

Holy Spirit Catholic School



Accept the Mission; Share the Spirit
www.holyspirit-al.com

Tradition

In 1863, Catholic Education began in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, at St. John the Baptist School. Holy Spirit Catholic School was established in 1962 to continue serving the educational needs of the Catholic Community. For more than 50 years, Holy Spirit Catholic School has continued a tradition of academic excellence and offers a strong Christian academic program for children three years old through the twelfth grade level.

Mission Statement

The Holy Spirit Catholic School family honors the dignity of each person and provides a strong foundation for life-long learning within the framework of a Catholic faith community.

Vision Statement

Our vision for Holy Spirit Catholic School is to create an environment in which gospel values are integrated into the life of our school community. We envision a school community where all people are welcomed and encouraged to grow spiritually and academically.

We thank you for your interest in Holy Spirit Catholic School. Our school family is here to encourage and assist each student to realize and reach his/her full potential. We invite you to see how the Catholic school advantage can benefit your family. To arrange for a campus tour or student shadow day, please contact the school office at (205) 553-5606 ext.102.

The Catholic School Advantage

Parents choose Catholic schools for their children because of values-added education, high academic standards, and a safe school environment.

Catholic schools stress the value of self-discipline and commitment.

Catholic schools encourage family input and involvement in the ongoing education of their children.

Catholic school students score significantly above the national averages on standardized testing.

Research shows that because of a greater emphasis on homework and study, Catholic school students develop more effective writing skills.



***Be sure to visit our website at
www.holyspirit-al.com and follow us on
Facebook and Instagram***

History

Ever since the first Catholic school was founded in Tuscaloosa in 1862, when the Ursuline Sisters opened a convent school off of Paul Bryant Drive on Convent Street, Catholic Education has been a part of Tuscaloosa's history. By 1888 a Catholic school was established at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, and by 1920 seventy-five students attended the first parochial school built at 12th St. and 25th Ave. in Tuscaloosa. After an increasing demand for Catholic education, a new school was built in 1962 at the present location of Holy Spirit Catholic School. For over fifty years now Holy Spirit Catholic School has built a tradition of academic excellence for children in Tuscaloosa and the surrounding areas. Traditionally, Catholic schools strive to help students achieve high standards, and Holy Spirit Catholic School is no exception to that rule. As the only Catholic school in Tuscaloosa, Holy Spirit makes every effort to bring to the Tuscaloosa area the Catholic School Advantage found in many cities around the globe. Known for their structured academics, advanced curriculum, enrichment activities, fine arts and sports programs, Catholic schools have helped Catholic and non-Catholic students alike achieve their full potential and develop skills that carry on throughout their lifetime by promoting a curriculum which prepares students to become life-long learners and productive citizens.

Many outstanding students have been educated in our school. We have experienced much growth over the years, including the addition of the preschool in 1987 and the high school in 1995. Our school is accredited by AdvancEd (formerly the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) and the Alabama Department of Education. We are proud members of the National Catholic Educational Association and the Alabama High School Athletic Association. Our students continue to excel in academics, leadership skills, and service to civic and church communities.



Admissions

Holy Spirit Catholic School maintains an open admissions policy. Students are admitted without regard to religion, sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin, with all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the school.

Holy Spirit Catholic School does not discriminate on the basis of religion, sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin in its employment practices, administration of educational policies, admission and treatment of students, and athletic and other school administered programs.

***In order to begin the admissions process,
the following must be submitted:***

- A completed application form signed by both parents
 - Application fee per child (non-refundable)
 - Letters of recommendation (as needed)
 - A copy of current transcripts, report cards, grades, standardized test scores, and discipline records (as needed)
 - An assessment/interview process will be scheduled for all new applicants.
-

Uniforms

The Holy Spirit Catholic School uniform is traditional and conservative. Students must present a clean, neat, and modest appearance at all times. Uniform apparel must be purchased from the approved vendors beginning at the kindergarten level.



Financial Aid

Holy Spirit School has partnered with C2 Opportunity Scholarships, Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund, and Scholarships for Kids, Inc. in accordance with the Alabama Accountability Act. Families that are eligible may apply for financial scholarships beginning at the kindergarten level based on the family's total household income for the previous year. Eligibility to apply does not guarantee an award and the parent/guardian is responsible for tuition and fees not covered by an award. Scholarships are awarded throughout the state of Alabama if funding is available with priority going to students in failing school zones first and then to other income eligible applicants. Families may apply for financial aid as parishioners of St. Francis and Holy Spirit Churches.

Preschool

Our preschool program provides an enriching environment that promotes spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth for children 3 and 4 years old. A structured academic curriculum incorporates thematic units in various subject areas each week and prepares each child for the kindergarten level. In addition to their daily subjects, students receive exposure to art, music, and technology. Children must be toilet trained and must be the appropriate age level by September 1. Each student's needs are met by setting realistic challenges suited to the developmental needs of young children. At Holy Spirit Catholic Preschool, students are encouraged to be active participants in the learning process, using a hands-on approach to learning and multi-sensory activities.



Elementary

The elementary school serves students from Kindergarten through 6th grade. Structured learning plans, combined with multi-sensory instruction, ensure that all students are challenged to their full potential. An accelerated curriculum is the standard and resource and fine arts programs provide customized support and enrichment for all students. The language arts program emphasizes grammar and vocabulary in order to assist students in the acquisition of effective communication skills. While phonics is the methodology initially used to develop a strong foundation, reading comprehension is also a primary focus and students are encouraged to progress at their own rate. Mathematics instruction begins with a hands-on, concrete approach and builds on a solid foundation of basic mathematical ideas and concepts. The science and social studies curriculums provide students with knowledge that can be related to their own experiences and form the foundation for in-depth study in middle and high school. The faculty and staff support and encourage students in their pursuit of excellence in all endeavors. Teachers work in a partnership with parents to monitor and encourage the active involvement of students in their own learning. This enables each child to benefit from establishing goals and working to accomplish his/her objectives. Enrichment opportunities and field trips are offered as an enhancement to the curriculum studies.



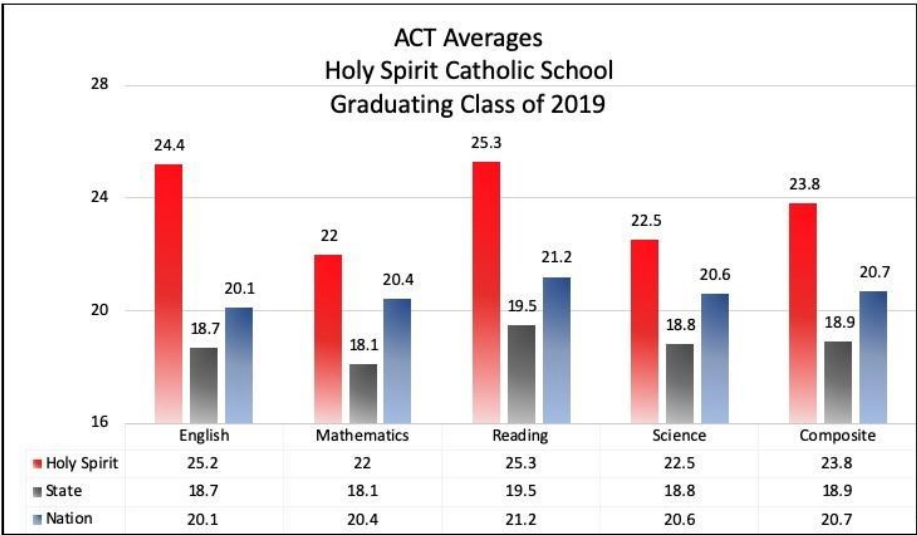
High School (7-12)

Holy Spirit Catholic Middle and High School works with parents to provide students with a nurturing environment while they mature spiritually, academically, physically, emotionally, and socially. The core academic programs are geared toward college-bound students. In addition, small class sizes and tutoring help ensure the success of every student. Holy Spirit students experience multiple opportunities that enable them to achieve their fullest potential. Foreign language is introduced through instruction in Spanish classes at the middle school level and continues with options in foreign language at the high school level. The commitment to a holistic learning process encourages each student to attain a fuller knowledge of the world, of self, and of God. As a Catholic school, Holy Spirit clearly and firmly articulates the moral and doctrinal teachings of the Catholic Church. Emphasis is on the formation of conscience by incorporating Christian values, morals, and practices within the daily curriculum and activities. Each student's individual spirituality is acknowledged, thus providing the opportunity for each to grow within his or her own faith. Students are guided toward becoming leaders in the community with personalized programs that reflect the school's respect for their talents and interests. The school environment, marked by positive experiences, builds self-esteem, encourages personal fulfillment as responsible members of the learning community, and encourages students in their individual pursuits of excellence.

Holy Spirit Catholic School provides a structured academic program in which students learn to think critically, develop academically, and recognize their potential. Holy Spirit **ACT averages rank above the state and national averages. Many students have earned a 30 or above on their composite scores.** We are proud of our **100% college acceptance rate by our graduates.** Holy Spirit students’ outstanding academic achievement affords them the opportunity to compete for and receive scholarships from many prestigious colleges and universities across the country. Our students work very hard to meet the academic demands of the diocesan curriculum while participating in athletics, fine arts programs, and community and civic organizations. The curriculum is designed for college preparation. In addition to the college preparatory classes, students may take honors classes as well as Advanced Placement courses. Our high school is officially an iPad One-to-One School. Every student (grades 7-12) is issued a school managed iPad.

Off-campus study:

In addition to their regular high school work, advanced students may, with school approval, enroll in classes at The University of West Alabama, Shelton State Community College , and in Early College at The University of Alabama.



Holy Spirit 2017 Average ACT Scores				
English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
28.2	24.1	28.2	24.6	26.5

2018 Graduate Average ACT Score Comparison					
	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
Holy Spirit	24.4	21.3	24.2	22.2	23.1
State	18.9	18.3	19.6	19	19.1
Nation	20.2	20.5	21.3	20.7	20.8

Spiritual Life

Students of all denominations are welcome at Holy Spirit Catholic School. Catholic/Christian values and service to others are an integral part of the total school program. Not all students are members of the Catholic Church. In addition to regularly scheduled religion classes, Holy Spirit provides many opportunities for students to deepen their relationship with Christ. Students, along with the faculty and staff, participate in the celebration of the Eucharist, morning and afternoon prayer, and other para-liturgical activities.

The Campus Ministry program at Holy Spirit Catholic School fosters reverent, faith-filled worship, builds community, and provides opportunities for compassionate outreach in line with Catholic social teachings.

Students are encouraged to assist the adult Campus Ministry team by helping with the planning and implementation of Campus Ministry activities such as:

- Liturgical celebrations
- Retreats
- Prayer services
- Seasonal devotions for Advent and Lent
- Class retreats
- Special projects in support of the needy

The Campus Ministry team is also a resource for students in need of prayer, comfort, or support.



*Jesus said,
"Let the children come to
me..."*



The Reverend Michael Deering,
Pastor of Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Service



*Instruct a child in the way
he should go, and when he
grows old he will not de-
part from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

Service is a way to deepen our concern for others and turn it into meaningful action. It's a calling to use our unique gifts and talents to help those in need. It's an attitude and a spirit that will stay with us for the rest of our lives. Holy Spirit students live out the spirit of service by getting involved in activities organized each year by Campus Ministry, God Squad, and other school clubs to serve non-profit agencies. Monthly "Spirit Days" are held to supply non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Catholic Social Services of West Alabama. Our high school service day has allowed our students to do work for such agencies as The Alabama Institute for the Deaf and the Blind, The RISE Program, Caring Days of Tuscaloosa, Eagle's Wings, the Metro Animal Shelter, the Greene Co. Head Start Program, the Tuscaloosa Community Soup Bowl, and Temporary Emergency Services. Students and staff have supported organizations such as Toys For Tots, Children's Hospital, Unicef, Solidarity for Sudan, St. Jude's Hospital, and the Veterans Hospital. Many students also find their own independent ways to serve the community. This mindset of helping others applies at school, too. Holy Spirit students help one another and their school family with the same enthusiasm that distinguishes their service in the community.

Clubs and Organizations

A variety of activities are available to students so that they can identify their interests, learn healthy socialization skills, test their abilities, achieve goals, and interact with peers on many levels. Students also participate in a variety of fieldtrips and enrichment activities throughout the school year which allow the students to explore beyond the classroom setting.

Elementary School

Altar Servers
Book Club
BRAG Club
Choir/Musical Productions
Geography Bee
Falcon 1 Defense Karate
Musical Beginnings
Scouts
Soccer Shots
Spirit Squad
Spelling Bee
Stars and Stripes



Middle-High School

Academic Team
Choir
Diamond Girls
Drama /Musical Theater
Eucharistic Ministers
Engineering Club
God Squad
Key Club
Latin Club
Literature Club
Math Counts
Mu Alpha Theta
Mission in the Middle
National Honor Society
National Junior Honor Society
National Spanish Honor Society
National Classical League (Latin)
Robotics Team
SADD
Scholar Bowl
Science Fair
Spanish Club
Student Council
Yearbook



The **Parent/Teacher Organization** serves as an organization to involve student families with the school through various events throughout the school year. A grandparent club is also available to allow grandparents of students to become involved.

Athletics

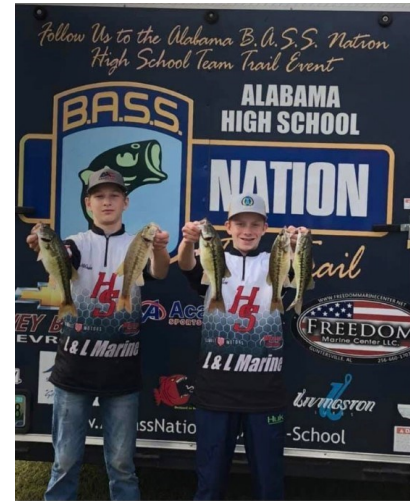
Holy Spirit Catholic School takes great pride in supporting our student athletes. Involvement in athletics helps to promote self-growth and personal development. Our athletes exemplify leadership both in the classroom and on the field of play. Athletics teaches the value of setting goals, cooperation, responsibility, and achievement.

Holy Spirit Catholic School participates in the following sports as a member of the
Alabama High School Athletic Association.

Go Saints!



Baseball
Basketball
Bowling
Bass Fishing
Cheerleading
Cross Country
Golf
Soccer
Softball
Swimming
Tennis
Track
Volleyball



Fine Arts

The arts are a critical and essential part of the education of every young person. Holy Spirit Catholic School offers a diverse array of programs and courses in art, music, and theatre. By employing the highest standard in performance, teaching, research, and artistic and creative vision, our artists and performers strive for excellence. Students are given the opportunity throughout the school year to exemplify their talents through musical productions, art exhibits, and dramatic presentations. Holy Spirit Catholic School believes the arts are fundamental to the educational well-being of all students.



Elementary, Middle, and High School Choir Liturgical Music

Visual Arts Classes and Visual Arts Achievement Opportunities

Music Classes and Musical Productions

Drama and Musical Theater Productions

Annual Talent Showcase

All State Choir Opportunities

AMEA Concert Opportunities



Colleges & Universities that Holy Spirit students have been accepted to:

Agnes Scott College	Loyola University, New Orleans	University of Montevallo
Akron University	Middle Tennessee State University	University of North Alabama
Alabama University of Montgomery	Millsaps College	University of North Texas
Anderson University	Mississippi State University	University of Oklahoma
Arizona State University	Montevallo University	University of Oxford
Asbury University	Murray State University	University of Pennsylvania
Atlanta College of Art and Design	New York University	University of Portland
Auburn University	Nevada University	University of South Alabama
Baylor University	North Virginia Community College	University of South Carolina
Belhaven University	Northwestern University	University of Southern California
Belmont University	Notre Dame University	University of Southern Mississippi
Bevill State Community College	Notre Dame de Namur University	University of Tennessee
Berry College	Oberlin Conservatory	University of Tennessee, Martin
Birmingham Southern College	Ohio State University	University of Texas, Austin
Boston College	Oregon State University	University of Vermont
Boston University	Otterbein University	University of West Virginia
Carnegie Mellon University	Pepperdine University	University of West Alabama
Catholic University of America	Radford University	University of West Florida
Case Western Reserve University	Rhodes College	Vanderbilt University
Centre College	Rice University	Vassar College
Colgate University	Salisbury University	Villanova University
College of Charleston	Samford University	Wake Forest University
Colorado State University	Shelton State Community College	Wallace State Community College
Cumberland University	Southern Methodist University	Washington Lee University
Delta State University	Southern University of New York	Washington University, St. Louis
Duke University	Spelman College	West Point
Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ.	Spring Hill College	Wofford College
Emerson College, Boston	St. Mary's College	Wooster University
Emory University	Stillman College	Xavier University
Erskine College	Susquehanna University	
Faulkner University	Texas A&M University	
Ferrum College	Thomas More College	
Flagler College	Troy State University	
Florida State University	Tulane University	
Fort Hayes State University	Tuskegee University	
Full Sail University in Orlando	United States Air Force Academy	
Furman University	United States Military Academy at West Point	
Georgetown University	United States Naval Academy	
Georgia Tech University	University of Alabama	
Guilford College	University of Alabama, Birmingham	
Harvard University	University of Alabama, Huntsville	
Hollins University	University of California, Los Angeles	
Huntington College	University of California, San Diego	
Illinois Institute of Technology	University of California, Santa Barbara	
Jacksonville University	University of Chicago	
James Madison University	University of Colorado, Boulder	
John Hopkins University	University of Dallas	
Kansas City Art Institute	University of Denver	
King's College	University of Florida	
Lawrence Conservatory	University of Kentucky	
Lees-McRae College	University of Memphis	
Louisiana State University	University of Miami	
Loyola Marymount University	University of Mississippi	
Loyola University, Baltimore		

Recent College Scholarship Awards

The Class of 2019 with 36 students earned over \$1.9 million in college scholarships

The Class of 2018 with 35 students earned over \$2.2 million in college scholarships

The Class of 2017 with 36 students earned over \$4.8 million in college scholarships

The Class of 2016 with 33 students earned over \$3.6 million in college scholarships

The Class of 2015 with 35 students earned over \$4.6 million in college scholarships

The Class of 2014 with 45 students earned over \$3.6 million in college scholarships

Application

Holy Spirit Catholic School

Preschool/Elementary School - 711 James I. Harrison, Jr. Pkwy. E Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

(205)553-9630

Middle/High School – 601 James I. Harrison, Jr. Pkwy. E Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

(205)553-5606

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received _____

Reg. Fee Ck # _____

Acceptance Letter _____

* Please return with Non-Refundable Application Fee

STUDENT INFORMATION

Proposed Grade Placement	SSN (required)	Male	Date
		Female	
Last Name	First	M.I.	Name Student Goes By
Street Address	Apartment/Unit #		
City	State	ZIP	
Phone	Parent/Guardian E-mail Address		
Date of Birth	Place of Birth (city, state)	Age on Sept. 1	
Student lives with:	Primary Language Spoken at Home:		
Are you a citizen of the United States? (please circle) Yes No If no, what country?			
Ethnic Background (Optional, please circle) Hispanic White Black Asian Native American Multi-Cultural			
Church Currently Attending			
Are other siblings attending or applying to Holy Spirit? Yes No If yes, what grade (s):			

PARENTAL STATUS (please circle)

Father Married Single Divorced Remarried Deceased

Mother Married Single Divorced Remarried Deceased

RECORD OF SACRAMENTS (FOR CATHOLIC STUDENTS ONLY)

Sacrament	Date	Church	City	State
Baptism				
First Reconciliation				
First Eucharist				

Pre-School Applicants (Choose a Program)

3K and 4K Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Part-time 8 am to 12 noon Monday through Friday
	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time 8 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday
3K Only	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Day Program 8am to 12 noon
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Day Program 8am to 3:30 pm
Has this applicant, or a sibling of the applicant, ever been released from Holy Spirit Catholic School due to disciplinary reasons or financial default. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	How did you learn of Holy Spirit Catholic School? Please circle all that apply: Newspaper ad Flier Direct mail Billboard Telephone book ad Radio Magazine Internet Current Family Referral _____ Other _____ (Name of referring family)

Application

ADDITIONAL STUDENT INFORMATION		
Previous School or Daycare Attended		Grade (s) Dates Attended: From ___/___ To ___/___
City	State Zip	Phone
Reason for leaving previous school or daycare:		
Did student leave in good standing both in academic and discipline areas?		
<i>Holy Spirit Catholic School reserves the right to contact any previous school attended by the applicant.</i>		
Has your child been tested for learning disabilities? Yes No		Place Date
Has your child been tested for behavior problems? Yes No		Place Date
Will you release a copy of evaluation? Yes No		
Is your child on any medication? Yes No		Name of Medication:
Does your child have any medical problems? If so, explain.		
FAMILY INFORMATION		
Father's Name		Mother's Name
Address (if different from student)		Address (if different from student)
City, State, Zip		City, State, Zip
Occupation		Occupation
Business Name & Address		Business Name & Address
Business Phone		Business Phone
Religion of Father		Religion of Mother
E-mail Address		E-mail Address
Person Student Living with (if not parents): Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Phone:		
Reason(s) for Applying to Holy Spirit Catholic School		
POLICIES OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM		
<p>Application for registration implies goodwill on the part of the parents or guardians in complying with the philosophy and regulations of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama. "Every Catholic elementary and secondary school in the system of the Diocese of Birmingham admits students without regard to gender, race, color, national or ethnic origin in its employment practices, administration of educational policies, admission and treatment of students, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic or other school administered programs." It is also our right and duty to decline the application of students who do not meet our standards of achievement for behavior. Grounds for expulsion include but are not limited to, possession of alcohol, drugs, weapons, or other serious misconduct. All new students must present previous report cards or transcripts as well as birth or baptismal records for proof of age. Children entering kindergarten must be five years of age by September 1 of this year. Children entering first grade must be six years of age by September 1 of this year. Proof of age must be presented at time of application and will be subject to verification. All students are required to participate in religion class and any other specified religious activities or services. Any information on this form which is later found to be erroneous could cause nullification of registration or immediate dismissal of the student. ---Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Birmingham</p>		

Signature of both parents required

Signature of Father/Guardian _____ Signature of Mother/Guardian _____

a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools



