

Healthy Schools and Catholic Identity

- Enrollment, reputation in the community, strong academics, committed and involved leadership that promotes parish and school collaboration, and parental involvement.
- Holy Angels was founded in 1911 by the Springfield Dominican nuns. The school started on Locust Street and moved to its current location in 1962. Two additions were added to the building. One was in 1980. The second was in 1999. The nuns left in 1999 and that was when the school hired its first lay principal. Its highest enrollment was over 900 students. Current enrollment is 475. However, enrollment increased this year for the first time in twelve years.

Demographics

- Demographics have changed over the years because of the addition of several other churches/schools in the area. The city of Aurora has become over 44% Hispanic. Our school does not reflect this same diversity.
- If Aurora continues to expand its Hispanic population, how do we make our tuition affordable to this group? If St. Katherine (Sugar Grove) were to build a school, it would negatively impact our enrollment.

Enrollment

- Our enrollment went down for years. We had three sections of each grade and now we have two sections. Some of the reasons include: economy, lack of support of the school from the pastor, lack of support from the diocese concerning problems with pastors and/or principals, and poor principal leadership. We don't serve any special populations.
- Holy Cross, St. Rita, and public schools because of tuition or special education needs are our competition. A future school at St. Katherine would have a negative impact on our enrollment. What distinguishes Holy Angels is the future STEM curriculum, partnership with Aurora University, dedicated computer lab to enhance learning, "specials" classes (art, music, technology, Spanish, library, physical education), morning and after school daycare, licensed school counselor on staff, part-time nurse, lots of after school activities (Robotics, math club, art club, etc.)

Finances and Facilities

- There is no plan for future problems that may arrive (like perhaps a new roof).
- We're not ADA compliant. We need air-conditioning throughout the building. We're always looking to upgrade heating, roofing, electrical, and technology.

Academic Programming and Staffing

- STEM curriculum will be implemented in the fall for all students in grades K-8. We have already implemented advanced math, Spanish in junior high, math enrichment for grades 2-5, student tutoring, and a focus on giving back to the community (Feed My Starving Children, nursing home Mass). We are looking at being more inclusive of children with special needs in the future.

Looking Forward and Possibilities for the Future

- Addressing enrollment issues and keeping current on educational trends to provide staff with relevant professional development.
- If it was solely based upon academics it may be beneficial to have separate schools (K-2, 3-5, 6-8), but it would be difficult to keep the Catholic identity of the parish in that kind of structure. A different funding model needs to be created - unknown what it should be.

- It is advisory by diocesan guidelines.
- There should be a governance that has clearly defined roles. Pastor's role should be to care for the issues that occur in the parish and the principal should take care of the educational issues. They need to work collaboratively as a team.