Holy Apostles Receives National Recognition for Commitment to Empowering Students

Named a distinguished school for STEM curriculum and career readiness

New Berlin, WI– Holy Apostles announced today that it has been recognized as a 2022-23 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for our 4K-8th grade STEM program. It is one of 212 middle schools and one out of 492 grade schools across the U.S. to receive this honor for providing broad access to transformative learning experiences for students through PLTW Gateway and Launch. <u>PLTW</u> is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in schools across the U.S.

"We are thrilled to be recognized as a distinguished PLTW school for the fifth year in a row! I would like to thank our amazing teaching staff and students who are always striving to learn and achieve more through the PLTW curriculum," says Lori Suarez, Holy Apostles Principal.

The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, Holy Apostles had to meet a variety of criteria such as a certain percentage of the student body participating in the PLTW curriculum, participate in two or more units during their time at school, offer at least one PLTW unit at each grade level, and have strategies in place to ensure equitable access to students.

Holy Apostles is proud to have gone above and beyond that criteria to integrate the complete PLTW curriculum into all 4K through 8th grade classrooms! Our middle school students complete all 7 PLTW units during their time at Holy Apostles. Our 4K through 5th grade students experience over 15 PLTW units before they move into our middle school program.

Research shows that the middle grades play a pivotal role in influencing high school, college, and career success. During this transitional time, it's crucial to provide students with access to relevant, engaging, and real-world learning experiences that illuminate the range of career paths and possibilities available to them. Whether designing an automated robotics system or solving a mysterious disease outbreak, PLTW students engage in critical and creative thinking, build teamwork skills, and develop a passion for and confidence in STEM subjects.

"We are proud to recognize Holy Apostles School for their commitment to providing students with exceptional educational experiences while ensuring equitable access to PLTW programs," said Dr. David Dimmett, PLTW President and CEO. "We congratulate them on this achievement and celebrate their important work empowering students with the knowledge and skills to succeed, not only in STEM subjects, but also more generally in life and career."

Holy Apostles School is part of a community of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities. For more information about PLTW's recognition program, visit pltw.org.

For more information on Holy Apostles PLTW Gateway program, contact Lori Suarez at Isuarez@hanb.org.

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About Our School

Holy Apostles School is a Catholic 3K – 8th grade elementary school serving the community of and around New Berlin, WI since 1893. Our Mission calls us to create a compassionate atmosphere in which each student can discover their potential as they grow in faith, service, and academic excellence.

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About PLTW

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a mission-driven organization that is transforming the learning experience for millions of PreK-12 students and thousands of teachers across the U.S. PLTW empowers students to develop indemand, transportable knowledge and skills through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. PLTW's teacher training and resources support teachers as they engage their students in real-world learning. Approximately 12,200 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs. For more information on Project Lead The Way, visit pltw.org.