



CROSSROADS

*Holy Family Catholic Academy
September 2024*

Making God's goodness known, educating for life.

Aloha families and friends of HFCA,

We are so excited to be back to school and experiencing all the anticipation a new year brings. Our students are settling into their classes and making new friends. Our after-school clubs, athletic games, field trips, and class projects will also begin this month, to add to our Holy Family experience.

We also look forward to an event crucial for our school's growth and development: the WCEA (Western Catholic Educational Association) accreditation process. Scheduled to take place in February 2025, the WCEA accreditation process comprehensively evaluates various aspects of our school, including mission and Catholic identity, governance and leadership, academic excellence, and operational vitality. Through this process, we aim to ensure that we are fulfilling our commitment to providing high-quality education rooted in Catholic values. We kindly ask that returning families complete a survey that can be found on ParentSquare to help us shape our goals for the next five years as part of our accreditation process.

We pray you have a wonderful September, and thank you for being a part of our Holy Family 'ohana.

Take care, and God bless,

Dr. Celeste Akiu, Principal

A Hui Hou Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Veronica Smith spent her last day as our wonderful Principal's Assistant on August 28th. Veronica was an incredible example of our Catholic identity and will be greatly missed by students, staff, and parents. We admire her kindness, faithfulness, and commitment to Holy Family, and wish her the best of luck with her relocation to Florida. Mrs. Maureen Paparo will take over as our new Principal's Assistant and we are blessed to have filled the role with someone so familiar with our school. Maureen has worked as a substitute teacher at Holy Family, and previously served on our School Board and PTG.



Celebrating 68 Years!

In honor of our 68th Anniversary, we invite our school community to support HFCA through Foodland's Give Aloha community matching gifts program. If 68% of our families and staff donate to Give Aloha, ALL students will earn free dress days from October 2 - 4!



How it works:

- Use your Foodland maika'i rewards card to make a monetary donation at any Foodland/Foodland Farms during September. (If you need a maika'i card, a checker can help you sign up for the rewards card.)
- Mention supporting Holy Family, #77515 when donating. The maximum donation is \$249 and any amount is appreciated!
- Ask for two receipts, one for your records and one to turn in to the Business Office no later than October 1 by 8:00 am.
- Before you submit your receipt, please write your FAMILY name on the top. We welcome donations from your 'ohana and friends as well!
- All funds raised during the Give Aloha campaign will benefit student programs at HFCA.
- All donations are optional, and greatly appreciated!

Mahalo for supporting HFCA and our 68th year!

Congratulations Dr. Akiu!

We offer heartfelt congratulations to our principal, Ms. Celeste Akiu, who recently completed her Doctorate of Education degree. Ms. Akiu defended her dissertation in August and officially earned the title Dr. Akiu. We are happy to show our students that pursuing higher education is attainable and something to be proud of. Mahalo to your family members and Sacred Hearts classmates for joining us on campus to celebrate!

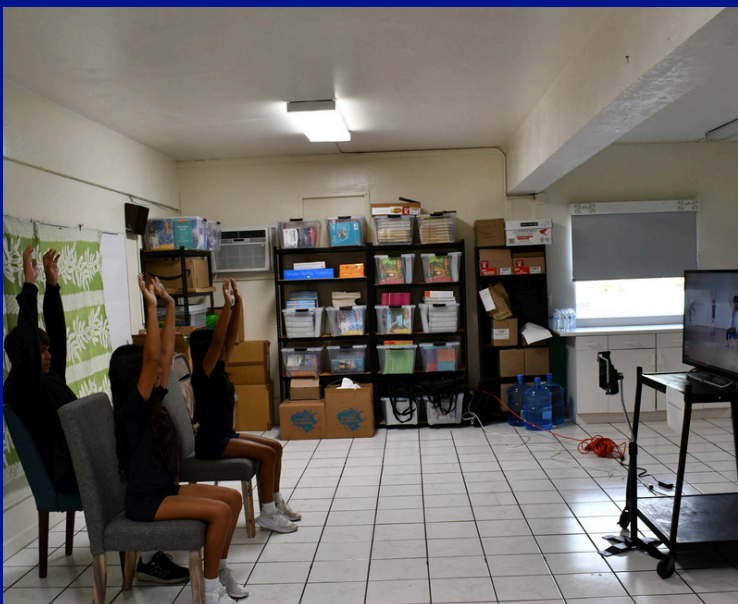


HFCA Strategic Plan

HFCA established a Strategic Plan in 2020 with four primary “pathways” to organize our priorities: Family, Maintenance and Modernization, Learning and Nurturing Environment, and Enriching Experiences. We highlight our progress in our monthly newsletters.

September Focus - Learning & Nurturing Environment:

Our middle school students will lead Yoga 4 Classrooms (previously called YogaEd) twice weekly this year, engaging our entire student body in exercise and stress management via Google Meet video on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Student volunteers meet in our Laulima Room and set up the video feed independently as a way to practice responsibility and leadership skills. This fits our goal of enhancing our learning and nurturing environment perfectly, empowering our educators to create classrooms that support whole child development and a culture of compassion, one mindful moment at a time.



Welcome Father Dario!



All are welcome at Mass!

HFCA students attend Mass together at 8 am every Wednesday morning, and parents and family members are always welcome to join us!



We'd like to warmly welcome Father Dario Rinaldi, our new Pastor and Head of School. Father Dario was born in Eugene, Oregon, and moved to Maui when he was seven years old, where he was raised surrounded by his Catholic faith. A proud product of Catholic education, Father Dario attended grade school at St. Joseph Elementary under the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary and St. Anthony High School under the Marianists. He first heard the call to the priesthood when he was twelve. This calling grew stronger and after graduating high school, he entered Mount Angel College Seminary, where he received the foundations of his spiritual life in the Benedictine tradition. After graduating from Mount Angel, he studied theology at St. Patrick's Seminary. Dario also served as a deacon at Holy Family Church, so he is familiar with our school community. Father Dario was ordained a priest in 2022, first assigned to St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish on the island of Kauai. We are happy to welcome him back to Holy Family and look forward to many wonderful years to come. A custom letterman jacket was spotted at a recent volleyball game so HFCA may have also gained the biggest Wildcat fan yet!

