on the school's website to assist the parents and students. SnapGrades offers parents the opportunity to be notified of their child's grades weekly, if their child has any missing assignments and absences.

*Monthly family
envelopes,
Parent- student
Handbook,
Newspaper
(quarterly),
Parent
Conference
report forms,
Web-site*

Parents receive invitations to school Masses, monthly Family Mass, other liturgical celebrations, sacramental preparation classes, Catholic Schools Week Open House, Fall Parish Fiesta, Christmas program and Spring Celebration. In addition, parents support school projects such as book fairs and community outreach programs, such as canned food drives and the Adopt-a-Family drive. They coach sports teams, serve as liturgical ministers during the Sunday 4:30pm parish Mass, sponsor receptions following Sunday Family Masses, chaperone and drive for field trips. They support the gift-wrap sale, candy sale, Walk-Jog-a-Thon, Valentine Soiree, assist with daily yard duty and the daily hot lunch program. Bulletin boards outside the classrooms also help to keep parents and visitors informed of school activities. Parents are also invited to participate in workshops that will assist them in a variety of parenting challenges that they may face in this swiftly changing society.

*Safe and Caring
Workshop
Out of Harms Way
Safe Touch*

The Holy Angels Parish Knights of Columbus organization is very helpful to the school. They provide a scholarship for graduates, usher at school-sponsored events, monitor the Knights of Columbus basketball free throw competition, organize a breakfast at the altar servers' installation Mass and cook for the altar servers appreciation lunch.

Tuition assistance is provided through Basic Fund, the San Francisco Archdiocesan Family Grant program, Guardsman and the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael. Holy Angels School, Duggan Serra Mortuary, Young Men's Institute and the Pat Fillo Memorial Fund provide scholarships for graduating eighth graders.

The Jefferson School District, the local public school district, provides additional testing for students having learning difficulties as well as Drug Alcohol Tobacco Education services. It is also possible to have students tested for learning difficulties by an educational psychologist who is an independent contractor for such services. Daly City Fire Department's educational program visits annually to instruct primary grades in fire safety during Fire Prevention Week. Daly City Park and Recreation and Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) send fliers to keep parents and students informed of programs available throughout the year and provide facilities for athletic practices and games.

The principal, faculty and staff encourage parental and community involvement through assistance with field trips, the daily hot lunch program and yard duty. Room parents are utilized throughout the year to help with class parties and special events. Parents are invited to attend parenting classes and retreats to assist them with their role as primary educators. Parents can earn service hour points to assist with the lowering of tuition costs each year. Many parents exceed the minimum number of hours necessary to lower tuition, thus modeling for their children the importance of serving others.

These activities and community involvement support the mission of the Catholic Church and demonstrate the importance of Catholic values in society. The school community supports life-long learning and models responsible citizenship on local, national and global levels. Through the efforts of their parents and other community groups, students recognize the importance of education, respect, communication, and cooperation. Collaboration and the exchange of ideas among a variety of community groups enhance the students' learning environment, encourage students to articulate their ideas creatively and effectively through technology and offer real-world solutions to the high cost of education.