

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH

HOLY CHILD SCHOOL AT ROSEMONT

Rosemont, Pennsylvania

holychildrosemont.org

Start Date: July 2023



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

CARNEYSANDOE.COM

Vision

Nurturing Excellence in a Joyful Catholic Community.

Mission Statement

Holy Child School at Rosemont provides an intellectually challenging and creative program of study that fosters academic excellence in an independent, co-educational environment. Students are treated with reverence and respect and are actively engaged in their education. The school does this in a Christian community, which follows the Catholic tradition, fostering a joyous, personal faith commitment.

At a Glance



Established
1949



Enrollment
320



Total Faculty and Staff
60



Financial aid awarded
\$1.76 million



Student-teacher ratio
8:1



Campus size
11 acres



Students receiving aid
35.3%



Annual operating budget
\$8 million



Endowment
\$22.3 million



Who We Are

Childhood is both a cherished time and a fleeting moment, a critical foundation, and an enduring influence. At Holy Child School at Rosemont, we believe in the magic of childhood and living out the school's motto, "Actions, not words." Here, we elevate early learning by providing students in preschool-grade 8 with an uplifting education, joyful opportunities, and a boundless childhood experience that allows kids to be kids. Our challenging and creative program, based on the pioneering educational philosophy of Cornelia Connelly, centers on the idea that happy children learn better and focuses on teaching the whole child with love, respect, and patience. In this inclusive, independent Catholic school community where all faiths are welcome, students become academically prepared, kind, confident leaders who are ready to shine in the next phase of their education.

Overview

Upon entering the impressive campus of Holy Child School at Rosemont, one is struck with the positive spirit exhibited by students and teachers. This is a school that makes learning joyous and where all children can be their full selves.

Located in a suburban community just 10 miles west of Philadelphia, Holy Child School at Rosemont is an independent, co-educational, Catholic school welcoming students from every faith. Grounded in a belief that happy children learn better, the school provides an intellectually challenging and creative program of study for students beginning in Early Childhood through grade 8, delivered in a loving and affirming environment. Founded in 1949, Holy Child School at Rosemont is a member of the Network of Holy Child Schools: high-performing schools built around the progressive and enlightened educational philosophy of Cornelia Connelly, founder of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. For more than 70 years of ever-evolving educational styles and innovations, Holy Child School at Rosemont students have continued to win academic honors, participate in athletics and the arts, and have been admitted to top college preparatory schools.



Building on the successful ten-year tenure of current Head of School Tom Lengel, the school is intent on maintaining its special position as a co-educational, Catholic elementary school. Holy Child recognizes that there is considerable value for a child to enter preschool and complete its program in 8th grade. Across those elementary years, students undergo transformational personal growth by building self-confidence, gaining outstanding academic skills, becoming accomplished public speakers and serving as leaders and role models. The school's strength is its hard working and dedicated faculty who put into action the beliefs and practices formulated by Cornelia Connelly — living out the motto, “Actions, not words.” Holy Child is that rare school where teachers, parents and students know and fully embrace the mission of the school and keep it at the front of their efforts.

The school seeks its next Head of School to begin July 2023. The successful candidate will be an experienced leader devoted to the school's mission and programs. The Head of School will report to the Board of Trustees and provide leadership for the professional community of faculty and staff, overseeing all elements of the student experience. This is an exceptional opportunity to lead a school that is confidently ready to face the future with an unwavering commitment to its mission.

Philosophy

Holy Child School at Rosemont helps children grow into persons capable of making choices which enrich their own lives and contribute to the lives of others. The school combines sound religious training with a strong academic program. Children live, work, and play in a Christian community which encourages them to exercise their freedom and to accept responsibility for their choices. As children grow in wisdom, knowledge, and grace, they value themselves and others as children of God and endeavor to live out the principles learned in service.



School Community

Holy Child has three divisions within the school, Early Childhood, Lower School, and Middle School, each with its own unique focus on fostering personal growth, community, and a sense of achievement. The wonder-filled years of Preschool-Kindergarten at Holy Child provide a foundation of curiosity, social development, and experiential learning, celebrating each student's uniqueness while building confidence and individuality. Students in the Lower School, Grades 1-4, learn to explore, question, discover, and demonstrate as they immerse themselves in the arts, world languages, spiritual growth, and differentiated instruction, becoming independent learners and responsible community members. Admired role models and leaders in the Holy Child school community, Middle School students in Grades 5-8 experience tremendous intellectual and personal growth and achievement as they prepare for great success in high school, college, and beyond.

Foundress Cornelia Connelly

Well ahead of her time, and inspired by her own life experience of having been first a mother and then a nun and teacher, [Cornelia Connelly, Foundress](#), recognized that happy children learn better; that effective teaching can best occur in a home-like atmosphere of love, beauty, and respect for the needs of the whole child; and that instruction of children must proceed logically and be provided with patience guided by the pace of each child's maturation. Cornelia also fervently believed that the arts, physical play, and the practice of self-expression were central—not optional—elements of a holistic approach to the education of children.

Over the span of her life, Cornelia Connelly was steadfast in her commitment to a life of service and education, forming a teaching order in England: The Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Cornelia's religious philosophy stressed deed over doctrine, and her credo of "Actions, not words" guides the school every day. Cornelia sought to empower children through education. Reverence for the learner from any religious and socioeconomic background, collaborative learning, the love of art and beauty, and the importance of spiritual nourishment—these tenets are the bedrock of a Holy Child education.



Holy Child Network of Schools

One of the ways that Holy Child School at Rosemont stands apart from other Catholic schools on the Main Line is their membership in, and commitment to, the Holy Child Network of Schools. The network is comprised of nine U.S.-based Holy Child schools, and they are united by [seven common Goals](#) that guide their work and serve as the foundational principles for their approach to education. These goals define and help perpetuate their tradition and speak to the spirit and vision of their Foundress, Cornelia Connelly.

Opportunities and Challenges

In addition to providing engaged and creative academic and administrative leadership to Holy Child School at Rosemont, the next Head of School will embrace the following opportunities and challenges:

Communicate, connect, and relate to a wide range of audiences in a transparent way in order to create an even stronger sense of community and foster a lifelong attachment to the school.

The Head of School will maintain a high degree of trust and transparency through open, sincere, and thoughtful dialogue with faculty, administrators, the Board of Trustees, students, parents, staff, alumni, donors and other members of the community. As the champion of the community, and working with the faculty and staff, the Head will be instrumental in helping Holy Child School at Rosemont make informed and thoughtful decisions, including communicating and educating the community on the considerations driving these decisions.

Maintain an optimal organizational structure and successfully retain administrators, faculty, and staff. The Head will be responsible for cultivating the skills of individual staff members, building synergies, and communicating clear individual responsibilities while promoting a collaborative and collegial culture. Prioritizing talent development and retention of staff, the Head will need to ensure the school has a culture where the best and brightest faculty and staff want to work.



Continue to elevate the profile of Holy Child School at Rosemont. Through strategic enrollment management, program innovation, and talent acquisition and retention, the next Head will continue the momentum the school's profile has enjoyed throughout its history. Leveraging the Head's deep knowledge of the trends and unique challenges of the competitive independent school landscape will position Holy Child to thrive and emerge as the destination for *"Nurturing Excellence in a Joyful Catholic Community"*.

Desired Qualities and Personal Attributes

The next Head of School of Holy Child School at Rosemont will be energized by the possibilities for leadership in an institution that already possesses an outstanding faculty, first-rate facilities, a tremendously strong financial foundation, and a wonderful community of families. The heart and soul of Holy Child's uniqueness is the deep and enduring sense of community amongst its faculty, staff, students, and families. At Holy Child, every student is known and loved.

Candidates must lead in a way that exemplifies Cornelia Connelly's credo of "Actions, not words."

The ideal candidate(s) will offer the following professional and personal qualifications and qualities:

Professional

A successful candidate will:

- Have leadership/management experience in independent and/or Catholic schools;
- Have demonstrated success in the recruitment, retention, support and management of faculty and staff;
- Hold an appreciation for the mission of Holy Child School at Rosemont and its Catholic identity with a desire to support the educational philosophy of Cornelia Connelly, founder of the [Society of the Holy Child Jesus](#);



- Exhibit a leadership style that is collaborative, invites and respects the perspectives and views of others, and is decisive when necessary;
- Have the capacity to inspire, motivate, and lead others in a way that encourages staff retention and student and alumni engagement;
- Be a highly engaged and collaborative leader with a deep understanding of curriculum and instruction;
- Be able to identify and implement high-level strategic priorities; and
- Possess a positive and optimistic attitude, superb communication skills, and a long-term strategic perspective.

Personal

A successful candidate will:

- Be an active and practicing member of the Catholic faith;
- Love being active in the school community (i.e., car line, sporting events, after school functions, etc.) with the goal of quickly knowing every student and family by name;
- Possess strong relationship building and people management skills;
- Demonstrate true leadership qualities;
- Have an ability to deliver a strong affirmation for Catholic education and embrace the Holy Child mission;
- Be approachable and accessible;
- Support Holy Child's joyful approach to learning;
- Be a clear communicator, both in person and in written messages;
- Display the highest level of integrity, confidence, courage, and conviction;
- Have a service-oriented mindset, consistent with the Holy Child charism;
- Demonstrate humility and empathy; and
- Have a commitment to excellence in every pursuit.

Learn More

Please click on the links below to learn more about Holy Child School at Rosemont, including their vision and mission statements, the education philosophy that guides their approach to education, and the 7 Goals of a Holy Child education.

[School Website](#)

[Portrait of a Graduate](#)

[School History](#)

[About Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#)

[Virtual Campus Tour](#)



To Apply

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission) to:

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