

CRUSADER NEWS AND VIEWS

The mission of Holy Cross Catholic School is to educate tomorrow's Christian leaders by fostering academic excellence in a Catholic community.

August 10, 2017

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 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.)

OLR parish will host the workshop on **Saturday, September 16 2017**. To register, go to

https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_0.cfm?theme=0

All volunteers working with children must have attended a "PGC" workshop.

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

School Office Hours

The school office is open daily from at least 8am-1pm until school starts on the 28th.

got SCRIP?

SCRIP SUMMER office hours:

Mondays and Fridays 8-10am
Mondays; 5-7pm; and
Wednesdays 1-3pm
Patty Smith

The SCRIP order form is available now on the Holy Cross website: copy & paste this address into your browser—
<http://www.holycrossonline.net/school/scríp-order-form-may-2017/>

(After school starts, the SCRIP hours will revert to 7-9am on Mondays and Fridays; the other hours remain the same.)

Welcome to Mr. Cherry!

We are delighted to introduce our new middle school social studies and religion teacher, Mr. R. Brian Cherry! Mr. Cherry comes to us after retiring from the U.S. Air Force, and two years of teaching in public schools. Mr. Cherry and his wife have two children and a third on the way. Welcome to our "family," Mr. Cherry!



Mark Your Calendar....

- F Aug 25: "Crusader day" 9am-3pm in school
- M Aug. 28: first day of class for K-8!
- W Sep. 6: first day for preschoolers
- Th Sep. 7: "Curriculum Night" 5-7pm (for K-8 families)

Thank You!!

...to our maintenance crew members, who are working hard in sometimes miserable weather to make sure everything sparkles for the first day of school.

...to our dedicated SCRIP workers, who have been at school all summer as scheduled (in a steamy and non-air conditioned room!) trying to help with YOUR tuition bill!

...to **Mrs. Julie Isrow**, who has been busily straightening up our library system and offerings so that they are ready at the end of the month.

We are so blessed to have the support of all of these good people! Thank you all!

Our Teachers:

Our teachers are eager to meet their new students! **Mrs. Betsy Davenport** will be our preschool teacher this year, as well as our Title I intervention coach. **Ms. Cindy Jondron** moves up to Kindergarten this year, while **Mrs. Ashley Gryszkiewicz** will have the first grade. **Mrs. Julia Rock** returns to grades two and three; **Mrs. Leslie DeMeulenaere** will have grade four. Our middle schoolers will be mentored by **Mrs. Anna Wade** (math and science and homeroom for grades five and six) and **Ms. Carrie Johnson** (LA and eighth grade homeroom), joined by Mr. Cherry, who will be the seventh graders' homeroom teacher. We are all looking forward to a great year with your children!

Bingo Concessions

...is looking for someone to help (for service credits!) Wednesdays August 23 & 30, and the Wednesdays in September. Please contact Sherrie DuVall c/o school (810.765.3591). Thank you!

Congratulations!

...to the 18 students (and their parents!) who have been approved for financial aid through the Archdiocese of Detroit! (You should have received notification a few weeks ago from the Archdiocese of your award; the grant itself won't arrive until later this fall.)

Families who applied for local assistance through the Bartone fund have been notified of their awards as well. As with the Archdiocese's grants, the Bartone scholarships won't arrive until later in the school year (and will show up as credits on families' FACTS accounts).

TUITION AND "FACTS"

A few families have sent registration materials to school but have not yet registered with FACTS. PLEASE register with FACTS ASAP!! (If you applied for the Archdiocese's tuition assistance, you may create your tuition account under that login.) If you can't find instructions on creating your tuition account with FACTS, please call or email the school office and we'll get those instructions to you. (FACTS' help line: 866.441.4637.)

Students whose 2017-18 tuition is not paid in full will not be able to join their classes until their families' FACTS accounts are active.

Eighth Graders' Rummage Sale

Our eighth graders will be having a rummage sale this weekend: August 11, 12 & 13th (during the "Garage Sale Trail"). It will be held at 2100 River Road, St. Clair, 9am - 4pm. If you're out yard-saling that weekend (or making a special trip!), please stop by to support our eighth graders as they work to earn money for their class trip next spring.

Girls' Basketball and Coed Cross Country

Students interested in participating in our girls' basketball or coed cross country teams this fall: (please get your physical! and—) call the school office to get your name on the roster. Practices should begin around the time school starts.

East China Bus Riders:

Call the Transportation Department (810.676.1100) for info about stops and times.

Sports Physicals

Students planning to participate in any sports are reminded that they'll need a sports physical. There was a blank form in your "summer study" packet (it can also be found on the school website: "holycrossonline.net/school"—select "info," then "forms and publications"). Summer is a great time to get that (as well as any needed immunizations) taken care of.

If your doctor doesn't do sports physicals, try such places as "Minute Clinic"s or "Prompt Care"s. "Community First" (555 St Clair River Drive, Algonac) offers them: 810.794.4917. Also, St. Clair County Health Department's Teen Health Center also offers them: call 810.987.1311 for more info.

For a flyer with information and a \$5 off the physical \$25 fee visit:

<http://www.wcs.k12.mi.us/shhs/2017%20Summer%20Physicals.pdf>

"Crusader Day"

Friday, August 25, will be "Crusader Day." From 9am to 3pm, the school photographer will be on hand to take students' 2017-18 school portraits. Teachers will be in their rooms preparing for the first day of class (Mon., Aug. 28), and will be available to meet you informally. Packets of "first day of school" paperwork will be available for parents to pick up. We hope you'll take advantage of this chance to meet the teachers, get your picture taken, and gear up for school!

Please be advised that proofs of your school pictures won't be available on the 25th. They are expected to go home with students about a week later.

The first Day of School!

Students in grades K-8 will start on **Monday, August 28**. It will be a regular school day—full day (7:28am-2:50pm), regular school clothing. Chartwell's tells us they will be serving lunch that day (\$2.40 again this year for lunches, 50 cents for milk). (Applications for free and reduced lunches will be in the packet of papers your oldest child will go home with on the 28th.) We will have four full, regular days of school before the Labor Day weekend, and we will have no classes on Friday-Monday Sep. 1-4. We return to class on Tuesday, Sep. 5. (East China buses will **not** be running until that day.)

First Day for Preschool:

Preschoolers: we look forward to meeting you on Wednesday, September 6! Your classes will be 8:30-11am. Ms Betsy is looking forward to getting to know your family!

If you are interested in having your preschooler in daycare on preschool days at Holy Cross from 7:30 until preschool begins, please contact the school office.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT VOLUNTEERS

ANSWER A CALL TO SERVE

HELPING CHILDREN IN SUPERVISED COMMUNITY SETTINGS

RECRUITING NOW FOR ALGONQUIN ELEMENTARY,
HOLY CROSS ELEMENTARY AND LOCAL HEAD START



Grandma
Pat Quinn



Grandpa
Bob Cowper

THE REWARDS:

- Unconditional Love and Appreciation
- Opportunity To Give Back To Your Community
- The Joy Of Knowing You Are Needed and Are Making A Difference
- A Worthwhile Reason To Get Out and Meet People
- Enjoy A Little Time Helping Children With Reading And Other Skills
- Become Part of a Significant, Nationally Recognized Group of Amazing Seniors

THE BENEFITS:

- Tax-Exempt Stipend (average \$200 month to help enable you to volunteer without it being a cost burden), Meal During Service, Paid Training, Transportation Assistance, Volunteer Supplemental Accident Insurance, Assistance With The Cost of an Annual Physical
- Structured Placements, On-going Learning Opportunities, Expanded Resources, and a System of Support and Assistance with other needs

THE REQUIREMENTS:

- 55 and older, able to work with youth in schools and public settings 3 to 5 hours a day, 3 to 5 days weekly (minimum 15 hrs. per week)
- Successful completion of thorough background checks including fingerprinting (at our cost)
- Income at 200% of poverty level or less (after medical deductions, \$2,010 per month one person; \$2,707 for two-income family)



Grandpa Ron Phillips &
Grandma Sandi King

CALL **810.987.8813** OR **810.984.5061 EXT 113** (Laura) or **EXT 115** (Jason)

The Foster Grandparent Program Is Sponsored Locally By:

THE COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.,
Serving St. Clair County

Substitute Teachers Needed

We're looking to replenish our sub list. If you know of anyone interested in being a substitute teacher, please ask them to contact principal@holycrossonline.net. Thanks!

...As Well As Native Speakers of Foreign Languages!

Do you know an immigrant, or perhaps a second generation citizen, who is a native speaker of French, Spanish or Italian? (Or any other language?) Or perhaps someone fluent in American Sign Language? We are hoping to expand our foreign language program and are looking for volunteers who can really make the languages come alive. (This could be a "foster grandparent" for someone eligible to participate in that program: please see the "foster grandparent" article elsewhere in this newsletter.) Please contact Dr. Wagner for more info: principal@holycrossonline.net.

Holy Cross on Facebook:

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

“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 your children will be getting home those first few days (as well as what their typical “go home” routine will be). Thanks!

Medications

If your child will need to take medication of any sort at school, please call for a *Medication Release Form* (or download it from the school’s website: www.holycrossonline.net/school; go to “info,” then “forms and publications”). The completed and signed form (including the doctor’s signature) needs to be in the school office before we can administer any 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 those things at school.

Seventh Graders and New Students: Immunization Updates and Waivers

The Health Department assesses the immunization records of all new students and students entering 7th grade. Summer is a great time to check with your doctor to see if your children’s shots are up to date. (Get your sports physical, too!)

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.

No More “Snow Days”!

With all students in grades 1-8 having the use of Chromebooks, “snow days” will become a thing of the past! From now on, whenever school is canceled due to inclement weather, teachers will be in e-contact with their students, and students will be able to continue along with their individual learning plans. (In the event of a power outage preventing school from being open, students will work on their religion portfolios.) This way, “snow days” will not impact students’ learning or be counted against the school calendar, and we won’t have to add days at the end of the school year.

These new procedures will be explained in more detail at “Curriculum Night”—5-7pm on Thursday, September 7. We hope to see all families represented there!

Dear Dads...

You are invited to “Alpha For Men” meetings, beginning on Thursday, September 21 at Winne Acres. Alpha is an eleven week program for men on Thursday evenings, from 7-8:30pm. Fr. David Bechill will be the leader with assistance from Carl Wagner, Mike Oldani and Joe Kuligowski. The evening will begin with food and drink and a video on Alpha topics, and will follow up with discussions of topics on faith.

Perhaps a major benefit of the Alpha program (and the thrust of the Archbishop’s message for Synod 16) is the value of building relationships among the men while talking over topics of our Catholic faith. The setting at Winne Acres is ideal as a “man cave” atmosphere where we can eat, drink, and merrily share in a manly relationship with discussions about Jesus and His call for **“joyful missionary disciples.”** This is a great opportunity to get more acquainted with the other dads and friends of your HOly Cross Catholic School family while building positive friendships and sharing in our efforts to grow in our faith.

Please consider trying it out: contact me at cwagner@holycrossonline.net. Sincerely—Dr. Wagner

School Clothes for Next Year

As your children sprout this summer, keep in mind our “blue room” full of used school wear. These items are free to school families—and there are a LOT of things there. Contact Mrs. Steinmetz in the office if you’d like to come and check it out.

School Chromebooks

Students in grades 1-8 will each be issued Chromebooks after school starts. (The Chromebook insurance fee must have been paid, and the annual Internet and Chromebook use agreements signed, before a machine is released to a student.) The Chromebook use agreement will be included in the packet your oldest child takes home on Aug. 28; as soon as the insurance fee is paid and the agreement signed and returned, your student will be given his Chromebook. They will also be available for parents to pick up at “Curriculum Night” on September 7. (More info later.)

Cafeteria Prices

Chartwell’s informs us that there will be no change in the cost of milk (50 cents) or lunches (\$2.40) for the upcoming school year.

If you received free or reduced price lunches on the last day of school, you are still approved, but you must complete a new application within a few weeks. That application will be in the packet of papers your oldest child takes home on Aug. 28. If you are transferring into Holy Cross and received benefits 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.

Family Directory

We will be publishing a directory of all of our school and preschool families, including parents’ and children’s names and the family’s address and phone number. The directory will be distributed to all families with entries. If you like us to include your email address with your family’s entry, please send that information to the school office by FRIDAY, August 11. If you do NOT want your family’s information in the directory, please contact the school office by that date as well. Thank you!

Important Papers and Forms for K-8 Students

We are preparing a packet of important papers for your family. They will be available to pick up at “Crusader Day,” Aug. 25. If you don’t pick it up then, it will go home with your oldest “Crusader” on Monday, Aug. 28. It will contain this year’s school handbook as well as information about internet use, school lunches, Chromebooks and the school directory. Please read all carefully and respond appropriately—thank you!

Monthly Statements

FYI: after you sign up with FACTS, your monthly tuition payments will go to the school through FACTS. Therefore, you won’t receive monthly statements in the mail from us. (However, we will continue to send your service credit record periodically.)

T Shirts For Sale

The PTO still has a few Holy Cross t-shirts for sale (\$10 each): 1 each youth small and large, and 1 adult medium. Call the office for info, or stop in to see them.

VG's Receipts and Box Tops for Education

Yep—we'll be collecting these through-out the summer and into the 2017-18 school year. Please keep saving them for us! You can drop them into the box at the river entrance of Holy Cross church during the summer (or even in the collection baskets at any of the OLR sites: just put in an envelope marked "school"). Thanks!

ECLIPSE 2017

You have probably already heard about the upcoming solar eclipse—August 21, beginning about noon. We are not in the right area to see a total eclipse; however, we should experience about 3/4 of totality at the darkest point. If you plan to watch, be sure you have adequate protection for your eyes—your eye doctor or physician can advise you.

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.

Needed—"Lunch Moms"

We're always looking for lunch supervisors/subs! Please contact the school office.

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.

Asbestos

Federal law requires schools to inspect, test and identify known or suspected asbestos containing materials. All known asbestos containing materials at Holy Cross School have were removed by a professional abatement company several years ago.

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 Dr Wagner for info). If a student is withheld from athletic activities due to a suspected concussion, s/h 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.

Auction 2018

...will be on Saturday, **February 10, 2018**: so it's already time to start planning! Thank you to **Mrs. Tiffany Mensen** for offering to service as this year's chairperson!! The theme of this year's auction will be "Denim and Diamonds." As you shop this summer, remember the Auction: maybe you can pick up your amazing donation at a bargain price!

Tiffany is eager to hear your ideas! You can contact her by email: tiffany.mensen@gmail.com.

School families' auction donations may be dropped off at school any time after the school office re-opens in August; all are due by the end of November.

**Enjoy these last precious days of summer -
see you at the end of the month!!**

2017 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: _____

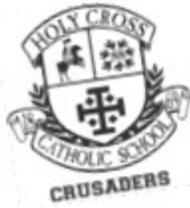
Phone: daytime _____ evening _____

Students' names _____

Parent / guardian's signature _____ Date _____

All Proceeds Go To The Holy Cross 8th Grade Class Trip

Garage



Sale!



August 11, 12 & 13th

9am-4pm

2100 River Road,

St. Clair

FURNITURE, SPORTING GOODS, CLOTHING, HOUSEWARES
NEED A PICK-UP? HOT DOGS AND WATER ONLY \$1.00

