

St. Anthony Catholic School:

Since 1917 St. Anthony Catholic School has been nurturing our children's educational as well as moral growth through its Mission of *developing Gospel values, a commitment to service and strong academic skills in each student.*

“95 Years of Excellence in Education!”

St. Anthony School takes great pride in celebrating “95 Years of Excellence in Catholic Education” as we instruct and model for our students the importance of *Gospel values, a commitment to service, and strong academic skills.* We are dedicated to teach as Christ taught and pass on the heritage and legacy of those who have gone before us. Our students learn to recognize we are all called to holiness as we enter our school, which is considered *Holy Ground.* Our school is a ministry of the Parish, therefore, the Parish breathes life into the school and the school, in turn, breathes life into the Parish.

From the time that the first handful of Catholic families were gathered in Hereford, it was their desire to have a Catholic school, in which their children could be trained in the knowledge and love of God, be made citizens of heaven, as well as of America. The smallness of their numbers did not deter them. Therefore, Masses were offered at family homes and farms as their mission was to find and finally build a school house before they built a church. The labor and the sacrifice and dreams of these early parishioners and their pastor continue to be an inspiration for all of us who come after them. Their faith and perseverance are a heritage of which the parish, St. Anthony Catholic Church, can be proud.

St. Anthony School has provided continuous years of education since the 1917-18 school year. The first school was staffed by the Sisters of the Atonement who came from Graymoor, Garrison, NY. The school was opened in the building in which the monthly magazine, *The Antidote*, was published. The sisters taught pupils from grades one through six from 1917 until June 1938. During those years school was held in various buildings until on June 19, 1927, a new red brick school was dedicated. The school had four large classrooms, three washrooms, and a basement. It was situated on the corner of Fourth and Sampson Street. That building is now the Deaf Smith County Museum.

From 1938 until 1942 the school was staffed by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament from Victoria, TX. In 1942 the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate came from Amarillo to staff the school and remained until 2006. Because of the growth of the student body, a new school became a necessity. On Sunday, May 15, 1955, a handsome buff brick building costing \$170,000 was dedicated. It had eight classrooms and an auditorium. Further additions in the form of a library and a science laboratory were dedicated on January 5, 1969.

There have been three additions built since the completion of the main building. Total number of classrooms is sixteen plus a library, meeting room, cafeteria and gym. At the end of the 1971-72 school years, the seventh and eighth grades were discontinued. Since then the school has maintained classes through the sixth grade. Five year old kindergarten was added in 1970 and a pre-school program for four year olds in 1989. The school had its first lay Principal in the 1986-87 school years. After school care was offered as a service to working parents beginning in 1990.

St. Anthony Catholic School is fully accredited through the Texas Catholic Conference (TCC) and holds memberships in the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA). St. Anthony Catholic School is recognized by the Texas Education Agency.

At St. Anthony Catholic School:

- We prepare children for the present and future by joining with their parents and the Church to instill in them a strong sense of Catholic Christian faith with Gospel values and a commitment to service.
- We are a spiritual community of faith, with inner discipline and moral discernment, as well as a strong academic excellence.
- Along with the Diocese of Amarillo, we strive for the integration of faith, which is taught and experienced, and which sets us apart from all other forms of education.

St. Anthony School recognizes parents as the primary educators of their children. All parents want what is best for their children and will often sacrifice to provide it. At St. Anthony Catholic School we provide an education with an emphasis on Catholic identity, rich in tradition, and rigorous academics. We develop the whole person, children are taught self-discipline with a Christian focus, and are educated in a safe-secure school environment. Our parents understand that the modeling done in the Catholic school opens the door to the future.

The list of esteemed graduates is a long one, as is the multitude of Catholic and lay faculty who have groomed generations of future doctors, lawyers and political and business leaders, as well as, religious, deacons, and priests for St. Anthony School.

St. Anthony School provides classes from pre-school through sixth grade. The school remains focused on teaching the Catholic faith while also providing the opportunity for students to acquire the skills needed to achieve high honors upon entering the Hereford Independent School District upper grades. Students participate in acts of service, the Accelerated Reading Program, band, Science Fair, Spelling Bees, and after-school activities such as sports or choir. The six-member board of education along with Principal Linda Aranda and Rev. John Valdez govern the school and determine policies.

We at St. Anthony Catholic School and Parish are so proud to be a part of the community of Hereford, which has prospered and grown over the years and has always offered its support to our school. There is truly no better place to live. We welcome parents to contact us with any questions or to make an appointment to tour our school. Please visit our website: www.herefordstanthonys.com for a first-hand look at the phenomenal things happening at our school! For more information call (806) 364-1952 or visit at 120 W. Park Avenue.

May all that we do to shape the culture of our school give glory to God!

*Cheerfully in Christ,
Linda Aranda* 

2012-2013

