



It's About the Children!

Parent Survey Summary

Respondents

Our parent survey was answered by 107 parents with 106 completing the survey. The survey link was emailed to the parents and they received two reminders in the weekly newsletter. The survey was available online for three weeks.

There was a good spread of respondents over the grade levels, with the exception of the preschool. No one indicated that their eldest child is in preschool. Although the survey was offered to the preschool parents, they are not accustomed to receiving emails through the school list.

We were pleased that 52% of the respondents have a student in the Middle School. We believe that we have a good sampling from the school community.

Responses to Questions

- I. Religion Program
97 to 99% of the respondents expressed satisfaction with the Religion program. They feel that the school is communicating Catholic beliefs and values to their children.
- II. Educational Services
94% of the respondents expressed satisfaction with the school's educational programs. There was some ambiguity (5% disagreeing and 6% with no opinion) about the role of technology enhancing their child's learning experience.
- III. Teachers
96% of the respondents agree that our teachers are interested and care for their child. There was some variation (88% to 98%) in satisfaction with homework and learning experiences.
- IV. Administration
This was the area in there was a significant number of 'no opinion' responses, as high as 14% for one question. 90% of the respondents expressed satisfaction with the school's administration with another 6%

having no opinion. 16% expressed concern with the number of non-instructional days and 12% did not feel that discipline concerns are addressed effectively. The areas of school morale and relevant information showed positive ratings among the respondents.

V. Communication

93% of the respondents expressed satisfaction with the school's communication with 98% stating that they are treated with courtesy and respect.

VI. Auxiliary Programs

Because not all respondents have students in these programs, there was a high number of 'no opinion' responses. A significant number of respondents (11 to 19%) do not feel that there are enough extracurricular opportunities for their children.

VII. Security and Safety

Respondents expressed satisfaction (97%) with the school's safety procedures although only 78% feel that bullying is addressed effectively.

VIII. Transportation and Facilities

93% of the respondents are satisfied with the school's facilities, their upkeep and maintenance. Only 71% feel that the school is conveniently located and 84% feel that their current transportation arrangements are manageable.

IX. Tuition and Costs

Responses about tuition and costs show that most parents consider the tuition reasonable (95%) but only 82% are satisfied with participation in school fundraisers. 18% of the respondents stated that tuition increases have caused them to consider leaving the school.

X. About you...

91% of the respondents are Catholic with 9% non-Catholic.

Respondents were asked to rank their reasons for sending their children to Holy Cross Academy. Instilling the Catholic faith, instilling moral values and character and getting a superior quality education with fairly evenly split among the top three responses. Cost and location were consistently in the last 2 places.

Open-ended Responses

Question #48 – What do we do well?

Responses centered on the topics of religious instruction, attention to individual children, strong communication, a sense of community, a warm environment, and strong academics. As one parent said, "The best part is how happy the kids are."

Question #49 – What can we do better?

Responses varied from concerns with the location and transportation, more individualized instruction for students who struggle and those who excel, more hands-on activities in Science, instilling more respect in our students, and offering a greater variety of sports.

Question #50 – If you could change one thing immediately, you would change...

Many of these responses reflected the answers to the above question. Respondents would change the location of the school, class size, requiring parents to help with recess and lunch supervision, the amount of homework, and accelerated/remedial class offering.

Summary

We received 107 responses, over 40% of our families. We were pleased with the rate of response from the school families. We regret that we did not receive responses from the preschool families and will continue to seek ways to integrate them into our school community.

Putting aside the 'no opinion' responses which we can not interpret, the areas of religion program, educational services, teachers, administration, communication, security and safety, transportation and facilities, and tuition and costs all received a 95 % satisfaction rating. The one notable exception is the auxiliary programs which include sports, clubs, music, choir, etc.

Future Goals

The most important outcome of this self study is the goals that we will set for the next five years. Based upon this survey, we will look closely at the following areas:

1. ways to improve communication between the school and our preschool families.
2. extracurricular offerings
3. hands-on activities in Science
4. concerns about bullying/respect
5. half-days and early release days

6. advanced classes
7. remedial help for students
8. fundraising
9. supporting families in finding transportation options

Conclusion

We were very pleased with the overwhelmingly positive response from our school families. We appreciate the time and thought that went into completing the survey and writing the responses. As the survey was anonymous, we do not know who the families are who are not satisfied but will invite them, through our family newsletter, to enter into dialogue with us.

We would like to conclude with a quote from one of the surveys which expresses our vision for Holy Cross Academy. In responding to what we do well, one of our parents wrote: *“Provide the children with a loving, spiritual atmosphere with teachers who really care about their students and an administration who is dedicated to working with parents, students and teachers to insure a great education.”*

At Holy Cross Academy, we consider ourselves honored to partner with our parents in leading our children to Christ.