

Holy Cross Catholic Academy Strategic Plan 2016-2021



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HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC ACADEMY

AMDG

Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam or AMDG is the Latin phrase meaning “for the greater glory of God.” It is the responsibility of students and their parents or guardians to familiarize themselves with all of the information contained in this Student/Parent Handbook.

The rules and regulations contained in this Student/Parent Handbook are not meant to be comprehensive. Rather, they presuppose the good will and judgment of the student in all circumstances. The intention of each policy, as determined by the administration, is the standard by which a policy violation will be determined, even if the circumstances are not specifically addressed by the policy.

The registration of a student is considered an acceptance, on the part of the student and on the part of the student’s parents or guardians, of all rules and regulations of Holy Cross Catholic Academy, including the judgment of school authorities on academic and disciplinary sanctions, suspension, or expulsion of a student.

After the publication of this Student/Parent Handbook, the administration reserves the right to publish new policies and to amend or revise existing policies. Such changes will be announced to students and their parents/guardians by an administrator and published as an addendum to this handbook.

MISSION STATEMENT

Holy Cross Catholic Academy is committed to educating the whole person in the Catholic tradition, empowering students to become disciples of Christ, lifelong learners and responsible citizens with a strong moral foundation, a respect for diversity, and a dedication to service.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Holy Cross Catholic Academy is an educational ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Amarillo, in partnership with parents, and is focused on continuous formation of the whole Christian person in a rich Catholic environment and encourages students to develop their own personal prayer lives. Faculty and staff facilitate student success by embracing diversity in classrooms and providing a variety of learning experiences, so all

students may achieve. Our learner-centered curriculum maintains high academic standards and nurtures the development of life-long learners, the ability to make appropriate decisions in life situations, and future service to the Catholic church and community by participating in social service projects and reaching out to those in need.

SCHOOL MOTTO

We believe; We desire; We do.

The motto of Holy Cross Catholic Academy reflects our school's commitment to helping all members of the HCCA community grow in faith ("we believe"), moral character ("we desire") and service to others ("we do").

Process

A strategic plan is intended to guide school administration and leadership on decision making based on sound findings and judgment. The strategic plan process must first assess the schools strengths and areas needing growth. Our parents, school advisory board, faculty and staff all had input into the process of the strategic plan. This strategic plan should guide us over the next 5 years.

The Key Areas addressed within the plan:

- Enrollment
- Relationship with our Diocese and Parish Families and greater community and deepening our Catholic Identity
- Academics
- Financial Stability
- Facilities

Our History

Catacomb Beginnings

In the spring of 1928, Bishop R. A. Gerken purchased 40 acres of land 3 miles northeast of Amarillo for an all male preparatory school. Anxious to begin classes, Bishop Gerken opened St. George's College in September 12, 1928 before construction of the school had even been completed. Lacking a building, the 35 students who enrolled attended classes in the basement of the old Sacred Heart Cathedral.

A Fortuitous Benefactor

Soon after classes began, Bishop Gerken received alarming news. Cardinal Mudelein (for whom the school was named) failed to secure the funding that was promised. So, Bishop Gerken began a frantic search for money. Almost immediately the bishop encountered good fortune. Mrs. Katherine E. Price, a widow from Connecticut, wrote to him in November inquiring about the needs of the Diocese. Mrs. Price was intent upon aiding the church in the Southwest in the form of donations from the estate of her late husband, Lucian B. Price. Bishop Gerken informed Mrs. Price about the need for money to finish construction of the new school, and Mrs. Price responded by agreeing to finance St. George's College and to add two wings to the building. The first school year ended with the graduation of three students. And in honor of Mrs. Price, the school was renamed Price Memorial College.

Construction of the original building was completed in February 1929. Dedication of the two new wings took place October 27, 1929, just three days after the stock market crash and the beginning of the Great Depression. Mrs. Price journeyed from Connecticut for the dedication.

Generosity and Hard Preval

The poverty of the Depression could have closed Price Memorial College, but the generosity of Mrs. Price and the hard work of the school's teachers, students, and families saved it.

Bishop Gerken had purchased a single section farm a few miles northeast of the school to produce food for the students and to provide jobs for those who could not afford tuition. The bishop brought in priests from surrounding parishes to teach and to live at the school. They taught by day and did the plumbing by night. On weekends they attended to their parishes along with the boys from school who served Mass. In 1935, Pope Pius the XI conferred upon Mrs. Price the title of Papal Countess in recognition of her work. She is one of only a few women to achieve a papal decoration and coat of arms.

Price Memorial College Grows

Steady growth and Mrs. Price's patronage enabled the school to expand. In 1936, the Christian Brothers committed to staffing the school. In 1930, the bishop's house was built; 1938, a gym; 1940, a new library; 1941 St. Lucian's Chapel; 1948, laundry and maintenance buildings; and in 1950, Mrs. Price contributed a quarter of a million dollars to build Gerken Hall. Cardinal Spellman arrived December 12, 1950 for the building's dedication. Katherine Price died in 1951. As Price Memorial College approached its thirtieth anniversary, enrollment stabilized around 150. The school served the diocese

well. Twenty-four alumni became priests, and at least five became brothers.

The Winds of Change

The Christian Brothers staffed the school from 1936 until 1966. When they left, Price Memorial College merged with St. Mary's Academy (an all female boarding and day school) plus grades seven and eight from Amarillo's other Catholic schools. In the fall of 1966, Alamo Catholic High School opened as a co-educational school under the direction of Reverend Michael Heneghan. In 1968, Msgr. Leroy T. Matthiesen was appointed.

A new school under new management ignited the enthusiasm of the community, and Alamo's enrollment rocketed to 425 students by 1971. The school became known for its willingness to try new and interesting programs. Then, the closing of the Amarillo Air Force Base suddenly cut enrollment in half. Only due to the dedication of Father Matthiesen, his staff, Alamo's students, and their families was the school able to survive. Mounting maintenance problems forced Alamo to move to its present location in 1990.

The Third Millennium

As the scope of educational functions broadened, becoming more complex and specialized, there was a demand for new content, new capabilities. In response to this call, Bishop John W. Yanta courageously began a renewal of Amarillo's Catholic schools at the beginning of the third millennium. The focus of this renewal was made evident with the complete renovating of the school. Alamo was renamed Holy Cross Catholic Academy and the school was dedicated on October 11th, 2000.

Holy Cross is a Catholic school for the third millennium. We are a school for the human person and his or her education; we are a place of real pastoral ministry; we teach not only knowledge but values we are dedicated to Christ's love for the poor, the humble, and those who seek truth; we are open to all who appreciate a school where Christian values are taught and lived; and the interpersonal relationships of students, parents, teachers, directors, and staff enrich the development of all.

Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: Holy Cross Catholic Academy will remain committed to ensuring that the Catholic identity of the school reflects our mission, vision, and our call to discipleship. HCCA will intentionally provide opportunities to foster positive and collaborative school-church and school-community partnerships and to challenge our school community to “make a difference.”

Goal & Implementation	Accountability Team	Cost	Timing	Comments
Fostering relationships within the Church Community				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Create a deliberate yearly plan of activities to put in place to nurture the relationships with St. Joseph Catholic School and St. Mary's Cathedral School 	Head of School & Development Director	\$1000 per year	Fall of 2019	2017-Host Shadow Day for 5th graders, send tickets to concerts and meals. Work closely with the principals of feeder schools to ensure support of HCCA. Spanish class authors a book and reads to the elementary students.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a deliberate yearly plan to strengthen the relationship of service between our school community and the Diocese. 	Dean of Students	\$0	Fall of 2020	Provide greeters at annual Red Mass. Provide service at the Catholic Charities Luncheon and students helping at the elementary school carnivals. Serving the Retreat Center luncheon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Strengthen relationships with Priests and the Diocese, focusing on central deanery 	Head of School	\$1,000 per year	Fall of 2021	
Increase community awareness and Market the HCCA brand				

<p>Add three community events to entice awareness of our school and to outreach to the greater community.</p>	<p>Development Director</p>	<p>\$3,000</p>	<p>Fall of 2017</p>	<p>The Veterans Day Program added in 2016, The Rally added in 2017, The Calendar Party added in 2017</p>
<p>•Incorporate more community service projects</p>	<p>Dean of Students</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>Fall of 2019</p>	<p>Collected pajamas for shelters and collected goods for animal shelters done in 2017. Collected food for the food bank, did Habitat for Humanity, food drive for Catholic Student Center.</p>

Goal 2: Improve academic performance among students through methodology and rigor.

Goal & Implementation	Accountability Team	Cost	Timing	Comments
Expand Teaching Methods Used in classroom				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen staff and faculty relationships with our feeder schools to continue professional development opportunities with each other for continuity of instruction. 	Head of School & Curriculum Coordinator	\$500 per year	2018	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn and implement PROPEL-administration will look for aspects of PROPEL in lesson plans and observations 	Curriculum Coordinator	\$1,000 per year	2019	
Provide Diverse Learning Opportunities				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek assistance with Region 16 and West Texas A&M for opportunities to learn more about strategies for gifted and talented and ways to help them perform to their expectation (differentiated instruction). 	Curriculum Coordinator	\$2,000 per year	2018	Curriculum Coordinator has begun searching workshops at ESC16 for teachers to attend.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help students with career selection with guidance through research on areas of interest and ability. 	Counselor and High School English Teacher	\$0	Fall 2018	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek workshops for parents to attend so there is a strong sense of team between parents and school. 	Guidance Counselor	\$0	Fall 2019	
Improve Technology in the Classroom				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing technology training with programs and applications that help students be successful for their years beyond HS. 	Curriculum Coordinator & Technology Coordinator	\$0	Fall 2018	Looking at becoming a Google School

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop a technology plan to ensure our resources and materials stay up to date and are adequate for our needs. 	Technology Coordinator	\$3,000 per year	Fall of 2018	Upgraded file server and wireless ports July of 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Build in professional development specific to technology training. Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, 25% of PD should be geared toward technology. 	Head of School, Curriculum Coordinator & Technology Coordinator	\$500	Fall of 2019	
Develop a consistent plan of action for students who are not meeting expectations.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Put together a team to formalize a plan, train faculty and staff and implement the plan 	Dean of Students and Curriculum Coordinator	\$0	Summer of 2018	
The importance of reading and writing will be validated through various school-wide reading activities in each grading period.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Students will complete various activities in each grading period that may include; comprehension tests, book reviews, writing activities, class participation , projects that may be displayed. 	English Department	\$0	Fall of 2017	Various displays in the hallway reinforce student learning and create student pride.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase student writing across the curriculum 	English Department	\$0	2020	Spring of 2017 Students created a Quirks and Perks fine arts magazine to showcase writing and art works in the Spring of 2017. In the Fall of 2017, students also created a book of writings for our Veterans program.

Begin working with the elementary feeder schools to vertically align math and computation skills to support the importance of math across the curriculum.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Raise awareness of math in all content areas through staff development and reminders sent out weekly about deliberate implementation. 	Math Department	\$0	Fall of 2018	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Work with 5th grade teachers from the elementary schools to vertically align and set expectations. 	Curriculum Coordinator	\$0	Fall of 2019	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Research new math program to adopt, train on and implement. 	Math Department and Curriculum Coordinator	\$6,000	Spring of 2019	

Goal 3: To bring financial stability for a viable future.

Goal & Implementation	Accountability Team	Cost	Timing	Comments
Increase enrollment 10 % annually over the next 5 years			2017/18-81 students 2018/19-89 students 2019/20-98 students 2020-/21-108 students 2021-22-119 students	2017/18--started the year with 94 students
•Increase visibility by advertising in the community	Development Director	\$15,000	Fall of 2017	Created a 5 minute promotional video, 30 second commercial for television, advertise in various community Programs and Playbills in the community as well as our local Catholic newspaper. Encourage teachers to use media release on all activities to get as much coverage as possible.
•Increase visibility in all parishes by advertising via bulletin inserts, newsletters, student/family endorsements, specifically during the registration process and Catholic Schools Week.	Development Director	\$1000 per year	Spring of 2018	
Increase support from the Diocese				
•Establish a diocesan wide "Gift" at a weekend Mass once a year. Each parishioner will be asked to give a small gift of \$5. Not a large gift but if majority of parishioners give, it could be a substantial gift.	Head of School	\$0	2020	Possible "Love Offering" done during the week of St. Valentines Day.
Development				
•Hire a part-time Development Director	Head of School	\$14,000	Fall of 2017	Completed
•Establish a development committee to aid in cooperating sponsorships.	Development Director	\$0	Summer of 2018	

Goal 4: To enhance physical plant

Goal & Implementation	Accountability Team	Cost	Timing	Comments
Update flooring				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Re-carpet the building and update fixtures 	Head of School & School Board	\$10,000 per year	2 classrooms every year	Hallways received new carpet in 2016; offices received new carpet and new front office furniture in 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Possible sound suppression for second floor 	Maintenance & Administration	Getting estimates	2 classrooms that are being carpeted	
Conduct feasibility study on building a new multipurpose building & gym closer to existing school building				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Put together a team to do feasibility study of existing building and new building 	School Board		Fall of 2019	