



A Proud Heritage

Holy Cross Academy was formed in 2017 by the combination of Saint Sebastian Elementary School and Saint Teresa of Avila Elementary School, both in Ross Township, Pennsylvania, as part of the North Hills Catholic Elementary Schools Regionalization. Together, the two elementary schools have been educating young minds and souls for more than 160 years. While the names of the two schools have changed, what hasn't changed is the spiritual and academic foundation that has been the hallmark of both for generations.

We are proud of its faith development and academic achievements. We believe that teaching a child is only one part of educating a child and education goes beyond teaching facts from textbooks and beyond the classroom. We believe that a Catholic education should nourish a child's spirit, develop a child's conscience, while forming a child's morality and challenging a child's intellect. We are a community of learning and a family of faith. These beliefs are supported by the quality of our graduates who distinguish themselves as they continue their formal education and into their future professional careers and personal lives.

Extending the legacy

Beginning in pre-school and continuing through eighth grade, Holy Cross students have opportunities unmatched at other schools. Our comprehensive curriculum offers religion, social studies, reading, technology, fine arts, physical education, science, math, language arts and world languages combined with clean, secure and modern facilities, advanced technology, a state of the art library and science and computer laboratories. Our program of teaching excels as confirmed by our standardized testing scores. Our faculty is a perfect blend of new and veteran educators, most with advanced education degrees and teaching in their certified fields, who serve as excellent role models for our students

Holy Cross Academy also offers enriching educational activities beyond the classroom and competitive athletic teams. We excel at preparing students for high school and beyond.

Just as important to us as educators to build strong minds is the commitment to build strong faith and character. The basic beliefs of our Catholic faith are taught each day and we celebrate Mass as a school community each week. During special times of our liturgical year, such as Advent and Lent, we have additional opportunities to share our faith, as well as in second grade and eighth grade as we prepare our students for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Values and character building lessons are not promoted only in religion classes. These life lessons permeate our school day and are integrated in each area of our curriculum. As we welcome families of all faiths to our school, we are mindful and respectful of their traditions, values and beliefs.

We also believe that as a Catholic community we are called to serve others, particularly those who do not enjoy the same benefits as we do. A diversity of service projects are experienced by our students each year, where they learn about the world beyond their classroom, learn to care about their neighbors far and wide, and learn to continue their commitment of service as they proceed through life.

Holy Cross Academy is located at our Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Saint Sebastian campus, 307 Siebert Road, Pittsburgh PA 15237.



More About Us

Mission

Rooted in Gospel values and committed to academic excellence, Holy Cross Academy seeks to foster spiritual development, service to community and a life-long love of learning in every child. To build a Christ-centered foundation for our students, we encourage collaboration between our children, families and community. Our goal is to develop outstanding, well-rounded students who are leaders in their communities, who are known by their service to others, and who achieve success in all facets of their lives.

Holy Cross Academy is a

Member of the Diocesan Department of Catholic Schools

Member of the National Catholic Education Association

Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools

Student-Teacher ratio K-8: 20-1; Preschool ratio: 8-1

Faculty: Our faculty of experienced teachers and energetic new comers are all certified by the State of Pennsylvania as well as the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Parent opportunities: Holy Cross Academy encourages parents to be involved with their student's education. Several opportunities are available to parents to participate in Parent Teacher Guild (PTG), playground monitors, School Advisory Council (SAC), Cafeteria, the Technology Committee and Library. At times, ad hoc committees are established to address specific issues and parents are always welcome. The success of special events and activities are dependent upon parent commitment.

Extended Care Programs: Holy Cross offers Extended Care for full-day students. The services are available to all students every day that school is in session.

Before School Care hours: 7 to 8 a.m. for junior high students and 7 to 8:15 a.m. for the primary students.

After School Care hours: 3:00 (school dismissal) to 6 p.m.

Cafeteria: Families have a personal cafeteria account. Hot lunches are prepared on site. A monthly menu is available on the school website and students select their lunch choice each morning at school. Our cafeteria meals offer a variety of selections that meet federal nutrition guidelines, including a salad bar. Students may also bring their lunch from home and purchase a drink.

Communication: Teachers have home pages where homework assignments are posted as needed and email addresses where parents can communicate directly with the teacher. The Academy also uses Option-C to keep parents promptly informed about testing scores and report cards are distributed quarterly. Parent/student/teacher conferences are held once a year at the time report cards are distributed and personal conferences can be scheduled on request.

Additional Services: Through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, programs are available in remedial math and reading and speech and language. We also have a certified counselor who provides individual and small group sessions.



Academics

Holy Cross Academy offers a preschool program for 3-year-olds and pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds. We create a secure, nurturing and positive environment for your child to build self esteem, to feel unconditionally accepted, loved and respected and to discover and learn. Programs are designed to meet the spiritual, social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs of your child. We follow the Pennsylvania State Guidelines for Preschool-age children.

We offer:

Preschool:

Three-year-old half-day classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Pre-Kindergarten:

Four-year-old half-day classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Four-year-old half-day classes on Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Four-year-old full-day classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Four-year-old full-day classes on Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Kindergarten

A full-day program is available. It builds on the pre-school experience to provide a solid foundation for your child's successful achievement in education. Students attend weekly classes in Spanish, computers, art, music, library, and physical education in addition to classroom subjects in language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. Students learn to work independently as well as in small groups.

Full-day hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Elementary School: First through fifth grades

Curriculum guidelines for all subjects are provided through the Department for Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Pittsburgh and meet all Pennsylvania State education requirements. Subjects include Catechetics, Computer, Fine Arts, including art, music, band (beginning in 4th grade), Language Arts, including reading, writing, and spelling, Library, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and World Languages. Each grade level provides a successive program of foundations to prepare each student for the next level. Catholic students in Second grade will prepare for Reconciliation and receive their First Holy Communion.

Middle School: Sixth through eighth grades

Middle school aged children are unique in their academic, social, physical and emotional needs. Our program addresses each of these areas with sensitivity as we prepare our students for their high school experience and beyond. Teachers guide the students to become independent, secure young adults capable of making good decisions. Students are introduced to the basics of Algebra, Chemistry, Biology and Physical Science, to World Cultures and World Geography and U.S. History, and Spanish. Students in Eighth grade prepare for and will receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Holy Cross Academy graduates are well prepared and highly successful whether attending public or Catholic high school.

Who is Teaching Your Child?

Multiple studies show that a teacher is one of the most important and influential people in a student's life. At Holy Cross we certainly agree!! The majority of our teachers have advanced degrees or additional certification in areas such as reading or math; all of our teachers are certified by the state of Pennsylvania and are teaching in their grade level or subject area of expertise, the majority of our teachers have 10+ years of classroom experience and they are role models.

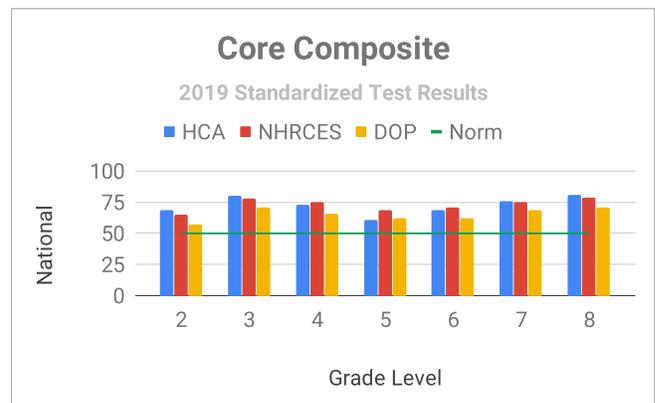
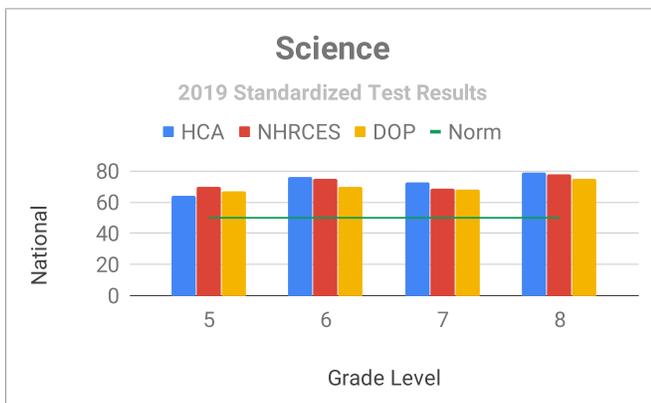
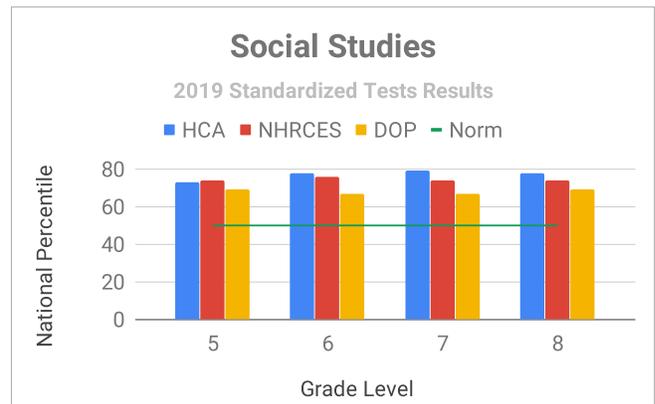
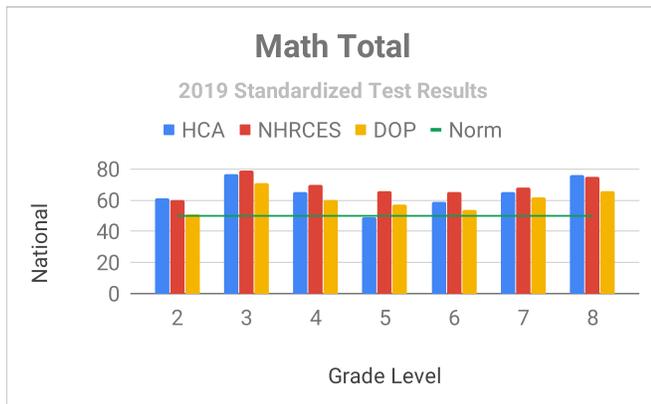
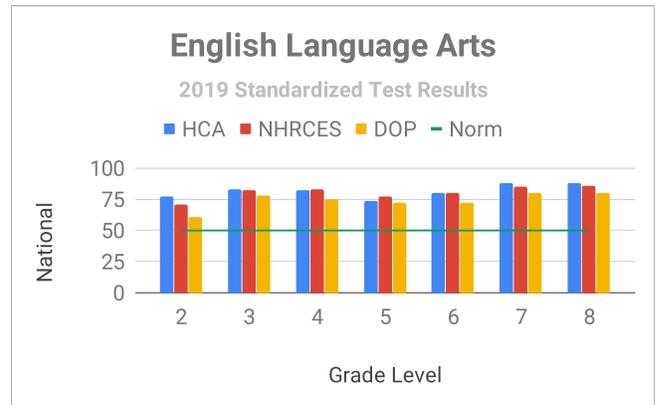
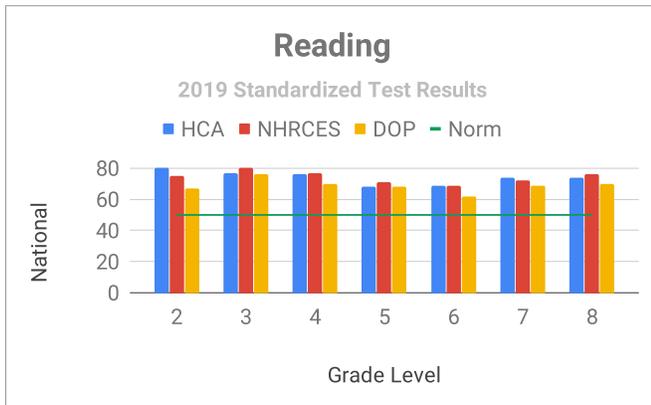
So what makes our teachers even more exceptional?

- **They set high expectations for all students.** They expect that all students can and will achieve in their classroom, and they don't give up on underachievers. They don't set limits on their students. They have high standards, they consistently challenge students to do their best, and they teach students to believe in themselves.
- **They have clear, written-out objectives.** They have lesson plans that give students a clear idea of what they will be learning, what the assignments are and what the grading policy is. Assignments have learning goals and give students ample opportunity to practice new skills. He or she is consistent in grading and returns work in a timely manner. They define classroom rules and establish a routine.
- **They are prepared and organized.** They are in their classrooms early and ready to teach. They present lessons in a clear and structured way. Their classrooms are organized in such a way as to minimize distractions and are conducive to learning. This helps students enjoy a structured environment with an emphasis on a positive educational atmosphere that is conducive to learning. They regularly check for understanding.
- **They engage students and get them to look at issues in a variety of ways.** They use facts as a starting point, not an end point; they ask "why" questions, look at all sides and encourage students to predict what will happen next. They ask questions frequently to make sure students are following along. They engage the whole class, and they don't allow a few students to dominate the class. They keep students motivated with varied, lively approaches. They instill confidence. They do not simply declare work to be right or wrong, but enable self-correction and self-adjustment. They use flexible seating
- **They form strong relationships with their students and show that they care about them as people.** Our teachers are warm, accessible, enthusiastic and caring. They stay after school and make themselves available to students and parents who need them. They are involved in school-wide committees and activities, and they have a commitment to the school.
- **They are masters of their subject matter.** They exhibit expertise in the subjects they are teaching and spend time continuing to gain new knowledge in their field. They present material in an enthusiastic manner and instill a hunger in their students to learn more on their own. They seek to learn new teaching strategies.
- **They communicate frequently with parents.** They reach parents through daily or weekly communication on the school website. They don't hesitate to pick up the telephone to call a parent if they are concerned about a student.



Holy Cross Academy

2019 Standardized Test Results





Holy Cross Academy Graduates Classes of 2018, 2019 and 2020

Where are they now?

Aquinas Academy
5

Central Catholic
17

City Charter High
2

The Ellis School
1

Fox Chapel
1

North Allegheny
5

North Catholic
19

North Hills
12

Northgate
1

Oakland Catholic
9

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
17

CAPA
3

Shaler
5

Bishop Canevin
2

Gateway
1

Perry
1

90% of our graduates are Honor students at their respective high schools!

Have you heard what they say about Holy Cross Academy?

Some comments from students and parents

Currently have 4 children attending HCA and 2 graduates, both of whom are honor students in high school. Teachers are incredible and dedicated to teaching academics well but also teaching the students the lessons of life and most importantly, faith. Highly involved families with dedication to the school and creating a kind, generous environment.

***We have great teachers and we know what is expected of us.
We try our best to meet the teacher's expectations.***

The classes are small and you get quality time with a teacher that you need.

Our 3 daughters (4th, 2nd and 1st grade) get off the bus smiling every day and to us as parents, that's an amazing way to greet your children at the door. Class sizes are small, families are extremely vested in their children's success and the environment allows our children to focus academically with minimal distractions.

I like the bond between the students and the teachers.

We love Holy Cross Academy!

We love this school!!! My children have all graduated and now we have our grandchildren attending. This school prepares students for success. Teaching staff and Administration are second to none.

Our son is LOVING Pre-K. He always tells us his favorite part is "playing with knights". (I'm thinking they're toys during playtime lol) But what he loves even more is his teacher, he just raves about her. He's definitely made some new friends as well as the friends he had last year. We love seeing him so happy. Everyday he says what a great day he had and that he can't wait to go back. 😊

Our son is greatly enjoying school and loves to come each day! He has made many friends and loves his teachers! He enjoys learning each day and is asking lots of questions at home from what he is learning! He does of course enjoy recess as well!

I am always walking out of class with a smile on my face.



Tuition

Holy Cross Academy is rooted in a strong tradition of religious values, quality academic programs, and an atmosphere of Christian community. A network of caring people---students, teachers, parishioners, parents, alumni and friends---strengthen our school. Our hope is that, each year, more students will be able to enjoy the benefits of a Holy Cross education. We make every effort to maintain tuition at an affordable level. The value of a Holy Cross education is reflected in the tuition.

2021-22 TUITION

Preschool*

Half Day T & Th \$1,775

Pre-Kindergarten*

Half Day MWF \$2,400

Half Day M-F \$3,200

Full Day MWF \$4,800

Full Day M-F \$6,700

*** A family that has a child registered in Preschool and a child registered in Kindergarten through 8th grade will receive a 20 percent reduction in the Preschool tuition. A family that has two children registered in Preschool and no child registered in Kindergarten through 8th grade will receive a 10 percent reduction in the Preschool tuition for the second child only.**

Kindergarten through 8th grade

One child \$5,150

Two children \$8,050

Three children \$9,800

Fourth child \$0

Non-Catholic students (K-8) \$6,800

# of kindergarten -8 th grade children	Per year	Per month (10 months)	Per week (38 weeks)	Per day (180 days)
One child	\$5,150	\$515	\$135	\$29
Two children	\$8,050	\$805	\$212	\$45
Three children	\$9,800	\$980	\$258	\$54

Here are some options available to pay your tuition

Option 1: You can pay in full at the time your contract is returned.

Option 2: If you do not pay in full, our partnership with a tuition company offers you a selection of payment preferences that best suit your needs.

Option 3: Holy Cross Academy wants to support your family in the process of financing tuition. We want to make sure that you have investigated and understand every option available to you.

We encourage all families to apply for tuition grants. Financial assistance for qualified families comes from a variety of sources through the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Grants provide *partial* tuition assistance based on a family's financial need.



Tuition Assistance

Who qualifies for tuition assistance and how much can I receive?

Tuition assistance is based on a variety of indicators through the Diocese of Pittsburgh which uses FACTS Management to review a family's financial circumstances and gives an unbiased, confidential evaluation of the family's ability to pay. Application can be made through the Diocese of Pittsburgh website: diopitt.org.

If our family is granted assistance, when will we be notified?

The Diocese notifies families throughout the summer as FACTS reviews are received and as long as tuition assistance funds are available. Families are encouraged to apply to FACTS as soon as their tax returns are completed. The FACTS deadline is March 15 and you are encouraged to have the forms to your pastor for his signature by March 2.

What if our family financial situation changes during the school year?

While this occurs in few cases, any time there is a change in your financial situation, please contact the North Hills Regional Catholic Elementary Schools (NHRCES) business manager.

What other opportunities are available to reduce tuition costs?

Holy Cross Academy offers a Gift Card Program to help your family with tuition costs. The Gift Card Program offers families cash cards from a lengthy list of entertainment, retail stores, restaurants and services from which to choose. Total card purchases earn your family a percentage in tuition credit dependent upon which gift cards are purchased as the percentage varies.

For example, if your family spends \$500 a month on food and shops at one of the grocery stores via Gift Cards, you could save \$240 in tuition.

Your friends, co-workers and other family members can help you also by participating in the Gift Card Program. More information is available when you apply.



Transportation

Holy Cross Academy is ideally located in the North Hills for easy access from many communities and several area public school districts are mandated by state law to provide transportation for students in 1-8 grades. Transportation for preschool or kindergarten students is not required by state law because pre-school and kindergarten are not mandatory in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Most school districts provide kindergarten transportation as a courtesy to their residents. Also, many moms and dads who commute to downtown Pittsburgh, find it easy to drop off their students on their way to work. Holy Cross offers before-school care with a breakfast program and after-school care.

Public School Districts that provide kindergarten transportation to Holy Cross include

North Hills School District

North Hills will allow transportation to school for kindergarten students. These kindergarten students may ride provided there is room on the regularly scheduled bus to and from their school and they utilize an existing stop that already has other students assigned to for that school. The district will not create a stop or utilize a stop solely for a kindergarten student, nor will the district add any vehicles in order to accommodate a kindergarten student. Students attending full day kindergarten programs in schools currently serviced by the district may ride the bus in both the morning and afternoon under the conditions described above.

North Allegheny School District

North Allegheny provides transportation to kindergarten students in the district as long as the district incurs no additional financial expense. According to the guidelines, parents are entitled to transportation in one direction for their child, either to school in the morning or home from school in the afternoon. Two-way transportation is provided if a sibling above the kindergarten grade level attends the same school.

Shaler, Hampton, Pine-Richland, Avonworth and Deer Lakes School Districts

These districts provide transportation both ways for full-day kindergarten students.

City of Pittsburgh

The City of Pittsburgh provides transportation both ways for full-day kindergarten students.

Northgate School District

Northgate School District does not provide transportation for any students including its own school students.

Quaker Valley School District

Quaker Valley does not provide kindergarten transportation but does for 1-8 grade students.

Seneca Valley School District

Seneca Valley does not provide transportation.

Information regarding transportation will come from your specific public school district. This information is usually not available until August. If you have questions concerning transportation, please call your respective school district.



North Hills Regional Catholic Elementary Schools
 Diocese of Pittsburgh
OFFICIAL SCHOOL CALENDAR
 2021 - 2022

DRAFT: 02/15/21



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August 2021						
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29	30	31				



February 2022						
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June 2022						
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*8/19/21 - 8/25/21 (Teacher In-Service Days)
 OPENING DATE: August 26, 2021
 CLOSING DATE: June, 7, 2022
 Last day of school contingent on snow days/emergency closing.
 * 5 Flexible Instructional Days will be used before snow makeup days will be used

- Student and Teacher Holidays
- Catholic Schools Week
- In-service/Clerical Days
- Snow Make-up Day
- End of Report Period

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20 19 Elementary and secondary graduation is not to be scheduled before the eighth year students and seniors have fulfilled the number of class days required by the Provisions of the School Code Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. (990 hours of instruction.)



North Hills Regional Catholic Elementary Schools
 Diocese of Pittsburgh
 OFFICIAL SCHOOL CALENDAR
 2021 - 2022

UPDATED: 02/15/21



AUGUST

- 19 NHRCES Regional-Wide Inservice Day (SJS)
- 20 Local School's Inservice Day
- 8/23 - 8/25 Diocesan Faculty In-services
- 26 Opening of School
- 30 First Day for Preschool

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Labor Day
- 7 - 10 DIBELS Testing

OCTOBER

- 14 Chimbote Dinner
- 28 End of 1st Grading Period
- 29 Clerical Day for Teachers

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints Day
- 1 Data Inservice Day for Teachers
- 4 Half-Day of School
- 4 Parent-Teacher conferences
- 12 Call for Golden Apple Nominations
- 24-29 Thanksgiving Vacation

DECEMBER

- 6 Golden Apple Nominations due to Principals
- 12/22/21-12/31/21 Christmas Vacation

JANUARY

- 3 Opening of School
- 10 - 14 DIBELS
- 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(Not to be used as a make-up day)
- 20 End of 2nd Grading Period 1st Semester
- 21 AM In-service / PM Clerical Day (Elementary)
- 27 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 1-31 to 2-5 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK begins

FEBRUARY

- 1-31 to 2-5 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
- 18 Golden Apple Applications Due to Schools Office

MARCH

- 14-18 ACRE Testing
- 25 End of 3rd Grading Period
- 28 AM In-service / PM Clerical Day (Elementary)

APRIL

- 4/13/22 to 4/18/22 Easter Vacation
- 4/19/22 - 4/22/22 NCEA National Conference
IOWA Standardized Testing (Elementary)

MAY

- 5/02 - 5/06 DIBELS Testing
- 26 Ascension Thursday
- 30 Memorial Day
- 31 Golden Apple Award Dinner

JUNE

- 3 Last day preschool/prekindergarten
- * 7 Closing Day
- * 8 Snow Make-up Day (If Needed)
- * 8 Clerical Day (If not used for make-up day)
- * 8-14 Snow Make-up Days (If Needed)

* dependant upon the number of snow days used throughout the year

Snow Days: 5
 Student Days: 180
 Teacher Days: 188