



HOLY CROSS

Catholic Secondary School

February 2022

Principal's Message

Congratulations to all for completing the first half of yet another complicated school year. Every day completed gets us closer to spring. It's exciting to see a return to train and, as we begin quad three, a return to other extracurricular activities, with some added restrictions. Activities such as wrestling, non-cohorted singing and band are still on hold, pending provincial and local public health decisions.

It was a hard and no doubt disappointing decision to cancel our school musical, an event that is the pride and joy of all involved. Please know that we will do our best to help students showcase their talents in some form this spring. We have to make decisions based on the information we have and the time we are given, both of which we wish we had more of.

Thanks to all who are helping to navigate this new, much more independent, phase of the pandemic. We are truly in this together.

Following is some information pertinent to Quads Three and Four:

Beginning of Second Semester - Quad 3 - February 3rd, 2022

As we prepare for the beginning of Semester 2 (Quad 3) on Thursday, February 3rd, I ask that parents/guardians review the following with their children before Thursday.

STUDENT TIMETABLES

-Students must check their most update timetable in ASPEN on Wednesday night.

This Month

- Feb 1- Credit recovery day**
- Feb 1- Ontario College Applications due to OCAS**
- Feb 2- P A Day**
- Feb 3- Quadmester 3 starts**
- Feb 9 - Last day for timetable changes**
- Feb 10- Grade 12 marks due to OUAC**
- Feb 12- Grade 12 marks due to OCAS**
- Feb 14- Valentine's Day**
- Feb 16- Grade 8 Parent Info night**
- Feb 21- Family Day**
- Feb 23- Pink Shirt Day**
- Feb 25- Non-uniform day**



LEARNING OPTIONS

REMOTE LEARNERS – For students who chose from the Director’s Survey to complete the ENTIRE Quad online the following will apply:

Students will access their classes remotely for the entire Quad 3. Students will not be allowed to flip between Remote Learning and In-Person learning.

Students must be logged into TEAMS by 8:30 am for morning classes and 11:55 am for afternoon classes.

Students who are not on TEAMS when attendance is taken will be marked absent.

Students who are remote learners may not participate in any on-site

IN-PERSON LEARNER – Students are reminded to follow all COVID-19 Protocols and complete the Daily Screener before coming to school. [COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/covid-19-school-screening)

ATTENDANCE – IN PERSON LEARNERS

o Isolation or Illness: Students will need to isolate for 5 days and therefore will access class material asynchronously to begin and then synchronously until their isolation ends and they can return to school. This applies to any student who knows they will be absent for at least two days due to illness or isolation.

For any other absences, students may access course materials asynchronously via D2L and will receive any missing materials upon return to class.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Semester 1 Report Cards (Quad 1 / Quad 2) will be printed and sent home with students by February 11th.

Terri Daniel

Principal

Quadmester Calendar

Quadmester 3: Feb 3– April 12

Exam Days: April 13– April 14

Quadmester 4: April 19– June 23

Exam Days: June 24 - June 28

March Break– March 14-18

Counsellor's Corner

University/College Applications

Applicants should notice the application centre deadlines for equal consideration for admission to programs. University applications were due by Thursday, January 13th and college applications by Tuesday, February 1st. Students are asked to ensure that all data on the application is accurate (including contact and transcript information). Please contact Student Services with any concerns.

Grade 9 Registration

Grade 8 students from partner schools have received registration packages in their grade 8 classes. Registration packages for non-feeder schools are now available in Student Services. Check the Holy Cross website, HCtoday.ca for an informational video as well as registration forms. Registration forms are due back to Holy Cross by March 7th.

Course Changes

Students who require a timetable change may do so within 5 days of the start of the quadmester. The last day to change courses is Wednesday February 9th.

Course Selection Process

At this time of year, students will begin the process of selecting courses for the 2022-2023 academic year. It is critical for all students who plan on returning to Holy Cross that they follow the timelines in order to ensure that they are able to obtain the courses they desire. Student services will be conducting the on-line process of selection of courses during the month of February. Information will be made available to students in their classes and also on the Guidance Page found on the students' Virtual Commons.

Scholarships

Queen's University Promise Bursary is available to students who have applied to Queen's and are the first in their family to attend post-secondary and have financial need. Applications are due February 15th. Please see Mrs. Cantarutti for more information.

Horatio Alger Scholar - Grade 11s and 12s can apply for the Horatio Alger Scholars program, which provides financial support to students with significant financial need wishing to complete a Bachelor's degree. Go to <https://horatioalger.ca/en/scholarships/>.



PASTORAL NEWS



The pastoral team would like to commend all students, teachers, and staff on the successful completion of another quadmester! Thank you to everyone for witnessing to the values commitment and hope by persevering through various sacrifices and setbacks. We trust that God's grace is provided in abundance during these times of challenge.

This past October, Pope Francis opened the synodal process. Synods are held to discuss issues important for the life of the Church. The current synod has been commenced to reflect upon the synodal process itself, and is therefore called, "The Synod on Synodality." In this Synod, the Church is inviting the laity and disaffiliated to share their voices to acquire a fuller understanding of the various experiences and attitudes relating to faith. Students and staff will be offered the opportunity to share feedback over the month ahead, though all are able to participate whenever convenient. Be sure to visit the website of the Archdiocese of Kingston to get more information and access a survey to share your thoughts and questions!

In February, we look forward to resuming class liturgies and preparing for the Season of Lent. Be sure to keep well and lean on God, trusting that he is navigating each day alongside us.

Nick Cotman, Chaplaincy Leader

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11.28

Beloved Children of God

Contact Us

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

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

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(613) 384-1919

Looking Forward to March

March 2 - Ash Wednesday

March 7- Quad 3 midterm

March 11- Quad 3 full disclosure date

March 14-18- March Break

The Life Skills Developmental Centre for Gr.9-12 students would like to thank the Mayman family for their generous donation of a new microwave for the program.



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

ZONE G-1

January 10, 2022

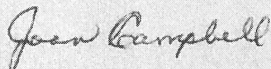
Attention: Principal and Staff of the Limestone District School Board and the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

Each year in February the Royal Canadian Legion hosts a Public Speaking Competition for students in the elementary and secondary schools. This year due to the Covid situation a decision has been made by each of the Royal Canadian Legion Branches in Zone G-1 to cancel this event for their Branch. Therefore the schools within the Limestone District School Board and the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board will not be receiving information to pass on to the students regarding an upcoming Public Speaking Competition.

I would ask that if possible, this information be announced to the students.

Thank you for your assistance and hopefully by September we will be back on track with the Poster, Poem and Essay and Public Speaking competitions for the 2022-23 school year.

Sincerely



Joan Campbell
Zone G-1
Youth Education Chair

Jack.org

Hello HC! Hopefully many of you were able to watch the Jack Talk mental health video on Bell Let's Talk Day (January 26) to learn about ways that we can be there for each other and begin conversations about mental health.

Presently the Holy Cross Jack.org team is beginning to prepare to make exam stress kits, which are packages of items meant to help with de-stressing and improving mental well-being while preparing for exams. We plan to make these available right before April exams. The number of kits, what the kits contain, and how they will be distributed will be determined soon.

We believe that it is important for everyone to be aware of mental health resources available at Holy Cross. If you would like to chat with someone, you can reach out to:

Room 238 – Leeanne Amell (youth worker)

First office in student services – Monday, Wednesday, alternating Fridays: Shannon Parsons (social worker); Tuesday, Thursday, alternating Fridays: Amey Cancian (youth worker)

Room 201 A – Nick Cotman (chaplain)

Once again, Kids Help Phone is a great resource for you or anyone you know who is struggling (**1-800-668-6868** or **kidshelphone.ca**).



Education Quality and
Accountability Office



EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics

Starting in the 2021–2022 school year, students enrolled in the MTH1W Grade 9 de-streamed mathematics course will be learning the knowledge and skills that are defined in the expectations found in the new 2021 Ontario mathematics curriculum.

What Is in the EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics?

The Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics is a computer-based assessment. This year, the assessment will consist of various types of questions, including technology-enhanced items, such as drag and drop, drop-down menu, and single-and multiple-select items.

There are 50 questions on the assessment in total. Students will have the opportunity to participate in an introductory session that will familiarize them with the Grade 9 assessment. During this introductory session, students will have access to a sample test of 25 questions that shows the various types of questions.

Students will complete the online assessment in two sessions. **Student enrolled in Grade 9 Math during Quadesters 3 and 4 will complete the assessment in their scheduled Math classes during each Quad.** At the end of the two assessment sessions, students will be presented with a questionnaire that asks them about their attitudes and perceptions with respect to mathematics. More information with dates for the assessment in each Quad will be shared once determined.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

The OSSLT measures whether students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. Successful completion of the literacy test is one of the requirements to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. All students across the province write this test.

This school year, EQAO will be offering the OSSLT online. The assessment will be available to students participating in **in-person learning and working toward their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)**. This will allow the opportunity for students in Grades 10 and 11, and non-graduating Grade 12 students, to attempt the test and, if successful, have it counted on their transcript.

Because the Ministry of Education has waived the literacy graduation requirement for all students graduating during the 2021–2022 school year, graduating students do not need to complete the OSSLT test this year.

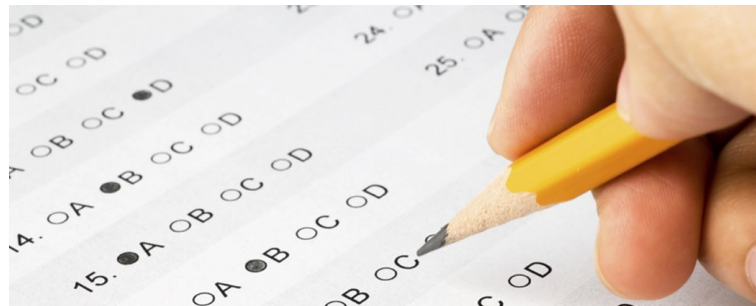
During the last school year (2020-21) students in Grade 10 had the opportunity to become familiar with the online test and its platform through EQAO's online practice test. Students currently in Grade 11 this academic year completed the online assessment at school this past

November 2021. The results of the assessment will be shared with students and their families once they are received by the school.

There is an online practice test available that comprises two sessions, which include content from previous tests. **The practice test is equivalent to the two sessions students will be completing during the live test later this spring.** In addition, the practice test includes an introductory session that allows students to become familiar with the new online platform's tools and functions. Students in Grade 10 THIS YEAR will be provided the opportunity to familiarize themselves with this new online platform throughout their classes in Quadmester 3. **Grade 10 students will then complete the OSSLT later this year (Quadmester 4 - Spring 2022).** More detailed information will be shared with specific dates as we receive more information from our School Board.

The school Literacy Committee is working diligently to provide support, materials and information to both students and teachers in order to best prepare students for the upcoming assessment. A D2L course is available for students that contains numerous practice tips and materials to help prepare for the assessment. We encourage students and parents to visit the course by clicking this link: [Homepage - "OSSLT" Literacy Test- Prep Materials \(elearningontario.ca\)](#) **As students are required to be in-class learners at the time the online test will be administered at the school, any Grade 10 students that are studying remotely at the time the assessment is scheduled will be contacted to determine arrangements to write the assessment.**

For more information about the OSSLT and to access the practice test available to students, you are encouraged to visit <https://www.eqao.com/the-assessments/osslt/> . If parents/guardians have specific questions regarding the OSSLT on-line test to be completed by Grade 10 students later this spring, please direct your queries to Mr. Dan Finn or Mrs. Anna Coe.



Student Council

The Spirit Shop

Spirit Wear sales continue every Tuesday at lunch just outside of the Student Council room! The HC spirit shop will also be available online! HC Spirit Wear can be paid for using the same payment method as the student fees. (schoolcashionline.com). Pickup for online orders will be Tuesdays at lunch outside of the council room along with our in-school shop! Receipts must be shown. Unfortunately, the student leadership team cannot guarantee inventory as there are limited quantities and sizing available. *In the event we cannot fulfil your order, you will be refunded.*

Lanyards	\$3
Drawstring Bags	\$12
HC Pyjama Pants	\$40
Grey or Green Crewneck Sweatshirt	\$38
Grey Sweatpants with Pockets	\$35
Vintage (Embroidered) Long Sleeve	\$15 or 2/\$25
Green or Dark Heather Grey T-Shirt	\$15
Pom Pom Toque	\$20
White Holy Cross Hoodie	\$50
Green/Grey Holy Cross Hoodie	\$50

Get Ready for a Winter Week of Excitement!

FROST WEEK will be taking place during the month of February. Fun spirit days such as Jersey Day, Red and Pink day, and “Anything but a Backpack Day” will be taking place alongside daily activities. We will also have Matchomatics taking place around the same time. Students can fill in a survey sent to them via email, their answers will be reviewed and they will receive results about who they best match with in the school based on their responses. Further information regarding the events of each day and the week it will be taking place will come soon. Make sure to follow our Instagram or Twitter to get the latest updates.



On top of a spirit week, students with jack.org will be running a **WELLNESS WEEK**. The past 2 years have been difficult for everyone. As a community we have worked to honour and support one another’s mental health and wellness. During this week we will have activities that support community, relationship and joy. More information coming soon.

The Wellness Team has also put together a **survey** for students to give feedback about what they would like to see during Wellness Week. Students, please check your school email and complete this survey by Wed. Feb 3rd.



Pink Shirt Day! Our final event of the month will be a Pink Shirt Day on Wednesday, February 23rd to raise awareness to the issue of bullying that some students face at school or online.

Connect with us:

Instagram: @holycrossstudentcouncil

Twitter: @hcstudco

Email: holycrosscouncil1986@gmail.com