

Section 5 **ACADEMICS**

INSTRUCTION:

It is our objective that Catholicism be woven into the fabric of each curriculum area for all students. We recognize that students learn in a variety of methods such as visually, hands-on, and auditorily. Our teachers strive to incorporate within their lessons all opportunities for students to be successful based upon their learning styles, interest, and ability.

Students are grouped by mixed abilities in grades K-8 in all curriculum areas with the exception of the following:

- Grade 6 Social Studies
- Grade 7 Academic and Accelerated Math
- Grade 8 Social Studies
 Academic and Accelerated Math
 Language Arts

REPORTING SYSTEM:

Holy Name of Jesus School uses the *Rediker Plus Portal*, an on-line grade reporting system which allows parents/guardians to view the continuous academic progress of their child/children.

Parents have login access to the *Rediker Plus Portal* through the Holy Name of Jesus School website at www.holynameofjesus.com/School/. The reporting system allows parents to view student grades, Progress Reports, and homework.

Holy Name of Jesus School issues electronic report cards three (3) times each year: December, March, and June. Teachers enter Progress Reports onto the portal for parents to view, print, sign, and return to school mid-way through each trimester.

MARKING SYSTEM:

Grades Kindergarten, 1, 2, and 3

<u>Graded Subjects</u>	<u>Marking System</u>
Religion	E – Exceeded Expectations
Integrated Language Arts	P – Proficient
Math	IP – In Progress

A blank indicates content was not taught during the trimester.

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GRADES 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

<u>Graded Subjects</u>	<u>Marking System</u>	<u>Marking Code</u>
Religion	A = Excellent	E – Exceeded Expectations
Language Arts	B = Above Average	P – Proficient
Math	C = Average	IP – In Progress
Science	D = Progressing	
Social Studies	F = Not meeting curriculum	
Art		
Computer		
Music		
Physical Education		
Spanish (Grades 7 and 8)		

HOMEWORK-STUDY TIME:

Students in Grades 1 – 8 are given homework assignment books. This book is an integral part of home/school communication.

Homework includes both written and study assignments. While students should complete homework independently, parental interest and guidance are certainly encouraged when needed. Written work should be done neatly and legibly. Studying is most beneficial when done in a quiet place conducive for learning. It is expected that all homework assignments be completed.

HONORS AND EFFORT AWARDS:

Students in Grades 4 - 8 receive Honor Card awards. The requirements for honors are as follows:

- **First Honors** - Student will have earned an **A** in all academic subject areas, and a **C** or greater in all special subjects.
- **Second Honors** - Student will have earned any combination of **A's or B's** in all academic subjects, and a **C** or greater in all special subjects.
- **Honorable Mention** – Homeroom teachers choose students they feel are earnestly doing their best.
- **Overall Honors** – At year's end, teachers take into account the student's character development in addition to overall effort.

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STANDARDIZED TESTING:

As directed by the Diocese of Harrisburg, students in Grades 3 - 8 are administered **IOWA Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)** standardized tests, and **CoGAT** testing for students in Grades 3 and 5. These tests measure student progress against national norms. Teachers review each student's scores and note those students with weaknesses in particular areas. Students with above-average scores are also noted. We work to meet the needs of all students who may benefit from remediation, as well as those who may require more of a challenge. Keep in mind, standardized test scores are not the only criteria used for judging the ability of the student.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES:

Student Support Team (SST):

Recognizing that every student has a unique gift from God, Holy Name of Jesus School strives to develop these gifts. In an effort to support children who demonstrate through classroom performance that assistance in the learning process may be required, a team of teachers, support staff, and administrators meet on a weekly basis to review and address the needs of each child who is referred by his/her teacher. Academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs are addressed, and action plans developed in conjunction with parents. These plans include instructional strategies for teachers, progress monitoring, and assessment of the overall success or failure of the various interventions.

Intensive Instructional Support (IIS):

While Catholic schools within the Diocese of Harrisburg do not offer exceptional programs for special education students, Holy Name of Jesus School does offer **Intensive Instructional Support (IIS)**. Students who are determined by the **Student Support Team (SST)** to be in need of intensive intervention and specially designed instruction qualify for this type of service.