



# Holy Savior Catholic Church and Academy



A St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School Fund Participant

## A message of thanks for your many blessings

As I reflect on the past year at Holy Savior Catholic Academy, my thoughts turn to the work of so many people.

As you will read in this newsletter, the students of Holy Savior Catholic Academy reached great heights in their state assessment testing.

The percentage of students who met the state's academic standards equalled or increased in 11 of 14 testing areas from 2010 to 2011. And we fully expect to receive five Standard of Excellence recognitions for our state assessments this past year.

Again, as I reflect on such success, my thoughts certainly turn to the hard work of our academy staff, as well as



**Fr. James J. Billinger**

the work of our students and their families.

But my thoughts also turn to our benefactors, such as you. Without people who share our vision, we could not do the work that we do.

As you know, the St. Katharine Drexel Fund supports parishes that struggle to provide a

Catholic education. It is even given to the portion of our budget called "ordinary income" upon which we tithe. The fund helps provide parishes with an inner life so that it will continue to flourish even while it supports Catholic education.

So as you can see, you make it possible for us to continue making a difference in the lives of so many people. For that, we are blessed.

Please know that all of us in the Holy Savior family deeply appreciate your generosity.

And please know that we strive for even greater things this year — and beyond.

May every grace and blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

### Summer 2011

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Holy Savior students honored for stories (Page 4).

## 21st Century CLC grant: HSCA will again benefit from state program



Holy Savior students in the 21st Century CLC program participate in the LEGO Robotics Camp.

The Kansas State Department of Education recently announced that it has renewed the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, which benefits Holy Savior Catholic Academy.

The grant, administered by Catholic Charities of Wichita and the

Catholic Diocese of Wichita, provides extensive after-school and summer educational lessons for about 40 students in grades K-8 at the academy.

The grant focuses on helping kids improve in math, reading and science.

The grant program is done in partnership with the diocese, Wichita State University, and Arts Partners.

This will be the second year that Holy Savior Catholic Academy has benefited from the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant.

## Holy Savior Academy students made great strides in 2010-11

*I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **John 15:15***

Holy Savior Catholic Academy is a predominantly African-American school, serving the Catholic students and students who would not typically be able to afford a Catholic education in northeast Wichita. Our goal is to educate students spiritually and academically in order to break the cycle of poverty. Our enrollment is steadily increasing and our families are excited to be a part of this dynamically diverse institution. Holy Savior, with seventy-one percent of the children qualifying for free or reduced lunches, lives out the mission of the Church to teach and to evangelize.

We ended the 2010-2011 school year with a bang through the power of the Holy Spirit and your continued support! The students and the teachers worked hard and proved to be "Fantastic" once again.

This progress happened both in our religion curriculum as well as academics. As a part of our mission, we continually work to improve faith formation. Evangelization is one of our greatest



**Principal Delia Shropshire**

blessings as we serve an 80% non-Catholic population. Consequently, in religion our STEWARD assessment scores increased in grades 3rd-8th and one of our families joined the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil this past Easter.

We have made "**Safe Harbor**" in all three academic areas, which means that the students achieved at least a 10% increase in reading, math, and science.

However, the greatest news is that our test scores increased from last year even more than the required 10% which demonstrates significant growth due to our 1.3 years growth model and our 21st CCLC efforts.

Additionally we have made a "**Standard of Excellence**" in three areas: 7th Grade Reading; 7th Grade Science; and 7th Grade Math.

And there is the possibility of two additional areas in which we will receive a "**Standard of Excellence**": 4th Grade Science; and 8th Grade Reading.

I invite you to visit the school and see our children, and experience the environment that is changing lives. With small class sizes and paraprofessionals/tutors assisting the teachers in classrooms each child is receiving the individual attention needed to be successful. With our on-staff counselor, a cadre of volunteer tutors and a balanced curriculum that includes music, Spanish, German and art, we can confidently claim, "no child is being left behind."

We appreciate all you have done and will continue to do to help us to live out our mission. None of this would be possible without your generous support and stewardship. Thank you for joining us as we serve God's children. We are looking forward to another exciting year with you, our friends and supporters, on our team!

Please review the chart below to see our progress.

## Holy Savior 2010-2011 test score comparison

Percentage of students meeting AYP standards

Grade	2010 Reading	2011 Reading	% points change	2010 Math	2011 Math	% points change	2010 Science	2011 Science	% points change
3rd	38 %	60%	22	31%	67%	36	N/A	N/A	
4th	69%	79%	10	77%	71%	(6)	38%	93%	55
5th	63%	62%	(1)	38%	85%	37	N/A	N/A	
6th	58%	50%	(8)	50%	50%	0	N/A	N/A	
7th	43%	88%	45	14%	100%	86	57%	100%	43
8th	50%	89%	39	25%	67%	42	N/A	N/A	

**Source:** Kansas State Department of Education

## Student profile: Mystic Ross finds church home in Holy Savior

Holy Savior Catholic Academy has led Mystic Ross to academic success, and it's also led her and her family to the Catholic Church.

Mystic, a seventh grader, has been going to the academy since pre-kindergarten. Prior to coming to Holy Savior, she said her family didn't go to a church very often. But as she came to Mass at Holy Savior with other students on Friday mornings, and she began to feel as though she wanted her family to join the Catholic Church.

After much reflection and preparation, Mystic and her family – her parents Robert and Sheneta and her 7-year-old sister Robbie -- came into the Church during the Easter Vigil at Holy Savior Catholic Church.

"I'd say the emotion I feel most about this whole process is very content," Mystic said.



Courtesy photo

Sheneta Ross said that the experience has been a good one for the family.

"It's brought us closer together," Mrs. Ross said.

Mystic said she feels as though she is now complete, having both solid spiritual and academic foundations. She can't imagine being anywhere other

than Holy Savior.

"The staff is so nice and so supportive," said Mystic, 12. "Holy Savior is just a fantastic place to learn."

Her mother feels the same way and she believes the personal attention her daughter receives creates the best educational environment for Mystic.

"I like Holy Savior because it's small and the students get the attention that they need," Mrs. Ross said. "It's just like family for us."

Mystic is looking forward to her remaining years at Holy Savior. And she's grateful to the people who support the school financially. She knows it makes a difference in the lives of many.

"It's so great what people are doing to help support the school," said Mystic, an aspiring writer. "It really means a lot."

## Student profile: Lessons are many for Tarynce Burnette

Having been in trouble for various reasons in his previous schools, Tarynce Burnette and his mother, Teffany, were uncertain where to send him for his eighth-grade academic year.

Then last summer, they found Holy Savior Catholic Academy. And Holy Savior helped Tarynce find himself, getting him back on track.

"I don't see Holy Savior as a school," Tarynce said shortly after completing his eighth-grade year. "I see Holy Savior as a family."

Tarynce's academic future was uncertain after he was expelled from public school for what he acknowledges were poor decisions on his part.

When he and his mother searched for a school for Tarynce, they came across Holy Savior. But Principal Delia Shropshire didn't make it easy on Tarynce. When she met with Tarynce and his mother, Ms. Shropshire told Tarynce he would have to write a book report in two days. After that, she would then determine whether or not to let Tarynce enroll at Holy Savior.

The book she gave him was "A Lesson Before Dying," the Ernest J. Gaines novel based on a young, black man wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to death. While awaiting execution, the young man is taught life lessons by a teacher in the community.

***"I don't see Holy Savior as a school. I see Holy Savior as a family."  
- Tarynce Burnette***

"In the book, a teacher came in and taught him everything he needed to know about life," Tarynce said. "When I turned in the book report, I thanked Ms. Shropshire because it spoke to me. That's how I know Ms. Shropshire really cared about me."

Ms. Shropshire assigned Tarynce to summer school, and Tarynce entered Holy Savior for his eighth-grade year.

"I had been hard-headed," Tarynce said of his days when he made mistakes, "but ever since (doing the book report), I'm not anymore."

Tarynce's mother, Teffany Burnette, is impressed with the academy.

"His eighth grade year, he was able to stay out of trouble, and his grades this past year were the best grades he ever had," she said. "My only regret was to wait until the eighth grade to get him into Holy Savior."

Ms. Burnette said her son is an example of the success stories that happen because of the support the school receives.

"All the funding helps to make differences in the kids' lives," she said, "especially with kids that wouldn't have this chance" to attend a Catholic school.

Tarynce loves music and art, and is considering careers in those areas.

"Or I might want to teach, also," he said. "I want to give kids the same chances that Holy Savior gave me."

**Holy Savior Catholic Church**  
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### **MISSION**

Through encouragement, evangelization, and educational excellence, Holy Savior Catholic Academy will help African American and other diverse students build hope so they can be successful learners and successful in life.

**Visit us on the web at**  
**[www.holy-savior.org](http://www.holy-savior.org)**

## **Students recognized for stories about vision**



Holy Savior Catholic Academy students Zoey (K), Robbie (1st Grade), Kianna (2nd Grade) and Chariah (3rd Grade) were recognized by Healthy Eyes for Life for a story they wrote about vision.

Their story and illustration entries were selected from more than 50 submitted entries about why vision is an important part of doing well in school.

**Photo:** Courtesy of Healthy Eyes for Life.

## **Academy students give back to community**

Several students from Holy Savior spent part of their Summer School session by volunteering in the community.

Recognizing the need to give back, students, including Chase and Angel (pictured left), spent their mornings by helping sort food that was donated to Catholic Charities of Wichita's Help Center Food Pantry.

