



Finding the Best Fit for *Learning and Life*

By Debbie Sinopoli, Director of Marketing & Admissions

With a comprehensive program that blends tradition and innovation in a faith-based, family-focused setting, it's no wonder St. Hilary School enrolls about 100 new students each year. Families consistently choose St. Hilary School, where from kindergarten through eighth grade, a Christ-centered mission to develop the future leaders of our world drives the preparation of students for success in high school and beyond. Here, the families of some of the school's newest students share how they found the best fit for learning and life at St. Hilary School.

Easing the Transition

The Brennan family had a tall order to fill in looking for a school that would provide a similar or better experience to what they had at their beloved previous parish school. With many factors to consider and several schools to choose from, the Brennans chose St. Hilary for eighth grader Sarah, sixth grader Lewis and third grader Maria. Phil Brennan explains, "My family recently relocated from Stow to Wadsworth, and considered three schools on the "west side" of town for the three youngest kids in our family. We were familiar with the community at St. Hilary, through close friendships with some of the families in the parish and through CYO sports. We loved our parish and school community at Holy Family in Stow, and had some genuine concerns about the transition to a new school and a new parish. From the very beginning, our interactions with the staff at the school were warm and genuine, taking interest in our specific story and trying to learn as much as possible about the kids to help ease their transition. The school was flexible and open to some less traditional requests, and took each of the kids on their individual merit. Our first impressions have carried through in our regular interaction with the faculty and staff...all of whom have been mindful of the specific needs of the kids, open to their unique gifts and personalities, and thoughtful and proactive as we deal with the little bumps on the road. St. Hilary is much bigger than Holy Family, but it still offers the personal touch and camaraderie of a smaller parish school. The kids have responded well to the warmth of this community. They are being challenged academically and their sense of curiosity is being fed by the plethora of extra-curricular activities available. We have high expectations that they will flourish spiritually, physically and intellectually in their time here."



Maria, Lewis and Sarah Brennan feel at home at their new school after relocating from Stow.

Looking for More

There were some specific things that attracted the Parasson family to St. Hilary School for their daughter, Katie, who joined the school's fourth grade class in August. Teri Parasson shares, "What drew us to St. Hilary were the variety of classes and activities available for the students. I'm glad Katie has the opportunity to learn based on her ability and to be challenged more as she progresses from grade to grade. While we loved her previous school, it was small and they couldn't offer those opportunities to their students."

Matt and Pam Setzekorn didn't set out to explore St. Hilary School for their children, but as they heard more about it, the school became an appealing alternative to their local public school. Pam explains how they came to decide that St. Hilary School would be a better option for sixth grader A.J. and third grader Phoebe. "We really didn't know a lot about St. Hilary, only hearing it mentioned at our parish, St. Victor," Pam says. "We weren't really considering St. Hilary until we saw a rapid decline in our local school system. So we started to talk to some friends about it and everyone had nothing but good



Phoebe and A.J. Setzekorn transferred to St. Hilary School in the fall of 2018. Their family appreciates the faith aspect the school provides.



Fourth grader Katie Parasson's family is thrilled about the new opportunities she has at St. Hilary School.

things to say about the school. It wasn't until we toured the school that we knew it was the school we wanted for our children. On top of all the academic reasons, we were also looking forward to an atmosphere that a parochial school would provide. We were pleased to see it was affiliated with St. Victor, making it a manageable decision for our family. We are excited for all the additional opportunities that our children will have, in and out of the classroom. And both of our children were excited to come as well, making it an easier decision to change schools. We look forward to all the possibilities that St. Hilary can offer to our children."

Led by God

Dameka and Sherman Lee were in search of the ideal school for their daughter Arissa to begin her academic career, and did extensive research before landing at St. Hilary School. Dameka says, "As we prepared for Kindergarten, selecting a school where our daughter would be comfortable was most important to us. We had a strong desire to find a school where we felt the staff was understanding that all children are unique. After months of searching and interviewing schools, we thought we had found a school that could meet our needs, but our hearts were not settled. After a LOT of prayer, the Lord led us to St. Hilary. We initially contacted St. Hilary through email. The staff was very responsive and encouraged us to come visit. We were welcomed immediately during our first visit, and we could tell from our conversation that we had found a school that truly cares about its students. The staff was attentive, careful to answer all of our questions and did not rush us through our tour. Each teacher we met was engaging, knowledgeable and flexible. As we toured the school, we noticed the students' artwork throughout the hallways and could tell that each student was being treated as an individual. We even had the opportunity to witness first hand that the students were receiving the love and care that they deserve. After our visit, we sat in the parking lot to chat and, for the first time, we both had the same sentiments about the same school and were so thankful to God for His direction. We knew we had not just found a school, but a school community where the team would have our daughter's best interest at heart."



Kindergartener Arissa Lee's parents felt led by God to enroll her at St. Hilary School.

Time to Explore

If you would like your child to experience the benefits of a St. Hilary School education and find the best fit for learning and life, now is the perfect time to begin exploring all that the school has to offer. Plan to attend the school's open house from 12 to 2 pm on January 27, 2019, or call 330-867-8720, ext. 343 to schedule a personal tour or shadow day. The faculty and staff of St. Hilary School look forward to providing your family and your child with the same wonderful experience these and hundreds of other St. Hilary families and students can attest to each day.