



# 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 Catholic community.

August 9, 2016

## Protecting God's Children Workshops

The Archdiocese of Detroit's "Protecting God's Children" workshop is held periodically throughout the Archdiocese. To find a session that fits your schedule, go to [www.virtus.org](http://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 or lunchroom volunteering. (Please call DRE Mr. K at 810.765.8300 if you need help registering.)

A session of the workshop will be held HERE, at Holy Cross, on Saturday, September 17. All participants must pre-register: go to [aod.org](http://aod.org), look for the blue box in the upper right hand corner and click on "Protecting God's Children." A new screen will pop up; look for the yellow box on the right about halfway down. Under "Register for Training," select "Protecting God's Children." Another screen will pop up to start the registration process.

Sign-in and a light breakfast will begin at 8am before the workshop starts at 8:30 on Sep. 17. All employees and volunteers working with children must have attended a "PGC" workshop.

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

## got SCRIP?

### SCRIP SUMMER office hours

Mondays and Fridays, 8-10 am;

Mondays; 5-7pm; and

Wednesdays 1-3pm

"Peddlers:"

Patty Smith (St Clair)

Kelly Glowski (Algonac)

When school starts, the SCRIP office will again open on Mondays and Fridays at 7 and close at 9am.

## School Office Summer Hours

The school office is open again from 8am to 1pm, Mondays through Fridays, until school starts. If you can't make it then, please call ahead and we'll make other arrangements with you.

## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

After today, newsletters for K-8 families will be sent every Thursday to your email. (Preschool families will continue to receive paper copies.) Therefore, it's important we have your correct email address! We are sending this via email as well today. Please let Mrs. Steinmetz know if you did not receive it in your email inbox, and give her your email address so that you don't miss any news this year. Thanks!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

- **Friday, August 26: "Crusader Day!"**
- Monday, August 29: first day of school for students in K-8!!
- Sep. 2-5: Labor Day holiday
- Sep. 6: back to school / first day for East China buses
- Sep. 7: First day of preschool!
- Sep. 8: "Curriculum Night" 5-7pm

## "FACTS" and Bills

Your August statement is enclosed. If there are no charges on the statement, your student is NOT yet registered. If that's the case, please get your paperwork in ASAP!

Fees were due at registration; you should have just made your third 10% tuition payment at the end of July, with the fourth due at the end of August. (Please contact Mrs. Steinmetz in the office if you have any questions.)

Please continue making your regular monthly payments at the school office as we learn to navigate FACTS tuition management! Thanks again for your patience.

## Financial Aid

Congratulations to the 15 students (and their families) who are receiving the Archdiocese of Detroit's tuition grant for this school year! You should have received a letter a few weeks ago notifying you of your award (the grant itself won't arrive until later this fall).

Families who applied for help from the Fr. Bartone fund will find a letter enclosed. Those grants will appear as credits on their tuition statements after the second semester of the school year begins.

## LATE FEES

Just as it's crucial to your household's operation to have your paycheck on time, it's crucial to the school that its tuition "paychecks" are received in a timely manner.

The school handbook and tuition contract prescribe late fees and other sanctions. Please keep your monthly payments timely so you won't feel those unpleasant consequences. Thanks!

## Thank You!!

...to our hard-working maintenance crew, who are busy preparing for the first day of school!

...to our dedicated SCRIP workers, who have been at school all summer as scheduled trying to help with YOUR tuition bill!

...to **Mrs. Julie Isrow**, who has been busily logging in new books and straightening up our library!

## Back to School!

The first day of school for students in grades K-8 will be **Monday, August 29**. It will be a regular school day: full day, uniforms, with the bell welcoming you at **7:28 am**. We will have classes Monday, Aug. 29, through Thursday, Sep. 1.

Friday through Monday, Sep. 2-5, will be the Labor Day holiday (no school).

East China buses will begin their runs on Tuesday, Sep. 6: call the East China's Transportation Department (810.676.1100) for information about stops and times.

Preschool begins on Wednesday, September 7 at 8:30 am

## Crusader Day

Friday, August 26, is "Crusader Day." Beginning at 9am, you can come to the Activity Center to get your school picture taken. You'll also be able to sign up for service credits, talk to PTO or School Committee members, pick up forms, and check out your classroom!

When you get your picture taken on the 26<sup>th</sup>, please be advised that proofs won't be available. They should, however, be ready to go home with students by the first week of school.

## Medications

If your child will need to take medication of any sort at school, please call for a *Medication Release form* (or you can find it on the school's website), have it completed and return to school with the medication.

The Archdiocese of Detroit requires that a doctor's signature accompany your request for the school to administer ANY type of medication: including over-the-counter medicines and cough drops—please contact your doctor now, **before** the need arises, if you want your student to have access to those things at school.

### *"How Am I Getting Home Today?"*

Younger students and their teachers will appreciate it if you send a note to school by the first day to let us know how they'll be getting home those first few days, as well as what their typical "go home" routine will be.

## Calendar Raffle Winners

...for August: L. Tomayko of East China, Lynn Markel of China and M.A. Soenen of Harsens Island. Congratulations!

## School Committee

...is looking for fresh ideas! The School Committee acts as the principal's advisory group. Interested?—for more info please email Dr. Wagner ([principal@holycrossonline.net](mailto:principal@holycrossonline.net)).

## Seventh Graders and New Students: Immunization Updates and Waivers

The Health Department assesses the immunization records of all new students and students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade. (If your student's immunization record isn't complete as of today, a letter is enclosed.) Summer is a great time to check with your health care provider to see if your children's shots are up to date.

Parents who opt not to immunize are required to contact the Health Department for the new certified waiver. The St. Clair County Health Department may be reached at 810.987.5300.

## Water Testing

In June, Holy Cross School hired an independent environmental testing firm to test potable water samples from various parts of the school campus. The results of the testing were received a few weeks later, and we are happy to be report that all lab results showed lead levels below the US EPA's action level.

## Chromebooks

Thanks to the generosity of our Auction attendees, we have our new Chromebooks and can't wait to start using them. Each student in grades 1-8 will be issued a Chromebook, which will be his to use—and his responsibility!--for the year. (Please note that water brought to class will NOT be allowed near the Chromebooks or other computer equipment.)

Parents will need to attend one orientation meeting where the Chromebooks will be distributed and the policies and procedures for their use will be explained. In order for a student to take home his/her Chromebook, the parent must attend one of the available orientation meetings. While there is no charge for using the Chromebooks, there is an insurance fee of \$25 for the year to insure against theft, vandalism, damage, and repairs. If damage results from careless abuse, there is a deductible on the insurance.

Please select ONE date when you will attend the Chromebook orientation meeting:

- Th. Sep. 8 at the "Curriculum Night" between 5-7pm;
- Sat. Sep. 10 at 9am;
- Tue. Sep. 13 at 9am during school hours; or
- Wed. Sep 14 at 5pm.

## AUCTION 2017

Next year's school Auction will be in mid-January: so it's already time to start planning! Thank you to **Ms. Pam Dezsi** for returning as Auction chairperson. This year's theme will be "camping:" we can't wait to see what kind of themed baskets you'll come up with this year!

School families' auction donations (and themed baskets would be awesome!) may be dropped off at school any time now, and all are due by the end of November.

## YEARBOOKS

We still have a 2015-16 yearbook available for purchase: if you forgot to order, the first \$15 will take it home!

## "Shared Time" Teachers

As many of you already know, East China School District has decided not to continue our "shared time" partnership. (They will still provide busing and special education assistance.) However, we are expanding our shared time partnership with Merritt Academy (which provided our Spanish instruction last year), and "specials" teachers will be in place by the first day of school.

## Crusader Day

Friday, August 26 will be "Crusader Day." Any time from 9am-3pm that day, you'll be able to get your school picture taken, sign up for service credits, talk to PTO or School Committee members, pick up forms, and check out your classroom! (The activities will be centered in the Activity Center—just drop in between 9am-3pm on Aug. 26.)

## Lunch Supervisors Needed

How would you like to spend lunch hours with your child? We are looking for lunch aides for next year. Lunch supervision is one of the ways you may earn your service credits: you earn two credits if you work any one week day all year (e.g. all Wednesdays). We had a number of moms who volunteered for "lunch duty" last year simply out of the goodness of their hearts, too! Please contact Dawn c/o the school office (810.765.3591) if you might be interested in helping. (Please note you must have participated in the "Protecting God's Children" workshop to be a lunch supervisor.)

## Student Athletes

All students planning to participate in any school sports this year will need a sports physical before practices begin. (Blank forms were included in your "summer study packet" for eligible students, and are also available on the school website—check under "Info," "Forms and Publications;" or in the school office.) Summer is a great time to get that taken care of—and you could take this opportunity to double-check your immunization status, too!

If your doctor doesn't do sports physicals, try such places as "Minute Clinic"s or "Prompt Care"s. Also, St Clair County Health Department's Teen Health Center also offers them: call 810.987.1311 for more info.

Please call school (810.765.3591) or email [school@holycrossonline.net](mailto:school@holycrossonline.net) to let us know if you're a 5-8<sup>th</sup> grade girl interested in playing basketball this fall. (Remember: you need to have already had the physical--and sent the completed form to school--before practice for your sport begins.)

## PTO Meets

Tuesday, August 16, 1pm  
on the school playground—  
Bring your children and your ideas!

## 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Interested in Playing Basketball This Fall--

Please contact the school office ASAP! (Oops: we forgot to put out a signup sheet before school got out for summer!) If we have enough players, we'll be able to have both a JV and a Varsity team, so please call today to let us know. Practices will begin soon—that physical taken care of now!

## Volleyball Clinic

Girls in grades 5-8 were able to take advantage of several days of help with their volleyball skills. Thank you to coach **Samantha Duncan** and her helpers **Suzu DeVeney, Jeremy Jacobs** and **Megan Armstrong**, and CMC players **Caitlin Downey, Jacklyn Smith, Julia Kukawka, Shanna Kowalewski** and **Beki Schultz** for their mentoring skills to make these clinic days possible! Thanks, also, to the Algonac and Marine City Knights of Columbus councils for underwriting the cost of the girls' t-shirts.

## Family Directory

Every year we publish a directory of all of our school and preschool families, which is distributed to families with entries. The info we plan to include for your family is attached to your statement. If you'd like us to include your email address with your family's entry, please send that information to the school office by August 15. If you do NOT want your family's information in the directory, please contact the school office by that date as well. Thank you!

## Garden

Thank you to **Mrs. Isrow** and **Evan and Gavin Isrow, Mrs. Rock, Mr. Paul Burger, Mrs. DeMeulenaere** and **Brennen and Ashton DeMeulenaere**, and **Mrs. Davenport** and **Dylan and Preston Davenport** for their efforts at tidying our vegetable garden! The lack of rain this summer inhibited the garden's yield, but the parish pantry was the beneficiary of a lot of green and wax beans, and the corn should be ripe in a few weeks.

## Holy Cross on Facebook

find us at

<https://www.facebook.com/holycrosscatholicmc/>

## A Few Clarifications...

As you begin getting ready to return to school (!), please remember a few things (that apply to students in K-8):

1. Water bottles: students are permitted to keep them at their desks **but they must be clear, no larger than 18 ounces, and be kept away from all Chromebooks and other electronic equipment.**

2. Shorts: on dress down days, gym shorts are NOT acceptable.

3. "Yoga pants," sweat pants and "cargo" pants are NOT approved under either the regular school dress code or the dress down day dress code.

4. There are a lot of FREE clothes in our "Blue Room"!!

## SCHOOL LUNCH

Chartwell's will still be providing our school lunches this year. The cost for a student lunch will be \$2.40 this year. (Milk remains at 50¢.) Applications for free and reduced cost lunches will be included in the packet you pick up at "Crusader Day."

Lunch on August 29 will be yogurt cup, string cheeses, muffin with fruit and vegetable.

## Free and Reduced Cost Lunches

Returning students who were qualified to receive free or reduced cost lunches on the last day of school last year will remain eligible for the first few weeks of school, but will need to reapply for benefits for this year. Forms are available now in the school office, and are in the packet you'll pick up at "Crusader Day". The application is also available at East China School District's offices and website.

If you are transferring into Holy Cross and received free or reduced price lunches elsewhere, please contact Mrs. Steinmetz in the office ASAP so we can try to get your lunch tickets in before the first day of school.

## Other Important Papers and Forms for K-8 Students

We are preparing a packet of important papers for your family to pick up at "Crusader Day." (If you don't pick it up then, it will go home with your oldest student on the first day of school.) It will contain this year's student handbook as well as information about internet use, school lunches and the school directory. Please read everything carefully and respond appropriately. Thank you!

## School Clothes for 2016-17

We have a roomful of school-appropriate clothes, FREE to school families. Call if you'd like to take a look, or just drop in during school office hours. (To order plaid, go to [www.shopconnies.com](http://www.shopconnies.com).)

## Annual Pest Control Advisory Notification For Parents

In keeping with the State of Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994 and Regulation 637, Holy Cross School has adopted a plan of action for controlling insects, rodents and other pests in and around our facilities.

The school's plan of action for controlling pests incorporates integrated pest management (IPM). IPM utilizes various means of pest control including, but not limited to, habitat modification and sanitation, mechanical control, biological control and chemical control.

Holy Cross School realizes that the use of chemicals can be harmful to the health and safety of humans and the environment; therefore, we will apply chemicals only as a last resort.

Any questions regarding Holy Cross's IPM program should be directed to Judy Beauvais at 810.765.3568 extension 15.

**If you wish to be notified before a scheduled pest treatment, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return to the school office.**

## Asbestos

Federal law requires schools to inspect, test and identify known or suspected asbestos containing materials. Holy Cross School's last 6-month inspection took place in 2012. Since then, all asbestos containing materials were safely removed from the school building by a professional abatement company.

## Meningococcal Vaccine

We are required to notify you of the availability of the meningococcal vaccine. Please contact the county Health Department or your doctor's office for more information.

## Mass Day

This year, our weekly mass day will be Thursday (instead of Friday). Our first mass will be on our fourth day of school, September 1: the mass day dress code will apply that day.

## Concussions

In order to keep people aware of the possibility of concussions, the law requires adult coaches to complete a (free) online training course (contact the school office for info). If a student is withheld from athletic activities due to a suspected concussion, s/he may not return to school that day. The student may return on a subsequent day **ONLY** with the written clearance of **an MD or DO.**

## Personalized Learning Opportunities

The teachers are preparing to provide multiage, personalized, individualized, project-based collaborative learning experiences for our students. We will have a preschool with options for half days on three days or on two days under the direction of Ms. Cindy Jondron. We also intend to have an "Early Learning" environment which will be developed by Mrs. Gryzkiewicz and will have afternoon support from Ms. Jondron and Ms. Anna Ellul. The next "Lower Elementary Learning" environment will be assigned to Mrs. Rock. Students who are preparing for First Communion will do this with Mrs. Rock and students who have already received First Communion will learn religion with Mrs. DeMeulenaere. The "Upper Elementary Learners" will be with Mrs. DeMeulenaere as they prepare for the final year before beginning Middle School.

Mrs. Wade will be the homeroom teacher for our first two years of Middle School. Mrs. McNichol will be the homeroom teacher for our seventh graders, and Mrs. Johnson will be the homeroom teacher for grade eight as the final year of Middle School. Students in Middle School take their courses by grades (5,6,7 or 8) by subject; however, teachers will encourage collaborative, creative lessons also focused on personalized mastery learning of communication skills and critical thinking skills in project-based activities aligned with the standards for English, reading, writing, math, science, social studies and religion. Seventh and eighth graders have the option of doing "dual enrollment" for math and for a foreign language at Cardinal Mooney, earning high school credit by demonstrating mastery learning.

## Preschool

There was not enough interest to warrant a full-day/five day preschool, so we will continue with our 2- and 3-mornings per week programs. Preschool families may register for early drop-off of their preschooler at 7:30—call the school for more info.

## "Flashback Friday!"

Are you, or do you know, a Holy Cross alum who would be interested in having your/his bio featured on "Flashback Friday" on our Facebook page? Please contact Mrs. Leslie DeMeulenaere ([mrsd.leslie@gmail.com](mailto:mrsd.leslie@gmail.com)) for more info or to submit a bio.

## "Box Tops for Education"

We save those snippets from packaging! "Box Tops" may be sent in to school, or dropped in the black collection box at the river entrance of Holy Cross church.

"Box Tops" are usually on the top of the boxes of General Mills brand items.

**We hope you continue to have a safe, fun and restful summer, and can't wait to see you, rested and refreshed, at Crusader Day on Aug. 26, and in class ready to learn on Aug. 29!**

## 2016 PRIOR NOTIFICATION REQUEST FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATION

In the event of an emergency you will be notified of the application after it occurs.

I wish to be notified prior to a scheduled pesticide treatment inside the school building.

I wish to be notified prior to a scheduled pesticide treatment outside the building.

Parent / guardian's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: daytime \_\_\_\_\_ evening \_\_\_\_\_

Students' names \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / guardian's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Holy Cross Catholic School 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction

Greeting Holy Cross Catholic School Families,

With the start of our 2016-17 academic year rapidly approaching I wanted to share information about our school's number one fund raising activity, the Annual Auction. Our 2016 Auction grossed over \$25,000 and with our Fund-a-Need (\$8,196) the school was able to purchase individual-use Chromebooks for students in 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

**Our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2017 in the Holy Cross Activity Center. Doors will open at 6:30 pm (immediately following 6:00 Mass).**

The theme for 2017 will be "A Celebration of Camp!" This theme honors the years of unique experiences Holy Cross students have received during their weeks at Camp Wolverine. Attire for this event will be flannel shirts, jeans, camo....anything "campy"!

Some changes taking place in 2017.....

- Include the cafeteria and hallways in the Auction venue.
- Strolling dinner to replace buffet style sit-down dinner.
- Live entertainment
- Ticket sales (actual tickets you can purchase to be given as gifts, or sell to friends and family)
- Raffle of unique, desirable items (signed Dylan Larkin, #71, Red Wings jersey)

Things staying the same.....

- Dessert raffle
- Live/Silent Auction
- Family Basket Raffle (top basket receives a \$100 Meijer gift card)
- Food, Fun and Libation!

Family Baskets:

Each Holy Cross family is being asked to provide a themed basket valued at \$80 for this event. The basket can be any container filled with anything related to a "camp" experience. Be creative. There are many types of camps; music camp, sports camp, church camp, Boy Scout/Girl Scout camp, hunting camp, fishing camp.....the list goes on!

Family baskets will be raffled off (Chinese Raffle) during the auction. The family who created the basket receiving the most raffle tickets will receive a \$100 gift card.

Baskets are due to the school on or before Thursday, December 1. If your family basket is not received by that date, you will be sent an invoice for \$80 to cover your commitment.

While families have the option to contribute \$60 cash in lieu of a donation, this year I am appealing to all families: please provide a basket or ask someone to shop for you. The success of our auction depends on donations of items which are unique and fun. Money is good; but your creativity and support are awesome. Thank you in advance for your support!

Yours in Christ, *Pamela Dezsi – 2017 HC Auction Chair*