


# THE SENTINEL

JUNE 2023



**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
Holy Family celebrates,  
sends forth 8th grade class

page 8



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



*Dear Holy Family Community,*

**Commencement:**

**A ceremony in which degrees or diplomas are conferred on graduating students.**

**A beginning or start.**

It all depends on how you look at things. Some people see a commencement ceremony as a “conclusion” or an end to something. Others see it as a “new” beginning to the next stage in life. I prefer to view it as a “transition” between chapters in our story, our journey. Our eighth-grade class is going through this “in-between” time, and we wish them all the best when they start high school in August.

As we wrap up the 2022-2023 school year, we continue planning for the start of the 2023-2024 academic year. We have said “goodbye” to the past and “hello” to the future. This time of commencement, or transition, is filled with sentimental reflection and hopeful anticipation. All of this is impacted by our personal and unique view of life. We crave consistency and continuity, yet we desire to see change and growth. Do we hold on tight to what is known, or do we reach out our hand to what “can be?”

Our challenge, and opportunity, is to find a healthy balance of each. Think about your life as it is now. Is there a nice balance between steady and new, or are you tilted over in one direction more than another? Do you avoid settling into a routine by chasing after the next idea or option, or do you dig in and build a wall from the unknown or uncertain?

As a school, and as a school family, may we all find the right balance. Let us turn to Christ when confused. Let us work together to build a solid foundation at school and at home, and to call on the Holy Spirit to push past fear into what He has waiting for us. Our students and our children are counting on us to model for them the way to do this. We all have a story to tell. We all write a new chapter each day. May your story have balance, faith, hope, and love. Enjoy this time of transition, this time of commencement, and have a blessed summer break.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Cullen'.

**TIM CULLEN | PRESIDENT**





## DID YOU KNOW?

- ... **THAT THE WISDOM BUILDING WILL BE READY FOR CLASSES IN AUGUST** and this allows our Music teachers to finally use their new rooms, our Art teachers to have a designated space for instruction, our Library to have an adjoining room for activities and meetings, our Student Support Center to have a designated home, and our Play Area to be completed too? Thanks to so many for the patience, prayers, and persistence needed for all of this. *(pictured above: Fr. Tom blesses the Wisdom Building)*

- ... **THAT WE WILL HAVE TWO ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER** and that they will work with and support a PK-4 team of faculty and staff, and a 5-8 team of faculty and staff? The “School within a School” model will be shared with everyone as we transition back to school at the end of summer. This model increases connection, communication, and collaboration among faculty, staff, parents, and students.



**APRIL MORLEY**



**ANDIE MASANDA**

- ... **THAT THE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF ADVISORS MET** on June 3rd to review, reflect, and update a strategic plan for the school for 2023-2024? The work completed will be shared with all stakeholders. Look for more information in the first magazine of 2023-2024 and additional information that will be posted on our website.
- ... **THAT WE WILL HAVE MANY NEW FAMILIES, FACULTY, AND STAFF JOINING US NEXT YEAR**, and that they are extremely excited to be part of the HFCS community? Faculty and Staff openings are being filled, interviews are ongoing, and over 100 new students are expected to join us in August. Look for an updated listing of teachers at the end of July.





## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL: Erin Vu

*Dear Family & Friends,*

Walking through the hallways, the walls are empty, the chairs are stacked, and the space is quiet. There are little clues of a school year left behind, but for the most part, the school is empty. As the faculty and students enjoy their well-deserved summer break, I have spent some time reflecting on the previous school year.

Our Core Values at Holy Family are Catholic Identity, Faith Formation, Academic Excellence, and Stewardship. Every day, I saw examples of our community living our four values. Some moments were private like witnessing a student comfort another child who was upset after falling, but other moments were public like celebrating the 8th-grade students who earned awards at their commencement. For me, a few of the highlights from the year include:

- **Catholic Identity:** The Enthronement to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After praying and preparing all year, Jesus is now enthroned in our classrooms and office.
- **Faith Formation:** The faculty and staff retreat before school started. The day included small group discussions where faculty and staff were able to share their faith and pray for one another.
- **Academic Excellence:** The STEM night where the middle school students showcased their science

fair projects as well as providing hands-on science opportunities for elementary students. One of the projects even went on to the state competition!

- **Stewardship:** The family Eat N' Treat where the Parent Association hosted hundreds of adults and children for a hot dog dinner and Savio students hosted the children for games and fun.

Beyond the reflections on Core Values, we can also reflect on how the students at Holy Family compare to the national and Diocesan averages on the norm-referenced assessment taken in grades 1-8. The graphs compare the spring scores from the students at Holy Family with the mean (average) in the Diocese of Austin and the Nation for each grade level that takes the test.

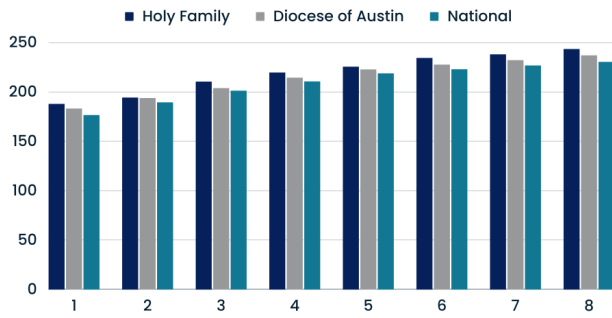
The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) MAP test is the same test that all schools use in the Diocese of Austin. The Diocese of Austin moved to the MAP test for the 2021/2022 school year away from the IOWA test that was given once annually. The MAP test is taken three times per year, and families receive the scores for their individual child.

As you can see from the bar graph illustrations on the opposite page, at Holy Family, every grade level in each content area is performing above the Diocesan and National levels.

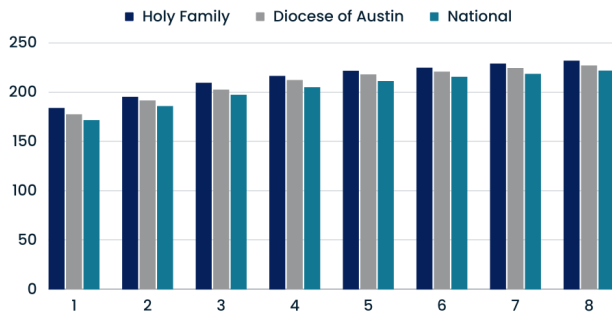


## Grades 1-8: Math & Reading MAP Test Results

### MATH MAP MEAN SCORE SPRING 23



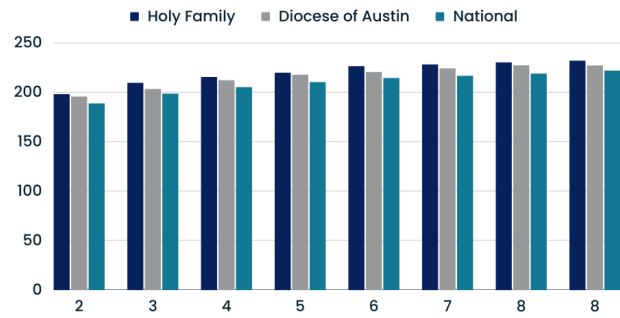
### READING MAP MEAN SCORE SPRING 23



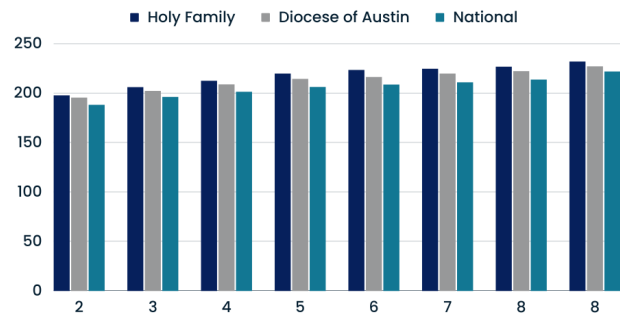
The preparations for the new school year are in full swing. I would like to welcome our two new assistant principals who are part of our redesigned leadership team. Mrs. Morley will be our new assistant principal for grades PK-4. Before serving as our 4th grade teacher at Holy Family, Mrs. Morley was an assistant principal in both Round Rock and Austin Independent School Districts. Ms. Masanda will be our new assistant principal for grades 5-8. Ms. Masanda has served as an administrator, coach, and teacher, and she is looking forward to joining the staff at Holy Family.

## Grades 2-8: Language & Science MAP Test Results

### LANGUAGE MAP MEAN SCORE SPRING 23



### SCIENCE MAP MEAN SCORE SPRING 23



I am excited to work with our new assistant principals as we redesign the administrative team with the goal of supporting our students, faculty, and parents better. Our new assistant principals will begin in early July, and during that time, we will prepare for the return of our faculty and staff in early August as well as our students on August 14th for our first day of school. During this season of summer, I will be praying that until we meet again that God will hold you in the palm of His hand.

# The Virtue of Patience: Waiting for Wisdom

*“Patience is the companion of wisdom.”*

*- St. Augustine of Hippo*

This year, we have waited for the completion of the Wisdom Building with varying degrees of patience.

Over the last 18 months, the area has transformed from a pile of dirt to a building. During the building project, the “specials” teachers traveled to classrooms with carts carrying their supplies, and the students in grades five and six moved throughout the campus in order to attend their core classes.

Now, after a long period of patience, the wait is over. The Wisdom Building is complete and will be the new home to classrooms at the start of the new school year. The Wisdom Building will

be the home for the core classes for the 5th and 6th-grade students. It will also be the home of an art classroom, a technology lab, and a Spanish classroom.

The completion of Wisdom also allows for other spaces to be used for their intended purposes. The Praise Building will now be the home of our two music classrooms. The classroom next to the library will now be a meeting space for students and other activities. The classroom in Charity will now be the new Learning Success Center for student support.

Finally, the play space on the back of the campus will be the home of a new playground structure, picnic tables, and an irrigated field.



# Lord and King

## Enthronement Ceremony held to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Following a nine-month Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Holy Family Catholic School held an Enthronement Ceremony to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on May 11 beginning after Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. After Communion, Fr. Brian McMaster blessed images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Social Justice students carried baskets with blessed images for each classroom or office to display. The Enthronement Ceremony was held in the Holy Family Grace Building, where students were led in prayer by Ms. Tracy Lake, who then hung the newly blessed image in the office of the school.


Enthronement to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a world-wide apostolate begun in France in 1907 by Fr. Mateo Crawley-Boevey, SSCC, to carry on the work of spreading the Sacred Heart devotion that had begun in France under St. Margaret Mary Alcoque. He believed that in order to win souls for Christ and build a civilization of love, it must start with the evangelization of the family. The Sacred Heart of Jesus enthronement ceremony was approved by Pope St. Pius X in 1908, and since then this apostolate has enjoyed much success as people all over the world have enthroned Jesus as their Lord and King.





# Congratulations to all of the Lectio Readers!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR SCHOOL'S HISTORY, we honor one eighth grade student who has reached an extra-significant milestone goal with our annual Lectio Book Award program. This student read ALL the books in the program since she was in 4th grade - that's 20 books per year, equaling 100 books! We are so proud of **Holly Smith!**

To celebrate this achievement Miss Smith received a commemorative plaque at our Lectio Awards ceremony on April 27. A duplicate plaque will be displayed in the Holy Family Library. Thank you, Holly (front row, far right), for being an inspiration to all HF students. 



## Catholic Daughters of America Education Contest Winners

DIVISION ONE WINNERS



DIVISION TWO WINNERS



## Presidential Awards

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT



« Scan or click to view listing of PSIA and Presidential Awards awardees here!





## Promotion ceremony held for 8th grade students

### THE BIG DAY ARRIVED

with great anticipation for the eighth grade class of 2023 from Holy Family Catholic School being promoted to high school on the evening of May 23.

In the morning, students assembled at St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church for a dry run of the evening's events with smiles, nerves, and excitement.

Father McMillan (Father Mac) celebrated the Mass in honor of those being promoted. During his homily, Father Mac encouraged the students to not be weighed down by the little things in life

but to focus on the larger picture of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit through their high school years.

Eighth grade student Nate Dobson was selected as the Good Samaritan Award recipient for the 2022-23 academic year for his tireless dedication to the school and for his service to others.

There were 24 students who were recognized with the Presidential Award for Educational Excellence, and 35 additional students were acknowledged with the Presidential Award for Educational Achievement.







## Good Samaritan Award

Nate Dobson

Each year, the faculty and staff at Holy Family prayerfully discern an 8th-grade student whose actions model Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan. This year our Good Samaritan award recipient is Nate Dobson! Nate has been described as someone who strives to help others in all situations. He has also been described as someone who gives 100% to each action. Nate has been an active and engaged member in the academic classroom as well as co-curricular activities. He practices his faith, and he has been actively engaged in the Mass as an altar server as well as an active member of the Student Council.



*Sister Teresa Benedicta prays with 8th grade students during their retreat on May 22. The retreat was held at Eagles Wings Retreat Center.*



*"Jesus, help me to simplify my life by learning what you want me to be—and becoming that person."  
St. Thérèse of Lisieux*



# Volunteers Make Holy Family Go Round



We are blessed to have parents and grandparents who believe so strongly in the mission of Holy Family Catholic School that they give generously of their time and talent to help support the students and staff of Holy Family. They spend numerous hours volunteering in the classroom and on campus, at athletic events, school events, fundraising events, and on field trips.

Each year we are proud to honor these volunteers with a Mass dedicated to them which includes a special blessing followed by a reception in their honor. We could not do everything we do daily without the many hours our volunteers put in to support us.



Thank you to our outgoing, welcome to our incoming HFCS Parent Association members!



## COME HOLY SPIRIT! ⚡

Sister Mary Avila celebrates Pentecost with the kindergarten class, just before Pentecost Sunday. They handmade their own flames to symbolize the Holy Spirit descending upon us.

## PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY >>

Erin Vu shows Ian Duncan around the school as he serves as Principal for the Day! The opportunity was a given to Ian by his parents who were the highest bidders during the Holy Family Gala.





COMING SOON!



# RaiseRight™

A new way to support Holy Family while doing your everyday household shopping!

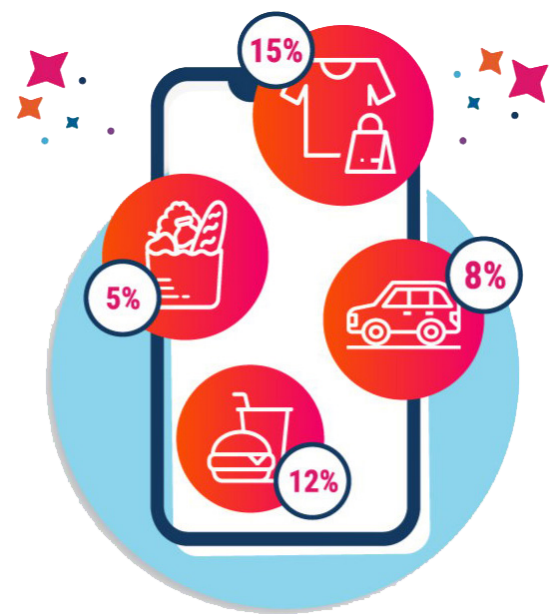
Raise funds by buying gift cards on-line from RaiseRight to pay for your everyday shopping and spending year-round. Groceries, dining out, home improvement, and everything in between. It's the most convenient and effective way to support Holy Family because earning becomes part of your everyday life. Plus, gift cards are great for helping you to set and keep a weekly/monthly budget.

**NO EXTRA MONEY SPENT. NO EXTRA TIME WASTED.**

## How it works:

1. Parents, family, and friends can buy gift cards online at full value from 750+ brands. Pick from eGift cards that download immediately or physical gift cards that can be mailed directly to your home.
2. Earn between 2 and 20% on every gift card you buy, depending on the merchant.
3. Use gift cards at full value for your everyday purchases (grocery stores, gas stations, clothing stores, etc).

Holy Family will receive a check monthly based on the "profit" of your purchases thanks to the brands that give back to support our community!



**BEGINNING  
FALL 2024!**





# RUN WITH THE ANGELS 2023



Largely with the help of the Booster team's All-Star Andi and Juicebox Jen, Holy Family Catholic School built an obstacle course for the entire school to run, jump, and laugh their way around the field to raise critical funds for Holy Family Catholic School. This year, more faculty and staff participated in the course than ever, and nearly 79 percent of the students received donations from 48 states and 15 countries. The countries where donations came from are Canada, Chile, Denmark, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Lebanon, Mexico, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Spain, and the United States. The HFCS goal of **\$70,000** raised was met, so an ice cream social was held at the school.



## EVENT SPONSORS





**TOP FUND RAISER**

**Camila Sanchez**

**\$3,190**

**RAISED \$1,000+**

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Bella Carreon      | Mateo Garcia          |
| Marissa Smith      | Elise Melero          |
| Julianna Triick    | Karaline Schnakenberg |
| Aemilya Villalobos | Valentina Tapia       |
| Luke Abando        |                       |



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JUNE 30

Flynn O'Hara at Savio  
Gym Measuring Event  
1:00-6:00 p.m.

## JULY 3-19

Office/School Closed

## JULY 22

Deadline to register  
for all fall sports

## AUGUST 5-7

Cheer Camp  
Contact: Coach  
Caity O'Connor at  
ccoconnor0303@gmail.com.

## AUGUST 9-10

Volleyball Camp  
Contact: Lauren Bohling  
ljmcmf@yahoo.com

## AUGUST 10

Whole School Kick Off  
A-L: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
M-Z: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

## AUGUST 11

Open House (optional)  
3-5 p.m.  
PK & K Q&A, 5 p.m.

## AUGUST 14

First Day of School

## AUGUST 15

Combined School  
Mass  
The Assumption

## AUGUST 22

Back to School Night  
Pre-K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade

## AUGUST 23

Back to School Night  
2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grades

## AUGUST 24

Back to School Night  
5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades

## SEPTEMBER 4

Labor Day, No School

Scan to see more  
events on the  
school calendar:



Thank You  
Strittmatter  
Family



FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



**THANK YOU**

- Pro Life Supplies
- Rolling Library Cart
- Nativity Set
- 75 Heavy Duty Headphones
- Set of Lectio Books
- Set of Three Tubano Drums
- Spanish Easy Reader

**Holy Family Parent Association - Grants!**

# ADVERTISE HERE WITH US!

**Contact: Susan Laielli**  
**Holy Family Catholic School**  
**Director of Communications**  
**512.244.4811**  
**slaielli@holyfamilycs.org**

1/4 page, 1/2 page and full page ads - limited space available in quartley HFCS magazine





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## WORDS COME TO LIFE

First graders demonstrated their vocabulary skills by dressing up as a word. They paraded around campus for family, friends, and other students to see. Here, Mrs. Lisa Dailey, dressed as the word “tendrill” poses with two “blizzard” students.