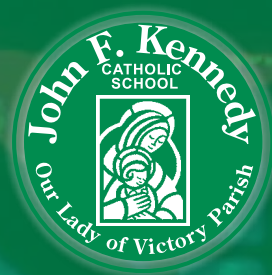


## MISSION STATEMENT

John F. Kennedy Catholic School, as the Roman Catholic School of Our Lady of Victory Parish, partners with families in accepting and loving children as unique gifts of God. Through our caring and nurturing parish community, we will help all children identify and share their gifts and talents and develop a Christ-centered character, live their Catholic faith, and achieve academic excellence as they become disciples of Christ.

FAITH IN CHRIST



## ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY FOR 2007-2008

John F. Kennedy Catholic School  
Our Lady of Victory Parish

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE  
IN EDUCATION

FAITH FILLED EDUCATION







## FAITH IN TEACHERS

*"I was sitting in my AP English class today, listening to my classmates panic, moan, gripe, and just generally complain. I was the only person today in my class who was able to define a clause. As my ADVANCED PLACEMENT classmates blamed their junior year English teacher for not teaching punctuation well enough, I was silently wondering why they weren't instead blaming their seventh grade teacher. My friends from JFK and I talk about this sometimes - how our AP English classmates don't know basic punctuation or good sentence structure. We agreed that although we hated to admit it, our English classes at JFK were invaluable. I learned that basic grammar and paper-writing skills that my [non-JFK alumni] classmates missed out on...and it has made high school much easier."*

### Annual Progress Report Goals:

JFK sets and reports upon annual progress goals in relation to ITBS reading comprehension, math total, and science scores. The following are the goals for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

#### READING:

2007-08: To increase the percent of students in grade 4 who achieve in the intermediate and high performance levels in reading comprehension.

2006-07: 77%  
2007-08: 96%  
Increase: 19%

2008-09: To increase the percent of students in grade 8 who are proficient in reading comprehension from 82% in 2007-08.

#### MATH:

2007-08: To increase the percent of students in grade 4 who achieve in the combined intermediate and high performance levels in math total.

2006-07: 80%  
2007-08: 89%  
Increase: 9%

2008-09: To increase the percent of students in grade 4 who are proficient in math from 89% in 2007-08.

#### SCIENCE:

2007-08: To decrease the number of students within the grade 3-7 cohort group identified as being non-proficient on the ITBS during the 06-07 testing period (13) when tested a year later in grades 4-8 during the 07-08 testing period.

2006-07: 13  
2007-08: 7  
Improvement of 6

2008-09: To increase the percent of female students who are proficient in science in 3rd grade in 2007 (80%) when they take the ITBS as 4th graders in 2008.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Percentage of Students Proficient According to ITBS Scores

Year		Reading Comprehension			Math			Science	
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
05-06	81%	68%	91%	76%	63%	87%	93%	84%	100%
06-07	77%	70%	87%	80%	80%	80%	89%	85%	93%
07-08	96%	100%	94%	89%	100%	88%	92%	100%	94%
3 yr. avg	85%	79%	91%	82%	81%	85%	91%	90%	96%

### Iowa Tests of Basic Skills Results for Grades 4 and 8:

Reporting three years of data for 4th and 8th graders' reading comprehension, math, and science ITBS scores to the community is one requirement of the Iowa Department of Education. Due to the small class sizes and low numbers of males and females in each grade, fairly large year-to-year fluctuations can be seen. The tables on the left illustrate the percentages of students who are proficient.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Percentage of Students Proficient According to ITBS Scores

Year		Reading Comprehension			Math			Science	
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
05-06	87%	67%	100%	96%	89%	100%	100%	100%	100%
06-07	84%	94%	77%	87%	94%	82%	95%	100%	91%
07-08	82%	83%	80%	85%	83%	87%	97%	95%	100%
3 yr. avg	84%	81%	86%	89%	89%	90%	97%	98%	97%

### Talented and Gifted Activities for All Students

JFK has talented and gifted opportunities for all students. Rather than separate out 5-7% of the student population for TAG activities as they do in our local public middle schools, JFK requires 100% of our students to do what would be considered TAG activities in other schools. All of the fifth graders complete Native American projects. All of the 5th and 6th graders compete in Happy Joe's Pizzathon. All of the 7th and 8th graders compete in the science fair, and all of the 5th-8th graders complete the entire civic oration project. Even an optional TAG opportunity like Mock Trial at JFK is open to any 6th-8th grader who would like to participate.

As the results of JFK students and alumni indicate, JFK's required TAG activities yield outstanding results. Recent high school graduate Lisa Brus commented upon the civic oration project at JFK to one of her JFK teachers:

## Iowa Tests of Basic Skills





## Growing Our Faith...Shaping Generations

Our Lady of Victory and John F. Kennedy Catholic School launched a capital campaign in the spring, "Growing Our Faith...Shaping Generations." The \$2.4 million campaign seeks to enhance and renew the parish campus, providing for the needs of all generations of the community. The main campaign's goals are threefold:

- **Complete several large scale maintenance items that continue the process of renewing the infrastructure of the entire campus.** Having spent over \$350,000 over the last several years to take care of our campus, the parish will use campaign funds to replace the church roof and gutters, redo the parking lot, and replace the lighting and ceiling tiles in the school.
- **Expand the education and faith formation spaces to meet the needs of today's families and current educational standards.** Classroom space will be added to accommodate two sections of each grade level in pre-school through 8th grade at class sizes that meet today's standards of 20-25 pupils per room. This space will allow for a reduction in the dependency on mobiles and shared classrooms spaces and maintain dedicated areas for art, music, and science. Early childhood space will be added to meet the needs of a pre-school that is on a trend to double within five years and to provide space for full day services for families with two working parents. Finally, office space and a more secure entryway will be added to provide safety, security, efficiency, and privacy.
- **Enhance the community and sacramental areas in church with a gathering space.** The scope of this project includes a gathering space, multipurpose rooms, ADA compliant restrooms, an elevator, a permanent baptismal font, and a small kitchenette.

This three-year campaign has already received pledges of over \$1.8 million.



## Achievements of JFK Students and Alumni:

■ **Modern Woodmen of America's Speech Contest:** Like last year, five of the six students who advanced from the district/regional level of competition to the state level were JFK students. Erica Grubbs received third place at state.

■ **Mock Trial:** Two of JFK's three teams of 6th-8th graders advanced to the state competition in Des Moines, and one of the teams took 6th place. Christina Laubenthal, Erica Grubbs, and Joe Tigges received individual recognition.

### ■ Happy Joe's Pizzathon:

Our 6th grade team of Genna Ripslinger, Clare Laubenthal, Allie Berens, Rachel Sigwarth, Patrick Matson, and Kate Friederichs received first place and made a presentation at Happy Joe's corporate office.

■ **Catholic Messenger's Vocations Awareness Writing Contest:** JFK students received 40% of the awards/recognition.

■ **Scott County Catholic Schools' Science Fair:** Melissa August and Blake Weiman received awards.

### ■ Salute to Academics and Achievements:

High school graduates and JFK alumni were recognized in the *Quad-City Times*: Lisa Brus (academics), Carissa Coopman and Kathleen Loftus (leadership), Katie Vogel, Stephanie Haas, and Sam Wagner (service), and Brian Smith (journalism).

■ **Valedictorians and Top Students:** Sam Wagner (Assumption) and Lisa Brus (West). Note: The DCSD does not identify valedictorians but recognizes all students with GPAs of 4.0.

■ **Food Channel:** JFK and Assumption graduate Mary Nolan starred in her cooking show, *Chic & Easy*.

■ **Harvard's Hall of Fame:** Dr. Erin Maher (now Erin Salvador) was the first women's basketball player inducted into Harvard's Hall of Fame.



[www.olvjfk.com](http://www.olvjfk.com)

## Celebrating with the Lord

"Class Masses" are celebrated each week, and all school Masses are celebrated at least twice per month. During these Masses, Msgr. Parizek and Fr. Meyer direct their homilies to the appropriate age level for understanding. They involve the students by asking questions and using props to help students understand the true meaning of God's Word.

Msgr. Parizek also taught many of the students how to do the "Our Father" in sign language, allowing them to pray it with him in front of the church during an all school Mass. Students of every grade level are involved with "Mass parts." Trish Gallagher, Our Lady of Victory's pastoral associate for faith formation, loves "watching the littlest ones step up to the microphone and bend it to the right position as if they were already pros." At the end of each Mass, Msgr. Parizek always comes over to thank the children for their participation in the "Mass parts."

## Grant Funded Pre-School Programming

Through a unique partnership with the Davenport Community School District that is receiving statewide recognition, JFK's Guardian Angel Pre-school and the other Catholic pre-schools in Scott County received state funding for four-year-old pre-school programming.

In its first year, JFK received nearly \$2,600 per four-year-old student in pre-school. Using research that indicates that for every dollar spent on a child for pre-school

education there is almost a ten dollar return in benefits to society or to the student as he/she becomes an adult (Jacobson, "Long-Term Economic Payoff Seen From Early-Childhood Education," Edweek.org, June 5, 2008), the state of Iowa seems intent on funding pre-school education.

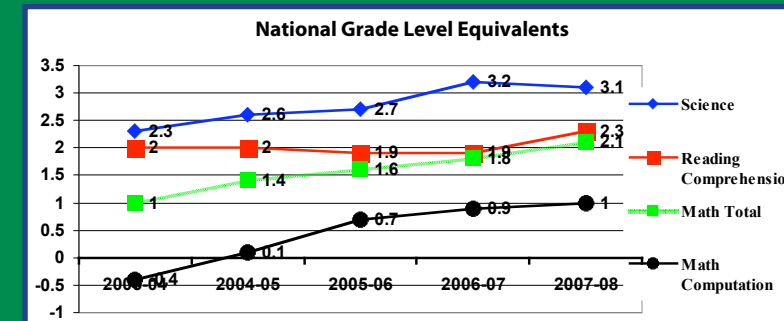
This state funding allowed JFK to offer families four-year-old pre-school programming for free. Pre-school teachers Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Wetjen-Braun have also been working diligently all year to ensure that Guardian Angel meets or exceeds the new Iowa Quality Pre-School Program Standards.



# FAITH FILLED EDUCATION

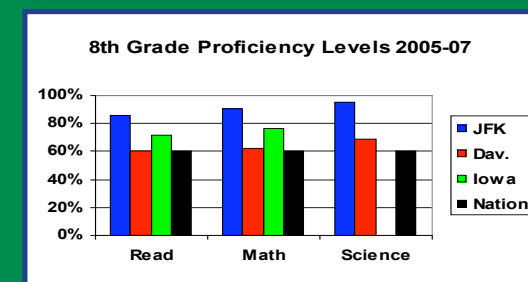
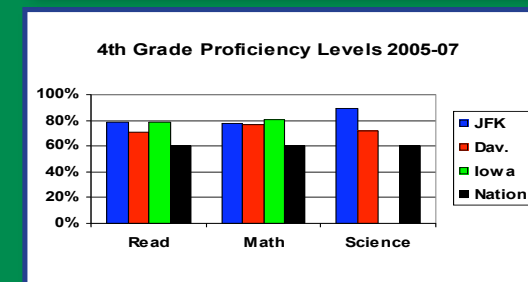
## Iowa Tests of Basic Skills Results for Grades 3-8:

JFK students continually score above the national grade level equivalents on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. These averages have even increased in the targeted areas of reading, math, and science since 2003-04. The graph at the right shows how much above national grade equivalents JFK students in grades 3-8 scored. A fifth grader, for example, scored at an 8.1 grade level equivalent in science in 2007-08.



## Local, State, National Comparisons

Local proficiency data according to ITBS scores must also be compared to state and national averages in reading and math for 4th graders and in reading, math, and science for 8th graders. The most recent data on the state web site is biennium data for 2005-07. These graphs indicate the percentage of students proficient in each subject area. Fourth and eighth grade science data is for 2006-07 only.





# INSIGHTS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Chad Steimle

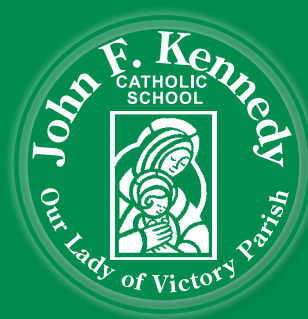
"I am privileged to work with such an outstanding staff," said Chad Steimle, JFK principal. "Having the right people doing the right things makes for an outstanding educational experience for students." Mr. Steimle recently asked teachers to describe why they are involved in Catholic school education at John F. Kennedy Catholic School. Their stories are throughout this report.

While maintaining excellent programming, much of our focus this past year has been on preparing ourselves for the future. With enrollment in K-8 and pre-school having both grown by 20% or more over the last few years and projected to continue to increase, long-term plans were developed for a building addition and mobile classrooms were added to campus to temporarily meet our needs. The input from parents and staff has been invaluable as the board of education and all of the planning committees have laid the framework for the continued success of JFK students.

There is a difference in education, and it's here at JFK!

*"What I notice most about Catholic schools is the amazing dedication of those with whom I work. This is not merely a job to us. It is our mission."*

JoEllen Nahra,  
JFK teacher  
Lourdes and  
Assumption High School graduate



### To Teach as We Want our Own Children Taught

The family like atmosphere is pervasive in the education students receive at JFK. Not only do our parents and students develop close relationships during their time at JFK, but our staff members treat students like members of their own families. This treatment is not very difficult because so many of the OLV/JFK staff members currently have or have had their own children attend JFK.

From the parish and religious education offices, Nancy Iossi, Tracie Kirk, and Jennifer Wemhoff currently have children at JFK, and Judy Johnson and Trish Gallagher had children graduate from JFK. Teachers and staff members Elizabeth Motto, Angie Logan, Jennifer Streets Wood, Kary Maes, Karen Youngerman, Julie Bauer, Deb Friederichs, Chris McGraw, and Chad Steimle have children at JFK. Steve and Patty Snell and Janet Thomas have grandchildren at JFK. Other staff members who have had their children at JFK in the past include Peg Gooder, Linda Prior, Trish Hinchman, Kitty Temming, Shelly Furlong, Linda Vogel, and Lisa Solchenberger.

When people talk about the family-like atmosphere at JFK, it is so true. We work hard to make sure that everyone's children receive the Catholic school education we want our own children to experience.



### Tuition Assistance Continues to Increase

Continuing efforts are allowing a Catholic school education to be affordable to families at John F. Kennedy Catholic School. In 2004-05, there was approximately \$18,000 in tuition assistance, which often took the place of uncollected tuition. By the 2007-08 school year, over \$59,000 in tuition assistance was granted to families of students at JFK, and the budgeted bad debt was about \$4,200, less than 1% of the total tuition billed. Through the Family Tuition Plan, an additional \$56,000 of assistance was granted to Our Lady of Victory families with children at Assumption High School.

This tuition assistance amount of over \$115,000 in 2007-08 was due to the Scott County Catholic School Campaign, "Embracing Our Future," the Student Tuition Organizations approved by state law, and the annual Fr. Ken Martin Memorial fund-raiser. JFK's board of education has also achieved the goal of the second and third child of a family being charged 80% and 60% respectively of the first child's tuition. The fourth or more child of a family attending JFK is free. Leaders at OLV/JFK and supporters of Catholic schools are committed to making a Catholic school education affordable for all families.

## FAITH IN PEERS



## FAITH IN YOURSELF

*"Catholic education was the plan for my life.... Looking back, I don't think I understood its importance....[I]t was just 'school' for me....It wasn't until after college that I realized the difference with Catholic education. While teaching in other schools, it wasn't natural for me not to say a prayer each morning or before and after lunch....While being in these schools, I felt a difference, somewhat of a void....Faith, morals, and values were not part of the daily routine, and it was hard for me to make this adjustment. Returning to John F. Kennedy was a dream come true....Catholic education is part of my life, and I didn't realize this completely until I was away from it. Beginning as my parent's plan for me, it has become my own plan. Looking back, it is now that I truly understand the importance of faith in education."*

Paula Rupe,  
JFK teacher and JFK and  
Assumption High School graduate

