

faith

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WHATEVER IS TRUE,
GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL
Helping others in need:
The Christian thing

FEATURE STORY
52 things I learned
in teaching 52 years

FEATURE STORY
Educating Brothers'
Boys for 150 years

An **advocate** for the
Church, a **voice** for
Catholic **women**

“
We are in the
business of
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— Adam Rust, principal of
Sacred Heart of Jesus High School



Three schools join forces to create **CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION** for students

BY JEFF HULETT

DID YOU KNOW THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS INCLUDES THREE SCHOOLS IN JACKSON AND PARIS, TENN.? THAT'S RIGHT, OUT OF THE 15 SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE, THREE OF THEM RESIDE OUTSIDE OF MEMPHIS AND THEY ARE SHOWING THE REST OF THE DIOCESE WHAT IT MEANS TO WALK AS ONE.

The three schools that lovingly make up what we are calling the “Jackson 3” are Holy Cross Catholic Preschool, St. Mary’s Catholic School and Sacred Heart of Jesus High School.

Holy Cross Catholic Preschool in Paris was established in 2004 and is fully licensed and accredited. The curriculum is focused on learning through play and having fun while providing developmental skills. New director Katie O’Brien is excited about joining the team and bringing her passion for teaching to the table.

“I am excited for the challenges and fun this year will surely bring,” said O’Brien. “Being able to speak freely about God and faith while

teaching a religious curriculum has brought so much joy to my days already.”

While a little further away from the other two schools that make up the Jackson 3, Holy Cross hosts several activities to engage Sacred Heart and St. Mary’s students. At the end of October, preschoolers at Holy Cross will have the opportunity to attend a Trunk or Treat event hosted by St. Mary’s/Sacred Heart.

St. Mary’s Catholic School is a pre-K through 8th grade school that serves as a feeder school for Sacred Heart of Jesus High School. The curriculum centers around the Classical Education Model, which emphasizes-





es language, communications and problem-solving skills. The classical approach nurtures students' intellectual and spiritual potential, inspiring them to want to learn.

Daily religion classes and Latin are taught in all grade levels every day with handwriting and cursive emphasized as early as first grade. Students attend Mass two times a week and pray the Rosary together each week.

St. Mary's Catholic School dedicates itself to the education of the whole child – spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and physically – in a nurturing environment permeated by a Christ-centered atmosphere. Being fully aware of moral challenges posed by society, students are directed toward an unending pursuit of God in all that is true, good and beautiful.

St. Mary's mission is inspired by Christ's words, "I came that they may have life and have it to the full."

Jessica Berlanga, admissions director at St. Mary's Catholic School, says 40 percent of the student body are non-Catholic and that leadership prides itself on being very diverse.

"We currently have 230 students, including many Asian, African American and Hispanic children," she added.

The school was founded in 1878 and boasts more than 140 years of impactful education. From sports and theater to academics and religion, the 2022 school year is off to a rousing start now that the pandemic continues to be

further in our collective rear-view mirrors.

Students at St. Mary's Catholic School have the opportunity to interact with students at Sacred Heart of Jesus High School early on as both schools collaborate on events like Mardi Gras, Oktoberfest and many sports and theater-related events.

Carrie Prewitt at Sacred Heart is thrilled that school is back to normal this academic year and can't wait for all of the wonderful events planned.

Founded in 2004, Sacred Heart is a liberal arts-focused, college preparatory high school that follows the philosophy-based teachings of St. John Bosco, a 19th-century Catholic priest and educator who emphasized the importance of reason and religion in education.

"He was one of the greatest educators of his time as his approach was based on love and respect," said Prewitt. "Every day we strive for goodness, discipline and knowledge."

Currently, 115 students attend the school with enrollment gains increasing by the year.

"In fact, we graduated our largest class of 35," she said. "We believe in loving each child and pride ourselves on being a diverse community."

In terms of collaboration with the other "Jackson 3" schools, Sacred Heart works closely with St. Mary's on theater productions and encourages students to volunteer and mentor younger kids. †



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Holy Cross Catholic Preschool, St. Mary's Catholic School and Sacred Heart of Jesus High School invite you to learn more by visiting them during Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 29-Feb. 4, 2023.

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