



Where a Passion for Learning
Begins!

Immaculate Conception
Catholic Academy in Astoria

State of the Academy
May, 2023

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
- Enrollment Update
- Finance & Development
- Academy Enhancements
- Home Academy Association
- Calendar May – August
- Questions, Comments & Suggestions
- Appendix



ACADEMICS

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 2022)
 - 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 Individualized Learning Application (K-8)
in both Reading & Math
 - 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 implementing the use of the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards, our Academy has incorporated additional instructional programs:

- SRA Reading Program (Grades 3-8)
- SuperKids Reading & Writing Program (K-2)



Academic Overview: Cognia – School Accreditation

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...”

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:
 - Academy of American Studies
 - Archbishop Molloy High School
 - Dominican Academy
 - Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School
 - Martin Luther King 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!

- June 26-July 28
- 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 – 2nd Grade
- Confirmation – 8th 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; and 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	23/24*
K + Grade 1	46	42	24	35
Grades 2-8	90	92	106	110
Total K-8	136	134	130	145
UPK3 (formerly Nursery)	11	29	30	45
UPK4	52	36	36	36
Total UPK 3&4	63	65	66	81
TOTAL ACADEMY	199	199	196	226

*Projected

Marketing & Enrollment Committee / HAA (Home Academy Association)

- Academy Spirit – Immac Family Events
 - Trunk or Treat
 - Sweetheart Dance
 - Ice Cream Social
 - 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

- Next school year 2023-2024: Fundraising Fee to Supplement Tuition = \$300 (No mandatory fundraisers).
- In addition, the HAA may choose to host other fundraising activities such as:
 - CommUNITY of Gratitude Virtual Walkathon
 - Auction
 - Radio Bingo
- These efforts supplement tuition shortfall, so to the extent time allows, we ask parents to embrace the fundraising activities by inviting family and friends to participate

Plan to meet with HAA in August to discuss fundraising events and calendar for the 2023-2024 Academy year

HAA-Hosted Open House

- Thursday, May 10th: 6:30-8:00pm
- 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!



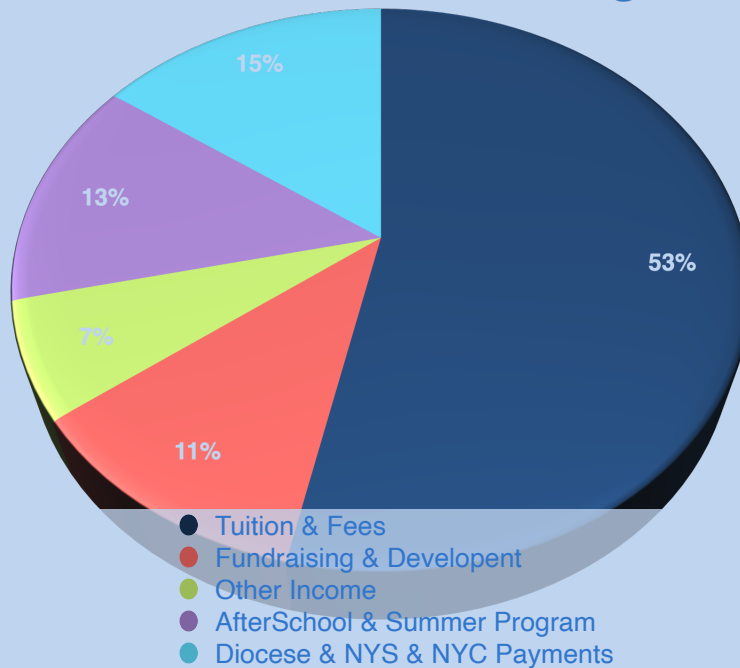
**FINANCE &
DEVELOPMENT**

Financial Overview

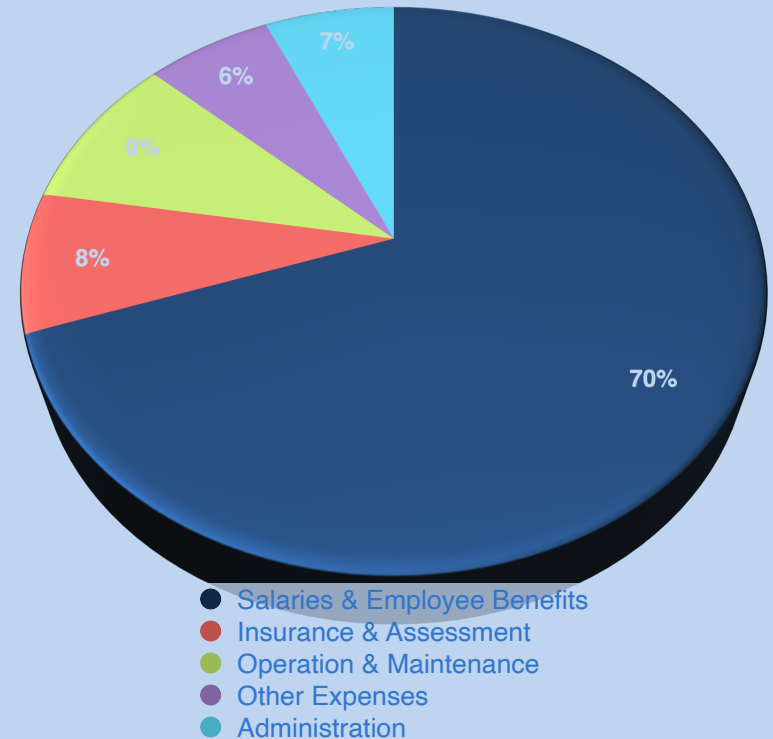
- The cost to educate an Immac student during the 2022-2023 school year is \$11,131
- The tuition shortfall must be supplemented with other income-producing activities
 - Extended Day and Summer Programs
 - State/Diocesan Funds (limited)
 - In-House Development Efforts
 - Fundraising Activities
- Discretionary 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 22/23 Budget



Expenses per 22/23 Budget



FACTS Tuition Management System

- All Families must maintain a FACTS account; payment choice of the 10th or the 20th of the month
- The first tuition payment for 2023-2024 will be **July 2023**
- 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

- Board of Trustees Reception
 - April 23, 2023
 - Terrace on the Park
 - Honorees were presented with Immaculate Mary Leadership Award

Cultivating Relationships with Alumni, the Community, and Friends of IMMACH 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

2022-2023

- New Doors Ordered for Front and Sides of Academy: Expected Installation: Summer of 2023
- Additional UPK 3 Class beginning with 2023-2024 school year

Wellness Center Programs to Date

Students

- Pediatric Dentist
- Guided Relaxation Exercises
- Guest Author Read-A-Loud
- Guided Exercise Program

Families (via Zoom)

- 10/18/22 – Kid Friendly Healthy Eating: How Parents Can Add “Healthy” to Fun Meals
- 11/9/22 – Sleep Like a Baby: Things to Know About Kids & Sleep from a Pediatric ENT
- 12/7/22 – Tips on Managing Anxiety in Ourselves & Others
- 1/11/23 – Heart Healthy Meal Solutions From A Cardiologist For Busy Lifestyles
- 2/8/23 – Internet Safety & Cyberbullying
- 3/21/23 – Having Difficult Conversations About Puberty
- 4/19/23 – 2023 Update on Weight Loss Strategies

If you have ideas for Student or Family Wellness Activities, please email principalbrjr@iccaastoria.org



Program/Academy Enhancements 2023-2024 in Early Phases

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



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 (3rd Grade; UPK4 Parent)
 - Shaun Caruana (2nd 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 2022-2023 Academic Year

- May 10 – HAA-hosted Open House (Lyons Hall-Cafeteria) 6:30-8:00 PM
- May 19 – Walkathon 11:15 AM -12:00 PM
- May 20 – Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, 12:00 PM
- May 23 – NYS Science Test, Grade 8
- May 18 – Ascension Thursday, 9:00 AM Mass, Grades K-8
- June 8 – Enrichment Program Showcase, 3:00 PM
- June 16 – 8th Grade Graduation Mass and Ceremony, 7:00 PM, Parish Church
- June 17 – Family Thank You BBQ
- June 22 – Last Day of Class
- June 26 – July 28 Summer Fun Program

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 100th Anniversary

Parent Feedback

Thoughts
Questions
Suggestions

Email:

principalbrjr@iccaastoria.org

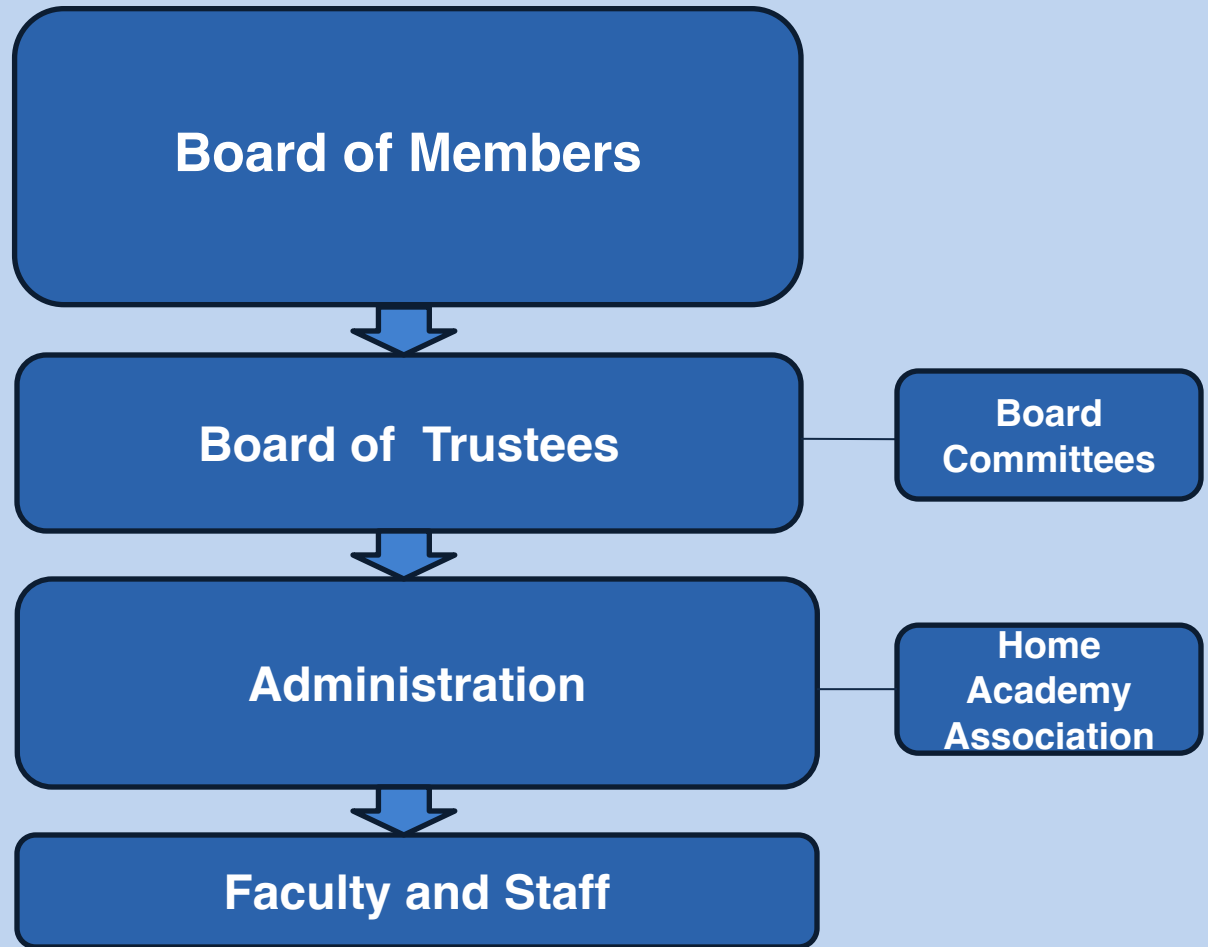
dpisido@iccaastoria.org

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 – Rosa Abeijon, Terryl Brown, Richard Haray, Andrew Hopkins, Anthony LoVerme, 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