

Holy Nativity Episcopal School

A beacon of hope and strength
for over 60 years in
Bay County, Florida



CORE VALUES of HNES
LOVE - LEARNING - LEADERSHIP

Head of School, Cynthia Fuller
Board President, Will Cramer III

Our Mission

It is the purpose of Holy Nativity Episcopal School

*to provide a nurturing Christian environment
where students with promise receive
challenging academics, enriching
opportunities, and a solid foundation
for developing their potential as
good, caring, and responsible citizens.*



Holy Nativity Episcopal School ~ in the beginning

The official groundbreaking for “Episcopal Day School” was held on a beautiful summer’s day in 1959. The prayer of the Rev. David Damon of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church was that “the school might build in each child a love of God, respect for himself, and a desire to meet the challenges of learning.”

By 1970, the school had expanded to include grades K4 through 5th grades and “Father Dave” was looking forward to passing the torch as Head of School and as Church Rector, confident in the foundation that had been laid for “the Day School.”

The Growth of Holy Nativity Episcopal School

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1998

THE NEWS HERALD

School Board swaps two properties

TONY SIMMONS
Education Editor

The patter of little feet will return to the hallways of the old Cove Elementary School building in coming years.

The Bay County School Board on Wednesday approved a property swap that will place the Cove building in the hands of the Holy Nativity Episcopal School Foundation.

In exchange, Bay District Schools will receive a building commonly known as the Youth Center — which stands on property adjacent to the High School for use as a fine arts academy. The property is currently owned by Carolyn Cramer; a member of the Bay High School Advisory Council and a former president of the Holy Nativity School Board.

"This is just one of those things that was meant to be," Cramer told Bay County School Board members on Wednesday. "It's meeting a need within the system ... You'll be getting a building that's paid for and fully improved."

Also, as expected, the board scuttled plans to rezone elementary schools for next year. The proposed rezoning had met with considerable opposition from parents.

And the board approved a request from staff to reject the district's first application for a charter school because the application was not technically complete. Jimmy Maddux, executive director of Curriculum and Human Resources, said the group which submitted the application plans to reapply for school year 1999-2000.

According to Franklin Harrison, attorney for the Bay County School Board, Cramer will provide the Youth Center deed to the Holy Nativity School Foundation, and the foundation will then transfer it to the Bay County School Board for the use of the Cove Elementary School.

In addition, the foundation agrees to renovate the Youth Center to meet the needs of a fine arts curriculum. An estimate provided to the School Board by Taylor Architects set renovations at \$86,755; Cramer and the school foundation will place that



Michelle Mattern walks past the old Cove Elementary School on Wednesday with her two children, 5-year-old Ashley on bike, and Courtney, 3.

News Herald Photo Andrew Martoff

amount in escrow for use on the project.

"They will pay whatever the cost to do the job," Harrison said. "If it can be done for less, any money that is left over will go back to the Holy Nativity School Foundation. If the value of the renovations exceeds that amount, they agree to pay any additional costs."

The Cove property, including a 25,158-square-foot facility on four acres of land, was appraised at \$175,500. Cramer purchased the Youth Center property for \$119,000 in May 1997.

"The value of the fine arts center — including the cost of the upgrade — exceeds the latest appraised value of the Cove property," said Wayne Elmore, supervisor of facilities for the School Board. "The building will be ready for student use by the fall of

this year."

The only stipulations of the agreement are that the School Board use the Youth Center for educational purposes and Holy Nativity do the same with the Cove property.

"We will be giving some property to our youth center," Cramer said. "I'd like to remember what we've done," said board member Ron Danzey. "There's going to be some middle school students missing from our FTE counts in coming years."

(School districts receive state funding based on the number of full-time equivalent students. FTEs are enrolled each year. If Holy Nativity uses the new property to expand its services to middle school students, fewer students will be enrolled in public schools, which translates into reduced state funding.)

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Please see SCHOOL, 28

It was 1998 when a wonderful opportunity became available. The historic Cove Elementary School, constructed in 1937, was headed for demolition and the 5-acre property was available for auction.

Numerous alumni and friends made the building acquisition possible for HNES and a long-desired middle school program began. The first 8th grade class graduated in 2001.

By 2009 the entire school had left her *Holy Nativity Episcopal Church* home location and was housed in the *Holy Nativity Episcopal School* "upper campus."

the "temporary" home of the district media center. The media center transferred into its current June Avenue location — the Robert L. Young Student Services Center — in 1997, and the Cove building was declared to be surplus property.

Board member Rayford Lloyd spoke to the School Board in support of the property swap. He described a vibrant memory of gathering with other excited first-graders on the front steps of Cove Elementary School 50 years ago.

"I have for a long time, thought I would like to see Cove School restored," Lloyd said. "It makes sense to renovate the building and put it back to its original use."

In other business:

■ Applause greeted the board's de-



Early Education at HNES

Our Preschool program incorporates:

- Literacy and language-rich environment
- Whole-child approach that includes character building and modeling of expectations
- Developmentally appropriate and challenging academics
- Focus on social/emotional learning
- Foundation of learning through play
- Small class sizes
- Well-rounded special area program, including PE, Spanish, and Technology
- Art and Music built into classroom learning
- Chapel service each Wednesday

We aim to foster a love of learning with the *Learning Without Tears* curriculum and hands-on activities that build the foundation for Singapore Math.

Elementary Education at HNES

Grades K-5 benefit from:

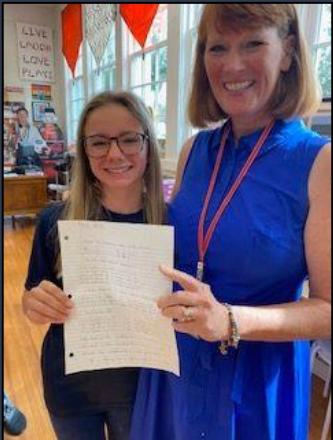
- Teaching and nurturing the whole child
- Developmentally appropriate and challenging academics
- A focus on social/ emotional learning
- Small class sizes
- A well-rounded special area program including PE, Art, Music, Spanish, and Technology
- Chapel each Wednesday

Florida standards are addressed with rigorous curriculum. We use the Singapore method for Math, and Science and Social Studies come to life with hands-on activities, projects, and field trips.

<https://www.holynativityschool.com/K5.aspx>



Things We Love about Middle School at HNES

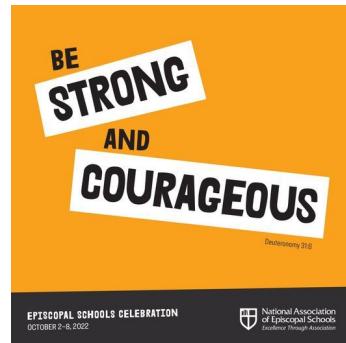


- **Specialized Classes with Enthusiastic, Expert Teachers**
- **Support structure for Greater Success**
 - Small Class Sizes
 - Regular Home-School Communication
 - Sixth Grade Reading/Study Skills Classes
- **Whole Child Focus**
 - Character Strong Program in Homeroom Groups, Emphasis on Service, Religion Classes, and Strong Teacher-Student Connections
- **Elective Classes that Allow Students to Explore New Areas and Develop Existing Talents**
- **New Experiences and Opportunities to Grow**
 - Dances, Lockers, and More
- **Clubs and Activities**
 - SGA, Beta Club, Regional Winning Robotics Team, MathCounts, Musical, Tennis, Field Trips, History Fair, Invention Convention
- **A Firm Foundation for Future Success**
 - 100% acceptance into High School Advanced Academic Programs
 - Reports of Exemplary Preparation from Alumni and High Schools

LOVE GOD & LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



**LIFE IS SHORT AND
WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME TO
GLADDEN THE HEARTS OF THOSE
WHO TRAVEL WITH US.
SO BE QUICK TO LOVE AND
MAKE HASTE TO BE KIND.
AND THE BLESSING OF GOD ALMIGHTY,
THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT
BE WITH YOU AND
REMAIN UPON YOU ALWAYS.
AMEN.**



HNES Field Trips and Student Leadership Opportunities

Our robust field trip offerings go hand-in-hand with enhancing grade-level curriculum. Field trips provide real world experiences about topics covered in the classroom.

Our Student Government Association (SGA) supports our school's mission by serving the school and our community with service projects, volunteer hours, clean up days and sponsoring fun events for our students. SGA is such an active part of our school that alumni often come back after they've graduated to serve.

Junior Beta Club at Holy Nativity Episcopal is an honor society that students are invited into based on their academic performance.

The Mission Statement of Beta Club is:
To promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, service and leadership among students.

One branch of Beta Club is Service: *Let us Lead by Serving Others.* Our Beta officers and members feel very strongly about service.

HNES Holiday Outreach Program is all about providing opportunities for our students and families to help others in our community.

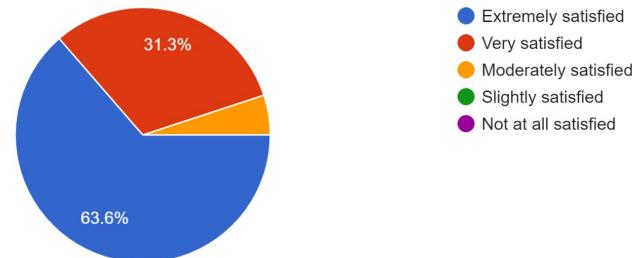


What does the data show from our families?

(information collected from the 2023 Family Survey)

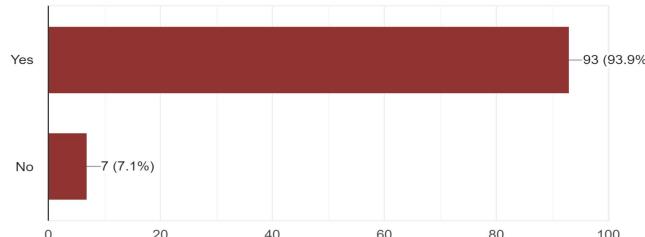
Overall how satisfied are you with having your child attend HNES?

99 responses



Do you agree with the following statement? I am satisfied with the academic program at Holy Nativity.

99 responses

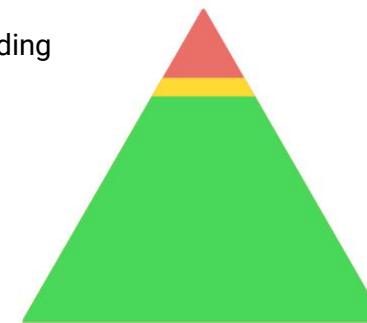


School Testing Outcomes

(testing data from 2022–2023 school year grades K–8th)



Reading



● At Risk for Tier 3

5%

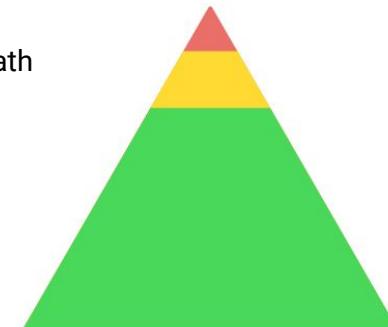
● Tier 2

3%

● Tier 1

92%

Math



● At Risk for Tier 3

2%

● Tier 2

8%

● Tier 1

90%

HNES Parent Involvement

Parent Council

Each event sponsored by our Parent Council is chaired by volunteers. Our events include Boohoo/Yahoo Breakfast, Grandfriends' Day, and Walk-a-Thon & Carnival. Parent Council also assists our SGA with the Annual Campout, Mother Son Event, and the Daddy Daughter Dance. Each of our events are wonderful gatherings of fellowship for our students and families. Please feel free to contact our co-chairs of Parent Council: Brittany Blue and Allison Haligas, for more details about how you can become involved.

hnesparentcouncil@gmail.com

(copy & paste email)

Extreme Sports

K-5th graders are able to compete against local private schools in soccer, flag football, and basketball. All sports are coached by wonderful parent volunteers. Also, we offer cheerleading opportunities for grades K-5th. Go BOLTS!

NO PLACE I'D RATHER BE



We Embrace the Legacy of Happy Students
on our Steps...



Cove Elementary School 1955



**Holy Nativity Episcopal School ~
8th grade class of 2022**

Where do we go from here...

Alumni go on to achieve great things even after their HNES days!

Many of our alumni refer to HNES as their “school home” and this bond lasts a lifetime.

There are many opportunities throughout the school year for alumni to visit our campus and volunteer at school-wide events.

Annually, our high school seniors return to campus for their class reunion – culminating with the *last* class portrait on the school’s historic front steps.



ABOVE: **Sarah Stewart**, Bay High 2022 Valedictorian,
Walker Verenakis, NBHCA 2023 Patented inventor,
Sierra Czubaj, Rutherford High 2023 National Merit Finalist,
BELOW: **Zamiyah Hill**, Mosley High 2024 D1 Soccer Recruit,
Zander Lovchuk, Bay High Homecoming King,
Reagan Harrison, Bay High 2022-23 SGA President



Our Beloved Faculty

HNES employee retention rate holds strong even in the face of the impact of Hurricane Michael, COVID, and changes in leadership.

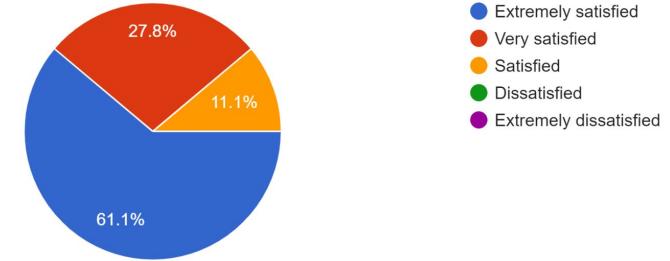
Currently, our faculty holds 36 Bachelor's degrees and seven Master's degrees! As well as over 50 certifications through the Florida Department of Education.

With God's grace our team will continue to serve out our school's mission for many years to come.

We are more like a family with a team spirit!



Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with HNES as your place to work?
36 responses



Information collected in 2022 Faculty Survey.



Holy Nativity Episcopal School Board of Trustees

HNES Board of Trustees consists of 12 trustees elected by the school families and 2 trustees appointed by the Vestry of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church.

Of the 14 trustees, no less than eight must be confirmed communicants in good standing at Holy Nativity Episcopal Church.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the strategic plan, the supervision of the long-term financial standing of the school, and the job performance oversight of the Head of School.

<https://www.holynativityschool.com/StrategicPlan.aspx>



Accreditation and Memberships



National Association
of Episcopal Schools
Excellence Through Association



With over 2,000 private schools in Florida only 144 of them are accredited through FCIS. This accreditation process is rigorous and holds the school to the utmost highest standard in education. HNES has maintained this accreditation for over 25 years. Membership in FCIS confirms the following:

- Adherence to rigorous standards
- Commitment to the FCIS Code of Ethics
- Legislative voice at the state level to promote freedom from governmental interference
- Smooth transition to higher education for graduating students
- Access to professional development offered by FCIS
- National recognition via the NAIS Commission on Accreditation <https://www.nais.org/about/about-nais/> and ICAISA (International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation) for more information about FCIS click here <https://www.fcis.org/about>

<https://www.episcopalschools.org/about-episcopal-schools/>
NAES advances Episcopal education and strengthens Episcopal schools through essential services, resources, conferences, and networking opportunities on Episcopal school identity, leadership, and governance, and on the spiritual and professional development of school leaders. By serving those who serve Episcopal schools, we seek to foster *excellence through association*.



THANK YOU for supporting our school's mission and for choosing HNES for your child's education.

<https://www.holynativityschool.com/Default.aspx>