

Why IHM?



Infusion of spirit and the enlightenment of learning

Q: Why should you invest in a Catholic education for your child at IHM?

A: Because it pays big dividends for your child's entire life!

Investing is sometimes a complicated subject. Investing in your child's education is not complicated when you choose a Catholic Education at Immaculate Heart of Mary school. Our school's mission is to develop your child's academic, moral and social skills to the highest level. Our professional and dedicated faculty, in partnership with our parents, are committed to academic excellence. We recognize the individuality of each student, challenging them to meet their highest potential. We nurture their intellectual, spiritual, social and physical needs, as we strive to help them realize their own self worth as well as a genuine respect for others

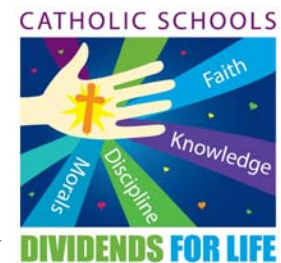
A Catholic Education is based on four key principles:

Faith: Connecting to the divine spirit that resides in each of us.

Knowledge: Understanding the world in which we live

Discipline: Instruction and learning in accordance with rules

Morals: Developing character based on the distinction between right and wrong.



The goal of education, is to open to our students the rich heritage and gift of the Catholic Tradition of faith in Jesus lived out as a member of the church. We do this through daily prayer, gathering as a school community at the Eucharist and in other worship experiences. We also encourage our students to become involved in outreach ministry to those in need, at times close to home and also the greater world. We are also deeply respectful of the faith traditions of our students who are not Roman Catholic and invite them to join us in prayer to the God of all.

50 Years old and going strong!

For 50 years, IHM has provided children with a superior education rooted in Catholic faith and IHM is here to stay! IHM continues to invest in your child's education by ensuring that we have quality, certified teachers and programs; by purchasing new technology like Smart Boards and new computers to ensure our students are being educated with the most current tools available; and by investing in new and innovative programs like our cultural enrichment program focused on the appreciation of music and the fine arts that broaden the perspective of the students.

Your investment in your child's future, coupled with the generous support of our parish and community, allows IHM to provide all these wonderful opportunities for your children. We are sure that once you visit our school and meet the teachers and other parents, you will agree that a Catholic Education at IHM is the best investment you can make in your child and that this investment will pay "Dividends for Life."

What makes IHM a special place

IHM's educational program focuses on the individuality of each student and provides a challenging curriculum that encourages students to achieve their full potential. The nurturing, respectful environment of the school allows the children to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals. The core strength of IHM is quality and dedication of its teachers. Consistency and security are critical to the child's sense of well-being. To that end, our facility is devoted and highly qualified. All of our teachers are New Jersey state certified with many carrying advanced degrees. Our teachers average 23 years of teaching experience and faculty turn-over is low, ensuring that children build solid, long term relationships with their teachers. Our Principal Mrs. Oesterle was recognized as Principal of the year by the National Catholic Education Association.

Caring in the Classroom

Your child spends most of his/her day in the classroom and at IHM our class sizes allow personal attention by our caring teachers to help your child do better when they need help in a particular subject. Our classrooms are places where respect, teamwork and friendship grow and flourish. We wear uniforms because they show that school is a responsibility to be taken seriously. They keep the focus on learning, not on discussing fashion and comparing outfits. Students support each other through a unique buddy system where older students are paired with our younger students in a one-on-one mentoring relationships. Students love our buddy system!



Academic Curriculum

We offer a diverse and full academic and spiritual curriculum from a pre-school program and classes from kindergarten through the eighth grade. The pre-school introduces the benefits of a Catholic education at IHM, and its curriculum is based on the physical and developmental stages of the whole child. Learning in kindergarten through fifth grade takes place in self-contained classrooms, with experienced educators providing multidisciplinary instruction. For sixth grade through eighth grade, Middle School, students move from classroom to classroom, where they are taught by teacher/specialists in their subject areas. In addition to the core curriculum, kindergarten through eighth grade students receive specialized, grade level-appropriate instruction in art, music, gym, computers, foreign language, and library science.

AAA Academic Achievements and Accolades

IHM is the proud recipient of the 2007 U.S. Department of Education 's Blue Ribbon Award for Academic Excellence. IHM was also awarded the diocesan 2004 Star School Award (for its student Writing Program that is implemented in every grade from K to 8) and the 2004 Home & School Federation Best Practice Award (for its cultural programs).



Recognition and Competitions

Students are recognized for their achievements with honors and awards. Top academic performers are listed on the public web site. Students participate in a variety of academic competitions including the New Jersey Math League, Herald New Spelling competition and the DePaul Catholic High School Science Competition. The students actively participate in the Forensic League, a program for public speaking and debate for fifth through eighth graders. IHM students consistently place highly in this competition and have brought home winning trophies.

Student Life and Service

Academics are important, but school can be so much more. A robust program of service to the community provides each student with an understanding of important life issues. Each class has a annual project that involves them in caring for others. Food drives, letter writing to shut ins, clothing collections, seniors luncheons are all part of a tradition of service. The Student Council provides opportunities to learn about leadership. And don't forget the fun! Students participate in activities including Cultural events, Music, Art, Sports, Dances with surrounding schools, and Performing and Visual Arts which make the day go by that much faster.

The results speak for themselves

In study after study, Catholic schools outperform their public school peers. The federal government uses a regular test across the country, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, to measure education progress of public, private and Catholic schools. We invite you to review this report data is available at :

<http://www.ncea.org/news/CatholicSchoolData.asp>

Finally, listen to the words of the Holy Father on the importance of a Religious Education:

[Catholic school's] long-term sustainability must be assured. Indeed, everything possible must be done, in cooperation with the wider community, to ensure that they are accessible to people of all social and economic strata. No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation."

- Pope Benedict XVI, in his address to Catholic educators during his 2008 visit



Be part of the best, invest in your child's future with us...you'll be glad you did

Contact Information:

Father Dan Kelly, Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
580 Ratzer Road, Wayne New Jersey 07470
dkelly@ihmwaynenj.org, 973-694-3400

For more information about registration please contact:

Mrs. Maryanne Oesterle, School Principal,
moesterle@ihmschoolonline.org
Mrs. Geri Varachi Administrative Assistant
Phone: 973-694-1225 730 am to 4:30 pm

