

The Killgoar Foundation's ability to provide essential support to our school relies solely on the generosity of donors - **who have given a total of nearly \$4.5 million since the foundation was started in 1987.**

Today the need is greater than ever.

Unemployment caused by the coronavirus already has resulted in additional requests for tuition assistance, and the need will most likely grow over the next few months.

Supporting our school through the Killgoar Foundation is as easy as:

- Going to ihmparish.com and clicking on Killgoar Donate Now.
- Mailing your check payable to the Killgoar Foundation to the parish office.
- Designating your United Way (#1991) / corporate giving program contributions to the foundation.
- Designating your memorial gifts to the foundation.
- Joining the Seton, Saints or Legacy Societies.

Contact Ann Williams, Development Director, for more information: 616-862-7911; killgoarfoundation@ihmshoolgr.com.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, School and Killgoar Foundation Sources of Information

- www.ihmparish.com
- Facebook: Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish – Grand Rapids
- www.ihmparish.com/school
- myParish app
- Killgoar Foundation: www.ihmparish.com, click on parish life, community and organizations



1935 Plymouth Ave. SE,
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When IHM School students, families and staff left school Thursday, March 12, they could not know that they would not be returning to the school for the rest of the academic year.

KILLGOAR FOUNDATION *Forum*

*The Killgoar Foundation
for Immaculate Heart of Mary School*



Moving Forward
IN FAITH

Fascinating Facts IHM SCHOOL



- IHM School enrollment has grown 9% over the last five years.
- 2019-20 enrollment comprises 57 preschoolers and 250 K-8 students.
- 76% of our students are Catholic.
- 25% of our student body is Asian, Black, Hispanic, Burmese and Native American/Native Alaskan.
- The ratio of boys to girls is 148/152.
- IHM School tuition for one K-8 student is just below the average for the five southeast Grand Rapids Catholic schools: IHM, St. Paul, St. Robert, St. Stephen, St. Thomas.
- Enrollment for the next school year is 300 students at this point in the enrollment process.

Fascinating Facts KILLGOAR FOUNDATION



- The purpose of the foundation is to assure that no student is denied an IHM School education for financial reasons.
- The foundation has provided IHM School with more than \$2.2 million since 1999.
- 83 students from 46 families are enrolled at IHM School this year because of tuition assistance from the foundation.
- Since the 2014-15 school year, an average of 85 students have been able to attend IHM School because of tuition assistance from the foundation.
- The foundation will pay up to 50% of tuition based on a family's need.
- Trustees recently approved an increase in assistance to accommodate families with greater need stemming from the pandemic.
- Because of the foundation's support of the school, ALL families pay reduced tuition.

The coronavirus pandemic has dramatically changed everyone's lives over the last few months, especially families with school age children.

While students are at home full time, their parents may be working from home, working outside the home as essential workers or they may be unemployed. Regardless of their "usual" status, parents in effect are now also teachers, a challenging role at the very least.

As soon as IHM School staff knew students would not be returning to their classrooms, they quickly developed plans to assure that students and parents would have the necessary resources to continue the rigorous, Christ-centered education that will prepare children for the future.

Utilizing innovation, technology and ongoing communications, staff and parents have collaborated and cooperated to continue students' education through the end of this school year (at least). Teachers assign lessons, then review and provide feedback on completed assignments via Seesaw, Google Classroom and email. They interact with their students via Zoom, a communications platform that enables students and the teacher to see each other "live" on the computer screen. Each Monday morning Principal Holly Lake live-streams morning prayer, the pledge of allegiance and announcements from her office. Other days of the week, students receive an email with the day's Gospel reading, daily prayer and announcements.



Michael (grade 6), Stella (grade 4) and Hannah (kindergarten) Canfield, children of Jason and Katie (Smolenski) Canfield, spend three-four hours daily on learning/homework. Katie describes the work as rigorous and very organized. Some lesson plans come in four week segments; others are communicated daily. Teachers check in via email or Zoom meetings to see how students are doing, provide guidance, answer questions and review and respond to finished lessons. Lauren Host or Jen Aegensen, Hannah's teachers, has dropped by the house twice to see how Hannah is doing (from a safe distance, of course).

Katie says adapting is hard for everyone and has high praise for how the staff is handling an "exceptionally tough" situation. Everyone is trying to finish the school year successfully and hopes for less disruption and a sense of normalcy in the next academic year.

Until then, students, families and school staff will continue working together so that students can continue to progress spiritually and academically.