



# HOLY CROSS

Catholic Secondary School

September 2020

## Principal's Message

Principal's Message – September 2020

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2020-21 school year at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School. A special welcome to our nearly 265 grade 9 students, the class of 2024, who recently enjoyed their first day – in person – as Holy Cross students on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Many thanks to Ms. Gallant and her team for putting on an excellent and informative introduction to Holy Cross for our newest Crusaders on this day.

We are certainly starting off in unfamiliar territory this year. We are in an 'Octomester' format (one course at a time – full day) for the first time. We have students learning in-person and others learning remotely from our teaching staff. There are many, many new rules and regulations in place to ensure that we all return and remain safe and healthy at Holy Cross this year. I know that it's going to be different, but I am fully prepared for another great year with this community.

I would like to extend my thanks to the staff at Holy Cross, who have been hard at work preparing for the safe return of our students. It has been a hectic pace here in the past few weeks, learning, planning and adapting to ensure that we are doing everything we can to make our students feel safe, welcome and ready to learn. A special shout-out to our custodial crew: Sandra, Kirk, Todd, James, Jeff, Steve, Lisa and Pam, who have been literally working around the clock to make sure that this building is ready for the new year. I am blessed to have such a supportive and hard-working staff at Holy Cross.

Parents and guardians are welcome to attend our first Catholic School Council meeting, scheduled for **Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** which will take place in a virtual setting (Microsoft Teams). If you have a child at Holy Cross, you are welcome to attend. Please email [flhphcss@alcdsb.on.ca](mailto:flhphcss@alcdsb.on.ca) to express your interest in being part of our Catholic School Council this year and I will send details

This Month

September 8 – first day of classes for all grades

about our first meeting, closer to the date. As always, I look forward to meeting you (virtually) 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](http://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.

Visit our website at [www.hctoday.ca](http://www.hctoday.ca)

We have a few staffing changes for the 2020/21 school year. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Joanne DeSantis, Vice-Principal, who comes to us from the Halton Catholic District School Board. Mrs. D is an experienced secondary administrator and a great addition to our team. As well, Mr. Chris Fraser has joined Holy Cross (moving from just across the street at Mother Teresa) to support our growing extended French program! Mr. Dan Harren has joined the Holy Cross community and will be teaching in the science and religion departments this semester. Finally, I would also like to officially welcome Melissa Biggs back from maternity leave and into the role of classroom teacher in our Life Skills development Centre (LSDC). Welcome to Holy Cross, Chris, Dan and Melissa! We currently have a couple of additional staffing pieces to complete (at the time of writing) and we plan to have those elements officially sorted out as soon as is possible.

Parents and guardians – Please ensure that you have reviewed with your son/daughter, the school's return to school guidelines for students in 2020. This document was sent home by email on labour day and can also be found in this newsletter. 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



## Counsellor's Corner

The Student Services department is very happy to welcome students back to school. We are looking forward to seeing you again! We will continue to socially distance in the Student Services department, and are asking students to contact their guidance counselors by email or by phone. Students are asked to check their ALCDSB emails daily in case counselors have reached out to students with an appointment request.

### Guidance Counselor Contact Information:

Mrs. A. Cantarutti [cantarut@alcdsb.on.ca](mailto:cantarut@alcdsb.on.ca) ext. 3415

Mrs. K. Hulton [hulton@alcdsb.on.ca](mailto:hulton@alcdsb.on.ca) ext. 3419

Mrs. G. Vella-Bowry [ybowry@alcdsb.on.ca](mailto:ybowry@alcdsb.on.ca) ext. 3427

### Youth Worker Contact Information:

Ms. T. Hoey [hoey@alcdsb.on.ca](mailto:hoey@alcdsb.on.ca) ext. 3238

Mrs. A. Cancian [cancamey@alcdsb.on.ca](mailto:cancamey@alcdsb.on.ca) ext. 3430

## Timetable Changes

The octomester schedule provides for 22 days of instruction for each course. Students will have up to 2 days of class to request a timetable change. The last day to request a course change for the 1<sup>st</sup> octomester will be Tuesday, Sept. 8 for grades 9 and 10, and Wednesday, Sept. 9 for grades 11 and 12.

## Post-Secondary Information

Information for post-secondary institutions will be provided on the Guidance Page on students' virtual commons platform, as well on the bulletin board outside of the Student Services office. Post-secondary institutions have posted on their individual websites information regarding virtual tours and general information for prospective students. Grade 12 students should check the Guidance Page and the Student Services bulletin board for application information, deadline dates and scholarship information as it becomes available.

## Student Trustee

The Student Trustee represents all students in the board. The position requires that they attend regular meetings at the School Board as well as with Student Senate, of which they are Chair. The Student Senate is made up of Student Council Presidents from each of the Board's five secondary schools. Interested students must submit to the school principal a written submission containing information the candidate deems important to their potential selection. The deadline date is September 23. See Mrs. Cantarutti for more information.

## **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 advise the school** either by calling the attendance line at 613-384-1919 extension 2, or sending an email to [flhphcss@alcdsb.on.ca](mailto:flhphcss@alcdsb.on.ca) 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.

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

Please keep in mind, when planning absences, that students are completing one course at a time. As a result, in the Octomester format, **one day of absence is equivalent to missing 4 periods in that course.**



## *Welcome to September 2020*

The HCCSS Wellness Team works to promote health and wellness of the mind, body and spirit of all Crusaders. ALL students are welcome to come join the team in activities, promotion and education that assists in creating a positive school culture. (See Ms. Terrie Hoey, Rm.238)

As a positive attitude gives you power over your circumstances here are a few suggestions for your positive mental health this September and year.

### *10 TIPS*

- 1. Express gratitude*
- 2. Practice self-care*
- 3. Choose positivity*
- 4. Avoid negativity*
- 5. Use humour*
- 6. Take a break*
- 7. Have things to look forward to*
- 8. Pray and meditate*
- 9. Think long term*
- 10. Use Music*

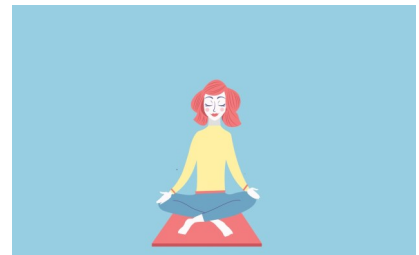
However, if you find due to various circumstances and you find you are having a harder time REACH OUT. Go visit your guidance counsellor, your youth worker or a trusted adult. Talking it out will likely be the start to getting the right help and support.

Remember kidshelpphone.ca, 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868,

24 hr. crisis line 613-544-4229

or the Maltby Centre 613-546-8535 are ALL here to support you.

*Take a breath ...You got this!*



## **The Spirit Shop**

The HC Spirit Shop is now online! HC Spirit Wear can be paid for using the same payment process as for student fees. (schoolcashonline.com) The Spirit Shop will be closed at lunch & after school until further notice; any additional dates will be posted to the school calendar & Student Council social. Samples are displayed in the main foyer. Students may not try on samples for sizes. Photo examples will be posted on social.

***\*\*Weekly purchased items by Wednesday  
will be given to homeroom teachers to distribute by Friday\*\****

- Black Crew Neck Sweatshirt (Adidas) \$25 (Climawarm with pockets)
- Grey HCSS Hoodie \$45
- Grey Sweatpants with pockets ~~\$35~~ **ON SALE FOR \$20** September Only
- Black Windbreaker \$25
- Vintage (Embroidered) Long Sleeve \$15 or 2 for \$28 (green or white)
- HC fleece Blanket \$20
- "We the West" Lanyard \$ 3

Unfortunately, the student leadership team cannot guarantee inventory as there are limited quantities and sizing available. **Get your gear quick before we run out!**



## PASTORAL NEWS

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all staff and students, especially to the incoming grade nine class! I hope everyone was able to find rest and rejuvenation over the summer months.

As with most things at this time, pastoral care and activities will look a little different as we start the school year. Be sure to check the Holy Cross announcements page and the @HC\_Chaplaincy Twitter account for ongoing updates and the sharing of online faith resources.

Starting this school year, ALCDSB will have annual, board-wide pastoral themes. This year's theme is *All are Welcome in This Place*. It is based on Romans 15:7: "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." The emblem above is a helpful visualization of this idea: a community joined together with Christ at the center. Given the unique challenges we face, the chaplaincy team will seek to be creative in ensuring that all members of our community feel a sense of welcome and belonging. We trust in the abundance of God's grace to be especially present within our current circumstances.

We are excited to welcome Mrs. Vella-Bowry into the role of Faith Life Liaison! The position was most recently held by Ms. Mulvihill, whose insight and generosity of time was invaluable. Thank you for your support and dedication, Ms. Mulvihill. Welcome, Mrs. Vella-Bowry!

For more online resources (such as local online Masses), be sure to visit the Archdiocese of Kingston website: <https://romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/>.

Nick Cotman, Chaplaincy Leader

*For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help you." – Isaiah 41:13*

## All Are Welcome In This Place

**Looking Forward to October**

**October 8— end of Octo-mester 1**

**October 9 —first Octo-mester  
Exam**

**Oct 12—Thanksgiving**

**Oct 13— start Octo-mester 2**

## Contact Us

Check on-line for more information at [www.hctoday.ca](http://www.hctoday.ca)

**Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School**

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## Welcome to the 2020 'Octomester' school year at Holy Cross CSS – Student Guidelines

The start of the 2020/21 school year looks quite different than ever before and certainly there may be some anxiety about our return this time around. Rest assured that the staff at Holy Cross have been working hard to make our start-up safe and smooth for everyone. I ask that Parents/Guardians and students please review the following information that details some of the procedures we are following this year:

1. Before arriving at school each day, please complete the self-assessment protocol at home. [CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE PROTOCOL.](#)

2. Effective September 8<sup>th</sup>, students must always be in proper fall/winter uniform. We are aware that some uniform pieces are backordered, and we only ask that students awaiting clothing orders wear appropriate attire (something that is close to the look of the uniform) until their full uniform complement arrives.

Face masks must always be worn properly when inside the building. Inside the building, students are permitted to remove their mask while eating (safely distanced from other people) or to lower the mask when taking a drink of water. Masks may be removed when outdoors. It is probably a good idea to bring two masks to school. As well, if your son/daughter forgets to bring their mask to school, or if their mask breaks – the main office has extra masks available to give to them.

*Of note: Students enrolled in physical and health education, construction or transportation technology in the current octomester, are not required to wear the school uniform. They should instead wear appropriate clothing for these learning environments.*

3. Students should endeavour to arrive at the school at 8:15 (understandably, school bus transportation sometimes makes this difficult). Upon arrival at the school enter through either the front or rear main doors of the building and proceed directly to your first 'Octomester' class. Holy Cross staff will be available to welcome students and to help direct students to their classrooms.

4. When walking through the halls you are to stay to the right-hand side. Remember to social distance and follow directional arrows and other signage.

5. Lockers are not currently available (we hope that this may change before the cold weather arrives). At this time, students will be required to carry all possessions on their person (backpack etc.)

6. Students must hand sanitize upon entry to their classroom. Teachers will assign seating and for contact tracing purposes and sit where assigned.

7. Students should bring a refillable water bottle to school. There are no water fountains available currently; only bottle stations are available for water re-fills.

8. In order to minimize traffic in the halls, students will ask permission to use the washroom while in class and teachers will allow bathroom breaks one by one.

9. In addition to a lunch break, two body breaks have been scheduled for every class throughout the day. Students must always remember to social distance and to keep their mask on, unless they are outside of the building. poses, students must sit where assigned.

We have scheduled three separate lunch breaks for our students/staff by grade:

**LUNCH:**     **Grade 9:** 10:45 – 11:25  
                  **Grade 10:** 11:25 – 12:05  
                  **Grade 11/12:** 12:05 – 12:45

Students are encouraged to eat lunch outside, or to find locations within the building that permit physical distancing while eating. We recognize that this is not ideal, but with many of our common spaces having been converted into teaching/learning spaces, it is our current reality. Students are reminded to social distance while on lunch and to clean up their garbage. To support our custodial team, we encourage your child to bring garbage-less lunch containers. Our custodians are very busy maintaining a rigorous cleaning and sanitization program all day long.

10. Currently, our building is open only to staff/students and essential visitors. Parents/Guardians should phone the school (613) 384-1919 if assistance is required or if they need to speak to someone on staff.

11. If your student is going to be absent, please advise the school either by calling the attendance line at 613-384-1919 extension 2, or sending an email to [flhphcss@alcdsb.on.ca](mailto:flhphcss@alcdsb.on.ca) 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. To ensure that we are accurately tracking the comings and goings in our community, students leaving the building early or arriving late must check in at the attendance office with Mrs. Burt.

12. End of day – students are reminded to social distance on way out. All students should leave the building immediately at the end of the day.

13. **Remote Learners for Octomester 1:** A reminder to all remote learners that classes begin on Tuesday, September 8th. Students that have selected to learn remotely for Octomester 1, should have heard from their teachers already about start-up instructions. Students should be prepared to login and be online beginning at 8:30 am where instruction from each classroom teacher will be given regarding structure of the day.

Students can access their Virtual Commons to see their course for Octomester 1. If you are a student new to the school, please contact the school for your username and password or if you experience technical difficulties while logging in please contact [help@alcdsb.on.ca](mailto:help@alcdsb.on.ca)

It is important that students learning remotely are prepared for Tuesday with their own device and to participate daily in all activities as outlined by their classroom teacher. There is a finite number of devices available to students who do not have one and priority will be given to those who are experiencing financial hardship. Please contact your school if you must borrow a device.

Our school experience this year will be different and our plan for a safe return will, no doubt, continue to evolve as we learn and adapt to what is working and what isn't. We know that our community understands the measures that we all must take to ensure that we all stay healthy. I believe that despite the challenges ahead, we are prepared for another successful school year for the Holy Cross community.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation and your patience,

Michael Faught, Principal.

## Holy Cross Uniform:

Our administrative team has completed our grade assemblies where we remind students about the responsibilities that Holy Cross Students have in our building. As part of this process, we have reminded our community about the importance of wearing the Holy Cross Uniform properly. Understandably, there have been some delays for some families in acquiring uniform pieces – we will continue to work with students that are in this situation. Our uniform provider, McCarty's have provided us with a list of students who have items on backorder.

Details on how to purchase uniform on-line can be found at our website [www.hctoday.ca](http://www.hctoday.ca). We do not yet know if the in-school uniform shop will be re-opening.

As a reminder, the fall/winter uniform at Holy Cross is comprised of the following:

**Girls:** solid grey Holy Cross dress pants or the Holy Cross kilt with black tights. Plain black (no logo, or design) leggings with black socks are also acceptable with the kilt. White Holy Cross crested blouse.

**Boys:** solid grey Holy Cross dress pants; white Holy Cross crested dress shirt with school tie.

**Girls and Boys:** Pants are not to be tucked into socks.

**Optional:** school crested vest, pull over, zippered sweater or cardigan.

**Footwear:** no boots, no slides, no flip-flops, sturdy and comfortable shoes should be worn.

Our expectation is that students wear the uniform properly and we thank parents and guardians for their support in helping make this happen.

**Michael Faught**

Principal