



CRUSADER NEWS AND VIEWS

The mission of Holy Cross Catholic School is to provide a setting that ignites a joyful spirit of Christian discipleship in collaboration with families, staff, and the parish in a personalized learning culture.

August 20, 2020

Protecting God's Children Workshops

The Archdiocese of Detroit's "Protecting God's Children" workshop is held periodically throughout the Archdiocese. EVERY classroom or lunchroom volunteer or employee needs to have attended. To find a session that fits your schedule, go to www.virtus.org and select "First Time Registrant." Then choose "view list" of class sites, and choose "Detroit." Scroll through to find your session, then go back to the top of that page to create your login.

When attending a "PGC" workshop, be sure to be on time, as the Archdiocese does not allow latecomers to enter.

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.

If you have recently attended a "PGC" workshop, please send a copy of your certificate to school ASAP so we have it on file--thank you!

got SCRIP?

"Curbside" SCRIP hours
(continuing through the summer):
Mondays 5-6pm and
Fridays 9-10am;
beginning August 28--
Mondays 7-9am and 5-6pm,
and Fridays 7-9am

Patty Smith 810.434.9557--
Call or text your order ahead of time
to arrange "no-contact" pickup!

If you don't quite understand SCRIP, contact Patty (above) or the school office for info.

School Office Hours

We're here from at least 8am-noon daily until school starts.

Thank You!

...to **Mrs. Deb Callahan** and **Mrs. Jamie Guyor**, the volunteers who have spent hours these past few weeks redoing our bulletin boards: they are now colorful, interesting, and so inviting! Thank you!!

...to **Mr. Mike Path** for donating lanyards and hand sanitizer to the school!

Mark Your Calendar....

- Tomorrow, Aug 21: Crusader day 10am-2pm
- **Th Aug 27: First day of school!**
- F-M, Sep 4-7: Labor Day week-end: no school

Teachers

As you already know if you were part of Tuesday's virtual "Town Hall" meeting, there will be a few changes in our teaching staff. Ms Cindy Jondron will teach Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten. First grade will be in Mrs. Gryszkiewicz's room. Grades two and three will have Ms. Tersigni and will be at the front of school, in Mrs. Doan's old room. Mrs. DeMeulenaere will be back with grade four. Fifth and sixth graders will be in Mrs. Wade's homeroom, and eighth graders in Ms. Johnson's.

Our new seventh grade homeroom teacher is **Mr. Michael VanderGraaff!** He will also get to know the rest of the middle schoolers as their religion and social studies teacher. Mr. VanderGraaff is excited to join the Holy Cross family!

Before School Starts....

Families are reminded that all fees must be paid, and FACTS accounts must be created and activated BEFORE students may attend class.

"Crusader Day"

TOMORROW: August 21, will be "Crusader Day." From 10am to 2pm, the school photographer will be on hand to take students' 2020-21 school portraits. Teachers will also be in their classrooms preparing for the first day of class (next Thursday, **August 27**), and will be available to casually meet their new students. Packets of "first day of school" paperwork will be available for parents to pick up--and you will be able to complete & leave forms that day, too, if you wish.

On that day, come to the front door of school **wearing your mask**. You will be directed where to go and what to do.

(Please be advised that proofs of your school pictures won't be available on the 21st: they are expected to go home with students a week or so later.)

We hope you'll take advantage of this chance to meet the teachers, get your

school picture taken, and gear up for school--see you tomorrow!

Important Papers and Forms

We've prepared a packet of important papers for your family. They will be available to pick up at "Crusader Day," on August 21. (If you don't pick your packet up then, it will go home with your oldest "Crusader" on the first day of school.) It contains 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!

School Chromebooks

Each student in grades 1-8 will be issued a Chromebook after school starts. The Chromebook insurance fee must have been paid, and the annual Internet and Chromebook use agreements signed, before the computer is released to a student. These forms will be included in the "first day" packets available for pickup at "Crusader day." (The packet will be sent home on the first day of school with your oldest student if not already picked up.)

Seventh Graders and New "Crusaders"

The Health Department assesses immunization records of all new students and all students entering 7th grade.

If your child is in one of these groups, please check with your doctor to see if your student's immunizations are up to date. Parents of students in these categories with immunization waivers will need to update the waiver: call the Health Department (810.987.5300) to make that arrangement.

The St Clair County Health Department is sponsoring drive-up COVID testing / immunization & waiver clinics--please follow this link for info:

<http://stclaircounty.org/Offices/health/forms/Media%20Release-%20Drive-thru%20COVID%20Testing%20at%20Local%20Schools.pdf>

Holy Cross on Facebook:

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

First Day of School

...is scheduled for NEXT Thursday, August 27! (Of course, all Governor's decrees regarding schools will affect Holy Cross as well.)

School will begin at 7:30am as always. **However, the COVID ban on gatherings requires some change to our mornings: watch your email for a video from Mrs. Davenport. Beginning on the first day, students WILL NOT be able to enter until 7:15 am.** Mrs. Davenport will be outside to "pace" their entry into school (to maintain social distancing). They will proceed directly to their classrooms, where their teachers will be waiting for them.

All students will need to wear face masks every day when they enter the building. The state's COVID requirements allow students in self-contained grade K-4 classrooms to remove their masks when they are in their classrooms with only their class members; all other students and adults will have to wear their masks all day (except when eating).

Any student / adult with a condition that renders wearing a face mask medically intolerable may obtain a waiver form to be signed by his/her doctor and parent (if a student). The waiver must be signed by the primary care physician after the physician has reviewed Holy Cross School's "Return to School" plan, and it must state that after reviewing the plan the physician verifies that the risks to that patient of wearing the mask outweigh the risks of not wearing one. Anyone without that properly-worded and signed waiver will be required to obey the face mask regulations.

Parents will be expected to screen their children **every morning** for symptoms. A child who shows symptoms after arriving at school will be sent home. A person sent home with a fever will NOT be able to return the next day, even if s/he feels better: they must be fever free for at least 24 hours with no fever reducing medication. If there are other COVID symptoms, the CDC's regulations will guide the return to school.

Service Credits

Don't forget that K-8 school families have until September 15 to sign up for credits; families who haven't chosen by then are assigned to Plan "A" (to simply pay for their credits).

To Schedule Bingo Shifts...

Families opting to work their service credits at Wednesday bingos (at St Catherine activity center in Algonac): please contact **Paul Burger** at **734.837.5807**. As bingo resumes, help will be needed most Wednesdays: one should fit your schedule.

Service Credits: Lunch Aides

We are looking for lunch supervisors! (We hope that, if you were a lunch aide last year, you'll continue to perform that service again this year!!) You can earn service credits being a lunch aide: four shifts worked will equal one credit. We are in need of help on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Lunch aides work from 10:30-11:30 on school days, by the day of the week (e.g., you might choose to work Wednesdays). Aides need to have participated in the "Protecting God's Children" class and submit to a background check. Mrs. Davenport will have a short orientation meeting for aides within the next few days so all will have an opportunity to learn the "rules" and expectations.

If you are interested (or for more info), please contact the school office--thank you!

Spirit Wear and Dress Code

You can order pullover hoodies, hats and bags with the new crest at <https://holycrosscatholic.itemorder.com/sale>.

Please note that **neither sweatshirts nor school logo'd T-shirts will be approved as uniform wear for 2020-21.**

An updated dress code publication is available on the school's website: www.holycrossonline.net/uniform.

Dress Code

The Holy Cross dress code is available on the school website (holycrossonline.net/uniform/). In line with our continuing efforts to keep our focus on academic excellence and educating the whole child, and noting that school uniforms eliminate distractions, create a sense of belonging and pride, and are cost effective, you will notice a stricter attention to dress code this year.

As you do your back-to-school shopping, please check to be sure your clothing selections comply with the dress code. Pants and shorts should be "dress"--no over stitching or "cargo" pockets. Socks should be white, black or navy and completely cover the ankle. Blouses should be plain in style. **SHOES are to be "dress shoes: oxford / buckle / loafer in black, dark brown or navy (or black & white saddle shoe)"**.

Look at the pictures on the school website! There are so many options--you don't have to buy your clothes from any particular manufacturer, and there are many choices of styles. Our "Blue Room" is full of used clothing that is free to school families: call the office to make an appointment to check it out. Our goal is to encourage a neat, professional, and "uniform" look among our students without causing families a financial burden.

Free School Clothes in "The Blue Room"

You KNOW they're not going to fit into last year's uniforms! How would you like to check out an air-conditioned room full of FREE replacements? Contact the school office with a few times you're available to come in, and we'll work to find a time that's good for everyone. The "Blue Room" is full of school-appropriate clothing that is FREE to Holy Cross School families.

T-Shirts and Hungry Howie Cards

The \$10 card includes a free large one-item pizza: hard to go wrong! PTO also has a few "vintage" t-shirts (last year's logo) and caps available at the school office: \$5.

2019-20 Yearbooks

We still have a couple yearbooks left--\$15 each: first come, first served. You can mail your payment (checks should be made out to "OLR") to the school--618 South Water Street, Marine City 48039, and we can mail your book.

Fall Sports

Looking toward the fall! As you may know, Holy Cross participates in athletics along with the other schools in the Blue Water Parochial League. The first sports scheduled in the league in the fall are cross country (coed, grades 5-8) and volleyball (girls, grades 6-8). We don't know all the ways the pandemic will affect school sports this year. However, we do know that the League will not be able to offer girls' volleyball this fall. Thank you to Mrs. Kuzera for having been willing to coach our team.

All school athletes need to have had a sports physical before participating in sports. Parents and doctor each complete parts of the form.

A blank copy of the sports physical form was included in your family's "Summer Study Guide" packet. The form is also available on the school website: go to www.holycrossonline.net and hover over "about," down to "athletics" and choose "sports physical form" from the dropdown box that appears.

If you think you might participate in any sports this year, summer is a great time to get your sports physical done and out of the way! If your doctor doesn't do sports physicals, try such places as "Minute Clinics" or the Health Department's "Teen Health" center. (And while you're there, you can check to be sure your immunizations are up to date!)

"Return to School Plan"

You should all have received our "Return to School" plan; it is also posted on the school website.

Cafeteria Service / Lunch

Chartwell's will NOT be serving lunches until September 8, so everyone will need to bring their own lunches for the first two weeks.

Families who received free or reduced-cost lunches last year will be eligible for those benefits the first day Chartwells serves lunch, but will need to re-apply for those benefits within the first couple weeks of school (the application form will be in your family's "first day of school" packet, available during "Crusader Day;" it is also available at this link: <https://eastchinaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2020/07/2020-21-Free-and-Reduced-Price-Lunch-Application.pdf>).

Lunches will still be \$2.40, and milk alone will be 50¢.

New families: if you received free or reduced-cost lunches at your old school, you will need to complete a new application to receive those benefits at Holy Cross.

Please be advised that, due to COVID concerns, we will NOT have microwaves in the lunchroom. All lunches from home will have to be ready-to-eat.

Box Tops for Education™

Just a reminder about "how to" digitally save those little box tops...download the app, scan the receipt, and you've done it! For details on the new program, please go to: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/newbtf>

As long as you see "Box Tops" on packages, please do continue to clip and send them in--they will be honored until their expiration dates.

VG's Receipts

Please keep saving those entire paper VG's receipts, including the "Direct Your Dollars" paragraph. ("E-receipts" are not accepted.) We are almost 90% of the way to our next \$1000 award, and will continue to collect those receipts until the store tells us to stop! Receipts can be dropped off at the school office (or SCRIP office) when you're out and about, or turned in at the rectory, or in the box at the river entrance at church.

"Amazon Smile"

Do you shop online? You can designate Holy Cross to receive credit from online shopping through Amazon Smile! We are registered in Amazon Smile as "Holy Cross School Marine City."

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1542098>

Please complete a "review" on our Holy Cross School Facebook page:

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

You can follow us on Instagram:
#mholycross

Raffle Calendar Winners

...for August were Judy Beauvais of Marine City, Debbie Beier of Algonac and Larry Miller of Harsens Island. Congratulations!

Substitute Teachers

We're looking for substitute teachers to add to our list. If you know of anyone interested (a retired teacher, perhaps, or other person with a bachelor's degree) please ask them to contact Mrs. Davenport.

East China Bus Riders:

Busing is available for residents of East China School District. Call the District's Transportation Department (810.676.1100) for information about your bus stop(s) and time(s).

****Water Bottles**

COVID distancing requires that we close down our water fountains. So it will be more important than ever that students bring their own water. Since we can't share the water fountains, **refillable water bottles are not usable** for now.

We advise that everyone bring **two disposable bottles** of water (labeled with the owner's name) every day, to be sure we all stay adequately hydrated.

Parents' Meetings on How to Use "SeeSaw" and "Google Classroom"

On Sep. 8 and 9, Mrs. Davenport will host online meetings to explain the online classroom platforms "SeeSaw" (grades TK-3) and "Google Classroom" (grades 4-8). More details on those next week!

"Crusader Day"— Friday, Aug. 21

Don't forget to head to school any time between 10am-2pm tomorrow to get your picture taken and meet your teacher! (Wear your mask, and come in through the front door, by the school office.)

A Plea On Behalf of your Parish:

Your parish needs you now more than ever. Please keep your pastor and his staff in your prayers during this pandemic crisis. You are invited to join in Our Lady on the River's daily and weekend services. However, if you prefer not to venture out into crowds just yet, please continue to send in your "tithe" or weekly donations, as you are able. Just as your household has ongoing expenses regardless of Governors' orders, your parish, also, has such needs, and no other way to meet them than its parishioners and other donors.

To give online to Our Lady on the River go to:
<https://ourladyontheriver.weshareonline.org/>