



CRUSADER NEWS AND VIEWS

The Mission Statement of Holy Cross Catholic School is to educate tomorrow's Christian Leaders by fostering Academic Excellence in a Christian Community.

June 10, 2010

Dear Parents,

Holy Cross Catholic School has been educating tomorrow's Christian leaders for 140 years. Thank you for choosing Holy Cross as your partner in education. We are truly blessed to play a role in the academic, spiritual, and social formation of your children. We have many things to be thankful for this school year! We celebrated the graduation of twenty eighth grade students. Fifteen of those students will be attending Cardinal Mooney in the fall. Our eighth graders also celebrated their Confirmation, joining the rest of us as adults in our church. Our ten second graders joyfully celebrated their First Holy Communion. It is wonderful to welcome them into full participation in our weekly Masses. Our preschoolers also began their introduction to school and gave us all the opportunity to remember what it was like when we started school.

Our National Junior Honor Society continues to thrive, inducting six new members this year. The NJHS helped our school by spreading our playground wood chips and our community by fundraising for Safe Horizons and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Additionally, our school community supported the relief efforts in Haiti and the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

We have been blessed with many wonderful people in our lives. This year, we say good-bye to some of those people. While this is a parting, it is not an ending, as these individuals have touched our lives in numerous ways. Mrs. Love will begin her retirement after over thirty years of educational service. We will always be grateful for the love of learning and the wealth of knowledge that she has shared with us. Mrs. Linda Hanna will also begin her retirement. We will always appreciate her compassion and zest for learning. Mrs. Lena Liston will be relocating to Ohio. We will miss the calm and caring nurturing and guidance that she has provided for some of our youngest learners.

With a new year on the horizon, there are new plans in our future. As your principal, I see the new school year as planting a new spring garden. We nurture the plants that we have and make additions where they are needed in the interest of having a thriving garden to be proud of. As a result of your input through our parent surveys, we have been given some strong points to continue with and some areas that need more tending. We are proud to be able to reinforce the beliefs that you teach your children. We are pleased to be able to offer various learning opportunities for your children.

Next year, we will be utilizing a formal writing program. This program, *Being a Writer*, will help us in challenging your children's thinking and building their communication skills, as well as increasing their confidence as students. We are excited about the opportunities that this program presents for our school. Additionally, we will continue to strengthen our mathematics program. Increased utilization of the Accelerated Math program will allow students the opportunity for both review and enrichment, customized to the individual learner. We will strengthen our mathematical foundation by working closely with our students to make each successful. We will also call upon the partnership that we share with you, to support our efforts at school within your homes.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we are eagerly anticipating working with our students and families. We will be welcoming a new kindergarten teacher this fall. The interview process is underway and should be completed by the end of June. I look forward to introducing the newest addition to our staff in our July newsletter.

Our new first grade teacher will be Ms. Rachel Ward. This is an excellent opportunity for our first graders, as Ms. Ward can continue to build upon their strengths, capitalizing on her understanding of how each of these children learn.

Mrs. Susan Senger will continue her role as our second grade teacher, providing the structure that our young learners need. She will also prepare them for the celebration of their First Holy Communion. Mrs. Julia Rock will return as our third grade teacher. Mrs. Rock will provide a faith-filled, nurturing environment for our third graders.

In addition to my duties as your principal, I will have the opportunity to return to the classroom as the fourth and fifth grade homeroom teacher. I will be able to utilize my teaching degree, with a background in reading, as the fourth and fifth grade language arts teacher. I will draw upon my experiences of having taught a fourth and fifth grade combined class, as well as my years of teaching middle school language arts. I will also team teach our sixth and seventh grade language arts, together with Mrs. Sweet. Spending some time in the classroom will give me the opportunity to gauge our students' progress and abilities while growing closer to our students, making me a stronger administrator. Additionally, on those few occasions when I am called out of the building, the children will see a familiar face at my desk as Mrs. Linda Hanna has agreed to be my dedicated substitute.

With our combined classes, students have the opportunity to grow and learn from each other as well as their teachers. This is evident in this year's class taught by Mrs. Hanna. This year's fourth and fifth grade class was a unique mix, with fourth grade being all boys and fifth grade being all girls. Next year, the fifth grade boys will make closer relationships as they combine with the fourth grade.

Additionally, next year's sixth grade girls will have the opportunity to grow closer to a new class as they combine with the seventh grade. This arrangement will provide the social and academic support that our sixth graders need, while challenging our seventh graders to be leaders. Mrs. Anna Wade will be the sixth and seventh grade homeroom teacher. Mrs. Wade has had previous experience with combined classrooms, as well, in her seventeen years of teaching experience. Mrs. Wade will be teaching the math and science for all students in grades four through eight. This will also provide the continuity and understanding of student learning styles that make our teaching more effective.

Mrs. Kathy Sweet will continue as our eighth grade homeroom teacher. Mrs. Sweet will be utilizing her background in social studies to teach our social studies curriculum to all students in grades four through eight. This arrangement allows us to complete the alignment of our social studies curriculum with the state standards. Mrs. Sweet will also be teaching the eighth grade language arts classes, which allows her to build upon her knowledge of this year's seventh graders, as well as team teaching the sixth and seventh grade language arts class.

Mrs. Margie Smith will continue in her role as our religion teacher by teaching religion for all of our students in grades four through eight. This draws upon Mrs. Smith's experience as our Director of Religious Education, as well as her nineteen years of teaching religion. Mrs. Smith will also continue as our librarian for students in grades kindergarten through five. Her dedication, as well as the dedication of our families and library volunteers, has made our library one of the nicest libraries that I have ever seen!

We are also looking forward to Mrs. Carolyn Krum returning as our preschool teacher. Ms. Carolyn provides a structured and nurturing learning environment for our youngest students. We are also grateful for Mrs. Marge Nicaise, who will return as our latchkey director, providing a safe and structured environment for our students after school.

We anticipate another exciting and rewarding year of Catholic education at Holy Cross School in 2010 -2011. We value your support, both through your dedication to sending your students to Holy Cross as well as your positive promotion of all we have to offer within our community. We know these changes will require a little adjustment but change is not an enemy of faith nor is it to be feared; it is a vehicle for growth and an opportunity to prove God's faithfulness.

The teachers of grades four through eight will be available in the cafeteria on Tuesday, June 15th from 6:00PM until 7:00PM. We are happy to answer your questions and address any concerns that you have. I thank you in advance for your faith in Holy Cross.

In His Service,

Mrs. Amanda Lund
Principal

Summer Blessings

God of all seasons,
As we begin our summer vacation, we pray that You hold all of us safe in Your loving arms. May we be united again, as one school family, when we return this fall. Amen

Protecting God's Children Workshops for All Volunteers

The Archdiocese of Detroit's "Protecting God's Children" workshop is held periodically throughout the Archdiocese—to find one that fits your schedule: go to www.virtus.org and select "Registration." You will be directed to a prompt to search for locations. You will need this to do ANY classroom volunteering! Contact Mrs. Smith (810.765.8300) or the "virtus" website for more information.

Remember, you need this workshop completed in order to volunteer for field day or camp or chaperone field trips.

got scrip?

SCRIP office summer hours:
Mondays and Fridays 8-10am;
Mondays 5-7pm; and
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and
Thursdays 1-3pm

"Peddler" hours: almost 24/7/365!

Peddlers:

Kelly Glowski (Algonac)
Sue Sharpe (Marine City)
Kelly Zichi (East China)
Melanie Heitz (St. Clair)

Enclosed is an updated vendor list. The SCRIP office will be open all summer (hours above)—SCRIP cards and certificates are perfect gifts for those graduations, showers, weddings, and other summer parties you'll be getting invited to!

From Mrs. Liston:

"Thank you for four wonderful years at Holy Cross! I will miss everyone! I promise to come back and visit! Have a wonderful summer—Love, Mrs. Liston"

Summer Study Guides

This newsletter is part of your "Summer Study Guide" packet. Look through the packet—in addition to things your "new" teacher wants you to know, it also contains such things as dress code information, sports physical forms, and next year's calendar and supply lists.

School's Summer Office Hours

Even after the students have gone, there's still much to do to finish the school year and prepare for the next. The school office will be open through June and August from 8am-noon. We will be closed for the month of July, but we check messages (810.765.3591 or school@holycrossonline.net) frequently! Also, the church office (810.765.3568) knows where to find us, if you need us more immediately.

Thank You!

The problem with trying to recognize volunteers is that someone is always inadvertently missed!! Our apologies to **Mrs. Frances Zech**--she clips, sorts and organizes all those Box Tops for Education, Campbell labels and VG's receipts you send to school.

Thank you, also, to **Judy Krutsch** and to **the Glowniak family** for paper and office supplies they donated to school!

TEXAS HOLD 'EM!

Needed: volunteers to help out at our No Limit Texas Hold 'Em fundraiser. Positions involve handing out and collecting poker chips and paying out winnings. The event will take place at Snookers' Pool & Pub in Utica. The hall is *non-smoking* and the shifts are flexible! Dates are: Thursday-Sunday, June 24-27, 12 noon – 2am. Please call Randy Bryer at c/o the school or church office if you can help on any of these days (shifts are flexible to your schedule).

Uniforms for Next Year

The Thrift Sale "uniform room" will be available during school office hours June and August—stop in to check out "new-to-you" clothes for 2010-11!

**School Calendar for 2010-11
is in this Summer Study Packet!**

Registration Notes

If you haven't already sent in your registration paperwork for 2010-11, please do so ASAP to let us know you'll be returning. We're looking forward to continuing our partnership in the education of your children! (Fees for 2010-11 were due at the end of April and the first regular tuition payment was due at the end of May.)

Athletes' Families:

Don't forget to sign up for your shift at the Booster Club's chicken dinner on Sunday, August 15 (during Marine City Maritime Days festival). **Every athlete's family will be required to work at least one shift at this event**—however, you'll earn one of your school service credits at the same time. Sign up for your shift(s) in the black service credit book in the school office.

Vacation Bible School

...will take place at Holy Cross the week of July 26-30. Looking for adult helpers as well as students to participate—contact Stacy or Cathy c/o the church office for more info.

Sports Physicals for Next Year

As you probably know, student athletes (grades 5-8) must have both their parent's and doctor's OK to participate in school sports. We have not been able to find a doctor to do those sports physicals here at school this year. However, there are other avenues to pursue. Your own doctor may do a low-cost sports physical; call his office to ask. Also, St. Clair County Health Department's "Teen Health Center" offers sports physicals on a sliding fee scale (from \$35-45), depending on family income, if it is not covered by your insurance. Call first for an appointment: 810.987.1311. The Center is located at 2215 Court Street, Port Huron (enter off 20th Street, behind Port Huron High School between the tennis courts and pool).

(There is a blank sports physical form in your "Summer Study" packet—or you can download from the school website, holycrossonline.net; click on "school," "grades PK-8," then—on the right hand side of the page—"athletics.")

Speaking of Doctors....

Do your children have health insurance? The St. Clair County Health Department reminds you of the state's MIChild and Healthy Kids health insurance program for children.

You may apply online at www.healthcare4mi.com.

For more information (or a paper application) contact Brenda Smarch at the Health Department: 810.987.5300 ext.1469.

**Have a wonderful
summer-see you Aug. 31!**