



## How Holy Family Parish School Elevated Safety & Preparedness with CrisisGo

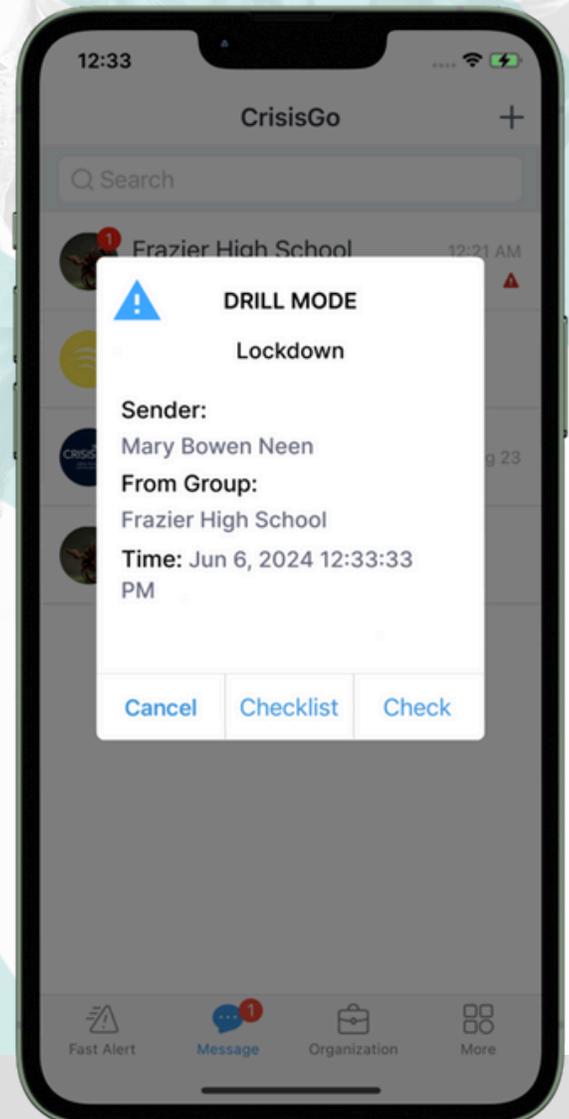


Holy Family Parish  
Arnold, MO  
Number of Students: 210

### Background

When parents drop their children off at Holy Family Parish School each morning, Principal Bridget Brennell wants them to do so with complete confidence that those children are being cared for – not just academically, but in every way possible, including safety. Located just off Highway 141 and Jeffco Boulevard in Arnold, Missouri, Holy Family Parish School serves a close-knit community of 210 students from preschool through eighth grade. With a relatively small student body and a dedicated team of just 15 teachers and staff, Bridget and her team embrace tools that simplify safety practices while fortifying preparedness.

Recently, Holy Family earned the silver-tier safety certification through CrisisGo's Safety Innovation program – a transformation that's reshaping the school's approach to drills, communication, and emergency readiness.



# From “Another Thing to Learn” to a Game Changer

When Bridget first learned about CrisisGo through the Archdiocese, she had a familiar reaction: “Here’s another thing we have to fit into our already full plates.” But that initial hesitation quickly gave way to practical appreciation once CrisisGo’s team provided one-on-one support and training.

Instead of just going through the motions, the Holy Family staff embraced the platform, particularly its drill features. For this school community, that adoption has been more than procedural: it’s student-centered.

“Our kids with special needs are less startled by the alerts on a phone or computer than by traditional loud bells,” Bridget explains. “They adapt more easily and can fully participate in drills without becoming overwhelmed.”

This may sound like a subtle distinction, but for students who are sensory-sensitive or on the autism spectrum, reducing stress during safety drills is a meaningful improvement – one that supports inclusion and participation.

## Real Impact on Safety Culture

Achieving Silver Tier certification wasn’t just a checkbox for Holy Family Parish School, it was a tangible improvement in safety awareness across the campus and even within the parish community.

Communication with parish leaders is now more informed. Those who weren’t always aware of drill schedules are now looped in through CrisisGo alerts. Bridget shared an anecdote that speaks volumes: once, during what she thought was a drill test, the system automatically notified the Archdiocese of a live alert. The message pinged through the hierarchy without Bridget needing to take an extra step, demonstrating CrisisGo’s reliability in real time.

Another advantage the school enjoys is the customization feature.. Instead of generic alert icons, the staff tailored the app visuals to match the specific drills they conduct: fire, earthquake, lockdown, and dangerous intruder. When seconds count, intuitive visuals reduce confusion and help staff respond faster.



## Safety Drills Reimagined: Silent, Efficient, and Smart

Perhaps the most dramatic improvement has been with the school's dangerous intruder drills. With CrisisGo, alerts are silent on campus – meaning no loud tones that might inadvertently alert to a hypothetical threat. Yet staff can still communicate instantly through group messaging within the app.

Bridget shared how this works in practice:

"During drills, we take attendance using the app's messaging tools. One teacher might send, 'I have Johnny,' and our safety team then moves Johnny into position so the drill tally changes from red to green. What used to take longer now happens quickly and accurately."

This dual approach, physical accountability markers plus digital communication, ensures speed without sacrificing clarity.

## Safety Drills Reimagined: Silent, Efficient, and Smart

Perhaps the most dramatic improvement has been with the school's dangerous intruder drills. With CrisisGo, alerts are silent on campus – meaning no loud tones that might inadvertently alert to a hypothetical threat. Yet staff can still communicate instantly through group messaging within the app.

Bridget shared how this works in practice:

"During drills, we take attendance using the app's messaging tools. One teacher might send, 'I have Johnny,' and our safety team then moves Johnny into position so the drill tally changes from red to green. What used to take longer now happens quickly and accurately."

This dual approach – physical accountability markers plus digital communication – ensures speed without sacrificing clarity.



## Community Response: Less Startling, More Supportive

Teachers at Holy Family consistently report how CrisisGo has changed their perception of safety drills. Instead of loud alarms that startle students, the app's softer alerts help them stay calm – critical for students who might otherwise struggle with unexpected noise.

Parents also appreciate the shift. Because the alerts are less jarring, there have been no complaints from families about children being frightened by drills – a remarkable outcome in today's climate.

Importantly, the school is now using CrisisGo's tip line feature, which allows students and staff to report safety concerns – including bullying – through the app. Although parents aren't physically present during drills, they know the tool is part of the school's safety ecosystem.

## Recognition from Local Authorities

Holy Family's commitment hasn't gone unnoticed outside the school walls. A local Arnold police officer who monitored one of the dangerous intruder drills was so impressed that he recommended CrisisGo to larger nearby districts, praising its direct communication capabilities with emergency responders.

This kind of external validation highlights how CrisisGo isn't just theory – it's valued in real-world training and emergency readiness.

## Certification Meaning: A Daily Commitment to Safety

"It means that we are continually working on keeping our kids safe. Safety must always be our top priority. I am responsible for 210 children and all of our teachers. You cannot have too much safety," says Bridget.

This philosophy drives every decision she makes regarding CrisisGo – from drills to device setup, to teacher empowerment.



CRISISGO

## Looking Ahead: Encouraging Wider Adoption

Holy Family's efforts are already inspiring others in their archdiocese. At least one nearby school has visited to observe the CrisisGo process in action, breaking down fears about new technology and showing how achievable good safety practice can be.

Bridget hopes that more schools will adopt CrisisGo's full suite of features, and that they'll continue integrating the platform into every aspect of school life – from reporting concerns to managing reunification communication with families.

### Advice to Others: Just Try It

When asked what she would tell other schools working to improve safety, Bridget offered practical encouragement:

"Don't be afraid. Just try it. It's a learning opportunity, and it can only make your school safer. Even redundant tools are better than nothing."

Her perspective underscores how technology, when thoughtfully implemented, becomes an asset rather than an obstacle. With phones and smart watches constantly within reach, CrisisGo brings safety alerts into the moment, wherever staff and students are on campus.

### Empowering Staff, Fast Decision Making

Bridget has also empowered her teachers by giving them administrative access to CrisisGo. It's a necessity in a small school where the principal might not always be on site. With everyone able to act quickly, threats are mitigated faster – no wait for a phone call, no delay.

"Even if I'm not outside when something happens, a teacher with the app can act immediately. It's a lot quicker than calling me and waiting for me to do something." This distributed responsibility reinforces a culture where everyone is part of safety – not just leadership.



## Conclusion: A Stronger, Safer School Through Innovation

Holy Family Parish School's journey with CrisisGo illustrates how thoughtful technology adoption, supported by training, customization, and community engagement, can strengthen a school's safety culture. From reducing student anxiety during drills to facilitating quicker, smarter responses, the platform has become an indispensable part of their preparedness strategy.

Bridget and her team show that safety isn't a checklist – it's a mindset. And with tools like CrisisGo supporting that mindset, schools can build confidence, competence, and calm in the face of whatever challenges lie ahead.



CRISISGO