

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What type of Financial Aid is available to students attending HCHS?

A. Financial aid is available for students attending Holyoke Catholic through the Diocese of Springfield as well as through Holyoke Catholic grants here at the school. These are in addition to parish sponsorship. Applications are available in the Tuition Office. You may also apply on-line at www.factstuitionaid.com.

Q. What scholarships are available?

A. The scholarships that are available all come under the umbrella of Holyoke Catholic grants. This year, \$93,000 was awarded to 51 students. Additional information on the application process for financial assistance can be obtained from Mrs. Parsons in the Financial Aid office.

Q. Do you give tuition discounts for a second or third child enrolled in your school? Cost is a concern.

A. There is no discount given for a second or third child; however, financial aid is available to all students, provided the family meets the financial qualifications.

Q. Are all faculty members certified teachers?

A. We currently have 24 teaching professionals. Sixty-seven percent have their teaching credentials and 3 are in the process of attaining them. Sixty-three percent hold advance degrees including one with JD. The average teaching experience of a faculty member is 11 years. We also have 11 professional non-teaching staff.

Q. Do you have any priests/religious on your staff? How many lay faculty?

A. Our faculty consists of one religious and twenty-four lay men and women. In addition, our Principal is a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph religious community. Pastors from various parishes are invited to celebrate liturgies, prayer services and reconciliation with throughout the year at the Assumption Church.

Q. Is Holyoke Catholic accredited?

A. Holyoke Catholic received a full ten-year reaccreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and by the state of Massachusetts in 2003.

Q. Is there a great need for discipline in the classrooms?

A. No. Our students receive a well-rounded education. They are here because they want to learn and our teachers are here because they love kids. We teach self-discipline as a virtue; the same for diligence, honesty, courage, and compassion. There is respect for one another and for each and everyone's opinions and contributions in the classroom. The result: 100% graduation rate with an average of 98% pursuing higher education.

Q. What are your students' SAT scores?

A. 2007-08 SAT scores:	HCHS	STATE	NATIONAL
Critical Reading	562	514	502
Writing	555	513	494
Math	525	525	515

We accept a broad range of students, all of whom take the PSAT, SAT and PLAN tests. All of our students are prepared for college.

Q. Do any of your graduates go on to Ivy League schools?

A. Many of our students attend select colleges, Ivy League schools among them. Dartmouth, Yale, Brown, and Harvard have all known our students. Our guidance counselors, however, work to achieve the best match, not the most prestige. The 76 members of the Class of 2008 were accepted at 82 colleges and universities.

Q. How many students go to 4-year, 2-year colleges?

A. One hundred percent of both the Class of 2007 and 2008 are pursuing higher education; The Class of 2007 saw 79% going to 4-year colleges, 21% at 2-year schools. The Class of 2008 had 80% attending 4-year schools and 20% at community colleges.

Q. Are your students ever recognized by the community for their outstanding academic achievements and athletic abilities?

A. Our students are frequently honored for numerous achievements. Individuals are recognized throughout the year by civic organizations and businesses in the community. In addition, we have students who are recognized nationally for their academic achievements.

Q. How do students get to sports practices and games?

A. Now that we have moved to Chicopee and do not have a gym on our campus, we are using fields and athletic facilities in the local and surrounding communities. Buses are provided for away games and meets as well as practices for some teams.

Q. Do you have liturgies on a regular basis? Are all students required to attend?

A. Liturgies are celebrated in the Assumption Church on Holy Days and several other special occasions. Prayer services are also held throughout the year. All students are required to respectfully attend our liturgies with the community. No one is isolated because of differing religious beliefs. Reconciliation services are held during Advent and Lent. In addition, students in each grade level participate in a one-day retreat with their classmates.

Q. What is the school dress code?

A. As of September 2005, students are wearing school uniforms, which must be purchased from Donnelly's School Apparel. Visit www.DonnellysClothing.com. Donnelly's will measure new students the night of the Principal's Welcome in May. A uniform swap program has been started by a group of parents and usually takes place at the end of the school year.

Q. What about transportation?

A. Busing is available to students at a cost of \$750 for the 2008 year. There is one bus that picks up and drops off in Easthampton, Holyoke and West Springfield. Families from other areas form carpools. Chicopee students ride the city school bus free of charge.

Q. Do students have to buy their books?

A. Yes. Textbooks are available online at www.varsitybooks.com beginning around mid-July. The average cost per year is \$500 - \$600, depending on if you buy new or used. Parents are free to purchase books from other sources as well. A used book swap is usually held at the school, one Saturday in June or July.