



Where a Passion for Learning Begins!

**Immaculate Conception  
Catholic Academy** in Astoria

**State of the Academy  
May 3, 2022**

# Mission and Approach

- **Academy Mission Statement**

*To provide every child with a safe and nurturing environment that facilitates a love of learning as well as a love of God, others, and self.*

- **Educating the “Whole Child”**

## **Academically, Spiritually and Socially**

*As Catholic school teachers, and educators in the faith, we have an obligation, a sacred trust given to us by Jesus, to inspire in our students an appreciation of the faith dimension of their lives, an understanding of community globally as well as locally, and a realization that **service to the world community is an integral part of the gospel message**. As educators in the faith, we must conserve that kind of climate in which relationships thrive: relationships of respect and concern, of loving and caring; an atmosphere permeated with spiritual values and an appreciation of life in the fullest and deepest sense.*

***This is essential to a true Catholic education.***



# Agenda

Update on:

- Academics/Cognia Report
- Enrollment Update
- Finance & Development
- Academy Enhancements
- Home Academy Association
- Calendar May – August
- Questions, Comments & Suggestions



**ACADEMICS/  
COGNIA REPORT**



# Academic Overview: Cognia – School Accreditation Engagement Review

Cognia is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that accredits primary and secondary schools throughout the United States and internationally.

Accreditation means that the Principal, Board and Staff are constantly working on maintaining and improving the quality of the educational services they provide for students.

Students will grow academically as the program consistently improves through each stage of development.

***Our Academy scored considerably higher than institutions evaluated in the past five years by Cognia.***



# Academic Overview: Cognia – School Accreditation Engagement Review

## *Excerpts from the Cognia Report:*

“...the Academy promotes intellectual curiosity, creativity, personal growth, and service to others, students are challenged to excel by dedicated educators and competitive curriculum.”

“...implements programs and initiatives to support wellness and social-emotional learning to foster positive relationships for students and families with warm, community culture.”

“...shares key learning targets and lesson plans aligned to next generation standards and curriculum to consistently deliver educational excellence.”

“Technology and digital learning tools are strong and plentiful at the school...”

# Academic Overview: Test Scores

Testing Scores are Used to Direct Broad Instruction & Tailor Individual Learning Plans

- Terra Nova Exams (Grades 3-8; most current Fall 2021)
  - Math Composite scores were significantly higher than both Diocese and Queens North for most grades
  - Reading and Language Composite scores mainly ranged from on par with Diocese and Queens North to exceeding both groups
- i-Ready is a powerful learning platform that encourages students to learn in accordance with their abilities
  - I-Ready diagnostics assist teachers to differentiate levels of instruction
- Parents should consult Teachers on the test scores of their child(ren)



# Academic Overview: Additional Instruction

In addition to the NYS Next Generation common core instruction, our Academy has incorporated additional instruction:

- SRA Reading Program (Grades 3-8)
- i-Ready Individualized Learning Application (K-8)
  - Reading & Math
- SuperKids Reading & Writing Program (K-2)



# Graduation: High School of Choice

- Our students typically receive acceptances from their high schools of choice
- The high schools that our current Graduates will attend in September:
  - Dominican Academy
  - Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School
  - Msgr. McClancy Memorial High School
  - St. John's Preparatory High School

# Extended Day Learning & Summer Fun Programs

## Extended Day Learning

- Post regular classes: homework, reading, crafts, and exercise
- Dismissal - 5:45PM
- Primarily UPK 3-Grade 4

## Summer Fun!

- July 6 – August 12
- Interesting and engaging learning activities planned, including weekly offsite educational trips

**Mrs. Mills & Ms. Hopkins create a safe, nurturing, and fun learning and growing environment for our students!**

***Our kids don't want to leave!***

# Spirituality Ingrained within our Academy

Our pastor and parish priests regularly minister to the pastoral needs of the Academy children through class visits, liturgical celebrations, and sacramental events

## Spiritual Activities

- Daily prayer, Daily Religious instruction, Periodic conferences for spiritual development
- School Liturgies (Mass), Rosary, Stations of the Cross (Lent), Sacrament of Penance (Advent and Lent)
- Knights of Columbus Squires Grades 5-8; Altar Servers; Children's Choir

## Sacraments Administered

- First Penance and First Holy Communion – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- Confirmation – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Raising Funds for Charitable Causes

- October: Breast Cancer Research
- Christmas: Children in **Hour Children** residence (Astoria)
- Pajamas for children living in NYC shelters
- Lent: Holy Union Sisters and Brothers of the Sacred Heart Missions



# ENROLLMENT UPDATE

# Enrollment Trend

- Supports Growth
  - Demographics indicate a growing population of children 5-17 years old
  - A large and sound building, with ample room to expand and grow safely
- Challenges to Growth
  - Family financial constraints may drive students to the local public schools

	20/21	21/22	22/23*
K + Grade 1	46	42	35
Grades 2-8	90	92	115
Total K-8	136	134	150
UPK3 (formerly Nursery)	11	29	30
UPK4	52	36	54
Total UPK 3&4	63	65	84
<b>TOTAL ACADEMY</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>234</b>

\*Projected

# Marketing & Enrollment Committee / HAA (Home Academy Association)

- Academy Spirit – Immac Family Events
  - Trunk or Treat
  - Family Bingo Nights
  - Dress Down Days
  - Year end BBQ
- Recruiting
  - **Current Parents are our Best Recruiters!**
  - Regular social media posts to Facebook and Instagram
  - Informative Website with a Virtual Tour
  - Special tuition rate for Kindergarten and Grade 1
  - Integration of UPK families into our Immac Family activities and events
  - Outreach to our Religious Education program students

**We need and encourage additional  
parental support to help with our  
enrollment initiatives**

# Marketing & Enrollment Committee / HAA

- Fundraising to Supplement Tuition
  - Mandatory Fundraisers:
    - CommUNITY of Gratitude Virtual Walkathon
    - Chocolate Sale
    - Auction
  - These efforts supplement tuition shortfall, so to the extent time allows, we ask parents to embrace the fundraising activities and raise amounts beyond minimum requirements
  - Other Fundraisers
    - Winter & Summer Raffles

**Plan to meet with HAA in August to discuss fundraising events and calendar for the 2022-2023 Academy year**

# HAA-Hosted Open House

- Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm
- Lyons Hall (Academy Cafeteria)
- Tours of Academy, Registration Materials, including financial assistance forms will be available
- HAA seeking volunteers to help
- Request each family to refer one family to attend the event

**Additional enrollment helps manage tuition increases & provides investment funds for our Academy**

***Your Help in Referring Families is Much Appreciated!***



# Immaculate Mary Stewardship Fund

- Tuition assistance fund that supplements Futures in Education assistance awards (or is a stand-alone award)
- Confidential process:
  - Step 1: Family meets with Brother Joseph
  - Step 2: Brother Joseph makes recommendation to Board
  - Step 3: Board considers request and ratifies award
- Unique to IMMAC!
- Thanks to the generosity of Alumni and other Benefactors

**Tuition should NOT be a Barrier for any Student or Family who Desires a Catholic Education at IMMAC!**



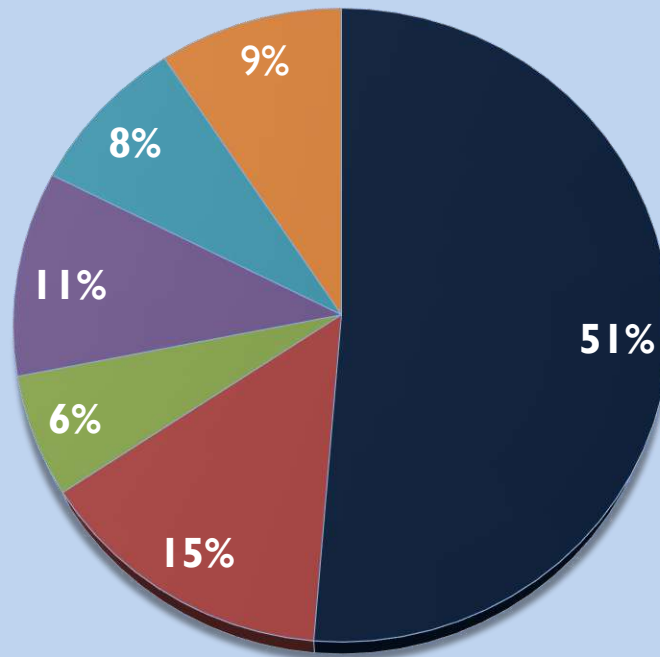
# **FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT**

# Financial Overview

- The cost to educate an Immac student during the 2021-2022 school year is \$9,700
- The tuition shortfall must be supplemented with other income-producing activities
  - Extended Day and Summer Programs
  - State/Diocesan Funds (limited)
  - In-House Development Efforts
  - Mandatory Fundraising Activities
- Discretionary spending is tightly controlled, but mandatory expenses have created budget challenges: insurance, medical costs, and the costs of maintaining a COVID-safe environment

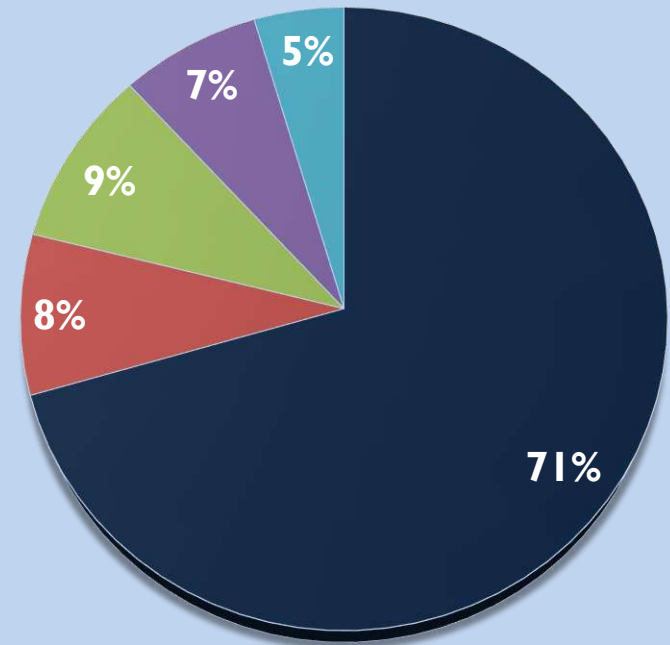
# Snapshot of Income and Expenses

## Revenue per Budget 21/22



- Tuition & Fees
- Fundraising & Development
- Other Income
- AfterSchool & Summer Program
- Diocese & NYS Payments
- NYC Reimbursement of UPK Expenses

## Expenses per Budget 21/22



- Salaries & Employee Benefits
- Insurance & Assessment
- Operation & Maintenance
- Administration
- Other Expenses

# FACTS Tuition Management System

- All Families must maintain a FACTS account; payment choice of the 10<sup>th</sup> or the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month
- The first tuition payment for '22-'23 will be **July 2022**
- The Office Staff is not positioned to accept tuition checks or cash
- Please pay the full tuition in FACTS until your child's scholarship is confirmed in late fall; balances will be adjusted and prorated after confirmation
- Extended Day Program fees will continue to be billed through FACTS; other fees will follow

**FACTS is the Primary Tool for You to Receive and Obtain Information About Your Children**

**Be sure to set up your account as soon as possible!**

# Development Overview

## Ongoing

- Immac outreach opportunities throughout the year
  - Facebook
  - Instagram
  - Emails via Constant Contact
- Diocesan Futures in Education (Catholic Alumni Partnership) outreach consisting of email and postal mail solicitations

## Special Events & Programs

- 97<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
  - October 17, 2021
  - Terrace on the Park
  - Honorees were presented with Immaculate Mary Leadership Award

**Cultivating Relationships with Alumni, the Community, and Friends of IMMAC is integral to our Financial Plan**



# **ACADEMY ENHANCEMENTS**

# Program/Academy Enhancements 2021-2022

- St. John's Prep Enrichment Program:
  - Robotics
  - Dance
  - Photography
  - Performing Arts
  - Italian through Experience
- Wellness Center
- Free Lunch Program
- UPK 3 (2 Classes)
- Upgraded/Added Security Cameras throughout the Academy
- Updated the Teachers' Break Room



# Wellness Center Programs to Date


## Students

- Pediatric Dentist
- Coping with Anxiety  
(Differentiated by Grade Level)
- Understanding Viruses

## Families (via Zoom)

- Healthy Nutrition
- Healthy Cooking  
Demonstration
- Anxiety over Test Taking

**If you have ideas for Student or Family  
Wellness Activities, please email  
[principalbrjr@iccaastoria.org](mailto:principalbrjr@iccaastoria.org)**



# Program/Academy Enhancements 2022-2023 in Early Phases

- Reimagined Library
- Exploring partnerships with St. John's Prep & McClancy High Schools - Academic credits for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders
- Preparation for 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:
  - Identify Building & Program Improvements to be Captured for Capital Campaign, e.g.,
    - Air Conditioning for entire building

# Reimagined Library

The Lodespoto and Mancini-Nunez Families took the lead in developing a plan to expand and redesign the Library to complement the Wellness Center's beautiful design created by Mrs. Keating

- Vision of the Reimagined Library – A library designed to entice the students through functionality, aesthetic beauty and inspiration. It should be both a journey and the destination; a room that flows in such a way that the students are excited to read and/or relaxed in their research pursuits.
  - 2 large classrooms combined with dedicated age-appropriate sections
  - Inviting space – bright colors, warm, and comfortable
  - Provides students the opportunity to read and research, independently or collaboratively
  - Regularly updated with books and periodicals of interest to students
  - Hosting book talks and discussion groups for students (and possibly for families virtually)
  - Technology to enhance student learning

**Will be Seeking External Funds for this Project**



# **HOME ACADEMY ASSOCIATION**

# HAA – All Parents Welcome to Join!

- Parent association charged with:
  - Fostering communication between Academy & Parents
  - Managing the fundraising events
  - Planning Academy spirit events
- Current Leaders:
  - Corina Lavoie (2nd Grade; UPK3 Parent)
  - Shaun Caruana (1<sup>st</sup> Grade Parent)
- Meets first Tuesday of month; 6:30pm



# How May Parents Help Support the Academy?

- Promote the Academy to your relatives, friends, and neighbors – community support and resources are welcome!
- Support Academy and Parish Functions
- Join and/or Support the Home Academy Association (HAA)
- Volunteer your talents and services, including on Board Committees: Development or Marketing & Enrollment
- Embrace FACTS and learn available capabilities
- Join with your student's teachers and Academy administration in the joint mission of educating your child
- Foster an atmosphere where religious values taught in school are reinforced at home
  - Attend Sunday Eucharist with your child(ren)



# Calendar for the Remainder of the 2021-2022 Academic Year

- May 13 – Sacrament of Confirmation, 5:00 PM
- May 19 – HAA-hosted Open House (Lyons Hall-Cafeteria) 6:00-8:00 PM
- May 20 – CommUNITY of Gratitude Walkathon 11:15 AM -12:30 PM
- May 21 – Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, 12:00 PM
- May 24 – NYS Science Test, Grades 4 and 8
- May 26 – Ascension Thursday, 10:00 AM Mass, Grades K-8
- June 7 – Enrichment Program Showcase, 3:00 PM
- June 17 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Mass and Ceremony, 7:00 PM, Parish Church
- June 18 – Family Thank You BBQ
- June 24 – Last Day of Class

# We are Immac!

- Committed to the Education of the “Whole” Child
  - Academically, Spiritually, and Socially
- United in a Community of Faith
- Reenergized as We Approach our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



# Parent Feedback

Thoughts

Questions

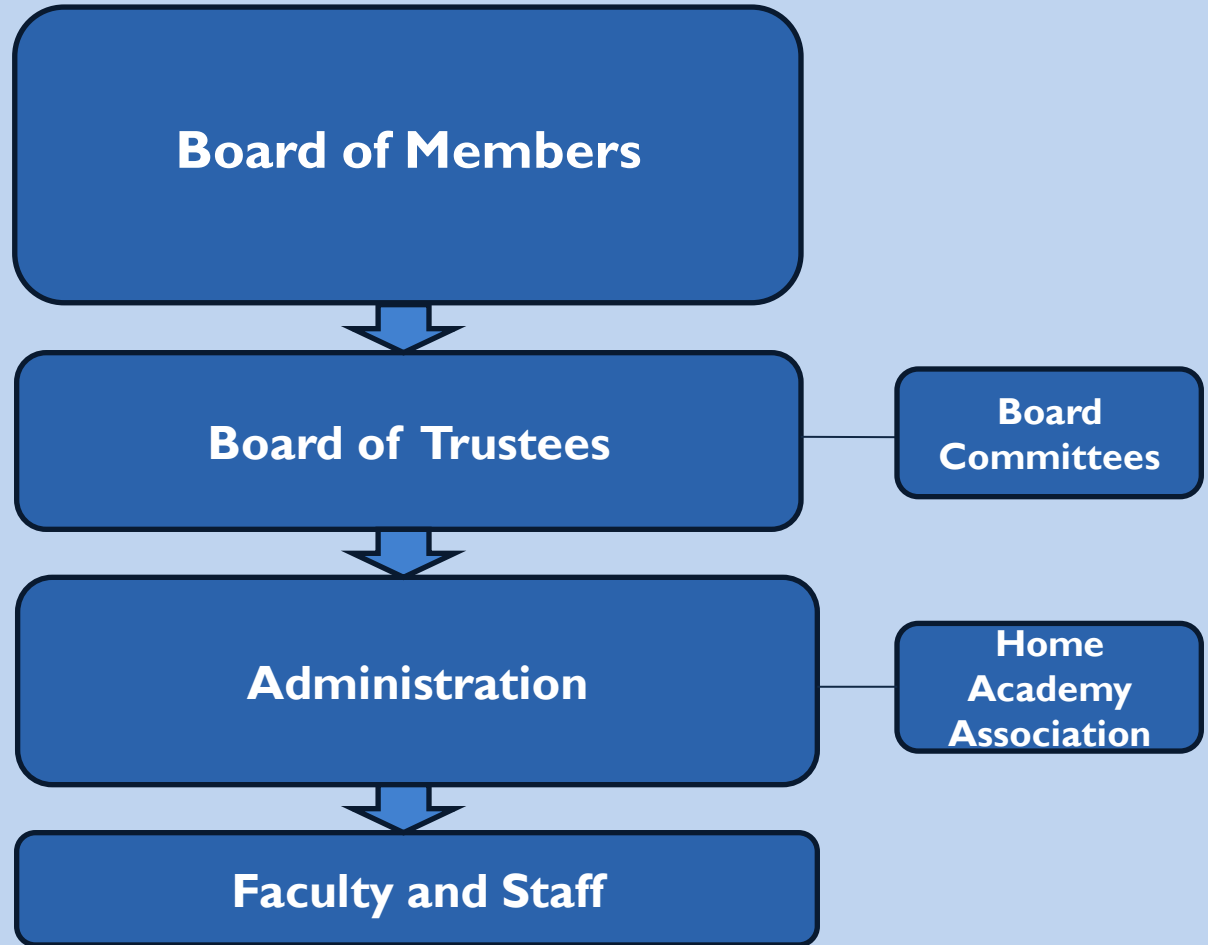
Suggestions

# Appendix



# **ACADEMY GOVERNANCE**

# Academy Organization



# Roles and Responsibilities – Boards

## Board of Members

- Includes:
  - Msgr. Fernando Ferrarese
  - Bishop and/or his Clergy Representative
  - Superintendent of Brooklyn/Queens Catholic Schools
- Prime sponsor of the Academy
- Ensures that the Academy maintains its Catholic Identity
- Appoints Trustees after they are nominated and elected by the Board of Trustees
- Ratifies the appointment of the Principal

## Board of Trustees

- Governing body of the Academy – Volunteers
- Chairperson – Diane Pisido – Lead representative of the Board of Trustees responsible for the management of the Academy
- Vice Chairperson – Patricia Mulé – Assists the Chairperson in carrying out the management of the Academy
- Treasurer – Kevin Johnson – Responsible for the financial matters of the Academy and responsible for a true and accurate accounting of all financial transactions
- Secretary – Anna Rocchio – Responsible for accurate minutes of Board meetings and all official recordings
- Additional Trustees – Terryl Brown, Angelica Flores, Andrew Hopkins, Dennis Pope



# Roles and Responsibilities – Administration

## Principal – Brother Joseph Rocco, sc, Ed.D.

- Appointed by the Board of Trustees after consultation with the Board of Members
- Directly responsible for the academic programs, the extra-curricular programs, and the pastoral life of the school
- Chief educational officer of the school – guides the educational process and serves as curriculum coordinator
- Recruits and manages teachers and organizes programs for the professional growth of the faculty and staff
- Monitors the clerical staff of the school
- Prepares and submits all reports required by the State and the Diocese
- Oversees those areas of the school budget pertaining to the overall educational process
- Responsible for the overall discipline of the school and for enforcing the student behavior code