

Annual Report

2023



Holy Apostles

CATHOLIC PARISH AND SCHOOL

Letter from our Principal ...

I am honored to have the opportunity to lead a community of such talented, compassionate, and faith-filled students and faculty. As a Catholic school, we strive to cultivate not only academic excellence but also a powerful sense of faith and service to others. I have been consistently delighted to see examples of this in our school every day.

One of our goals is to form leaders who are committed to making a positive impact on the world. I believe this begins with small acts of kindness and compassion in our daily lives. Each day I see so many of our students reach out to a friend in need, care for their buddies, or volunteer to help a teacher in a younger classroom. We know these actions, as well as our many service projects and Discipleship Wednesday focus, can all make a difference in the lives of those around us.

I want to congratulate the class of 2023! We thank you for your leadership and dedication to our school and commend each of you for your hard work and dedication to your studies. I pray you hold onto your faith, compassion, and determination to make the world a better place. We are grateful that you have called Holy Apostles your spiritual home and wish you much happiness and success as you head to high school and beyond. Always remember "...whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

As Catholics, our faith teaches us we must have hope, for with God, all things are possible. As we close the 2022-23 school year, I would like to reflect on all we have accomplished as a community of faith. We hope this year-end review summarizes the many exciting events, memories, and accomplishments of this school year.

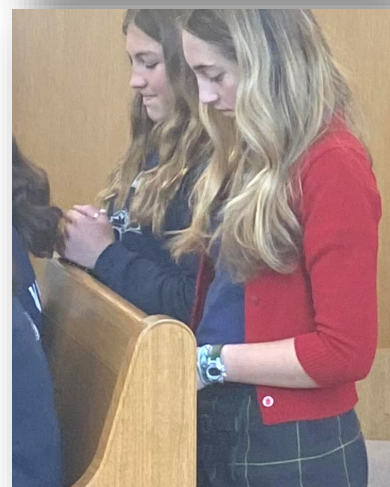
It is a privilege to be your principal, and I look forward to the great things we will achieve together in the coming years. I especially want to thank you for making your Catholic faith a priority within your homes and lives. This commitment is a wonderful example of the values that we strive to promote in our classrooms.

As we look ahead to the summer months, I hope that you and your families have the opportunity to relax, recharge and reflect on the year. Please know that I am praying for all of you as we prepare for 2023-24. Thank you once again for choosing Holy Apostles for your family.

Sincerely,



Lori Suarez
Holy Apostles School Principal



The 2022-23 theme chosen by the Class of 2023: "whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." -1 Corinthians 10:31

We are a 3K—8th grade Catholic School proudly serving New Berlin and 14 other surrounding communities.

As a Catholic School, our education is rooted in our faith and traditions. We strive to build faith, character, teamwork, leadership, and a focus on serving others through setting a prayerful example, Bible study, service projects, retreats, and a strong religion curriculum.



415 students—248 families

11 grade levels —23 classes

Average class size—18 students

- ⇒ 29 certified, accredited teachers and 10 dedicated support teaching assistants
- ⇒ 17+ extracurricular offerings, including a variety of clubs, athletics, and the arts.
- ⇒ 21 athletic teams in 5th—8th grades, including 80 volleyball athletes, 92 basketball players, and 60 track team members.
- ⇒ 37 field trips, including several faith based retreats
- ⇒ Over 2,800 service hours completed by our middle school students within our community and across many outside organizations

2022-2023 School Highlights ...

September

- 8th Grade Commissioning Mass
- Discipleship Wednesday - WI Ukrainians
- International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima Visit
- Folk Fest
- Charger Chase Fundraiser for school technology

November

- Congratulations to our 8th Grade Boys and Girls Teams for finishing 2nd place in the Seton Volleyball Tournament!
- Mass of Remembrance
- Lego League Regional Competition
- Discipleship Wednesday - MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary
- Parent Teacher Conferences

January

- Food Drive for the New Berlin Food Pantry
- First Forensics Meet
- Catholic Schools Week Celebrations including buddy time, All School Mass, Dance Party, Pancake Lunch, Talent Show, Pep Rally, Family Dinner Night & More
- HA Dinner & Auction

March

- Dr. Seuss Week
- New Berlin Public Library Art Fair
- Discipleship Wednesday - MacCanon Brown Kitchen
- Hygiene Drive for the Capuchin Community
- Padre Sierra Basketball Tournament - Congratulations to our 8th grade girls for a 4th place finish
- Crescendo Choir sang *God Bless America* at the Admirals game
- Advanced Band Concert
- First Grade leads their first All School Mass
- Forensics Team WINS 1st Place at the State Tournament in the Large School Division
- 8th grade leads Living Stations of the Cross

May

- First Communion and May Crowning
- 5th grade D.A.R.E. graduation
- 4K Spring Sing
- Discipleship Wednesday - Wisconsin Ukrainians
- High Interest Day
- HA hosted Track Meet
- Spring Concert - Sing with Character
- 8th grade Spanish field trip
- Student Council Sports Day for 3rd - 5th grades
- Earned the PLTW Distinguished School honor for the 5th year in a row
- Spring Band Concert

August

- August 25 - First day of School
- Thank you to our Home & School Association for planning the Back to School Picnic, Adult Social, 1st Day of School Coffee

October

- Living Rosary
- 8th grade overnight retreat
- Discipleship Wednesday - Linden Grove Nursing Home
- Annual 7th grade Pull Toy Competition
- All School Living Rosary
- Halloween Food Drive for the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans
- Student Council Middle School Volleyball Tournament with the D.A.R.E. Officers

December

- School Open House
- First Lego League Sectional Competition
- Discipleship Wednesday - House of Peace Toy Drive
- PreK Christmas Concert
- 5K - 8th Music and band Christmas Concert
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Mass
- Home and School Polar Express Movie Night

February

- Discipleship Wednesday - Elizabeth Ministry Baby Shower
- 5K celebrates 101 day of school
- Jerseys for Jackson celebrating K9 Jackson and the generosity of two HA students
- Fat Tuesday Parade

April

- Student Council hosts the Spring Carnival for 3K - 2nd grade
- Easter Celebrations
- 8th Grade Legacy library renovation project kicks off
- Discipleship Wednesday - Juvenile Diabetes
- Share our Faith Mass and Open House
- Home & School 80's All School Dance
- 8th grade Washington D.C. trip
- 6th and 7th grade retreat

June

- June 1 - 8th Grade Graduation
- Level Up Day for 5K - 5th grade
- June 7 - Last day of school
- June 23-25 - Parish Family Festival



We humbled and forever grateful by your support of our parish, school, and the outside charities that we support.



In 2022-23 together we raised:

Home and School Fundraisers include Charger Chase and

Scrip Cards: almost \$54,000—These donations purchased new technology for our science lab and classrooms.

They also support the ongoing school social events, programs, and classroom supplies that our Home and School Association generously funds.

School Education Fund (SEF): projecting over \$36,000—SEF is a tax deductible donation to help cover the gap between annual tuition and the actual cost of education.

8th Grade Legacy: over \$9,000—The Class of 2023 coordinated a number of fundraisers to renovate the school library and provide Wi-Fi extenders for the school.

The Parish and School Dinner Auction: almost \$200,000— to support our community, including over \$100,000 specifically designated to special school learning support initiatives.

Discipleship Wednesday Charities: over \$2,800 and countless cans of food and hygiene products supporting 11 unique charities picked by our teachers and students throughout the school year.

With the help of these donations, as well as the support of our very generous parish, we continue to make substantial investments in our student support, staffing, curriculum, and technology.

This year we made the following investments in our school:

- Three Learning Center teachers were hired, offering more individualized learning support.
- We added an additional 4K classroom, now offering three 4K classrooms in our PreK program.
- We welcomed a guidance counselor to our support staff.
- The middle school science lab received new high-end dedicated laptops for our science lab as we continue our award-winning and unmatched STEM curriculum opportunities. With these laptops, our students utilize the latest version of Revit (architectural CAD software), Lego Spike software, Vex code V5 Robotic Software and Autodesk Tinkercad (3D design).
- We are continuing to invest in our reading programming for our younger grades. Our 4K-5th grade classrooms will be utilizing the CKLA reading and phonics program, piloted last year.

Our Mission calls us to advance the educational ministry of the Catholic Church by creating a compassionate atmosphere which develops faith, service, and academic excellence.

Holy Apostles Academics at a Glance

For over 125 years, Holy Apostles School faculty has dedicated itself to providing the best education for your children both spiritually and academically. We offer a challenging curriculum, a variety of programs, and daily opportunities for faith-based reflection geared toward motivating students to become their best selves.

- Our teachers utilize **state-of-the-art technology and resources to prepare our students for future careers and challenges**. We have interactive displays in every classroom, laptops for every 4th-8th grade student, professional grade laptops for our middle school science lab to support our STEM program, and tablets available for 4K-3rd grade students for academic learning. Our school is equipped with a staffed Learning Resource Center designed to support reading and math needs as well as a fully stocked school library.
- **We offer a comprehensive 4K—8th grade Spanish program** designed to help students become proficient in their language use and cultural knowledge as they learn to effectively listen, speak, read, and write in Spanish.
- We are a **4K—8th grade STEM school**, integrating Project Lead the Way into our science curriculum to provide opportunities for problem solving, teamwork, and innovative thinking at all levels. We are honored to be recognized as a 2022-23 Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished School! We are thrilled to be one of the few schools across the country to be awarded as both a Launch (4K-5th) and Gateway (6th-8th) distinguished school for our implementation of our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math curriculum. This is our 5th year in a row earning the distinction in middle school and our 2nd year in a row earning the 4K-5th grade honor.

**Holy Apostles School
is PROUD to be a**

**Project Lead the Way
Distinguished School...**



FIVE YEARS running!

We take the greatest pride in our graduates. Our reputation is strong for producing respectful and disciplined students who are well prepared for high school. We are consistently amazed by our graduate's accomplishments.

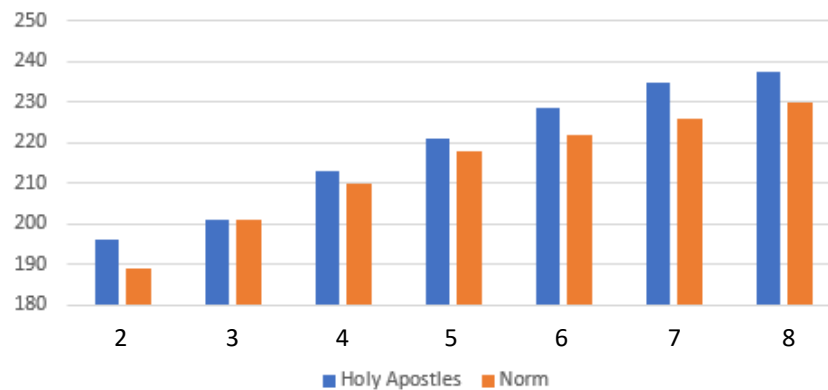
- Most students attend Catholic Memorial and New Berlin Public Schools. Several students choose Marquette High, DSHA, Pius XI, and other area public schools.
- Graduates often qualify for advanced level or AP level courses in science, Spanish, and math.
- They take on leadership roles on many high school athletic teams, clubs, and organizations.
- Our Alumni frequently join us for service projects, volunteer opportunities, or even join our parish school staff!

We are proud of our results.

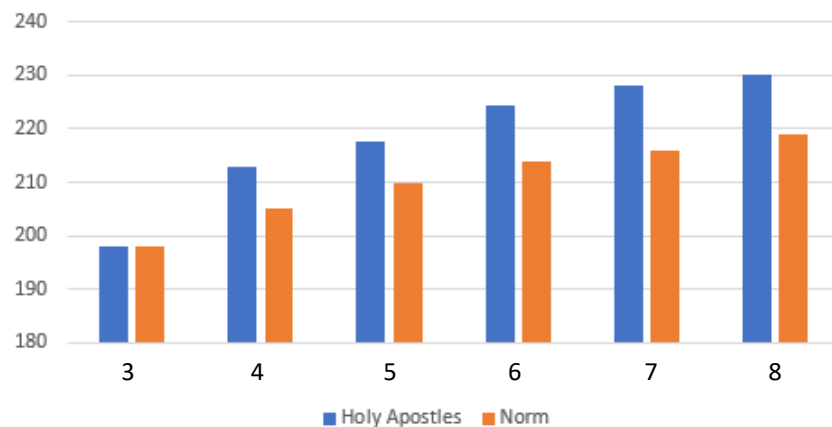
We understand that testing is an important gauge to academic success. We also know that testing alone does not truly measure a child's knowledge and potential. We try to balance the need for standardized testing with educating the whole child to prepare students for their high school future and beyond. Teachers use testing data as well as classroom observations and achievement to best determine the learning path for each child.

Our 2022-23 spring MAPS scores are summarized below:

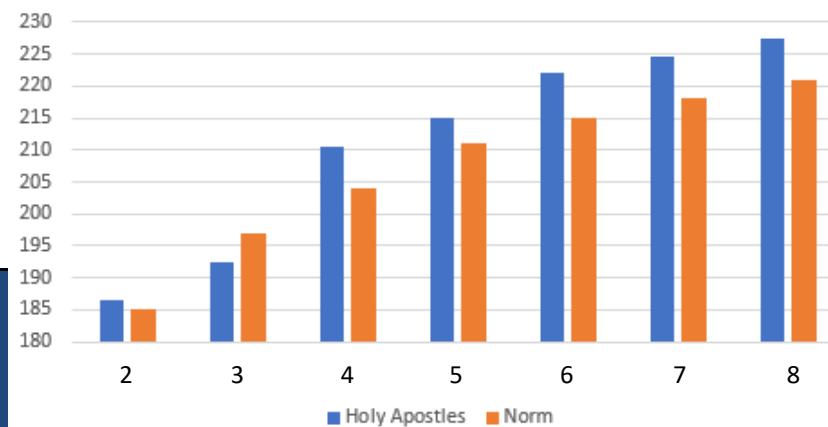
2023 Math Maps Test Results



2023 Language Usage Maps Test Results



2023 Reading Maps Test Results



Looking ahead to 2023-2024

- Thank you to the Class of 2024 for choosing next year's school scripture theme: "God looked at everything he made, and found it very good." - *Genesis 1:31*
- Thank you to everyone that supported the 2023 Holy Apostles Auction. Because of YOU the event was an overwhelming success! We raised almost \$200,000 to directly support our parish and school! Over \$100,000 was raised to support our school learning center and the special learning needs of our students. Staff is working hard on a 5-year plan to expand our offerings for both students who struggle and those who would benefit from additional challenges. Look for more information soon! Save the date for the next Parish and School Auction: Saturday, March 9, 2024
- Check out the import dates for next year [here](#).
- Looking for more school news? Check [Facebook](#). We have posted thousands of photos of events and projects this year!

We are grateful to the many members of our community who Transform our World!

- **Parents and families** of our students
- **Fr. Arul, the wonderful parish staff, our dedicated teachers, and school staff.**
- **Parishioners of Holy Apostles and the donors** who support our School Education Fund or have provided in kind donations.
- **The New Berlin Police Department and the D.A.R.E. Officers** who support our students and school.
- **Countless parent volunteers** who tirelessly serve in our classrooms, health room, lunchroom, and playground and who support other important school programs and events.
- **The grandparents** who so generously donate their time, talents, and treasures in our classrooms. The love they bring to our lives is unmatched.
- **The 70+ members of the Athletic Association, Home and School Association, and School Commission** for leading our largest school ministries.
- **The energetic coaches** of our clubs, activities, and athletic teams.



Eighth graders, we have loved to watch you grow into kind leaders! You have inspired us with your love, empathy, leadership, and dedication to each other and our school. We can't believe it's time for you to move on to high school. We thank you for redecorating our library and adding WiFi extenders as your legacy gift. We know thousands of future students will appreciate your hard work. We send you with our prayers, and we hope you always consider HA your home. Go and Make a Difference in the World!