

# Holy Child Network of Schools





In the 19th century, Cornelia Connelly, an American convert to Catholicism, founded the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and opened her first school in England.

Cornelia's Society was grounded in the Incarnation: In becoming one of us, God conferred dignity on humankind. Thus, Cornelia reasoned simply, each person is worthy of respect and reverence.

She devoted her life to educating children, God's love incarnate, in an atmosphere of love and joy.

Today, the Society has grown to an international community of women dedicated to serving humanity especially through education. Central to this service is the Holy Child Network of Schools, an association of elementary and secondary schools educating children nationwide.







# Cornelia Connelly was a 19th century woman whose principles of education have proven timeless.

**I**n 1846, Cornelia Connelly began a quiet revolution.

With a small band—six, all told—of newly professed nuns, she set out to do nothing less than completely change the way children were educated.

And she succeeded.

Challenging the efficacy of rote education, Cornelia Connelly believed that children learn best when treated with reverence and

respect and when actively engaged in their education. This was a radical belief at the time and, indeed, for more than a century thereafter. Today, Cornelia's beliefs are recognized as valid and effective and as a role model for educational reform.

TO UNDERSTAND THE  
SPIRIT OF HOLY CHILD  
SCHOOLS, ONE MUST  
KNOW CORNELIA.



The best education is equal parts teaching and learning.

Cornelia Connelly's educational tenets can be recognized in the best of current educational practice. And they can be seen, every day, in the Holy Child Network of Schools which thrives across the country.

# Holy Child education mirrors the best of current educational practice and precedes it by 150 years.



ere, in her own words, are some of Cornelia's principles, hallmarks of today's

Holy Child education:

*"Lead by love, not fear."*

Cornelia had been a wife and mother herself and understood the power of kindness in raising children. She believed a loving parent-child relationship should, as much as possible, exist between teachers and children. A close student-teacher relationship is central to our schools.

*"Walk step by step, line by line. Let us not want to fly by ourselves lest we leave our pupils behind in the mist."*

Age-appropriate curriculum is now recognized as fundamental to

successful learning. Scholarly research has confirmed that while children can be forced to memorize and perform, it is the disposition to learn that provides the momentum for lifelong learning and independent work.



Active, child-centered classrooms encourage a love of learning.

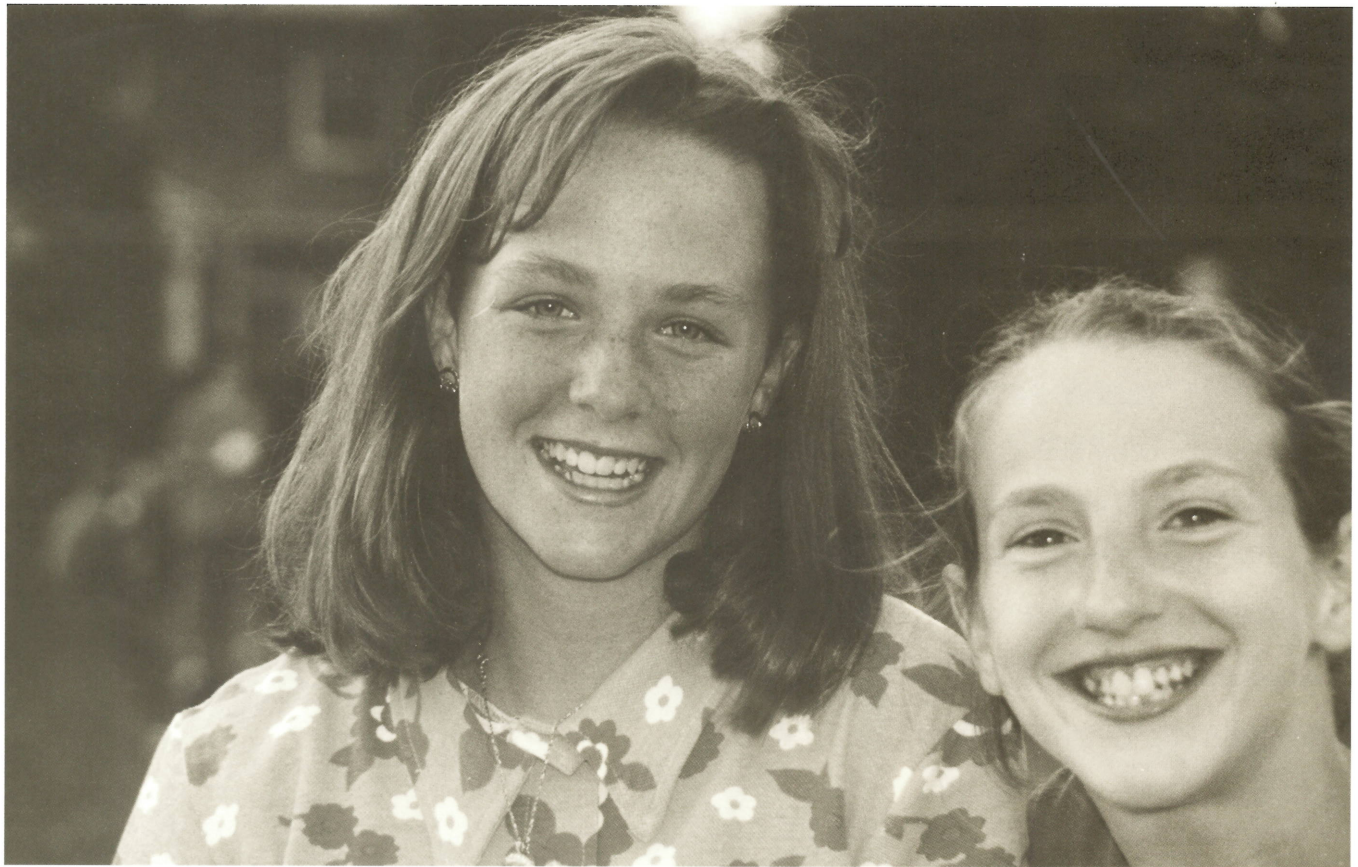
*"Young ones should not sit still for too long but move about the class, writing on blackboards, pinning up letters and pictures, building things."*

Children's enthusiasm for their work is demonstrative and boundless when their learning is active. Our hands-on curriculum is taught in vibrant, child-centered classrooms.

*"Drawing educates the eye in beauty and leads to a habit of observing, the only habit by which knowledge can generally be obtained."*

By integrating fine arts with other curricula, children begin to appreciate and enjoy art as a universal language and to develop aesthetic sensibilities. A Holy Child education is a careful balance of intellectual, spiritual, physical and emotional development.





Our schools create a learning environment based on trust and reverence for the dignity and uniqueness of each individual.

*Enter into the spirit of the writer, test the force of his ideas, the justness of his feelings."*

Critical thinking and analytical skills are integral to our curriculum. Holy Child educators insist that pupils must be expected to muse,

not merely memorize; to challenge and take intellectual risks, not merely recite.

*"Actions not words."*

Cornelia Connelly believed that the true worth of education was nothing less than the betterment of

the human condition. Her Society lives today to fulfill this charge. We instill in our students a respect for all human beings and an active commitment to community service.





## Cornelia Connelly's legacy lives today in the Holy Child Schools.

**F**rom the first community in Derby, England, the Society of the Holy Child grew to an international congregation of religious women. Today, the Society's works stretch across four continents, including Europe, Africa, and North America and South America.

Our mandate has broadened with our geographical base. The Society continues to recruit and train teachers both for our own schools and for hundreds of others around the world. We provide continuing education for adults and counsel them about social, legal, and health issues which affect them and their families.

**In the United States, our Holy Child Network of schools stretches from east coast to west and educates children from all walks of life.**

Following Cornelia's lead, our upper schools are single-sex schools for girls. Research has validated what

we have known all along: by adolescence, girls learn better in a single-gender environment.



**Holy Child faculty members are talented, creative educators who provide students a challenging and enriching school experience.**





Parents are active participants in school life.

In the lower schools we remain strongly committed to coeducation, knowing that children learn to respect and value one another best when that lesson is taught at an early age.

As a Network, we share resources of time and expertise. Annual meetings of faculty members and administrators provide opportunities for

professional development and curriculum design. Directors of Development meet regularly to conduct joint fundraising projects. School Heads meet twice yearly, once with members of their Boards of Trustees. New school Heads are provided training and ongoing mentoring.

The Mission Effectiveness Program provides each school an opportunity for self-study and evaluation. Directed by visiting teams of Holy Child educators, the Program promotes each school's understanding of and adherence to Holy Child philosophy.



A child's ability to learn begins with his or her imagination.



## Our Goals define and guide our Network.

**G**rounded in our 150-year heritage and influenced by the unique challenge of educating children for the 21st century, our Goals heed Cornelia Connelly's admonition to provide an education which "meets the wants of the age."

The following Goals have been developed collaboratively by Holy Child educators. They are the principles by which we teach children and, in so doing, perpetuate our tradition.

*To foster a faith commitment that engenders a joyous, personal response to God in the challenges of the world.*

We believe that God is among us, and our response to life's chal-

lenges is informed by an awareness of this divine presence.

Holy Child schools foster an active faith experience. Religion is not only studied but lived—through liturgies, worship services, retreats, and community service programs.

All students study the tenets of the Catholic faith within a curriculum which emphasizes inclusivity and respect for all religious faiths.

Children of all ages participate actively in the faith life of the school.

By providing children with an



Education which is collaborative encourages children to produce their best work.





Instructional technology provides an interactive learning tool for all grade levels.

ethical context for decision-making, we prepare them for lives of principled, honorable leadership.

*To deepen an understanding of Christian community.*

Holy Child schools are communities bound together by principles of love and reverence. All of us—students, parents, teachers, trustees, graduates, and administrators—contribute to the lively faith of the com-

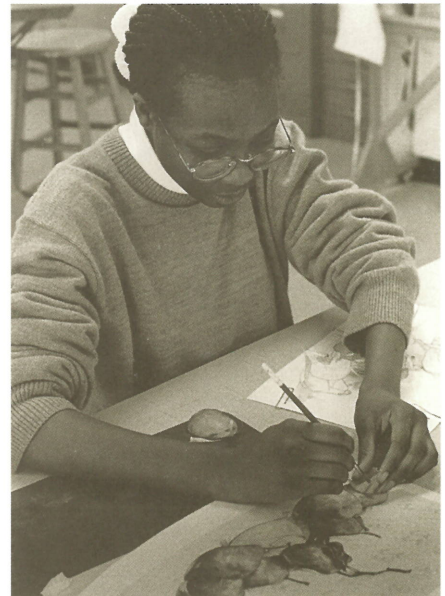
munity by making time for prayer and participating in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church.

*To provide an intellectually challenging and creative program of study that fosters academic excellence.*

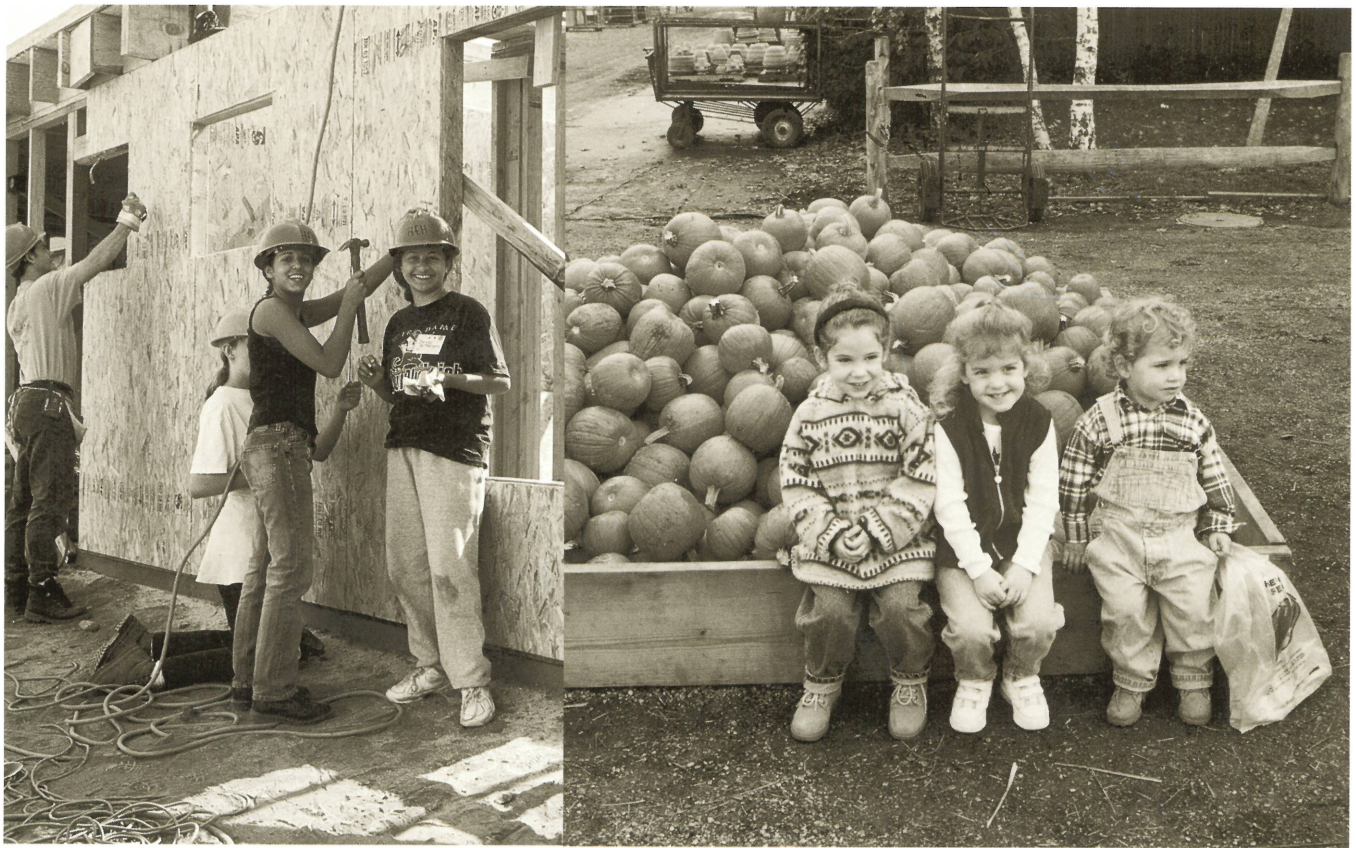
Holy Child educators remain true to Cornelia Connelly's legacy of academic innovation.

We teach our students to analyze problems, think critically, and make

decisions—skills necessary to maintain intellectual resiliency and to meet the demands of a constantly changing world. Our faculties use a variety of teaching methods to develop adaptability, independence, creativity, and inquisitiveness.



Fine arts are integral to the Holy Child curriculum.



Learning extends beyond the classroom through community service projects, extracurricular programs, and field trips.

Technology is integrated into virtually all areas of the curriculum, and community resources are capitalized on, as well. Our curriculum is reviewed regularly to incorporate new research and new scientific findings. We provide ongoing

faculty and staff development and in-service training.

*To work for Christian principles of justice, peace, and compassion in every facet of life.*

We emphasize the dignity and interdependence of all peoples across

boundaries of geography, age, sex, race, nationality, culture, and creed.

Holy Child students take ownership of these principles and devise ways to put them into action.

Children participate in service activities and programs from their earliest



## Our Goals reflect our priorities.

years; drawing pictures for nursing home patients evolves, over time, to delivering food to the homeless, organizing recycling projects, and tutoring disadvantaged children.

Alumni/ae of Holy Child schools can be found working for and volunteering in social service organizations around the world.



Intramural and interscholastic sports teach responsibility, cooperation, and a positive reliance on the abilities of others.



It is important that students learn to examine theories and challenge conclusions; it is important they learn to *think*.

*To create a learning climate based on trust and reverence for the dignity and uniqueness of each person.*

At Holy Child schools children are encouraged to take initiative and are trusted with responsibility. They are challenged to develop their talents

and given opportunities and encouragement to share their gifts with others. They are also challenged to be accountable and to take responsibility for their actions.

Within such a climate lies the key to the development of mature adults.

## Our Goals perpetuate our traditions.



All children should experience the joy of collaborative accomplishment.

The Holy Child environment provides a foundation for a diverse school community whose members respect differing backgrounds, cultures, and talents.

*To further the integral human development of all who participate in the life of the School.*

We educate children to be confident, well-adjusted individuals who

are comfortable with themselves and others. We place as high a priority on the physical and emotional development of our students as on their intellectual development.

Courses in physical and health education, a rich arts curriculum, guidance programs from Nursery through twelfth grade, and active



A slinky in the hands of a six-year-old provides an early lesson in basic principles of physics.



classrooms which encourage collaborative work, group discussion, and individual performance help children understand themselves and relate to others.

Holy Child schools strive for positive, productive relationships among our students, our families, our teachers and staff.

*To plan for the development of Holy Child education in each school.*

Each Holy Child school holds in trust the 150-year heritage of Holy Child education.

An abiding commitment to perpetuate this heritage guides our hand as much as any other goal. We honor our past by working for a healthy, vital future.



The best education will inspire children to great accomplishment, one step at a time.

All Holy Child schools are committed to providing quality curricular and co-curricular programs. Our schools are regularly evaluated according to standards set forth by the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and other accrediting organizations.

Long-range, strategic plans exist and are regularly updated to ensure each school's educational, fiscal, and

physical well-being.

Finally, all that is unique to Holy Child education—reverence for children, commitment to service, an active faith life, and respect for the inherent worth of every human being—is clearly articulated to all who are or would be members of our school communities.



# Holy Child Network of Schools

## Connelly School of the Holy Child

9029 Bradley Boulevard  
Potomac, MD 20854-4699  
301-365-0955  
Girls, Grades 6-12

## Cornelia Connelly School

2323 W. Broadway  
Anaheim, CA 92804-2398  
714-776-1717  
Girls, Grades 9-12

## Holy Child Middle School

220 East Fourth Street  
New York, NY 10009-7473  
212-982-2287  
Girls, Grades 5-8

## Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child

405 South Euclid Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91101-3199  
818-796-2774  
Coeducational, Grades K-8

## Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child

500 Bellefontaine Street  
Pasadena, CA 91105-2499  
626-799-9121  
Girls, Grades 9-12

## Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child

44 Blackburn Road  
Summit, NJ 07901-2499  
908-522-8100  
Coeducational, Grades K-6  
Girls, Grades 7-12

## Old Westbury School of the Holy Child

25 Store Hill Road  
Old Westbury, NY 11568-1299  
516-626-9300  
Coeducational, Nursery-Grade 8

## Rosemont School of the Holy Child

1344 Montgomery Avenue  
Rosemont, PA 19010-1629  
610-525-1876  
Coeducational, Nursery-Grade 8

## School of the Holy Child, Drexel Hill

450 Penn Avenue  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026-0413  
610-259-2712  
Coeducational, Pre-K-Grade 8

## School of the Holy Child, Rye

2205 Westchester Avenue  
Rye, NY 10580-1940  
914-967-5622  
Girls, Grades 5-12

## Holy Child Network of Schools

### Office of Director

460 Shadeland Avenue  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026-2312  
610-626-1400





“LEAD BY LOVE”

- Cornelia Connelly -



**HOLY CHILD NETWORK  
OF SCHOOLS**

460 Shadeland Avenue  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026-2312  
610-626-1400