

ANNUAL REPORT



Holy Apostles
CATHOLIC PARISH AND SCHOOL

Letter from our Principal ...

As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the opportunities ahead, I am filled with gratitude for the blessings that have enriched our school community. It is with great pleasure that I present to you our annual report for 2024.

Over the course of the past year, we have witnessed remarkable growth among our students. Academically, our students have demonstrated continuous growth in their studies, demonstrating a strong work ethic and a dedication to learning. They also continue to develop a deep understanding of their faith and a commitment to living it out in their daily lives.

Beyond the classroom, our students have embraced opportunities for personal and spiritual growth through participation in many projects and extracurricular activities including food drives, adoration chapel visits, retreats, clubs, athletic teams, and service projects. They have demonstrated the values of compassion, integrity, and generosity, making a positive impact on our school community and the world around them.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated faculty and staff, whose tireless efforts and commitment have been instrumental in shaping the lives of our students. Their passion for teaching, coupled with their love for our school and its mission, is truly inspiring.

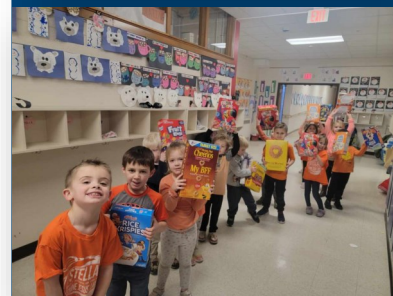
As we look ahead to the future, we remain committed to building upon the strong foundation that has been laid, continually striving for excellence in all that we do. With the support of our parents, guardians, parish members, and friends, I am confident that we will continue to encourage our students to reach their full potential and become disciples of Christ.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every member of our school community for your continued support. We have so many dedicated parents, donors, and volunteers who dedicate so much to support our school and students. Together, we will continue to journey forward, guided by our mission to develop our students in faith, service and academic excellence.

May God bless you,



Lori Suarez
Holy Apostles School Principal



**“God looked at everything He made,
and found it very good.” Genesis 1:31**

Our Numbers ...

Holy Apostles is a 3K—8th grade Catholic School proudly serving New Berlin and 16 other surrounding communities since 1893.

- 408 students—242 families
- 11 grade levels —23 classes
- 18 students—average class size
- 28 certified, accredited teachers and 7 dedicated support teaching assistants
- 17+ extracurricular offerings, including a variety of clubs, athletics, and the arts.
- 20 athletic teams in 5th—8th grades, including 82 volleyball athletes, 90 basketball players, and over 50 track team members.
- 35+ field trips, including several faith-based retreats
- 2,500+ service hours completed within our community and across many outside organizations by our middle school students.



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.

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, and retreats. There are so many highlights for 2023-2024. Here are just a few:

AUGUST

- August 24 - 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

SEPTEMBER

- 8th Grade Commissioning Mass & Zoo Field Trip with 1st grade buddies
- Student Council Elections
- Discipleship Wednesday supporting MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary
- Charger Chase Color Run Fundraiser supporting Music, Art, Spanish and P.E. programs



OCTOBER

- Parish Oktober Fall Fest
- 8th grade overnight retreat
- Discipleship Wednesday - Ronald McDonald House of Wisconsin
- Annual 7th grade Pull Toy Competition
- All School Living Rosary
- Halloween Pasta Food Drive for the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans
- Happy 75th birthday to the late Al Stigler



NOVEMBER

- Congratulations to our 8th Grade Boys and Girls Teams (4th place) for an awesome finish in the Seton Volleyball Tournament!
- Mass of Remembrance
- Lego League Regional Competition
- All School Dance
- Discipleship Wednesday - Just Keep Moving & Philippine Medical Association of WI
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Scouts participated in Milwaukee County Zoo Trim-a-Tree Event

DECEMBER

- School Open House
- First Lego League Sectional Competition
- Discipleship Wednesday - House of Peace Toy Drive
- Christmas Music & Band Concerts
- Family Movie Night
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Mass
- Home and School Polar Express Movie Night
- Crescendo Choir leads Mass for Heart of the Nation



JANUARY

- First Forensics Meet
- First Lego League goes to STATE
- Discipleship Wednesday supporting Linden Grove Nursing Home
- Cereal Box Domino Challenge supporting the New Berlin Food Pantry



FEBRUARY

- Discipleship Wednesday - HAWS & Elmbrook Humane Society
- Fat Tuesday Parade
- Ash Wednesday
- LEAP DAY!

MARCH

- New Berlin Public Library Art Fair
- Discipleship Wednesday - Catholic Relief Services
- HA Dinner & Auction
- Padre Sierra Basketball Tournament - 8th grade girls WIN!
- Advanced Band Concert
- First Grade leads their first All School Mass
- Forensics Team goes to the State Tournament
- 8th grade leads Living Stations of the Cross



APRIL

- Student Council hosts the Spring Carnival for 3K - 2nd grade
- Easter Celebrations
- Discipleship Wednesday - Children's Wisconsin
- 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



MAY & JUNE

- First Communion and May Crowning
- 5th grade D.A.R.E. graduation
- 4K Spring Sing
- Discipleship Wednesday - Courts for Kids
- High Interest Day
- HA hosted Track Meet
- 8th grade Spanish field trip
- Student Council Sports Day for 3rd - 5th grades
- Earned the PLTW Distinguished School honor for the 6th year in a row
- Spring Band Concert
- Spring Concert—"Tunes Through Time"
- May 30 - 8th Grade Graduation
- Level Up Day for 5K - 5th grade
- June 4 - Last day of school



BIG HA NEWS & SUPPORT in 2023-24!

For almost 130 years, Holy Apostles School faculty has dedicated itself to providing the best education for your children, both spiritually and academically.

We are honored to be recognized for the 6th year in a row as a 2023-24 Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished School! 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 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.



THANK YOU for your generous support of our parish, school, and the outside charities that we support. In 2023-24 together we raised ...

Home and School Fundraisers include Charger Chase & Scrip Cards: Over \$30K—These donations purchased new tools and supplies for our art, music, PE, Spanish, and library 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 \$13K—SEF is a tax deductible donation to help cover the gap between annual tuition and the actual cost of education.

8th Grade Legacy: over \$5,500—The Class of 2024 coordinated a number of fundraisers to replace playground and kitchen equipment.

The Parish and School Dinner Auction: over \$175,000— to support our community, including parish and school technology.

Discipleship Wednesday Charities: over \$3,000 and countless cans of food and toys for the toy drive, supporting 11 unique charities picked by our teachers and students throughout the school year.

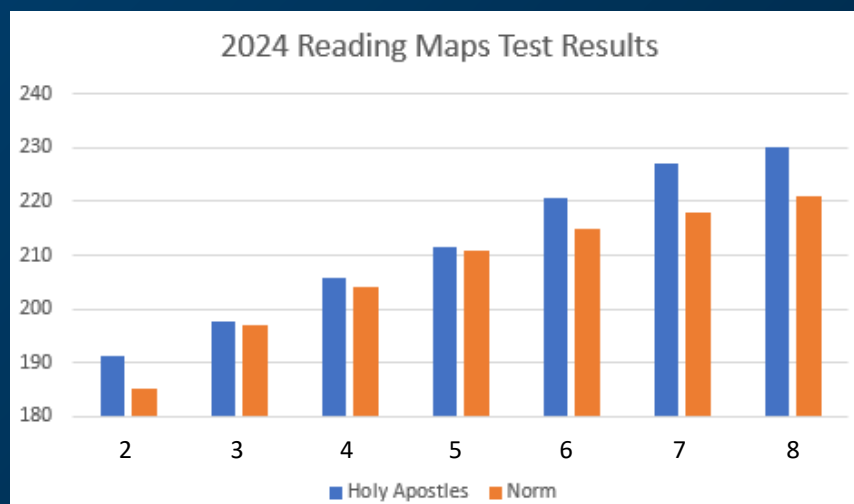
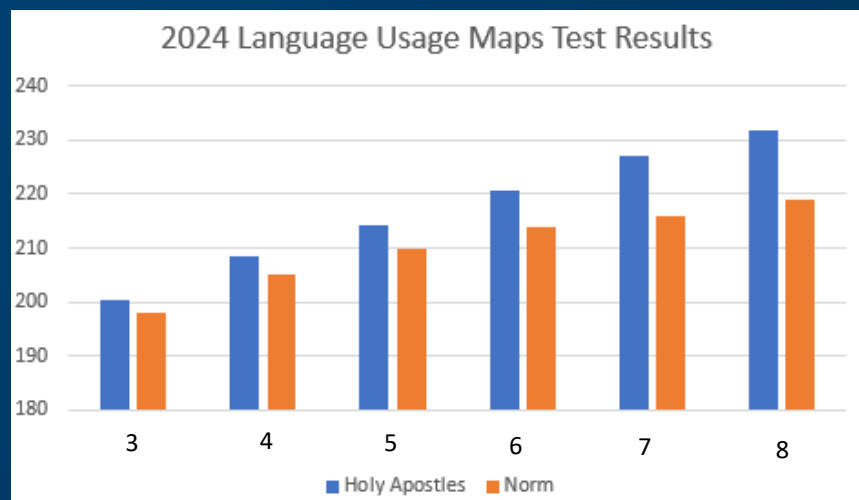
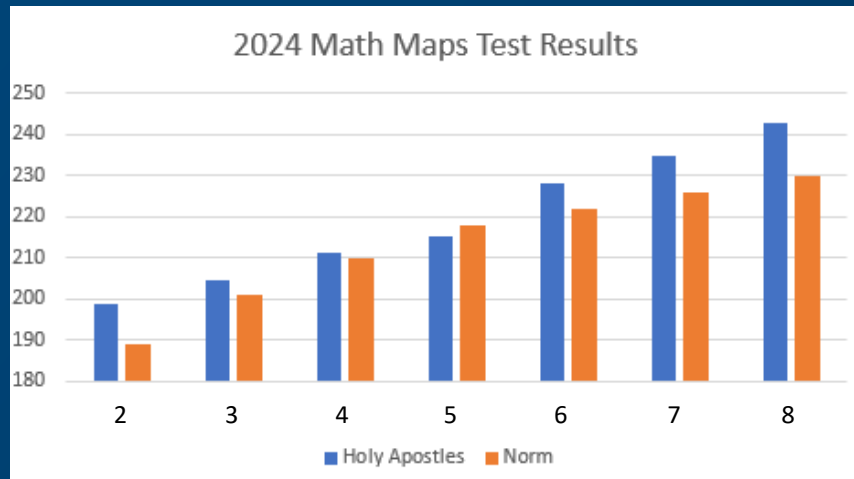
We are so proud of our graduates. We are consistently amazed by our alumni's accomplishments and can't wait to see what's in store for the Class of 2024.

- Though the years, 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 many subject areas and often find themselves in the top of their classes, including valedictorian! .
- They take on leadership roles on many high school athletic teams, clubs, and organizations.
- Our Alumni are welcomed back for Confirmation in their junior year of high school and often join us for service projects, volunteer opportunities, or even join our parish school staff!
- 2023-24 school year alumni parents surveyed **OVERWELMINGLY** believe their students were prepared for high school!

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 2024-25 spring MAPS scores are summarized below:



Thank you to our community!

- **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.



Congratulations to the Class of 2024! We send you with our prayers for a wonderful high school experience. Always remember that HA is your home. Thank you for your wonderful legacy gift of playground improvements, which we know thousands of future students will appreciate. Always remember that "God looked at everything He made, and found it very good." (Genesis 1:31)

We say goodbye to three wonderful and dedicated staff members: Mrs. Mary Blessing (Guidance Counselor), Mr. Tom New (Middle School Literature), and Miss Cathy Kornacki (27 years as a First Grade Teacher & 13 years as an Administrative Assistant). As you step into retirement, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your years with us. We will cherish the memories and celebrate the difference you made in the lives of so many students, families, and staff. We wish you much joy and relaxation in your future. You will forever be in our prayers.



Looking ahead to 2024-2025

- Thank you to the Class of 2025 for choosing next year's school scripture theme: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." - *John 20:29*
- Thank you to everyone who supported the 2024 Holy Apostles Auction. We raised almost \$175,000 to directly support our parish and school! Because of your generosity, we plan to upgrade our systems and network with three new servers, smart screens, new student and teacher computers/tablets and more! Save the date for the next Parish and School Auction: Saturday, March 1, 2025!
- This year, Holy Apostles was awarded \$450K from a FEMA Safety Grant which will be used over the next six months to add cameras, electronic door access, outdoor lighting, PA improvements, and more.
- Check out the important dates for next year [here](#) and be sure to join us for the [Holy Apostles Parish Festival June 21- 23!](#)
- Looking for more school news? Check [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#). We have posted thousands of photos of events and projects this year!