



A Window to the World

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

*For Release: May 10, 2010*

### **Academy of the Sacred Heart Announces Half-Day Pre-Kindergarten Option**

Bloomfield Hills, MI – In response to the changing needs of families in the local community, and in an effort to provide premier programming to as many children as possible, the Academy of the Sacred Heart will offer a half-day Pre-Kindergarten program beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. Pre-Kindergarten is part of the Academy's Primary School, a unique program where children (Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 1) experience small group, large group and individualized instruction. The children also make "choices" at various learning centers, where they gain mastery of academic areas while progressing at their own pace.

Since its creation in the 1970s, the Primary School program has evolved to meet the specific needs of the young learner while incorporating the latest research in child development and respecting the variation in students' intellectual, social, emotional, motor and spiritual growth. The new, half-day Pre-Kindergarten class will be integrated with the full-day program, with students attending for a half day beginning at 8:30 a.m. and dismissing at noon. Tuition for half-day Pre-Kindergarten has been set at \$9,750.

"The Primary School offers a low student-teacher ratio, a child-centered learning environment, and a highly-credentialed faculty," said Renee McNally, Primary School administrator. "Children here build a strong foundation so that they may embark on the next phase of their academic journey."

This announcement is one of several innovations the Academy has unveiled for 2010-2011, as the school aims to increase enrollment during the challenging economic times impacting the region. Previously, the school announced a tuition reduction for students in the infant/toddler program through Primary School, and tuition hold for students in Grades 2-12. By offering competitive pricing and additional scheduling options, the Academy hopes to attract and retain new families for the long term. Further, the Academy's tuition includes many of the "line" items that result in additional fees at other private schools in the area. One price reflects the true cost of attending the school and encompasses educational supplies and books; technology, activity, athletic, lab and art fees; and most field trips.

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“Now, more than ever, it is vital that schools make it easy for parents to examine and compare all the educational choices available for their children, and for parents to understand that a premier education is within reach,” said Sister Bridget Bearss, Head of School.

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*The Academy of the Sacred Heart is the oldest independent school in Michigan. Founded in 1851 in Detroit, the Academy moved to its 44-acre campus in Bloomfield Hills in 1958. It is a Catholic, college-preparatory school for young women from infancy through Grade 12 and for boys from infancy through Grade 8 of many cultures and faiths. The Academy is a member of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools, which includes 21 schools in the U.S. and affiliation with the Society of the Sacred Heart in 44 countries around the world.*