



HOLY CROSS

Catholic Secondary School

September 2019

Principal's Message

Principal's Message – September 2019

.It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2019-20 school year at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School. A special welcome to our nearly 300 grade 9 students, the class of 2023, who recently participated in our annual 'Movin-on Up' Crusaders Camp at the school August 28th and 29th. Many thanks to Ms. Gallant and her team for putting on an excellent and informative introduction to Holy Cross for our newest Crusaders.

As always, there are many opportunities for students to get involved in the Holy Cross community. Our talented Arts department is holding auditions in the first week of school for our upcoming musical theatre production, *Little Shop of Horrors!* Our fall athletics program is up and running: Junior and senior football, boys' volleyball, girls' basketball, field hockey and golf teams will be beginning their KASSAA seasons in September. Our many clubs will also be looking for new members, check out the Green-Team and CICS (Crusaders in Community Service) among others at the school. I like to think that there is something for everyone at Holy Cross.

Parents and guardians are welcome to attend our first School Council meeting, scheduled for **Wednesday, September 18th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Learning Commons. I look forward to meeting you and to the opportunity to share with you, the great things happening at Holy Cross. We have one meeting approximately every month which lasts for about an hour. In years past, parents and guardians have helped fund student events, wellness activities and organize parent engagement evenings. For up to date information about things happening at Holy Cross, I encourage you to regularly check the school website at www.hctoday.ca

You can also subscribe to our monthly newsletter on the school website, by providing your email address in the form available on the main page.

This Month

- Sept 3 First Day of Classes**
- Sept 5 School Musical Meeting**
- Sept 9 Photo Day**
- Sept 9-11 School Musical Auditions 3-6pm**
- Sept 10– Absentee Photo Day**
- Sept 12 University Overview**
- Sept 12 School Mass**
- Sept 13 Last Day for Sem 1 changes**
- Sept 25 Parent Post Secondary Info Evening**

We have a few staffing changes for the 2018/19 school year. With the retirement of long-serving school chaplain, Chris Forster in June, I am pleased to welcome Nick Cotman (Holy Cross class of 2012) into the role as his replacement this September. I would also like to welcome Melissa Biggs as the new teacher in our Life Skills development Centre (LSDC). Melissa is on maternity leave for the 2019/20 school year and so, Julie Cozzi will have responsibility for the LSDC this year. Welcome to Holy Cross, Melissa and Julie! We currently have a couple of additional staffing pieces to complete (at the time of writing) and we plan to have those elements determined before the start of school on September 3rd.

Parents and guardians – Please ensure that you have reviewed with your son/daughter, the school's Code of Student Conduct, available on our website (and on your student's Virtual Commons). It is very important to us that all members of our community understand and participate in our mission and are aware of the high expectations that we have for our students at Holy Cross.

God Bless,

Michael Faught, Principal.

Pay School Fees Online

Secure credit card payment

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Easy registration

SchoolCashOnline



Register Now

FAST AND EASY WAY TO MAKE PAYMENTS

FOR

STUDENT FEES

Required for

FIELD TRIPS, SPORTS TEAMS

SPIRIT WEAR

<https://schoolcashionline.com>

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE *(Information Sheet)*

GRADE 9	GRADE 10 - 12	GRADE 12 (Graduating)
HC Spirit T-Shirt		
Student Council ID Card	Student Council ID Card	Student Council ID Card
4 Toonie – Non-Uni Days to support various charities	4 Toonie – Non-Uni Days to support various charities	4 Toonie – Non-Uni Days to support various charities
HC Yearbook	HC Yearbook	HC Yearbook
School Lock for locker		Grad Fee
Total Fee: \$85.00	Total Fee: \$65.00	Total Fee: \$100.00

- **Please make payment online using the School Cash Online system at hctoday.ca**
- **PROOF OF PAYMENT OF STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES IS REQUIRED TO PICK UP TEXTBOOKS.**



TEXTBOOK PICK-UP: Please choose 1 of the following 2 options.

1. A separate textbook deposit cheque in the amount of \$100.00, (post-dated to March 1st, 2020) is required by each student before textbooks can be issued. The student's name should be clearly printed in the memo section of the cheque.

This cheque will not be cashed if the student's books are returned in good condition at the end of each semester. **OR**

2. Textbook deposit of \$100.00 payable online.

This deposit will be refunded once the student's books are returned in good condition at the end of each semester. You also have the option to carry the deposit forward into the next semester/year.

PROOF OF PAYMENT OF STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES IS REQUIRED TO PICK UP TEXTBOOKS.

Parking Lot Safety

The safety of our students is a major concern at Holy Cross, so please pay attention to direction and speed restraints while driving in the school parking lot. The entrance to the school lot is at the east end of the school and the exit is at the west end. Please do not go in the out and vice versa. Reduce your speed while driving and watch for students. When dropping off and picking up students, do not block traffic flow. When possible, park in a designated parking space. Do not block the "No Parking" area or the handicap parking spaces in front of the school as these areas are needed by students with special needs as well as students crossing to get to the city bus stop. Finally, there is no parking in the laneway at the back of the school. This is for bus drop off and pick up only. Vehicles parked in the rear laneway not only delay the busses but also create a risk to students trying to get to their busses. Caution and consideration will make things better for all.





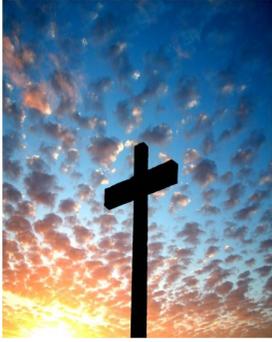
Attendance Procedures

Regular attendance greatly improves a student's chances for success in school, and until a student is 18 it is their parent's/guardian's responsibility to ensure that they are in attendance daily. **If you student is going to be absent, please call the school** attendance line at 613-384-1919 extension 2 to notify the school and provide a general explanation for the absence. If we do not receive a call about an absence, an automated call will go home to remind you to verify that you are aware of the absence.

If a student will **not be in class due to a school activity**, such as a field trip, participation in a sporting event or the cancellation of busses due to weather, you do not need to contact the school.

Occasionally a call will go home in error. If you receive an absence call, and your student says they were there, or that they were at a school event, please call the attendance office so that we may look into the error, and ensure attendance is accurate.

Finally, **when a student reaches 10 or 15 absences in a course**, a letter will be sent to their home to ensure that parents/guardians are aware of the absence count. This count will include any absence that was not a school activity, even if the school was advised of the absence. These letters fulfill our duty of keeping parents/guardians informed. A student will not lose a credit based on absences alone, but an attendance counsellor will be advised to monitor further absences. Please try to keep absences less than 5 per term.



PASTORAL NEWS

I would like to welcome back all students and staff from the summer months, especially those entering Grade 9 and anybody who is coming to Holy Cross for the first time. We have an exciting year ahead!

Fr. Amato and Fr. Shea will be celebrating mass with us on Thursday, September 12th to kick things off. As students settle in during the first few weeks, I would encourage them to explore all of the activities the school has to offer, including those which are faith-based. One of the highlights of my time as a student at Holy Cross was being involved with Crusaders in Community Service (CICS), a group which I am looking forward to being a part of again! We serve the community in many ways, such as visiting retirement home residents, doing food drives, and organizing a variety of activities for the entire school community. Furthermore, the chaplaincy team is always looking for volunteers for mass: altar serving, singing in the choir, and doing readings are all fantastic ways to involve yourself in this important part of school life.

The pastoral theme from last year, “Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God,” will be carried on into this school year. This passage from the prophet Micah wonderfully captures the faith life we strive to realize at Holy Cross, which is to both nurture our relationship with God and serve each other and the wider community through actively living out our faith.

On behalf of both myself and the Holy Cross community, I would like to thank Chris Forster for serving so generously and passionately as the Chaplaincy Leader for many years. His legacy will inspire me to do the best work possible as I move into the role.

Nick Cotman, Chaplaincy Team Leader

**Do Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly
with your God (Micah 6:8)**

Looking Forward to October

Oct 1-18 Graduation Photos
Oct 3 College Info Meeting
Oct 9 Catholic School Council Meeting
Oct 10 Thanksgiving Mass
Oct 11 Semester 1 Progress reports
Oct 14 Thanksgiving
Oct 17 Parent Teacher Interviews
Oct 23 Parent Teacher Interview
Oct 31 Halloween

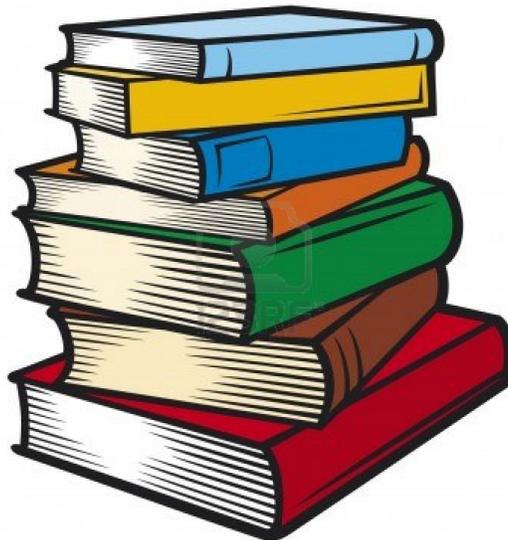
Contact Us

Check on-line for more information at www.hctoday.ca
Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School
1085 Woodbine Road, Kingston, Ontario, K7P 2V9
(613) 384-1919

Grade 11 English Program at Holy Cross.

This year, our grade eleven English classes will focus on First Nations, Metis and Inuit content and perspectives. This opportunity allows us to continue forward in the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation while deepening our understanding of ourselves and our context. English teachers have been collaborating in professional development with their colleagues across the board and beyond to prepare for the upcoming year.

There is an opportunity for a limited number of Holy Cross students to join a Regiopolis-Notre Dame/Holy Cross trip to Spain and Portugal over the March Break in 2020. The lands where explorers set sail and proved the world was round! Home of Picasso, soccer, inspired classical guitarists and flamenco dancing. See magnificent ancient architecture, test your Spanish and Portuguese language skills and learn about the area's rich history. Limited spaces are available. For more information and registration details contact Mrs. Agostino. agostino@alcdsb.on.ca



ARTS News

The Arts Department looks forward to welcoming (and welcoming back!) our student artists. Once again we offer classes in drama, dance, instrumental music, vocal music, visual arts and guitar.

Outside of the classroom, our arts staff is committed to providing our students with a number of fun and creative extra-curricular activities. Come out and get involved right off the bat with the following fall clubs/teams:

MUSICAL: “Little Shop of Horrors” runs November 27-30, 2019 - Information meeting is THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH at 11:15am in the drama room. Auditions begin SEPTEMBER 9th.

DANCE TEAM: Auditions for the Holy Cross Dance Team take place after school on SEPTEMBER 16th on the cafeteria stage.

ART CLUB: Every Wednesday after school in the art room starting September 11th. No art experience necessary!

CHOIR: Every Tuesday at 11:15am in the music room. Bring your lunch and a friend. No singing experience necessary!

Please see the school calendar at hctoday.ca for a list of arts event dates throughout the year!





Counsellor's Corner

Time table changes and course load:

All students in grade 9, 10, and 11 will carry a full course load which is 4 credits per semester. Students in grade 12 who have a minimum of 24 credits may elect to have a spare in each semester. All grade 12 students who have not graduated are required to carry a minimum of 3 courses each semester. It is the view of the school, that students fully engaged in the classroom will perform better academically and will progress to graduation with fewer challenges.

Students have until Friday, September 13 to request a timetable change. Students must meet with their guidance counsellor to discuss their request.

Post-secondary Information

Information sessions regarding post-secondary education will start next week. Students should regularly check the announcements for the presentation schedule. A monthly schedule is also posted in the school calendar on the HCToday website.

Volunteer Opportunities

Students should check the bulletin board outside Student Services for current volunteer opportunities.

ITALY 2020



This school year Holy Cross students will be travelling to Italy during the March Break. It promises to be a fantastic journey of beautiful scenery, wonderful food and impressive cultural encounters. The cities of Rome, Florence, Venice, Assisi and Ortona will be visited. There are still a few spots open for any students who wish to participate. Information and forms can be obtained from Mr. Coleman in room 203 and there will be student meeting once the school year begins.

