



HOLY CROSS

Catholic Secondary School

January 2021

Principal's Message

Dear community of Holy Cross,

On behalf of the entire staff at Holy Cross Catholic secondary school, I wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2021. We look forward to having your sons and daughters back at school, rested and ready to finish our first term on a strong note. I know that we are all hoping for an upswing of good things in 2021.

As you will be aware, the ALCDSB has committed to utilizing the Octomester format for the balance of the school year. As such, Octomester 4 wraps up on the 28th of January and following a PD day on the 29th and a course reconciliation day on February 1st, Octomester 5 will begin on the 2nd of February, 2021. The updated school calendar for 2020-21 has been shared by email to Holy Cross Families and is available to view on the school website, www.hctoday.ca

Our student services department, under the guidance of department head Ana Cantarutti has been hard at work in preparation for the 2021-22 school year. Current Holy Cross students will soon be starting the process of selecting courses for the next school year. Future grade 9 students will be receiving information about registration and course selection in the coming weeks from their grade 8 teachers. A reminder that this year, we will not be hosting an 'in-person' grade 8 parent night, rather we will be live-streaming an information event using our school's YouTube channel on **Wednesday February 10th at 6 p.m.** Details will be available on the school website – www.hctoday.ca in the week leading up to the event.

The end of January 2021 will mark the completion of the fourth year of my tenure as Principal at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary school. Effective February 1st, 2021, I will be joining the ALCDSB senior leadership team as Superintendent of

This Month

- January 1– New Years Day**
- January 4– First day of classes in 2021**
- January 13– Octo 4 Mid Term**
- January 13– Catholic School Council Mtg**
- January 15– Ontario University Applications Due**
- January 27– Octo 4 classes end**
- January 28– Octo 4 Assessment**
- January 29– P D Day**

School Effectiveness. It has been a tremendous honour to serve the Holy Cross community these past four years in the role of Principal. Although the COVID-pandemic has impacted (just about) the past year of life at Holy Cross, I have continued to be buoyed by the resilience and support from the entire Holy Cross community as we adapted and persevered in service to our students. The staff at this school is second to none and I will truly miss (when things return to normal) the talents and spirit of staff and students on display in academics, arts, athletics, faith and community service. I would also like to extend thanks to the Holy Cross Catholic school council and chair Mrs. Michelle Ilescu, for their support and encouragement over the past four years.

God Bless,

Michael Faught

Counsellor's Corner

University/College Applications

Applicants should notice that the application centre deadlines (for equal consideration for admission to programs) are approaching. University applications are due to the centre by **Wednesday, January 15th** and college applications by **Monday, February 1st**. Students are asked to ensure that all data on the application is accurate (including address and transcript information). Please contact Student Services with any concerns.

Grade 9 Registration

A virtual presentation will be available on HCToday.ca on Wednesday, February 10th at 6:00pm. Grade 8 feeder school students will receive registration packages in January, and registration packages will be made available to non-feeder school students on Thursday, February 11th in the foyer from 5 – 7 pm and also in the Main office during school hours starting on Friday, February 12th.

Course Selection 2021-2022

Course selection will take place in February for current grade 9 – 12 students. More information will be available in February.

Octomester Dates

Octo 4 class ends: January 27, 2021

Octo 4 exam: January 28, 2021

Octo 5 class: Feb 2-Mar 4, 2021

Octo 5 exam: Mar 5, 2021

Octo 6 class: Mar 8-Apr 15, 2021

Octo 6 exam: Apr 16, 2021

Octo 7 class: Apr 20-May 19, 2021

Octo 7 exam: May 20, 2021

Octo 8 class: May 21 - Jun 23, 2021

Octo 8 exam: Jun 24, 2021



3 students qualified for DECA Provincials this year:

Anezka Javier

Emma Saganowich

Maeryn Antoniewicz

Taking place in February. For the first time, it is going to be entirely online.





PASTORAL NEWS

Happy New Year! I hope all were able to experience the peace which Christmas brings and are looking forward to 2021 with renewed hope.

During the first two weeks of Advent, classes collected items which were put into “Christmas Cheer Packs” and distributed to nearby long-term care and retirement homes. Thank you to all students and staff for your support of this wonderful initiative!

In addition to sharing physical items, our Virtual Choir recorded themselves singing Christmas carols and shared the songs with these care homes. The Virtual Choir is still looking for participants for upcoming projects, so please email me at ncotman@alcdsb.on.ca or Ms. Check Drumm at checkdru@alcdsb.on.ca if you are interested!

On December 8th, in an apostolic letter called *Patris corde* (“With a father’s heart”), Pope Francis proclaimed that the year ahead will be a, “Year of Saint Joseph.” There’s much we can learn from letting St. Joseph act as a guide and role model over the year ahead. He reveals the dignity of work and being open to God’s will. Pope Francis says that St. Joseph helps us to, “see more clearly the importance of ‘ordinary’ people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day.” This is especially true to consider in a time of pandemic. Pope Francis also included the following prayer, which we should keep close to our hearts over the upcoming year:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

May each of us meet this new year with hope and faith.

Nick Cotman, Chaplaincy Leader

All Are Welcome In This Place

Looking Forward to February

Feb 1—Ontario Colleges Applications Due

Feb 10— Grade 8 Parent Night

Feb 14— Valentine's Day

Feb 15— Family Day

Contact Us

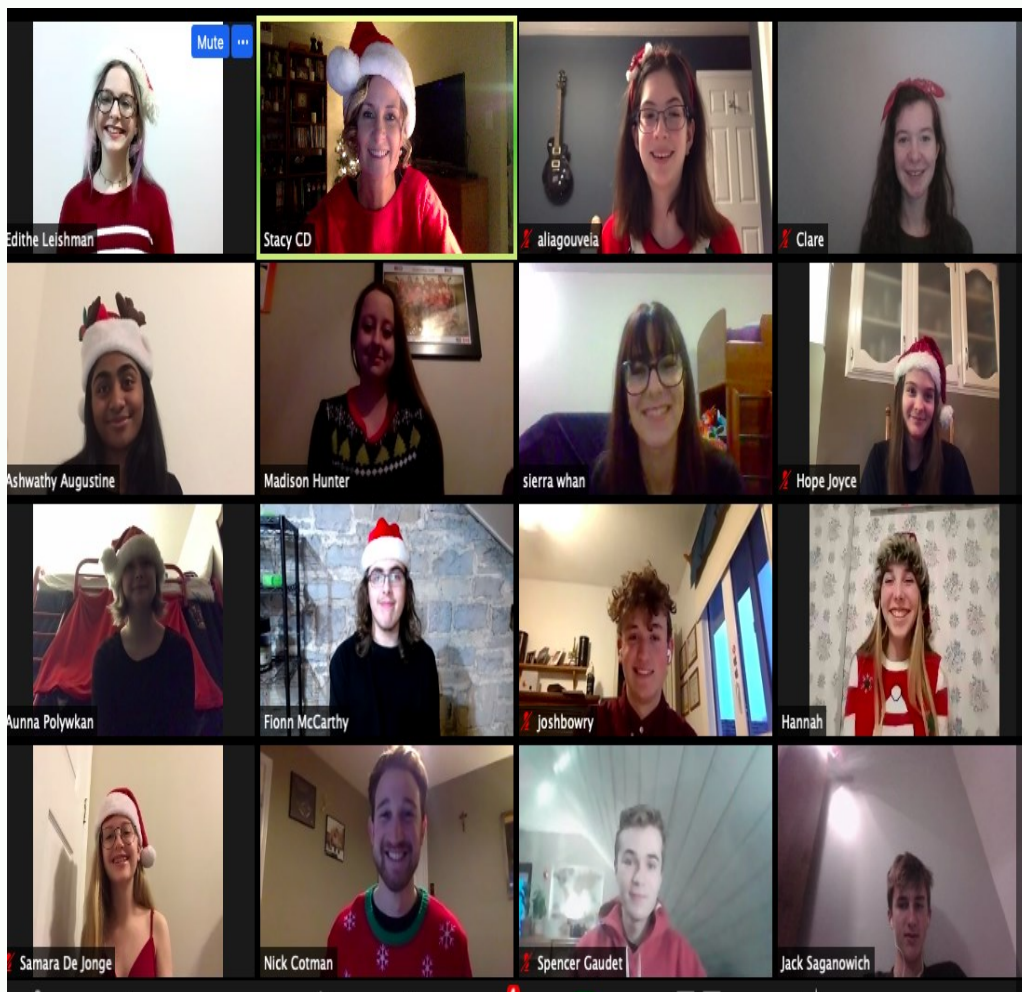
Check on-line for more information at www.hctoday.ca

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What does a Virtual Choir look like?



Life Is Better

WHEN YOU
SING

GET INVOLVED TODAY

With

HC VIRTUAL CHOIR

Email Ms. Check Drumm for more info!

checkdru@alcdsb.on.ca