Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

Submissions from 8th Grade Students at Holy Cross Academy, Rumson, NJ:

Climate change is the global issue that has been happening for 30 years. It is the change of temperature and increase of ocean acidity ,rise in sea levels, and trapping CO2 into the earth. It stems from the humane burning of fossil fuels which produces carbon dioxide into the air. This isn't the biggest issue 30 years ago however as the years went by the increasing amount of carbon dioxide was allowing the sun's energy and heat into the layer of the earth, Then the heat was trapped into the earth as the layers of Co2 increased in size. Climate Change began to take place as the unnecessary heating- of- the- Earth dilemma took place. Still not a big deal, right? No, as the years progressed our earth situation continued to go further. In today's date, we see that the built up CO2 trapping the heat was absorbed by the ocean. The ocean has absorbed nearly 90 percent of the atmospheric CO2. This CO2 in the ocean warmed the ocean .13* C every decade. This kills the marine life which extinct other species living off the marine life. Not only does climate change affect the 71 % of ocean water on the Earth's surface, it affects the land as well. The extreme heat in other countries becomes worse and fires start to become an outbreak. Habitats die leaving animals to die, and the humans soon die of poor health and starvation.

Climate change was not as important to other before because it simply wouldn't affect their personal lives. The Millennial generation and Gen Z are going to have to deal with this issue because it affects our future. The earth's future is our future as well and we need to protect it. Our children might not know what a shark was or learn about the rainforests in school. There is always a way to undo our doings. Education might be the best option to inform others to help save our Earth. The First Lady of New Jersey, Tammy Murphy has suggested we teach children more about the ways climate change will lead to our future. OPening the eyes of others is the best option to save our planet.

As a student I would enjoy learning about the difference from 20 years ago to now or the change in our species from previous years.

Devyn Gwydir/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate Change is important to me because it's the future of our plant. Climate change can affect your health, food, and plants. Sea rise, erosion, wildfires, coastal storms, storm surge damage, and flooding are all being affected. These situations end up affecting our environment. Our ecosystems are being affected and marine food production is being damaged.

Education in climate change needs to be taught so that people can have a better understanding and want to make a change. People should know what is happening to our environment. If people are educated on climate change then they can spread the word and help others learn. I want to learn how I can make a change and help other people understand climate change.

Jamie Lista/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

Climate change is a topic many people are very aware of and one that many people are working to try and fix. The idea of climate change is that greenhouse gasses such as C02 are heating up and destroying our atmosphere which is making the earth warmer and melting ice caps that we need to use for water. This is also destroying the homes of many animals that live in cold climates as their homes are becoming too hot for them to live in.

Climate change is an important topic to me because I really love animals, especially ones that happen to live in cold places such as Antarctica and Alaska. My favorite animal is actually a seal because I think it's really funny when they flop around to move, but I won't be able to laugh and things like that when these animals are extinct because they have no home to live in. Millions of animals across the world are on the path to extinction and nobody can help top this besides us.

Climate change is not talked about enough in schools, magazines, and in the news. It needs to be talked about by every media outlet we can find. If we do not educate people about the dangers of climate change we will never see any results. Most people are uneducated about this topic and that is one of the main reasons we are not seeing change. If we can help make sure everyone is informed about this dangerous change, maybe we can see some results.

Personally, I want to know what would happen if the atmosphere itself was completely destroyed. I wonder if the entire world would be destroyed because we had nothing protecting us from space. Most likely not, but that would be pretty bad. We really do need to inform people to help stop this problem!

Declan MacGregor/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate change is important to me because I need to protect our Earth for the next generations. I want to make sure that beautiful glaciers and snow-covered mountains are here for my children. That my children get to learn about all of the animals that live there. I don't want to live in a world without monarch butterflies and sea turtles. I want my children to be able to see and experience all of the wonderful things I got to enjoy growing up.

Climate change education is needed because we need to educate the children of our State about a major problem that they will be experiencing the effects of. Climate change won't only affect my generation and my children, but will affect every generation after us. We can't go back and fix our mistakes but it is our responsibility to prevent them. I want to learn more about climate change over all. I also want to learn if there are less drastic ways we eliminate climate change.

Ryan Malone/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate change is important to me because it affects the world in which I live. It affects farmers who depend on a good climate to grow their crops which is our food.Climate change leads to droughts, floods, and extreme weather which is not good for our environment. And if there are floods then many homes and people could be harmed including me and the people I care about.

Climate change is important because it affects everything. Once one thing is affected, then many other things are affected. It's like a big chain. It is all connected somehow. For example, Say there is a drought, that drought affects the crops. The farmers are now affected because they no longer have a job to do. ANd now other people are also affected because they don't have the crops they need to eat. If the people don't get food they could die. So in conclusion climate change is a big problem and it's like a chain once one thing gets affected by climate change everything is soon affected too.

Climate change education is needed because many people don't know much about climate change and they need to be educated. People need to learn more about climate change because it doesn't just affect some

states it can affect people everywhere. We all need to learn the effects of climate change and how to make the world better.

If we are educated on climate change then we can help keep that from happening. Many people don't realize how big of an affect climate change is. With droughts and floods many people can be harmed by climate change. But those people need to learn how to help stop climate change from happening. If we are educated on knowing more about climate change then we can help save people and our homes that we live in.

I want to learn more about the effects on climate change. How badly can climate change harm us? I know that because of climate change there are droughts and floods and extreme weather, but what else can happen to the climate that would affect us.

I also would live to know, how can we save our homes? What can we do to stop climate change? Because I'm sure nobody wants climate change to happen we just all need to learn more about climate change and how to prevent it from happening to us and many others.
Lexi Marchakitus/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate change has been affecting our earth for centuries, and still not much is being done to stop it. Climate change is affecting our seasons and weather and could have a huge change on the earth, if we don't do something to stop it. The earth's climate is slowly rising, causing the earth to head up and the icebergs in the North pole and the South pole are melting at a fast pace. With the icebergs melting, the oceans water levels will rise and could cause massive amounts of flooding. The icebergs could also hold viruses from the Jurrasic period that may be lethal to humans. Scientists have already found new forms of viruses deep in the icebergs.

People need to learn more about climate change, because if nothing is done then our earth could be in danger. If we do not do something to stop climate change soon, our earth will be in danger. With the ocean levels rising, and the new viruses being released, the human race will be in danger. Schools need to teach climate change in all classes so students will learn the true effects it will have on our planet and for the future generations. I would like to learn how long it will take for the icebergs to completely melt. I would want to learn this, because it may happen in my lifetime, and I would like to visit them before they are gone forever. I would also like to learn what we can do on a daily basis to help stop climate change, because if all humans did one thing a day to help stop climate change, then we could slowly stop the effects of climate change.
Will Keegan/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

Climate Change is a very big problem. It is extremely important to me as a person to have to live through my life with climate change. Climate change is hitting our earth faster than it ever has in 400 hundred years. Our glaciers are melting and animals that live there are striving to survive. Our ocean temperatures are also rising which is leading to extinction of tons of sea animals and birds.

We need teachers in school to teach about this so we can prevent it from happening anymore. Most of the climate change is caused by pollution which is something we can stop. I want to learn, if it will ever end?, Will it get better?, How will it get better?, What is the effect on animals, Will there be an effect on humans? Lastly, Why is this actually happening? Do we know the main reason why this is happening?

Lucas Raymond/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate Change is important to me because of the repercussions it will have on my generation. Studies are showing that so far predictions about temperature and climate change have been correct and the climate will continue to get worse. NASA predicts that global temperatures will continue to rise over centuries and this is largely due to greenhouse gas emission. So far climate change has affected things like sea level rise, trees flowering times, and a change in plant and animal range.

NASA is predicting that these temperatures are going to start having long term effects on things such as temperatures continually rising, frost free season lengthening, changes in precipitation patterns, hurricanes becoming stronger, and much more. These events will not affect older generations because they will die before most of these events take place. That's why it is imperative that my generation and I try to find ways to stop climate change from getting worse.

Gray Webber/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate change is important for our Earth, for ourselves and for our next generation. Right now, Earth is the only official planet with the ability to have life on it. I cannot comprehend why people mistreat our Earth. God created this Earth as a home, and soon, the pollution will become out of hand. So out of hand that our air will become worse especially for smokers or ex smokers. We should care for everyone, especially the people who cannot handle bad air qualities. Not just ourselves, who are too lazy to walk to a garbage can.

Every school should learn about climate change because this topic is truly important. Schools, especially with teaching young kids how to act and behave, should stress the learning of climate change. Just this past winter, I believe the lowest average temperature was 37 degrees. Our Earth is deteriorating, our ice caps are melting, and unless we make a change, we will all slowly_____.

Maddy York/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate change is important to me because it could end the whole world. Climate change is causing some really harmful effects to Earth. Some effects are coral bleaching and calcification. Those are just the marine life consequences. I agree with a lot of other people that I don't want the world to end.

Climate change education is needed because some people are not informed enough about this situation. The more people that know about it, the more people can help. The government making climate change education be integrated throughout all areas of study is a good way to spread the information.It could really make a difference to stop climate change. One thing I want to learn is why the temperature is increasing constantly. Another thing I want to learn is what the most effective way to stop it is.

Brady Barber/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

Climate change is a very big problem in our society today. People are destroying the earth by releasing toxic chemicals into our atmosphere which can harm us humans, plants and animals. Climate change happens when people burn fossil fuels like gasoline and the fume goes into our atmosphere. The fume then traps heat inside the earth which can raise global temperatures. This can harm animals that need to live in cold places to survive. Also the polar ice caps are melting which raises sea level and gives polar bears and other arctic animals no place to live.

This is important to me because I don't want animals to be hurt by climate change. There are a lot of endangered animals that might go extinct if climate change continues to progress. People need to be educated about the effect of climate change to the world around us. If people know how much climate change hurts us they can stop polluting the earth. I would like to learn more about how to prevent climate change and how to not admit fumes into our atmosphere.

Will Feddeler/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate change is important to me because of the polar bears. The ice caps are melting and the polar bears will have nowhere to live if climate change continues. Climate change also affects coral reefs by coral reefs being affected it is harming the ocean. When the coral reefs get damaged by climate change it warms the ocean and can damage the homes and food chi of some animals. This is important to me because when there isn't food or shelter those animals could die. Climate Change education is needed because teachers should educate students on what it is doing for the environment and how there are animals in the ocean who don't have a place to live or anything to eat because of coral reefs.

I want to learn more climate change and what it does. I want to learn about what else it's affecting besides the oceans and polar bears. I want to learn what people are trying to do to help it. I also would like to know why some people in the world aren't taking climate change as seriously as it is. Knowing more about climate change could help other people to figure out ways to do certain things. If more people are educated on this topic then they could realize that climate change is a serious topic and that they could try and help.

Cecilia Mazza-Softcheck/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate Change - many have brushed it off as a myth, a hoax, a scheme of sorts. It's not, and it's getting worse and the data shows. Climate change is important to me because the people in charge of regulating it won't be around when it affects us the most drastically. It makes you think, "Why would they care?" What I'm trying to say is that, hypothetically, if there was a bomb that was going to go off in 1000 years from now, would you dedicate your whole life, career, mental health, intelligence, and time on working for a way to diffuse that bomb? I know a lot of people would say yes upon first reading this question, but then they think about it. They think about what it would actually mean to be so passionate about something that doesn't affect you but could affect people in the future. Well, I think after having that thought my head would be pounding. It would seemingly turn into an argument with one's conscience and one's desire to live life to their fulfillment.

So I'm scared. I'm scared that our senators and the people in charge won't find new ways to regulate climate change in a way that works for everyone. Heck, I'm even in doubt that they could find a way to regulate the climate change period. Even in a win-lose situation, I'm weary to believe that people in power would succeed. Look, I'm not trying to say I would even succeed if I was in a position of power. I'm just a kid. Climate change is important to me because it is very much so going to be a large part of my future.

Climate change education is needed. It's as simple as that. If students are educated on the causes and effects of climate change then they can know what to avoid doing in their day-to-day lives that could potentially add to certain areas of climate change. Students will also have the knowledge to educate their parents, peers, and siblings on not doing things that hurt the environment so much.

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The biggest reason that climate change is needed in my opinion pertains to the smallest amount of people. All we need is that 1 kid, that 1 group of students. There could be a student with a solution that would never have the chance to come to that solution if they weren't educated on climate change.

Last of all. I want to learn what I can do to help. And spread that love for learning to others, so they can also strive to help our future.

Caellum Moran/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate change is important to me because it is affecting our world in a negative way. It has caused glaciers to sink, ice on rivers and lakes to break, animal habitats to shift, and trees to flower sooner. Some people are even saying that the coronavirus outbreak is part of the climate change crisis. To stop climate change, we must first know a lot about it.

It is important that climate change education is developed in schools. Students need to understand how bad it is and that humans are the cause. When humans burn fossil fuels, usually in factories, carbon dioxide is released in the air. It is then trapped in the atmosphere and makes our Earth warmer. People need to understand that if we don't reduce the burning of fossil fuels climate change will keep happening and will get worse in the future. Scientists predict that in the next two decades the atmosphere temperature will go up by 2℃. This will cause more droughts and heat waves, stronger hurricanes, and the sea lever to rise significantly. I would like to learn what more we can do to stop climate change other than just trying to stop the burning of fossil fuels. Climate change is going to continue to get worse and our world needs to stand against it.

Sophia Ramos/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate change is very important to me and everybody else my age. This is our future and we don't want a ruined Earth to raise our future kids on. Climate change is something that everybody should be educated on. Schools should teach about climate change and how to prevent it and undo the mistakes that have been made. Not teaching about climate change puts the planet at a risk because if people don't know about it they won't know how to stop it.

I want to learn so much more about climate change that I don't already know. I would like to know more ways to stop it. I would also like to know what precautions I should take that will help prevent climate change. In addition, I would like to know how people let the earth get this bad.

Olivia Raymond/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate change is an issue that has severely impacted the earth in the last one hundred years. In the last one hundred years the average temperature of the earth has increased by 6 degrees Fahrenheit and It is caused by greenhouse gases like carbon-dioxide and methane being produced in massive amounts because of the use of fossil fuels. Climate change affects me because it is destroying animals' habitats and might cause many species to become extinct. Many species could not live with their habitat being warmer. This could affect the economy because many coastal communities rely on fish and shellfish as a source of income, and climate change especially affects marine organisms because they cannot adapt fast enough to the changing temperature.

We should learn about climate change in our schools to help solve it. If we just ignore climate change, it will only get worse and destroy nature and our world. The government should integrate climate change into public education, not just for humane reasons, but to protect the economy. I want to learn how I can help stop

climate change. I want to learn how to stop climate change to save our Earth and protect nature.
Gavin Rudnick/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Climate change is a big problem in today's world. Therefore, it is important to me. Climate change is important to me because I know all the terrible things that could happen if we do not act on it.

If the world doesn't work everyday on this problem our oceans could be completely ruined. Coral reefs will be destroyed. Ecosystems of animals will be in ruins. Climate change is an extremely important situation that needs to be acted on fast.

Climate change education is needed in all schools. It is needed because all of the kids should be able to know what is going on. Also kids need to be educated on what they need to do to help put an end to all of it.

If schools didn't teach about climate change and the many problems it causes climate change would just become worse. It would become worse because kids are the future and if they aren't educated about it and how to stop it then when the kids are older they won't be able to act on it and teach others about it and its effects.

I want to learn many things about climate change. I want to learn what progress we have made since we've started fighting it. I want to learn how long we have been fighting it for. I want to learn where in the world it has most greatly affected.
I want to learn more things that I could do to help stop it. I want to learn what scientists around the world do to help stop it. Overall, I just want to learn a major way to end climate change.
Duncan Straine/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

By definition, global warming or rapid climate change is the most human-caused ascent of the normal temperature of the Earth's atmospheric framework and has been shown by direct temperature estimations and by measurements of different impacts of the warming. Basically, what all of that means is the Earth is getting significantly warmer.

We have nobody to blame for this but ourselves. Humans burn fossil fuels, which is the main thing that causes climate change. We burn forests in order to acquire certain fossil fuels. Both of these things cause average global temperatures to rise. Since the 19th century, Earth has warmed by about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit. This may not seem like a lot, however it has many consequences.

African elephants, puffins, penguins, tigers, and leopards are just a few out of hundreds of animals that are being put at risk. Climate change affects arctic animals because a lot of the ice sheets are melting, causing them to lose their homes. It affects land animals because global warming changes the amount of precipitation we get. It also affects humans. Wildfire seasons are longer now than ever before. We know this is true because of the awful fires in Australia. Coral reefs that were once gorgeous to view are now dead and colorless. Mosquitoes that carry diseases are multiplying at a faster rate than before, making them able to spread to more places. All of this is why global warming is important to me and many others who care about our planet's wellbeing.

It is extremely important that kids receive an education about climate change. This way, we can learn the consequences and how to live with them. If global warming doesn't stop, future generations will have to

deal with its consequences. I want to learn how to take the actions needed to have more sustainable lifestyles. If we aren't prepared, the world could collapse.
***Macy Swanton*/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020**

As a student learning about climate change is important to me. Climate change will severely affect mine and other student's futures, with that being said it is essential that it is taught in schools. We should know how little things that we do everyday could ruin our world in the future. By someone leaving the lights on while they go out, they are making climate change worse. Unfortunately, they might not have been taught this and have no idea how it affects the earth. If students learn while they are younger, they are less likely to make these mistakes when they are older. Also, we don't have much time left to reverse the damage of climate change made in the past, so for the future we need to be prepared. If it is taught in schools we can be prepared.

I would like to learn about how to prevent climate change and how it affects humans, animals, and the economy. As well as what climate change is and what caused it. I would also like to know how to fix it. What we learn has to be unbiased. Many politicians are paid by fossil fuel companies and that can affect the public's view on climate change. First Lady of New Jersey, Mrs.Tammy Murphy's, proposal to integrate climate change into school systems is a great idea. Students can become educated adults. Being that Governor Murphy is the "green" governor. New Jersey would be the perfect place to start. Hopefully, other states will model the new addition to the curriculum. Climate change in the school's curriculum would be a great way to create educated future adults and to save our earth.
Alison Urbanski/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

The main reason climate change is important to me is because I'm a big ocean person and I love swimming and just being near water. It's amazing but with climate change our oceans are threatened and the reason being ocean acidification. With all the carbon emissions going into the air it is killing certain particles in the ocean affecting marine life. But climate change is important to me cause if we don't get it fixed now then our children and maybe even their children would feel their effects and that would just be terrible.

Climate education is needed because the amount of kids that their parents don't believe in climate change. And when a parent doesn't believe in something then the kids follow suit and then the parent won't let their kids figure out the truth about whatever they don't want them to know. If we have climate education then those kids would know the truth about climate change. Some things I would like to know is if climate change is true. And another thing I would like to know is what will this lead to and how to stop it.
Matthew Wilhelm/Holy Cross Academy Class of 2020

Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

Submissions from 7th Grade Students at Holy Cross Academy, Rumson, NJ:

First Lady of New Jersey, Mrs. Tammy Murphy, and our NJ government's stance on integrating climate change education in all areas of study is a good start to what we need to be doing for the future in order to preserve a healthy environment for many generations to come.

Climate change is a very serious issue that needs to be acknowledged. There are many problems occurring due to climate change. In fact, The concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is the highest it has been in about 3 million years. A widely accepted theory is that because of climate change the sea levels are rising and that could be devastating to places like New York City or Venice, Italy. Climate change is important to me because if it continues thousands of people, if not more, will lose their lives. It is important that we protect one another!

Climate change education is vitally needed because many people do not understand the gravity of the situation. Climate change can cause heat waves, droughts, floods, and as I already mentioned sea levels rising. If people continue to ignore this, bad things will happen. So it is vital that we become educated on the issue.

I aspire to learn more about oceanography and climatology so that I can better understand the relationships between sea and air temperature increases, human activity and coastal living like we enjoy here in New Jersey.

Sarkis Marrin/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

I find climate change to be so important because it is shifting our future. If we do not act now then we will be beyond the point of no return. The world will slowly become decrepit and we will eventually live terrible lives due to the condition of the earth. It is up to our generation to save the world. We must find a solution to stop this crisis.

To start off we must educate everyone about this. The only way to stop this is to have as many people as possible. The best way to obtain this goal is to educate everyone on the topic. I am not a master of this subject and I still have lots to learn and do but, through the help of others, it will be easy. I want to learn about the scientific component of the problem and see if I am good at that position or as a speaker to raise awareness. There are many steps to take and lots to do but if we come together we can do this.

Danny Burgess/ Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

I realize that climate change will be here forever. Coronavirus will probably die down soon. However, climate change is sort of changing because of how we are treating our earth. When people litter and make messes of parks and places where animals go and live. The animals will leave. such as bees and other insects. When the bees do leave, the pollen will have little to no spread. This can cause no flowers. And if there's no flowers then the seeds at the flowers reproduce cannot make plants. No plants and no trees means no oxygen. No oxygen means no life. In conclusion, when people litter it is really affecting our earth.

Climate change is important to me because it really affects my mood. When it is raining, I am very sad and when it is sunny I'm very happy. Climate change education is needed because it can tell us how to keep our earth clean and how climate change can really affect the way we live. I want to learn more ways that climate change can affect our community as a whole.

***Maxine Camillone*/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy**

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Helping stop climate change is important to me because I am young and climate change will affect me and everyone else in the years to come. Some people don't know about climate change and how badly it is ruining the environment. Without education about climate change people will continue to ignore it and not make any effort to save the environment. Some people just don't care. They leave lights on and burn tons of fossil fuels which needlessly wastes energy and contributes to the greenhouse effect.. The government had a great idea. If we educate people, this will happen a lot less and we can help slow down climate change.

I want to learn more about how earth has warmed and cooled itself in the past because I want to know if there is a possibility that cooling will happen again. If the temperatures keep rising, then the polar ice caps will melt along with the glaciers. The oceans will rise because of this and land that was formerly at or close to sea level will be underwater. We are already seeing less snow here and warmer temperatures. Even in places like Alaska, where I visited this summer, climate change is causing things like devastating forest fires. If this continues at the rate it is going now, generations to come will be in trouble. It is essential we do all we can to slow down climate change.

Thomas Fenney/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Climate change is an important topic to discuss. This is why we should have climate change education integrated into our schools. Climate change is important to me because it is affecting our planet. It is mostly affecting the arctic regions. The warm weather is slowly destroying sea ice around the world, the habitat for many organisms. The most important organism being the polar bears. They rely on the sea ice for fishing and getting food. If there is no sea ice, there are no polar bears.

We should have this education so that everyone can be aware of what is happening. If everybody in our school knows, then we can spread the word to other schools and then even the entire country. Once everybody learns we can try to stop climate change, or at least change it. If we were to have education about climate change I would like to learn about how to stop it and what we can be doing to stop it in our everyday lives. This would be a life changing thing to do and maybe we can even go down in history for being the first state to do it.

Jack Gasiorowski/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Climate change is an issue that the world is dealing with right now. Climate change is human-caused rise in the earth's temperature that causes problems like glaciers and ice caps melting. Climate change is caused by greenhouse gasses like CO2 collecting in the atmosphere to absorb sunlight and solar radiation that bounces off the earth. The two largest causes of CO2 releasing into the atmosphere are the burning of fossil fuels, which generates 2 billion tons of CO2 each year, and the transportation industry, which generates 1.7 billion tons of CO2.

Climate change is important to me because it could have a major effect on my generation and younger generation's lives. Studies show temperature is rising very fast over the years and this will continue until we make a serious effort to stop it. New Jersey implementing Climate change education is something that may be coming in the future and could be a big help towards having it implemented in every state. Climate change education is most definitely needed because if young people grow up learning the truths about how this could affect their lives and their children's lives will make them want to learn how to do their part in stopping it, which will then lead to them helping to better our world with an impact to slowing the increase in temperature. I want to learn more ways to help so that I can play my part in stopping global warming.

Jack Keavey/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

Climate change is slowly killing Earth. It is important that we try to avoid climate change because it can cause a lot of terrible things to occur. Climate change rises temperatures, extend the seasons of wildfire, and is allowing mosquitos to expand their territory. It can cause droughts to occur, which would cause all crops to die. The lack of crops could cause stores to have less produce and cause the prices to rise.

We can educate ourselves about climate change to avoid making it worse. Some of the things we can do to help slow down the process are stop burning fossil fuels, save money to buy electric cars, and chop down less trees. Ways that kids can help are planting trees, growing fruits and vegetables, and unplugging devices when they are not being used. Something I would like to learn is how to have a "green career". Someone with a green career helps drastically in keeping the earth healthy. In summary, climate change can affect the earth and we should continue to investigate various ways to prevent the process from proceeding.

Sammy Mago/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Climate change is very important in our world. I am very happy to be part of a state that is taking part in it! So, climate change can really affect our world if we don't do anything about it. If we get on top of it, it will be okay, and our world will be a safe place to live in. If we want our world to be safe, we have to do stuff. We can not litter, or we can not, not care about our animals out in the wild. We have to keep our world safe at all costs. Climate change education is definitely needed in all schools. If we don't know anything about it we can't do anything about it. If we learn from our teacher and friends we can find ways to prevent it. I don´t know much about climate change because it is not taught. I would really love to learn more about how we can prevent it. I have only two reasons to prevent it, but I want more reasons. Yes, I can look it up but it's not the same as Mrs. Gallo teaches us. Thank you Mrs. Tammy Murphy for taking part in this!

Lizzy McCarthy/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Climate change is a very important topic that the world needs to face. Thanks to Tammy Murphy, the governor's wife, New Jersey is facing this important topic. Climate change is very important, not just to others, but also to me. It is important to me because it is in my future. If the world continues on this path, I will have to deal with a hot atmosphere, rising oceans, and greenhouse gases in my future. I do not want to live in that world, so climate change should be taught about and combatted.

Climate change education is one of the things needed to combat the ever present fear of rising oceans and a warmer atmosphere. It is needed to inform the public and the next generation about climate change. Through climate change informant programs, one can learn how to reduce energy use, how greenhouse gases work, and how to help the situation. If anything, I am most excited about learning about the science behind greenhouse gases. To solve a problem, you have to learn about what causes it, which is why children should learn about climate change and how it works

Climate change is a topic we need to learn how to face, and educating people about it is the first step in stopping it!

Hannah Nitka/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

Climate change is important to me because everyday, the climate is slowly worsening, whether it is becoming warmer or colder. It is very complicated and it involves many different factors. One reason that it is complicated is that scientists do not know if the climate is getting colder or warmer. We should learn about this because it is important for kids to know about what is happening to our environment. It also teaches about how global warming is not proven yet, and that there are different things happening to our environment.

I want to learn about the effects of climate change on the Earth. How it is and will change the Earth as we know it. I know a good amount about climate change but it is still a concept I am uninformed on. For instance, I have no idea what is going to happen to rainforests. What will happen if the Earth begins to get colder or hotter? How will it affect New Jersey? These are all good questions I would like to know the answer to through education.

Marcus Blasucci/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Climate change is important to me because although I do not know much about it, I feel if I was more informed I could learn from others and start doing my part to help save the earth. I believe that if climate change education was taught in all schools, my classmates and I would be more informed, and we could make changes at home and support causes that want to help save our planet. Climate change education is also important to teach because if most kids are like me and do not know much about climate change, how can we help make a difference and slow down or stop climate change?

The things I would like to learn about climate change is basically what it is and how I can make a difference. I recently learned that the first lady of New Jersey, Mrs. Tammy Murphy, announced an initiative to include climate change education into New Jersey schools K-12 curriculum. She would like "New Jersey to become the first state to incorporate climate change education into all core content areas." I think this would be a great step in educating all students, including myself, to change our ways and help save our planet.

Colin Burke/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Climate change is important to me because it is a factor in our society and how we act as a community and is critical for our planet Earth to survive. For example, the last winters have been some of the warmest in world history due to climate change. This means that natural disasters seem to be increasing, glaciers are melting, wild animals are losing their habitats and diseases could be on the rise. In our society, people cut down trees which puts more carbon dioxide into the air because trees take in the carbon dioxide and produce oxygen and if you cut them down, more carbon will be in the air. This is a main factor of climate change.

In more recent years there have been drastic changes in climate. This is why it is important to teach the effects and causes of climate change so the next generation can do something about it. It is clear that what scientists have said and proved isn't getting through to the people who are cutting down all the trees. Humans aren't the only factor but are still one of the larger ones. First they should teach kids what climate change is, second they should show the effects, third show how it could destroy the human race, finally show how it is mostly our fault. This should hopefully show kids that climate change is bad and encourage them to try to put a stop to it. This method will be used from grades 5-12. We should teach now so the generations to come won't need to learn about this because it will just be common sense.

Peter Calistri/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

The world is changing and so is our climate. Climate change is important to me because the weather is getting warmer each year and so. When our climate changes, our bodies will then have to adapt to the climate each time. In our world, we are in a climate change called Global Warming. Global Warming is when the earth gets warmer and warmer each year and we get less snow, less rain, but more heat and warmth. If this happens a lot more, we won't have any flowers, fruits, or vegetables at all in the spring/summer.

To me, climate change education is needed because lots and lots of people want to learn about Global Warming and how climate change will affect our environment. I know too many farmers and gardeners, this climate change could affect their plants and crops for growing and harvesting. Then, we won't be able to get some of the food we eat from those crops because of this climate change. I want to learn why climate change is really happening for the most part. I also want to learn when climate change will mostly affect our environment. For this reasoning, we don't want climate change to happen or else the earth could change a lot for us and others that don't want it to happen.
***Brandon Clayton*/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy**

As a student, I whole-heartedly agree with NJ First Lady Mrs. Tammy Murphy. Kids and adults should know about climate change and ways to prevent it. Climate change begins when oil, gas, and coal is burned, further known as air pollution. These gases that Earth's atmosphere would normally let out increase the Earth's temperature.

Climate change is important to me because it affects both animals and humans. Some animals cannot thrive in hot temperatures. Also, disease-bearing mosquitos thrive in warm, wet climates and that can be injurious to human health. Climate change education is needed because people need to learn how to prevent it and save our planet. I would like to learn how I can stop climate change in my community.
Olivia Domagala/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

Climate change is a real thing that people should take more precaution about. To me climate change is one of our biggest mistakes. It is killing animals like the polar bear, the polar bear needs the ice to walk out on to catch his fish, and what climate change is doing is making the water too hot to become ice. So the polar bear can't get his food. We are indirectly killing animals from this action. So lets put an end to this, stop polluting the Atmosphere and killing animals.

I believe getting education about it can really change someone. Sometimes people get moved when they hear animals are dying because of something they did. There are other ways of getting around without polluting the environment. Such as Teslas or other types of electric cars. This is why we have to protect the environment. I learned that the glaciers are melting and the water level is rising because of that. Other things in the ocean are dying as well. If you think this is not going to affect the next generation you are sadly mistaken. This is a huge thing that we have to try to stop or at least slow down. Let's put an end to this.

***Jack Fitzpatrick*/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy**

Climate change is important to me because it is killing our animals. Since the climate is getting warmer the ice caps are melting and the polar bears are dying. Some animals are losing their habitats because of us. This is happening because of pollution. This should be taught to us because we should know how to stop it.

Also, we are the new generation, and we could fix this in our lifetime. Knowing this information we can pass it to younger generations, and they could help stop it too. I would like to know why people are doing this to our environment. I would also like to know how people are doing this so I can find ways to stop it. Climate change must be stopped.

Riley Gill/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

The New Jersey First Lady, Tammy Murphy, has recently proposed that climate change education should be integrated into all fields of study in schools. New Jersey would be the first state nationwide to take on this new way to inform and educate students about the warming earth. Climate change is important to me personally. We should all be aware and involved in stopping the bad things mankind has already done to our world. We only get one earth, and we need to all be stewards to God's creation to help protect the earth we have. Climate change education needs to be integrated into school learning so students can be informed and educated on the dangers of what we are doing to the earth. Climate change education could take a huge step toward stopping global climate change and put new plans to help into action.

Climate change education is almost needed in schools nowadays. The amount of things that students could do differently to help the earth is plentiful. We could make climate change education the way to inform us students about the things we can do to make steps toward stopping global warming. We need climate change education because students need to know the magnitude of the dangers and how serious even using a car engine can be when dealing with climate change. It is essential that we enlist climate change education into our schools to educate students and young kids who have the chance to stop climate change.

Brynn Howard/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

Climate change is important to me because it is my future and I want to live in a healthy world. I want to grow up in a place where the air is not contaminated and where the oceans are not polluted. Gas, oil, and coal power things that we use to live. They release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and it traps the heat that would normally escape. This warms the earth 10 times faster than previous global warmings. The ice caps are melting and making water levels rise. Places are flooding and people and animals are beginning to die.

Climate change education is needed to show people what is really happening to our world. Most people do not know what we are doing to our planet and they don't care. But, it is our future and we need to protect it. If we teach people about what is happening to our planet then maybe they will begin to help it. Nothing is going to change unless someone takes the first step. It might not seem like a huge deal now but when we are adults it will be very bad. People will expect us to save the planet and there will be nothing left to save. If we start now then we have a chance. I want to learn how we can help make our planet better. But I do not just want to learn how to help. We actually need to start helping.

Mairead Kane/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Climate change is very important to me because the effects of climate change can shape the planet we are living on now. Not being able to go into the water because it's too polluted or has too many changes made to it because polar ice caps are melting is sad. I love going to the beach. I love marine life, turtles and seals especially.

Emissions of greenhouse gases are causing the world to warm and this warming is likely to continue. Changes in climate affect food production, water availability, wildlife, and human health. Weather conditions such as storms can damage infrastructures, such as roads, railroad networks, and buildings. Education about climate change is important because it helps us understand the causes and consequences. It helps us prepare to live with the impact of climate change and empowers us to take appropriate actions to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.

I know that we all play a part in stopping climate changes and I want to learn in what ways we need to change. What would make the greatest impact in helping to make sure I have a healthy planet to live on and raise my children.

Isabella Pascucci/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Climate change is important to me because we have one earth to take care of and it is our responsibility to maintain it. It is important to educate people on it because when people don't know they don't care and we all need to care because this is not just one person's problem it's all of ours. That is why it's great that we all are educated on this at holy cross. I also think that climate change is often ignored by government officials which is why it is great that we have leaders that care about this in our community.

I want to be educated on this because this problem is going to become mostly our generation's problem along with the generations after us. That is why it is so important that we learn and figure out ways to combat this. That way we can make a better future for all generations after us. Overall that is why I want personally to be educated.

Carter Wackrow/Grade 7 Holy Cross Academy

Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

Submissions from 6th Grade Students at Holy Cross Academy, Rumson, NJ:

Climate change is now happening faster than ever before. This is a result of human behavior. It all started when humans started to build fossil fuels. Now, our summers are hotter, we have torrential downpours and droughts. Glaciers are melting and are making the seas rise. These are the effects of climate change.

Climate change is important to me because it forces me to work harder to protect the earth. My children and my children's children should not have to live in these worsening conditions. Education of this is needed to make people more aware of the problem and helps us to find out ways to help reduce these negative changes. I want to learn more about the rising seas because it is the most concerning to me because it is in my backyard. This is why I acknowledge Mrs. Tammy Murphy's viewpoint of incorporating this in our education.
Owen Berarducci/Grade 6 Holy Cross Academy

Climate change is an extremely important problem in our society. It is so important to me because it can affect our oceans and animals that we love. I love our community and climate change could completely ruin it. Climate change will not go away so it is important that we take responsibility and protect our environment and community. It is also very important that we learn about climate change. The more educated about climate change people are, the more aware they will become about the problem. Also, if people are educated about it, more people are going to take responsibility and step up and help save our community.

I would also like to learn many things about climate change. For example, I want to learn how it all started in the first place. Next, I would like to know how individuals can step up and put a stop to the problem and save our community. Also, I want to know how many people in our community have helped so far and if it has changed anything about the problem. Lastly, I want to know if the rate of climate change has gone down because everybody is in their houses and not polluting the environment. Climate change is tremendously important to me and everybody in our community, and I will do whatever I can to put an end to it.
Grace Fenney/Grade 6 Holy Cross Academy

As we all know, climate change has a tremendous impact on our world. Did you know, we used to have 12 years to save the planet because in 12 years there would be a huge global heating crisis. Now, according to BBC News, we only have 18 months until that heating crisis takes place. Climate change is important specifically to me because I am part of the new generation. I don't want climate change to make a negative impact on my future. Climate change education is needed because children need to be aware of what will shape their future. Children also need to know what they can do to help. I want to learn about the hole in the ozone layer and how it grows. I want to learn how that will affect me and how I can help.

If our government goes through with climate change education, it can be taught throughout all areas of study. For example, In science class, we can learn how climate change occurs and the science behind it. In reading, we can read climate change articles and learn about what we can do. In history, we can learn how it all started and how it became a problem. As the generation of the future, we want to be informed about real-world problems, and we're running out of time!
Kylin Gwydir/Grade 6 Holy Cross Academy

Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

Climate change is important to me because it is killing our world. If we don't stop it then eventually all the water levels will rise and will cover our cities. It is causing Earth to be hotter and then we won't have as much snow. I think that we need to stop climate change now. It will also kill coral reefs and could kill our ecosystem. I think climate change education is important because some people don't think it is real. Some people think that it is fake when it's not and it could kill our Earth. People need to be taught what will happen if we don't stop climate change.

I want to learn how we can stop this. I think everyone could chip in if we know what is the main cause then we can stop this. I want to know why this is happening. Why is it getting hotter and warmer? Like this year we didn't have a single snow day and I think it is because of climate change. I really think that we need to learn to stop this. I don't like climate change and we need to stop it and fix our Earth.
Jason Huss/Grade 6 Holy Cross Academy

Climate change is important and everyone should know about it. Climate change is important to me because it is killing animals and ruining the ozone layer. Climate change is ruining some animals' homes and the greenhouse gases are making the ozone layer weak. The ozone layer protects us from ultraviolet radiation from the sun. If we don't protect the ozone then we will get harmed by the sun.

Climate change education is really important. It is important because we need people to know about it so they can help us get rid of it. Also some kids may be interested in helping with climate change and work to help stop it when they're older. I want to learn how I can help stop climate change. Even if I help a little bit it will still matter. Climate change is a real problem and we need to try our best to stop it.
Adele MacGregor/Grade 6 Holy Cross Academy

Climate change education is an important subject that we need to have in our school. It is important that we learn about this crucial subject. Climate change is important to me because in my neighborhood, we got snow only two or three times. I don't know much about this though because we don't have climate change education. Education about climate change is needed because we need to know what will happen to our communities. As I said, we don't know much about the subject.

I would like to learn about the consequences of climate change and what and where it will affect most. I know it affects many animals, but which specifically? Where will we go if the temperature gets too high? I would also like to learn about what we are doing to stop it. What will happen to us if we grow up not learning about climate change? Humanity doesn't have a hope to solve it if the future generations can't teach about it. Learning about this pressing subject will extremely benefit us and the future generations, you just wait.
Matthew Makin/Grade 6 Holy Cross Academy

Essays from Holy Cross Academy for COA's Virtual Student Rally for Climate Change Education, March 30, 2020

Climate change is a big world problem in the past few years. Climate change is a part of all of our lives. Climate change is important to me because it is a problem we all can help solve. We can be more aware of what we do and try to limit greenhouse gases in the air. Simple things such as riding a bike to a friend's house instead of using a car or telling your government about how you feel about all of this. Nowadays, it's hard to worry about everything that's going on, but we have to stay strong. Climate change is a big problem that will only get bigger if we don't do anything to stop it.

Climate change is a big problem, but not everyone believes or knows that it exists. In order to inform more people about climate change, the First Lady of New Jersey, Tammy Murphy has proposed that climate change be in all areas of academic study. I feel like this is needed because some children don't know if climate change is real or not. Teaching students about climate change will bring much awareness to this urgent topic.
Nicholas Kounis/Grade 6 Holy Cross Academy

Climate change is a huge problem in our world and it is a very important topic. Climate change is important to me because I like our world more when it is clean, healthy, and no ice is melting. It is disgusting to go kayaking or fishing and have a bunch of trash and muck in the river. To think individuals on this beautiful earth who are still litter, is astonishing. Some people can easily bike to places, but decide to drive, releasing gases harmful to the environment. I get you want to get there faster, but what is the harm in biking?

There are many things you can learn about climate change. Personally, I want to teach people about it. So when I see people causing it, I won't say " Sorry I don't know how to teach about it" - I'll say all the ways they're doing it and what that typical way does to the earth. This way, instead of learning more facts along the similar lines, I can decrease the amount of polluters. This will help our world decrease the amount of pollution. Climate Change is a huge problem, and can we decrease it?
Christian Ramos/ Grade 6 Holy Cross Academy