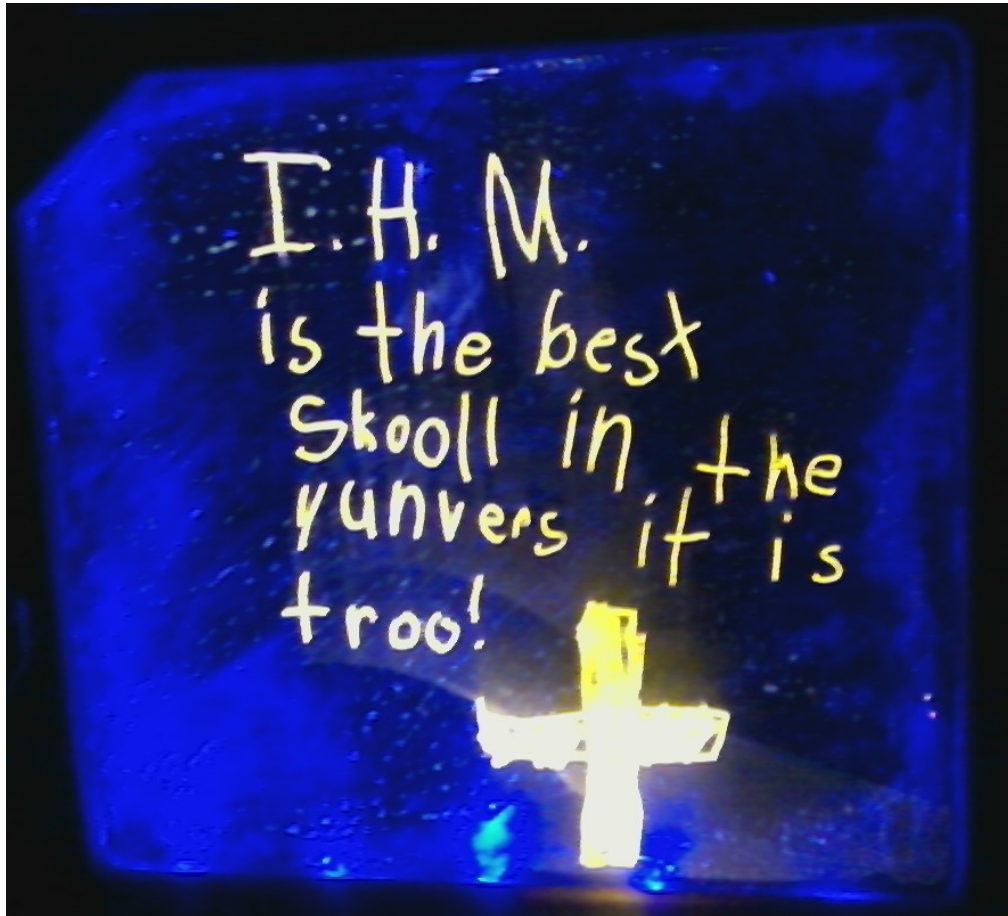


We could not have said it better...

Created by a newly enrolled first grader soon after his school year began:



Immaculate Heart of Mary School

*U. S. Department of Education No Child Left Behind
2004 Blue Ribbon School*

Faith and Values ~ Strong Academics ~ Community Service ~ Further Education ~ Highest Potential

We thank you for considering Immaculate Heart of Mary School for your child. Immaculate Heart of Mary School has proven to be a place for Christian education and academic excellence for over fifty-six years. Our commitment to teaching the whole child is more than a few words on a page. The dedication of our faculty and staff is why our school is well regarded in our community and in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

It is our daily effort to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ that sets us apart from many other good schools in our neighborhood. Our Mission Statement and Philosophy are the challenges we face so that each person within the school will grow as a Child of God. Catholic schools are places where the presence of God is paramount, where life in its true meaning is exemplified, where excellence in learning is the norm.

The fact that our school is well attended attests to the reality that our parents see us as a caring and compassionate place where a child can learn and be challenged to be the best person and best student he or she can be. We value parents as the primary educators of your children and we recognize and appreciate the sacrifices parents make to send their children to Catholic schools.

In 2011-2012 we had over six hundred seventy eight students in grades K through eight from nine school districts. As a 2004 U.S. Department of Education No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School, our school is nationally recognized as a School of Excellence. In school year 2010-2011 we welcomed three classrooms of kindergarten students to our school family.

This booklet, [WE ARE IHM](#), is one way we try to give an overview of the many aspects of our school.

For information regarding our parish preschool, which will open in fall 2012, please go to our parish or school website (or contact them at preschool@ihom.org or 388-4195).

Thank you for your interest in Immaculate Heart of Mary School.





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Visit our school web page www.ihomschool.org for up to date information!

“Be it known to all who enter here that CHRIST is the reason for this school. HE is the unseen, but ever present teacher in its classes. HE is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students.”

“...the staff of IHM is so dedicated to their jobs, and it shows in their approach to teaching...I have attended IHM for the past eight years, and I have been given the opportunity to transfer to different schools, but no school, private, public, or Catholic, can offer what IHM offers...” IHM 8th grader



U. S. Department of Education *2004 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School Award*

On September 16, 2004, Principal Mary Hedger received the call – Immaculate Heart of Mary School was named one of the U.S. Department of Education's 2004 *No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon Schools*. Two hundred eighty nine schools nationwide received the award this year. Seventeen were in Ohio, and two of those schools were in Cincinnati.

The *No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School Award* is a national recognition given by the U. S. Department of Education. This award acknowledges our school's efforts for academic excellence and recognizes the commitment of faculty and staff toward achieving that excellence. IHM became the first school in the Archdiocese to earn the No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School Award. This updated and revised award mandated that schools not only showcase their achievements, as required with the previous Blue Ribbon Award, but prove that their best practices resulted in increased student achievement through test data. Since 2004, several other schools in the Archdiocese have earned this award, and we join in saluting the commitment to excellence shared by these outstanding Catholic schools.

In order to apply for this award, private schools must have standardized test scores in the top 10% in the nation. Once that was verified, Mrs. Hedger applied to CAPE, then wrote the application, which was accepted in January, 2004. In addition to demographic and testing statistics, the application included a narrative that promoted and detailed faculty commitment, indicators of academic success, use of assessment data for improvement, curriculum, and the use of instructional methods to improve learning. CAPE nominated 50 schools and the Chief State School Offices nominated 316 public schools. Those applications were forwarded to The Department of Education, and 289 schools were selected for the NCLB-BRS award.

In communications to parents Principal Mary Hedger stated "As parents, you are to be congratulated for your willingness to cooperate with the school and for your dedication to doing all that you can to make sure we have whatever it takes to give each child the best education possible. "

Press Release from September 17, 2004:

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige today announced that more than 250 of the nation's schools have been named *No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools of 2004*.

" . . . we must change our approach, incentives and expectations. We must foster a climate of academic excellence, enabling all students to reach the highest levels of scholarship. . . No Child Left Behind is starting to generate some amazing results, transforming the educational landscape. Today, I am pleased to announce the schools that have been named No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools, and I congratulate them for their achievements. . . . The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels. . . The schools are selected based on one of three criteria:

- 1) *Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance on state tests, as determined by the state school chief;*
- 2) *Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent on state tests; and*
- 3) *Private schools that achieve in the top 10 percent in the nation"*

From Joe McTighe, Executive Director, Council for American Private Education (CAPE):

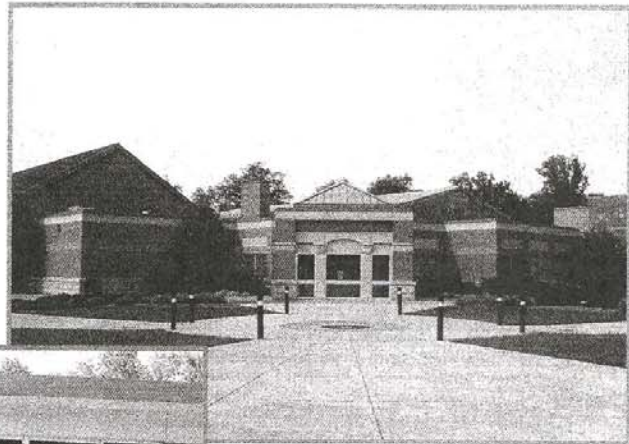
"Congratulations on your school being named a No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon School! The U.S. Department of Education released the list of winning schools on its Web site today. Your school community must be on cloud nine. We at the Council for American Private Education join you in celebrating your school's success... You, your staff, students, and parents should be proud and pleased that your efforts to deliver the highest quality education are not only successful, but are an example to others...Again, congratulations and best wishes to your entire community...."

"Twelve schools were selected for our thirteenth annual Catholic Schools for Tomorrow Award. This special section highlights the achievements which put these schools in the spotlight."

Immaculate Heart of Mary School

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOR TOMORROW AWARD

INNOVATIONS
IN EDUCATION



Award Category: Innovation in curriculum and instruction

Location: Cincinnati, Ohio

Archdiocese: Cincinnati

Principal: Mary M. Hedger

Students: 631

Grades: 1-8

Website: ihomschool.org

The Learning Brain in Action

Music, art, critical thinking, drama, and more are integrated into daily instruction through the Learning Brain in Action program at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Cincinnati, OH. The school's staff has worked hard to develop an instructional program to meet the needs of all children, regardless of their learning styles.

Instruction is still based on essential outcomes, but the level of activity in the classroom goes beyond the norm. Students are dancing to poetry, composing skits to prove scientific research, and setting math equations to music.

All students are permitted to learn a musical instrument, and many join the school band or orchestra. Art classes include instruction in numerous media, and student-created murals and stained-glass windows grace the school building. Physical education includes dance

and movement and, in the junior high, a component called Mind Works which teaches students how to nourish and train the brain.

Many student groups perform at parish and community venues throughout the year, but the biggest presentation is the Prism Concert, an evening for the entire community. Visitors may view student art and listen to musical ensembles playing throughout the school. The bimonthly "IHM Confidential" TV program gives students a chance to showcase components of the Learning Brain in Action program while using the skills they have acquired and learning about media technology.

A variety of academic performance assessments are designed and presented by the students themselves, covering everything from portfolio conferences to robotics competitions.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT IHM SCHOOL

Catholic Schools – Values for a Lifetime
Forming children and teens in the tradition of the Catholic faith

Immaculate Heart of Mary School first opened its doors in 1955 as a four classroom building with a large activity room/cafeteria and outhouses. There was an initial enrollment of 159 students. Eight grades were divided between the four classrooms, grouped together by twos: first and second; third and fourth; fifth and sixth; seventh and eighth. On April 15, 1956, Bishop George J. Rehring dedicated the new school, which was staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Sister Mary Ellen Robinson became the first principal. The Sisters of St. Joseph were an integral part of the original teaching staff through 1980. Presently our faculty consists of twenty-seven classroom teachers, plus specialists in art, music, band, physical education, Spanish, computer education, a librarian and a health aide. We provide additional services for remediation and enrichment and have a school psychologist, math specialist, speech and language specialist, learning disability tutors and resource teachers on staff as well as educational assistants.

We offer a well-rounded education at the elementary school level for grades K through 8. Grades K through 2 are self-contained. Departmentalization begins gradually at grade 3 and increases by grade 5. Maximum class size is 30 students for grades 1-8. Kindergarten classes are full day.

Our school's religious program is a part of Immaculate Heart of Mary's Catholic Formation Program and adheres to the mission, mandates and policies of the parish and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The curriculum follows the Graded Course of Study of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The integrated curriculum is based on the gospel values of Jesus Christ and current educational practices that include activities suited to a variety of learning styles. Academic programs and extracurricular activities are structured to help each student be successful. Our program provides opportunities for the student to grow in personal awareness of God, self and others. In addition to regular classes taught by certified religion teachers, there are opportunities for prayer, para-liturgical services, and regular participation in weekday liturgies.

- Immaculate Heart of Mary is a fully accredited school by the State of Ohio and the National Catholic Education Association
- U. S. Department of Education No Child Left Behind 2004 Blue Ribbon School Award
- Mustard Seed Award Recipient
- National PTO Award
- NPCD Religious Education Award
- 2007 Edward M. Shaughnessy III, Serving All God's Children Inclusion Award
- 2010 Catholic Schools of Tomorrow Award, Category: Innovation in Curriculum and Instruction

To provide a safe learning environment for our students the campus buildings remain locked with access gained through a security door to the main lobby. Security cameras are used and volunteers are required to wear badges that identify them as passing the Archdiocesan requirements for all volunteers.

"We were torn between IHM and another school for our first grader. When I come to pick him up students nearby will open the door for us, several 'upperclassmen' will say goodbye. Students are so nice and mannerly. That, combined with how much he has learned makes me certain IHM was the right choice for us!"
IHM school parent

**A FEW FACTS ABOUT
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI 2009-2010**
(information obtained from the Archdiocese January 2012)



Over 150 years ago Catholic elementary and high schools were established in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. These schools incorporate the gospel message throughout the school day in classroom as well as extracurricular activities. The values and attitudes acquired through this schooling, as well as the knowledge and skills, impact young people for a lifetime.

Catholic school students are high achievers because there are high expectation by both their parents and their teachers. Elementary schools stress a firm grounding in fundamentals with opportunities for accelerated learning. High school students pursue a rigorous course of core studies exceeding state minimum requirements. Many pursue advanced placement courses for college credit.

SIZE Covering 19 counties with total enrollment of 44,922, the Cincinnati archdiocese has the 8th largest system of Catholic schools in the United States.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

92 elementary schools (66 in Greater Cincinnati, 26 in Greater Miami Valley)
22 secondary schools (17 in Greater Cincinnati , 5 in Greater Miami Valley)

VALUES-ADDED EDUCATION

Students in Catholic schools experience an education rich in Christian values. A recent study, "The Heart of the Matter," reveals the positive beliefs and strong values of seniors in Catholic high schools.

HIGH TEST SCORES Terra Nova

The U.S. Department of Education has recognized the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for consistently ranking in the top 10% of schools in the nation for scores from 8th grade reading and math tests.

Catholic schools save taxpayers in the State of Ohio \$2 billion annually

NOT JUST FOR A CHOSEN FEW

Catholic schools welcome students from diverse academic, social, economic and religious backgrounds. Research shows students from disadvantaged backgrounds have a far greater chance to succeed in Catholic schools than anywhere else. 16% are of other faiths.
16% are minorities.
In Cincinnati, 66% of inner city students are of other faiths, and 64% are minorities.

GRADUATION RATE

* 75% of Catholic elementary students enter a Catholic high school.
* 98% of Catholic high school students graduate.

COLLEGE BOUND

* 98% of the Class of 2009 continued their education.
* 64% received scholarships in excess of \$173 million.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

* 80% of our schools have Christian service projects.
* 79% of our students participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities.



SCHOOL PERSONNEL

* 98% are lay teachers, 3% are members of religious communities
*100% are certified
* 23% of elementary teachers and 68% of high school teachers have a Master's degree or higher

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The Immaculate Heart of Mary School Community provides a caring and challenging educational environment for children. We value the individual child, nurture spiritual growth, and independence, and promote community responsibility to those in need. We provide excellence through an integrated curriculum based on the Gospel values of Jesus Christ, and current educational practices that include activities suited to a variety of learning styles.



STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

We believe that every individual is a witness to the teachings of Christ and models mutual respect, Christian behavior and love.

We believe educators must pursue educational excellence to best meet the needs of students so that they may meet the goals of our ever-changing world.

We believe that curriculum-based instruction must provide for the learning styles of all students.

We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children and that academic and spiritual learning is a cooperative effort.

We believe that with high expectations all students can learn according to their unique, God-given talents.

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Immaculate Heart of Mary, a Catholic parish school, strives to offer a Christian education which includes teaching the message of Christ, building community and serving God, Church and neighbor.

With this framework the school directs each student toward the realization of his or her full potential, and the development of his or her relationship to God, neighbor and self.

Thus the school, in cooperation with the home and the total parish, aims to build a Christian community affording opportunities for growth of mind, body and spirit

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY: *In accordance with Christian principles, Immaculate Heart of Mary School recruits and admits students of any sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships, loans, fee waivers, educational programs, athletics, and extracurricular activities. The school is not intended to be an alternative to court or administrative agency ordered, or public school district initiated, desegregation. Immaculate Heart of Mary School will not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel.*

“...religion class is not the only thing that makes our school different. The teachers apply religion in every class in some way and teach us to be good Christians and by setting good examples. In science we learn about the world God gave us, in social studies we learn about the history of Christianity, in math we use the minds God gave us, and in language we write paragraphs where we can express our gratitude to all who help make this experience happen...” IHM 6th grader

...A STAFF COMMITTED TO YOUR CHILD'S CARE...

Our qualified and concerned teachers are the keys to the school's success. They have proven by their performance to be truly dedicated educators. Whether it is in assessment, lesson planning, evaluation, parent communication or professional growth, the Immaculate Heart of Mary teaching staff is surpassed by none.

Every teacher has E-mail that is checked every day. They are willing to go the "extra mile" for their students due to their high level of professionalism and deep commitment to the mission of our school.



Teacher quality is maintained by providing research based professional development opportunities for faculty members and holding faculty accountable to high standards.

Traveling from classroom to classroom is a real treat in that you will find large and small group instruction, learning centers, a comfortable blending of traditional as well as contemporary methodology, outlets for talents of every kind and happy and enthusiastic children who express to the viewer just exactly what our school is about!

The teaching staff is devoted to the education and well-being of each student. The average teaching experience on our staff is fifteen years. They are all degreed, 13 with Masters Degrees or higher. 100% of our teachers hold a valid Ohio State Certification. Our teachers attend at least two professional service days a year.

100% of our teachers have received professional development training in differentiation and best practices. The practices of brain based learning, critical thinking skills, and authentic assessments have been part of our accreditation and school professional development plans for the past eleven years. Our principal, Mary Hedger, and several of our teachers have presented what IHM School has been doing at national conferences. Professionals from around the country are impressed with what we offer our students.

Co-Principal Mary Hedger: *...For the past eleven years our staff has worked to develop an instructional program that addresses the needs of all children, regardless of their learning styles. The Learning Brain in Action began with research based professional development for the tools to engage students so they learned by doing. From there, we moved on to implementation in the classrooms and monitoring of data to ensure that students were successful. The final goal, now a reality, was showcasing mastery of the curriculum through authentic assessments presented by our students. This was our vision of a school that truly engaged students, made learning meaningful, and enabled everyone to reach his/her potential...Our Learning Brain in Action Project means that classroom instruction is still based on essential outcomes, but the level of activity in the school rarely follows the typical scenario. Students are dancing to poetry, composing skits to prove scientific research, and writing music to math equations. We stress metacognition for all students, and what better way to learn than to enable students to understand how they learn and then teach what they know to others?*

For school year 2011/12 we incorporated an additional program (The Physiology of Learning) to the ones we currently use with some of our students in our Resource Room. This research based initiative combines physical activities with learning styles in order to increase student achievement.

A teacher training team from our school presented three differentiation workshops to faculties from ten different schools in Ohio and Kentucky. Our faculty has presented at the National Blue Ribbon Conference, Ohio Catholic Education Conference, Ohio Council of Teachers of Math, the National Council for History Education, and the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Conference.

100% of our staff received training in the Olweus Bully Prevention Program, which was used as part of our school goals for accreditation. The program was introduced to parents in August 2005 and teachers are currently using the methods to respond to observed behavior.

Each teacher has his/her own laptop. Classrooms are equipped with SmartBoards (interactive whiteboards) and Avio Projectors. The Starlab Portable Planetarium is available for student use and all classroom teachers are trained in its use for integrating the curriculum.

We also have educational assistants who can be found not only helping with paper work, but also in the area of supplemental instruction, review, make up work and other creative ventures.

Our cafeteria staff comprises present and past Immaculate Heart of Mary School parents whose goal is not only a healthy meal for the children, but one served in a warm and loving atmosphere. Our school has adopted a Wellness Policy with goals for nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities that promote wellness.

We perceive ourselves to be a harmonious and very faith-centered staff. Our staff works very hard. We enjoy our work, and enjoy each other. This high level of morale is the best possible environment for children.

"I am not willing to compromise a student's education for my convenience." IHM Junior High Teacher



"I like IHM because it is a place full of smiles. We learn about God, and speak our minds. There are great teachers and a beautiful church. Our classrooms are welcoming. We laugh and smile, play and learn. The Bosco sticks, spaghetti, and cheese coneys are delicious, and the smell of chocolate cake flows through the hallways. Catholic Schools Week is a blast, but above all, IHM contains prayer and happiness. It's practically our second home." IHM 6th grader

... WHO COUNTS MOST AT IHM? ...



Our students, of course!

We care about the whole child.

Each teacher likes to see students doing their best. Rewards are a big part of our school, too. Rewards can come in the way of smiles, comments from staff and other students about the good things you are doing! Your name could be mentioned on the P.A. at the beginning or end of the day.

Having a birthday? You are welcome to bring a treat to share in your classroom, and we announce birthdays daily over the P.A.

Communication is a big part of Immaculate Heart of Mary School. Every week each family receives their 'Wednesday Envelope' which is filled with memos and information for you and your family.

WEBSITE Check it out at www.ihomschool.org The weekly Newsletter can be found on our website. Every teacher updates his/her web page calendar frequently. The Principals' Page is updated monthly as are the monthly School Calendars and the cafeteria Menu section. Parents can check grades (for students in grades four through eight) and lunch accounts with special passwords. Our PTO and Parish also have information posted on their sites. Our school website is a wonderful partnership tool!

CNotify is our emergency communication system which utilizes e-mail, home/work/cell phones to contact parents and staff with important information throughout the year. Our school office manages this system for parents.

Have a question or problem? Ask anyone on the staff! We are all very willing to help and welcome you to our school. We think Immaculate Heart of Mary School is a very special place, and we would like you to be a part of our school family!



"...Just about everyone I know that either works or learns here has an open heart. The people here make me feel safe and wanted. All the teachers are kind and loving..." IHM 4th grader



...SCHOOL DAY...

School officially begins at 8:00 a.m. and students must be seated at their desks by 8:05. At 2:55 p.m. students are dismissed. Supervision by our staff is constant during these times for the safety of the children. Special parking areas are designated for parents who drop off and pick up their children (7:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.). Students are provided free busing by Forest Hills, West Clermont, Milford, New Richmond and Batavia school districts. Eighteen buses safely drop off and pick up our students every school day.

The entire school facility is air conditioned and a campus-wide access control system insures security for students and staff.

Lunch/Recess

A nutritious hot lunch (including milk) is served every day from our modern up-to-date kitchen. Milk, as well as nutritious snacks, is available for those who pack their lunch. Free or reduced priced lunches, as provided by the state, are available for those who qualify. Our school Wellness Policy is evident and entrees are offered each day, plus many a la carte items. Families have a computerized cafeteria account for their children where they can check the status of their account and make electronic deposits using a family password. Parents may also choose to send checks to the cafeteria for their account. Peanut free areas are available in our dining hall. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are available on credit for children who forget their lunch, so no child will go hungry. Weather permitting, students play outdoors for lunch recess.

In December 2011 the Hamilton County Public Health Department honored our Food Service Director and her staff with the Hamilton County Public Health Clean Kitchen Award for demonstrating over the past two years the use of sound public health knowledge and sanitation principles in the operation of her facility.

After School Care Program

For a reasonable charge your child in grades K through 6 will be provided a safe and well supervised environment between school dismissal and 6:00 p.m. each school day. After-School Care operates only when school is in session for an entire school day (8:00-3:00). This is a staff run program provided as a service to our school families.

This extended day program is staffed almost entirely by our school employees and is structured to include play, snack and homework and sharing time.



The hourly rate is very affordable and parents may choose to utilize the program full time (4-5 days per week), part time (3 days or less per week), or on an 'as needed' basis. The program is planned and geared around the needs of those children who attend. Registration information will be available in August on our school website (www.ihomschool.org).

...THE HEART OF THE MATTER...

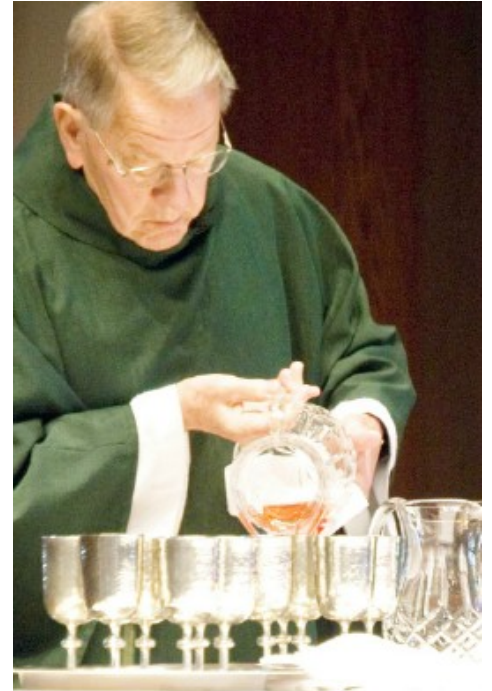
The curriculum follows the Graded Course of Study of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Our program provides opportunities for the student to grow in personal awareness of God, self and others. In addition to regular classes taught by certified religion teachers, there are opportunities for prayer, para-liturgical services, and regular participation in weekday liturgies.

Religion

Because Immaculate Heart of Mary School is a Catholic school, our religious education program is an essential part of each student's experience. Daily religion classes, weekly Mass involving student participation, daily prayer, sacramental preparation programs for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation, and a Family Life program integrate religion throughout the day. Our teachers, along with our pastor, principal and the parish Catholic Formation staff, lend their involvement throughout our religion program and worship experiences.

We also participate in Christian service activities that assist the needy and the church's missionary work. Stewardship plays an important role at our school. We support our twin parish and school in Batahola, Nicaragua, with many projects throughout the year as well as efforts for the local and global community.

Our Adopt-a-Religious program allows our students to see others in a different light and therefore brings a better understanding of the religious life as a future possibility.



Language Arts

The writing process provides the foundation for the language program. Basic grammar skills are developed through orderly, consistent instruction. These skills are applied in practical experience. Students are encouraged to write daily. As part of the writing process, they apply critical-thinking skills to carefully chosen writing activities.

Reading

Our goal is to develop independent and enthusiastic readers. From pre-reading through junior high school, our program is anchored in the decoding and phonics skills that students need to become independent readers. Literature is also a component of our reading program. The Writing Process is a vital part of the instruction. Each class has its own classroom library to compliment our school library's collection of books to read.

Math

The math program focuses on implementing the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standards, as reflected in the Archdiocesan Course of Study. We create an environment that develops the mathematical process through the mastery of basic skills. We stress knowledge of the mathematical concept rather than just the answer. Through the use of manipulatives, we provide concrete experiences to reinforce and broaden the students' math skills. As these skills develop there are opportunities for application and enrichment within the program.



Seventh graders program robots to perform tasks and then explain the concepts and content to other classes (see photo). Seventh graders participate in Market Madness, an economic program where students make, market and sell products at a local university.

Our math teachers continue to update themselves regarding the instructional needs of students as influenced by the demands of an ever-increasing technological society.



Social Studies

Students develop and grow in their awareness and understanding of the global community and the interdependence of various communities and cultures. A knowledge and appreciation of the history and cultures of the world are emphasized, as well as a strong base in geography. Current events are an important aspect of our curriculum and students are encouraged to realize the significance of the present and its effect on the future.

Fifth and seventh grade provide an intensive study of American History and eighth grade covers civics, government and Ohio History.

Top words parents submitted to describe IHM School: "Excellence, Christ-centered, family, discipline, morals, values, grace, community, positive, continuous improvement, progressive, dedicated, compassionate, safe, fun, beautiful Campus"

Science/Health/Human Growth and Development

The Starlab portable planetarium is available for student use. All classroom teachers are trained in its use for integrating the curriculum. Its lesson plans include: Solar System/Galaxy, Starfield, Constellation, Galactic, Earth, Plate Tectonics, Ocean Currents, Weather, Greek Mythology, Ancient Egyptian Culture, Native American Mythology, Chinese Legends, African Mythology, Biological Cell, and Bird Migration.



Our science program in grades 1-5 is a combination of textbook investigation and integrated "hands-on" classroom experiences. Catholic education includes the development of a health lifestyle, moral values, stressing mental, emotional, and physical growth. The philosophy of health education emphasizes the achievement of a satisfying self-concept and the ability to deal with long-term life changes. The goals of self-concept and relationships and human growth and development are enhanced by the "Magic Circle" program and a "Sex Respect" unit taught in grade 8. We strive to help students follow the path toward a meaningful and rewarding life by establishing a firm and solid foundation of health knowledge, attitudes, and practices. In order to meet present needs and those of the next century and help those who will live in those times, our programs are designed, not only for the development of an appropriate set of Christian values and for the creation of new approaches to learning, but also for the improvement of individual capacities for continuing growth, reverence for life, respect for the human body, and concern for personal well-being and that of others.

A fully equipped and maintained science lab is available for seventh and eighth graders. Sixth grade science encompasses earth science and health. Seventh graders study life science and health. Laboratory activities include microscope work, short-term projects, and dissection. Eighth graders study physical science and health.

Music/Band/Chorus/Drama/Broadcasting

The goal of music education is to provide all students with knowledge, skills and love of music. The curriculum includes direct experience with all the elements of music (melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, form). Each year students are permitted to learn a musical instrument including Orff, recorders, keyboard, brass, wind, percussion, cello, viola, violin or hand bells. They may then continue with that instrument, eventually joining the school band or orchestra, or switch to general music.

The student is an active participant in making music through speech, movement, singing, playing instruments, and improvisation. Opportunities for solo or small group musical performances are encouraged and available throughout the year at weekly liturgies and Christmas and spring music performances. Music offers personal satisfaction and contributes to the mental, emotional, spiritual, physical and social growth of each child.



We currently have an instrumental music/band/strings program for grades 5-8.

Our drama program encourages students to participate in musical productions throughout the school year. An in-house studio gives older students experience in internal broadcasting.



Art

The art department has made a commitment to art education and the development of art skills. Art issues a challenge to the intellect.

The first purpose of art education is to give our young people a sense of civilization's many cultures - from Europe, Africa, the Far East and our own hemisphere. Knowing about these different cultures our students can better understand and, therefore, build on the achievements of the past. They will also be better able to understand themselves.

The second purpose of art education is to foster creativity. Our students have the opportunity to discuss and emulate the work of master artists. They also learn a variety of techniques and experiment in many different media including clay, paints, printing, textiles, and origami. Students created a school mural which is located in our school lobby as well as six stained glass windows overlooking our outdoor classroom, the Children's Garden. A kiln is located in our Art Room.

The art program requires hard, yet enjoyable, work and discipline to find art's basic skills and, when used to create a personal vision, the students find a very joyful and satisfying experience along with a better concept of themselves. Throughout the year student art work is displayed within the school.

Physical Education

The physical education program develops the level of fitness necessary to maintain a healthy body through fun activities. The program develops healthy attitudes toward participation in group games and sports. Students learn rules and strategies of popular team and individual sports and games. Personal skills are developed for participation in a leisure time sports program.

The program encompasses dance and movement and, in the junior high, includes a component called Mind Works, a program for brain based learning that teaches students how to nourish and train the brain for optimal functioning.

Spanish

Spanish is taught through word and song. An all school multicultural Mass is celebrated during the month of October. Teacher posts local cultural activities for families on her website and organizes celebrations for Cinco de Mayo, the Day of the Dead and Fiesta de Reyes.



Computer and School Technology

Students attend a weekly class in the central fully equipped computer lab where they receive instruction in computer literacy. The lab contains thirty-five computers, allowing each child to complete his/her work independently.

First graders start learning the home fingering position and their typing skills progress in speed and accuracy through the next eight years. Word processing skills, beginning programming skills in basic and logo languages, and use of computers to enhance learning in curriculum areas such as math, reading, and science are all part of the computer curriculum. Seventh and eighth graders also begin learning to use spreadsheets and a data base.

Technology is an important tool as it addresses the different learning styles of students. The investment in technology will help our students meet future challenges in learning in the world of the future.



Computers and wireless access to the Internet can be found in every classroom. All computers are networked to a school server. A laptop cart is available to all teachers in the computer room.

- Grades 7 and 8 have carts with 32 Netbooks with a wireless printer
- 7th grade has a lab with 32 IPods
- Grades 5 and 6 share a cart of 32 Netbooks with a wireless printer and a cart of laptops
- Grades 4 and 5 share a cart of 32 Netbooks with a wireless printer
- Grades 2 and 3 share several carts of laptops for student use
- 1st grade has 32 iPads
- Each kindergarten class has wireless, Elmos and 3 laptops for student use
- The Resource Room has 5 Netbooks and laptops available
- The Enrichment Room has 8 Netbooks

All teachers have a laptop, printer, camera and manage their own webpages. Flip cameras are available for student use. Faculty makes use of Clickers, Interwrite boards and Accelerated Reader. Our hot lunch payment plan is handled by the Café Prepay program.



Parents with students in grades four through eight have computer access to grades and homework with Progress Book.

"I don't know why every school isn't Catholic." Newly enrolled 3rd grader

Library



Our comprehensive library contains over 20,000 selections, current student magazines, a teacher reference area, including books, professional magazines, as well as filmstrips, videos, and a variety of audio visual resources. In addition, our library is completely computerized, access to the Internet and other on-line programs that benefit the teachers and students alike in their pursuit of knowledge. We are constantly updating our inventory and strive to maintain a quality collection worthy of our excellent students and faculty.

All students come to the library to receive instruction in library skills, enjoy a literature experience and check out books.

Auxiliary Services Program

The Auxiliary Services Program of Hamilton County consists of specialists in math and language communication who work with individuals and small groups of students. This program is designed to help students who have learning difficulties or who need short term specific instruction in a reading skill or a content area. The math program also offers enrichment to students who are working at a more advanced level. Various motivational materials, including games, manipulatives and computer software are used to assist in learning. Individual learning styles and needs are taken into consideration when forming an individualized educational plan. The Auxiliary Services teachers are available to work with classroom teachers and parents to help children become more productive.

An Enrichment Program for students in grades one through eight began in 2006.



“... Our school is such a phenomenal place to be. There is an enthusiasm for learning that is contagious and our faculty and staff are knowledgeable and excited about their roles in your children's lives. When I walk the halls and visit in classrooms, I see smiles and eager faces.” IHM Principal Mary Hedger

Psychological Services

In our attempts to meet the needs of all students, Immaculate Heart of Mary School retains the services of a school psychologist two days per week. The role of the school psychologist is to serve children, teachers, and parents in dealing with learning, behavioral, social and emotional concerns and problems. This is accomplished through the following services.

- Intervention Assistance Team (IAT) – in existence for the past fifteen years at our school. It is the goal of the IAT to develop interventions and accommodations to meet the needs of children who struggle academically and behaviorally. The team consists of the child's teachers, psychologist, speech pathologist, reading specialist, math specialist, and parents.
- Individual consultation with teachers and parents.
- Individual counseling on a limited basis.
- Psycho-educational evaluations of learning and behavioral problems.
- Group counseling for issues such as: divorce, loss, social issues and self-esteem. The purpose is for children to have the opportunity to talk about their feelings and concerns in a safe environment with other children who are experiencing similar feelings and concerns.

...ENRICHMENT AND EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMS...



Enrichment and extra curricular programs abound at our school. Students are involved with Student Council, Art Exhibition, Big/Little Brothers and Sisters, Everybody Counts, Book Fairs, History Day, Winter and Spring Musical programs, Math Counts Competition, Junior Great Books, Yearbook, Magic Circle, Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, Author Visits, Artists in Residence, PTO Presents, D.A.R.E., Summer Reading, *Making a Great Brain Better* program for junior high, etc.

Our school is equipped with a News Room. The Broadcast Studio permits students to perform live over closed circuit TV or send taped presentations. There are three cameras used by the student broadcast team to record activities for the News Room.

Scouting offers boys and girls a chance to grow and explore under the guidance of generous and skilled adults. We have parish teams participating in football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, track and field. Teams are enthusiastically cheered on by cheerleaders.

Enrichment is an integral part of all classes, although it is not always labeled as such. We have two resource teachers on staff to work with the faculty and students. There is an enrichment program is available for identified students.

Students enjoy class field trips to the Cincinnati Zoo, Museum of Natural History, Cincinnati Historical Tours, our Cathedral, and the Nature Center, just to mention a few. Service based field trips, such as St. Anne's Convent and the Rake 'n Run, are also frequent. Fun activities, including Dress-Up Days and Spirit Days, are scheduled throughout the year. Thanks to the Parent Teacher Organization, children are also treated several times a year to exciting performances by science and theatrical groups, as well as entertainment by other artists.



...STANDARDIZED TESTS...

In cooperation with the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Ohio Department of Education, Immaculate Heart of Mary School participates in the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

In 2010 the Archdiocese began using the Iowa Test of Basic Skills in all of its elementary schools. We chose to follow the publisher’s suggested testing schedule and were able to complete them during the first week of October. Unlike the Terra Nova, the ITBS is a multiple choice test and does not contain open response items. The individual knowledge and ability tested include core content, sources of information, and verbal/no-verbal thinking skills (grades 2,4,6,8 only).

Scores are listed in percentiles. A 50 percent score doesn’t mean that only half the questions were answered correctly; it means that a student did as well as half the students in their grade nationwide. Because we take this standardized test in October, the students are being evaluated on knowledge gained during their previous years of education.

We continue the excellence that was recognized in 2004 when IHM became the first school in the Archdiocese to earn the No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School Award.

For the past eleven years we have made a concentrated effort to engage in practices which lead to increased student achievement and our parents’ support of our efforts is crucial to the students’ success. We are amazed at the achievement of all of our students, including those who learn differently. The data supports that we are using best practices for the benefit of all of our students. This faculty works very hard to become knowledgeable in current research and we make our choices and decisions based on what increases student achievement. IHM is truly blessed to have such amazing professionals working with its students. All students are tested, regardless of their ability level. The average results for the school are listed in the chart below.

Building Summary for ITBS - October 2011 testing date

October test results reflect mastery obtained throughout previous years.
Percentile rank of average student scores

content area	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Reading total	82	82	81	82	78	82	78
Language total	69	85	87	78	77	82	77
Math total	73	81	83	74	69	81	83
Core total	74	84	85	79	76	84	80
Social Studies	N/A	85	86	85	76	83	82
Science	N/A	88	82	81	79	80	81
Sources of information total	N/A	86	87	79	81	84	79
Composite	N/A	87	86	80	78	83	81

**CogAT (cognitive ability summary) Taken by students in even grades.
October 2011 testing date.**

	2nd	N/A	4th	N/A	6th	N/A	8th
Verbal	110		112.7		113.5		110
Quantitative	110		110.1		107.4		111
Nonverbal	110.2		110.7		108.7		110.1
Composite	111.1		112.5		110.9		111.5



...A WORD OR TWO ABOUT OUR SPECIAL PARENTS...

We firmly believe that parents are the primary educators of their children, and their involvement in the school program is of tremendous importance to the success of our children. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and to assist the school staff in our classrooms, library, cafeteria, computer lab, playground and to participate in a variety of other areas.

Parents are elected to serve on our Education Commission which meets monthly to consult with the pastor and principals in the direction and operation of the school. Parents and teachers are partners in education, and only by working together can the best possible education be achieved for the children.

Our award-winning PTO's goal is to assist the principals and faculty and staff of Immaculate Heart of Mary School and allow for parents to become involved in varied aspects of the school. The PTO also sponsors various activities so their goals can be accomplished. In recent years the PTO has added many religious and academic videos to our Media Center, provided opera and theatrical programs for our students and has assisted every teacher in purchasing instructional materials for our children.

In April 2006 the National Catholic Educational Association Department of Elementary Schools honored our Immaculate Heart of Mary School PTO in Atlanta, Georgia at their NCEA Annual Convention. Our PTO received this recognition for their mosaic project, which can be viewed in the lobby of our school.

The PTO meets monthly as published in the school calendar.



“...Our school would not be nearly as far as it is now if it were not for the Caring and generous people of our parish...” IHM 8th grader

...WHAT DO I WEAR?



2011-2012 Dress Code

(check the school website over the summer for 12/13 updates)

Uniform items should be purchased through Schoolbelles www.schoolbelles.com School Code 1924 (Best location: 5046 Old Taylor Mill Road, The Shoppes of Taylor Mill, Taylor Mill, KY, 859/581-3111) and some items are available at Lands End www.landsend.com/school 1-800-469-2222 Preferred School Code 9001-3221-8.

+ These uniform items must be purchased through Schoolbelles or Lands End, and be marked with their logo. Only the printed embroidered 'Immaculate Heart of Mary' block lettered logo by Schoolbelles on polos and sweatshirts are acceptable uniform wear.

+ *Skirt/Skort* Girls in grades K-6 may wear the regulation navy plaid skirt or skort. Girls in grades 7-8 must wear the regulation navy plaid skort. Jumpers and suspender type straps are not permitted. Uniform skirt length should measure 3" or less above the floor when the student is kneeling. Girls in grades K-8 may also wear slacks and shorts (see below).

+ *Polo* Polo shirt in white or navy, either short sleeve or long sleeve. The top button only may be unbuttoned, and shirttails must be tucked into the slacks/skort/skort (unless wearing the banded bottom knit polo shirt). The only acceptable logo for the polo shirt is the block lettered Immaculate Heart of Mary logo available at our uniform company.

Slacks/Pants/Shorts Boys are required to wear navy slacks/shorts. Girls may wear slacks/shorts in place of the uniform skirt/skort. No outside pockets with flaps or buttons may be worn on the front or sides of slacks/pants/shorts and no flap on the back pocket. Corduroy trousers are not acceptable. High cotton content brands fade and **are not acceptable**. Slacks/pants/shorts must be worn on the waist at all times. Navy shorts may be worn by all students in August, September, October, April, May and June. Walking shorts should measure 3" above the knee or longer when kneeling. Students in grades 7 and 8 may wear TAN khaki slacks/pants/shorts which, if not purchased at our uniform company, **MUST** be the same color and type. When in doubt about type of slacks/pants/shorts view uniform company merchandise.

T-Shirts/Turtlenecks If a short-sleeve t-shirt is worn beneath the polo, it must be all white with no lettering or graphics. A white turtleneck may be worn, provided a long sleeve polo, sweater, or sweatshirt is worn over the turtleneck at all times.

+ *Sweater/Sweatshirt* Navy blue sweater with logo (v-neck, cardigan or vest) or sweatshirt may be worn over the uniform polo or a turtleneck.

+ *Gym Wear(available at Schoolbelles and Kuhl's only)* Optional gym wear is available for grades K-8. Students may wear gym wear to school on their PE class day. There are two gym outfits for the spring and the winter seasons (follow the dates above for slacks/shorts). Pants have an elastic pant leg or a hemmed pant leg and they are worn with a short or a long sleeved t-shirt. Students may not "mix and match" their gym uniform with the regular school uniform. They must wear the gym shirt and the gym pants together that entire school day.

Belts Students in grades three through eight are required to wear brown, black or navy belts. Belts should be of the appropriate size and may not dangle in front of the pants.

Socks Solid white or navy blue socks must be worn. Socks must extend above the shoe and must cover the ankle protrusion joint. Leg warmers are not permitted (girls may wear opaque tights - white, navy or flesh tone).

Shoes Gym shoes must be worn on PE day. High top shoes are permitted but socks must be visible over the top of the shoe. 'Mary Jane,' 'dress' and 'oxford' type shoes are also permitted. 'Heelys' and light up shoes are not permitted.

"I want to grow his heart and soul as well as his mind" Parent of 7th grader's response to 'Why do you send your children to Immaculate Heart of Mary School?'

...PRE-ADMISSION SCREENING AND REQUIREMENTS...

New Students for Kindergarten through Grade Eight

Students who wish to enter Immaculate Heart of Mary School have an assessment screening before they are admitted. We initiated this program so particular strengths (and perhaps weaknesses) might be noted by our faculty. It gives us an opportunity to be ready for each student's needs as he/she enters our school. If the child does not appear to be ready for enrollment, the parent will be notified. Special arrangements are made for students who register during the summer months.

Incoming Students in Grades 2-8

Students are required to provide copies of report cards from their previous school (current and previous two years), standardized testing, psychological reports, ISP and IEP's, at the time of registration. Parents must provide a Principal/Director Recommendation Form from the previous school (this form is included in the Registration Packet). Our teachers will complete and mail the parent a copy of the Weekly Review Form for new students at the end of each of the first five weeks of school. If the Review indicates a consistent difficulty in either academic or personal development, a conference will be held to establish a support plan to address the student's needs, or to determine if the student can be better served at a school other than Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Requirements for All Incoming Students

At the time of registration all new students are required to provide a copy of their birth certificate and a copy of the baptismal certificate if they were baptized outside Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Parents who have custody of a child due to divorce, separation, adoption, foster parenting or other court-ordered decree, are required to provide a copy of that custody order.

Parents must complete a Family/Student Registration Form, Student Data Sheet, and sign a Release of Records Form. Families who are new to this area and wish to join our parish may do so by stopping by the parish office. The deposit is required at the time of registration. A complete list of required items can be found within the Registration Packet.

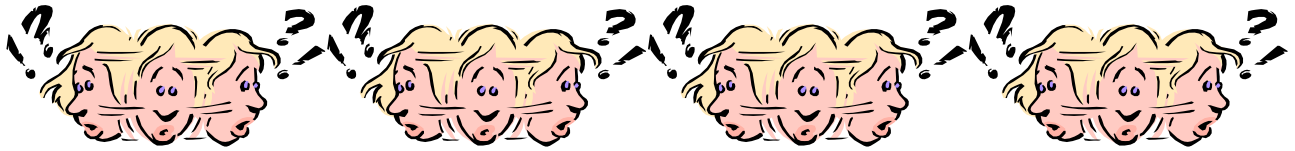
...CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS...

We invite families who are considering Immaculate Heart of Mary School for their children to visit the classrooms, tour the school, and meet the administration at the winter Open House.

If registering your child after spring of the previous school year, call 388-3020 to schedule a tour of the school. We will be happy to accommodate you if there are available openings in the requested grade level.

For security reasons, all school doors are locked. Visitors must ring a security bell at the main lobby door to obtain entry. To insure the quality instruction time of our children presently in the classrooms, we do not permit classroom observation.

“...We believe that strong communication between home and school is a key component in creating a successful educational experience. Informed parents and students have a clearer focus of school expectations. If parents, teachers, and administrators work together as partners, students develop into positive, successful, and happy individuals.” IHM Principal Nancy Goebel



...EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO ASK, BUT DIDN'T...

Do you have a web site? Yes, www.ihomschool.org This site contains buttons for all grade levels, *Principals' Page*, Weekly Newsletter, academic links, Registration, Blue Ribbon School, cafeteria menu, monthly calendars, yearly calendar, etc. Check our website during the summer for weekly updates.

What about school office hours during the summer? The school office is open, with reduced hours, during early June and mid-August. If you need to register your child and the office is closed call 388-3020 or e-mail DebbiH@ihomschool.org

What about tuition? Tuition amounts are contained within the Registration Packet. Our school is one of the ministries of Immaculate Heart Parish. Eligible Parishioners are given a parish grant while other individuals pay the full cost of tuition. Tuition Assistance is available to currently registered and eligible Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioners who financially qualify. A PSAS Form must be completed and mailed for tuition assistance. Call 388-4183 for more information on tuition assistance.

Do students in kindergarten begin with full day classes? No. The first week of school the student will meet his/her teacher on a reduced schedule. The schedule matching students to half days is mailed to parents in the summer after all registrations are finalized.

Is there an Parents Night before school begins? Yes, more information will be available in May and will be posted on our website. This evening is "Parents Only" and is held in late August. The administration, teachers and other staff members will be on hand to greet you.

How will I know what time my child's bus will arrive for the first day of school? Information is shared directly between the various transportation offices and school parents. The transportation offices will either publish the information on their website or mail the information to your home. Often we are able to place links to their information on our school website – check it out in August! Forest Hills Transportation Office (231-3335), West Clermont (752-4020), Milford (575-1563), New Richmond (553-0266), Batavia (732-1218).

School Calendar, Supply List and how will I know the name of my child's teacher? Calendar and Supply List are on the website in June, homeroom lists are posted about one week before school begins.

Is hot lunch provided on the first day of school? Yes. Milk will also be available to accompany your brown bag lunch. A menu for August/September will be sent home the first day of school and will be posted on the school website before school begins.

Is there an extended (after school) care program? Yes. See the page in this booklet titled "School Day" for more information. There is also a section on our website with additional information, including cost. It will be updated in late summer.

Where do your students live? 44% Forest Hills, 31% West Clermont, 11% Milford, 10% New Richmond, 3% Batavia, 1% in CNE, City of Cincinnati, Kentucky and Brown County school districts.

Where do your students go to high school? Last year: 48% to Archbishop McNicholas, 16% St. Xavier (boys), 16% St. Ursula (girls), 12% Public School, 2% Summit Country Day, 2% Moeller, 2% to Purcell Marian, 1% Ursuline (girls), 1% Out of State (moved). The Class of 2011 was awarded \$358,000 in scholarships to high schools based on academics, not financial aid.

Church

- On September 17, 1944, Father Francis J. Heider offered the first Mass at the newly created Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, with a capacity to seat one hundred parishioners. With Father Joseph Hageman as its pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church was granted parish status in December 1950.
- On April 27, 1980, the Archbishop of Cincinnati joined the parish community at IHM in dedicating a new church facility. The new church seated 1,200.
- On July 26, 2003, the Archbishop of Cincinnati joined the parish community at IHM to dedicate the renovated church facility.

(Section A)

History: In 1955 the school opened its doors: a four-classroom building with a large activity room/cafeteria, and outhouses. There was initial enrollment of 159 students. Eight grades were divided between the four classrooms, grouped together by twos (example: first and second, etc.). The school was staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph. In 1959 an addition to the school included four more classrooms and a multi-purpose room.

Current: Our school enrollment now totals 677. This section contains our cafeteria and kitchen, library, and nine classrooms for grades 1, 2, and 3. In 2003 a fully equipped kitchen opened with an updated serving area for the cafeteria. The cafeteria and classrooms were renovated with new windows, flooring, lighting, storage, air conditioning, and upgraded classroom technology. A full security system was installed.

(Section B)

History: In 1967, eleven more classrooms were added to the school in this separate building. In the mid-90's this building was connected by a hallway to the main school wing and to the new gymnasium.

Current: This section contains the art room and nine classrooms for grades 4, 5 and 6. In 2003 the classrooms were renovated with new windows, flooring, lighting, storage, air conditioning, and upgraded classroom technology. A full security system was installed.

(Section C)

History: In the mid-90's new school and formation offices, a gymnasium and four classrooms were added to the school.

Current: This section contains the gym, three classrooms for the 7th and 8th grades, and a music room. In 2003 the school offices were transferred to the Formation Office.

(Section D)

In 2003 new school offices, a spacious lobby, and a large dining hall were dedicated. New restrooms were added adjacent to the dining hall.

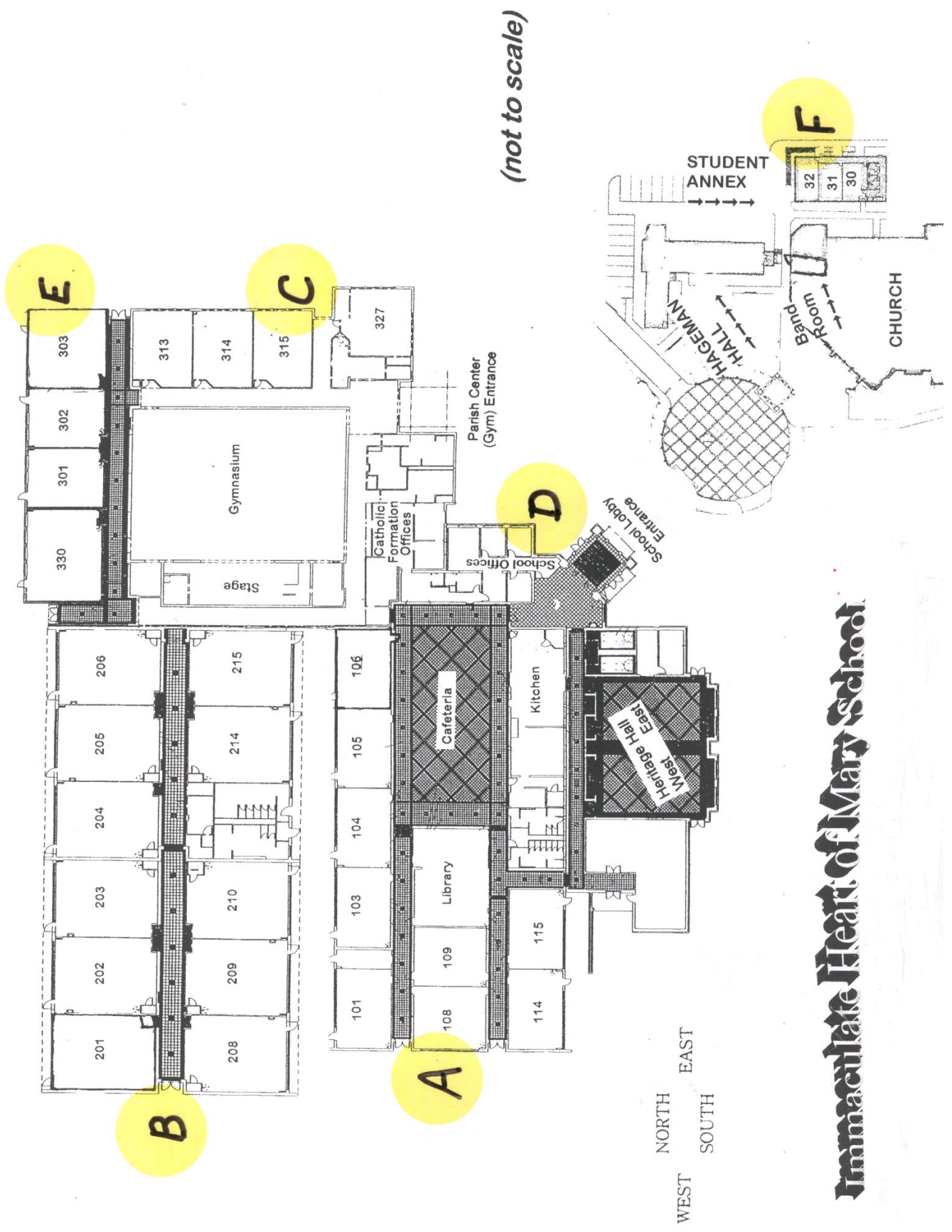
(Section E)

In 2003 three classrooms were added (including a new science lab), plus a large resource room. This section contains three classrooms for the 7th and 8th grades, plus a resource room used by all grade levels.

(Section F)

In 2010 three rooms were renovated for our new kindergarten classrooms.

In fall of 2012 Hageman Hall will be renovated to accommodate our new preschool program.



Immaculate Heart of Mary School