

# 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.

March 4, 2021

## 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](http://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. The training is also available online: if you don't find it on the "Virtus" website, call school.

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?

**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!

## Bingo

Our bingos are open again! To schedule to work bingo on Wednesdays at St Catherine's: please contact **Paul Burger** at **734.837.5807**.

## March is Reading Month!

Be on the lookout for "Reading Month" fun activities! Mrs. Davenport will call random "Stop, Drop and Read" times, where students will get to stop whatever they're doing and curl up with a book (be sure to carry one with you all month!). Classes will invite guest readers in. Other activities are being planned as well. We will cap the month on the 31st with "Read In Day"--a dress-in-our-comfiest clothes day, when we can bring in our favorite books and snacks, and read the day away. Reading is FUN!

## Mark Your Calendar....

- **M March 8: teachers' professional development--NO SCHOOL for students**
- Tu Mar 9: PTO meets
- **W Mar 10: no East China buses home; 4-7pm Open House**
- All Fridays in Lent except Good Friday: 4-7pm fish fry at St Catherine activity center in Algonac

## Basketball and Cheerleading

Our girls took on St Mary McCormick last Thursday. On Tuesday, the girls hosted New Life's JV team: even the other team's spectators commented on the girls' great sportsmanship dealing with the younger and less skilled team!

Tonight, the girls travel to St Augustine while the boys host IC. Next Monday (even though there is no school) we host Landmark's girls' and boys' team, starting at 6:30pm. On Tuesday, March 9, our girls travel to IC and on the 10th, the boys go to St Augustine. Next Thursday, March 11, our boys and girls will both have home games: the girls will play MCA at 6:30 and the boys, St. Augustine, after the girls' game. Each athlete is permitted to bring up to two spectators (admission will be \$5 for each).

Parents of athletes: players' families are all expected to work two admissions or concessions shifts over the course of the season. (That raises the money to pay our coaches, refs, league fees and other sports teams' expenses.) A million thanks to **Mrs. Janine Winne** who coordinates our concessions and workers! Please contact her to offer your help.

Go, Crusaders!!

## Open House

Next Wednesday, March 10, from 4-7pm, is our spring Open House. Due to COVID restrictions, tours will be by appointment only. If you have any friends who are interested in checking us out, please pass on our phone number (810.765.3591) and encourage them to call for a personal tour and visit with the teacher and principal!

## Remember EVERY DAY...

- .....your mask;
- .....your charged ChromeBook;
- .....your lunch;
- .....be in **complete school uniform** (shoes & socks, too!);
- .....have your **homework done** and ready to turn in;
- .....wear **warm outer clothes** for recess.

## Registration for 2021-2

Re-registration for the 2021-2 school year is open! A packet was sent home with your oldest "Crusader" last week, to be sure all current families have the opportunity to register before it is opened to the general public: which will happen **on March 7**.

To register, the registration paperwork must be completed and returned to the school office with the appropriate fees. Also, all prior years' tuition and other obligations must be satisfied in full before a family's registration is complete.

With the uncertainty still caused by the pandemic, we must plan to have to continue distancing, so our class sizes will continue to be limited. Therefore, it will be more important than ever that you reserve your children's spaces for the upcoming year in a timely manner. If your registration isn't in before March 7, you will run the risk of losing your spot(s).

## Tuition / Service Credits For 2020-21

Just a reminder that all tuition needs to be paid in full by the end of March, and service credits completed by the end of April. Families on Plan A (paying for service credits) owe their final payment on April 1. All obligations must have been met to complete re-registration for the next year.

## Service Credits: ...and Auction 2021

Due to the pandemic, this year's Auction is being planned as a virtual event. This means that fewer service credit work shifts will be available than in the past. **Please contact the school office if you are interested in helping with an online Auction.**

**Holy Cross on Facebook:**

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

### ...and Lunch Aides

Thank you to those who have been signing up and working as lunch aides!

Please sign up for all service credit shifts in advance to be sure you receive the credit: if you just show up and we have enough workers already, we can't offer the extra credits. The signup schedule is online at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tqQWXOy86EdecEz7Sq0dzzPy6NK6SUjTd9zNjXEHIfe/edit#gid=1>

--and runs through the end of the school year. You can take any open slot: just fill in your name. However, remember that everyone working at lunch must be an adult, must have taken the "Protecting God's Children" class (which you can do online!--see the first paragraph of this newsletter) and submit to a background check.

We are really grateful to all of our lunch supervisors!! **We really need a little more help, though**, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. As a lunch supervisor, you can earn your service credits while seeing your kids! If you are interested (or for more info), please contact the office.

### ...and Fish Frys

The parish's Lenten fish frys are in great need of workers. School workers (don't forget to sign in!!) earn 1 service credit for each 4 hour shift worked (a 2-hour shift earns 1/2 credit).

Work is scheduled on Wednesdays noon-2pm, Thursdays 9am-1pm; Fridays noon-9pm; and Saturdays (cleanup) 9am-noon.

There are three ways to sign up....

1. Go to <https://signup.com/go/MvhpUvS> and sign up directly for the shifts you want to work;
1. Contact the Knights of Columbus: [gk856@mikofc.org](mailto:gk856@mikofc.org); or
2. Call the parish office: 810.765.3568.

### VG's Receipts

Thanks to everyone who continues to save them for us! We're over half way to our next reward.

Please keep saving the **entire** paper VG's receipts, including the "Direct Your Dollars" paragraph. ("E-receipts" are not accepted.) We are already about a third of the way to our next reward, and will continue to collect receipts until the store tells us to stop! Receipts can be dropped off at the school (or SCRIP) office, or turned in at the rectory, or in the box at the river entrance at church.

### Understanding "Star" Assessments

This year, schools in the Archdiocese changed from the "Iowa" test to one called "Star." Our students took their "baseline" tests in October and the mid-year assessments last week. We have wonderful preliminary news: in many classes scored so far, **100% of Holy Cross students increased their scores significantly** as compared with students in the rest of the country taking these assessments! This is a firm and objective indication that our curriculum is sound and our instruction effective. (Watch for your student's results after the middle of March.)

There is a "Zoom" meeting scheduled on March 8 from 7-8pm for parents to learn about Star assessments, what they measure, key scores, and how to interpret their students' results. Parents will also have an opportunity to ask questions about Star. (You'll have to allow Zoom to download its instructions to your computer.) To sign up for the meeting follow this link (if it doesn't show up as a link, COPY ALL THE **BLUE characters below** and paste into the URL line):

[https://renaissance.zoom.us/j/95918140544?](https://renaissance.zoom.us/j/95918140544?pwd=SXhqVXJDVIRVUWVYZnExMXliWpKQT09)  
[pwd=SXhqVXJDVIRVUWVYZnExMXliWpKQT09](https://renaissance.zoom.us/j/95918140544?pwd=SXhqVXJDVIRVUWVYZnExMXliWpKQT09)  
[pwd=SXhqVXJDVIRVUWVYZnExMXliWpKQT09](https://renaissance.zoom.us/j/95918140544?pwd=SXhqVXJDVIRVUWVYZnExMXliWpKQT09)

### Archdiocesan Grant Applications for 2021-22

Grant applications are made through your FACTS account: look for the link on your FACTS info page.

For general information about the grant program, go to

<https://www.detroitcatholicsschools.org/tuition-assistance-scholarships>

**Your application will require your pastor's signature:** the pastor signature form is available at

<https://aod.app.box.com/s/2o7l8lwuacwv2f867110yq01216uq6s>

**Download the pastor's signature form, fill it out, and deliver to your pastor to sign.**

**Applying for the Archdiocesan grant is required to be eligible to apply for any other tuition assistance,** so you are strongly encouraged to apply!

### "Local" Tuition Assistance

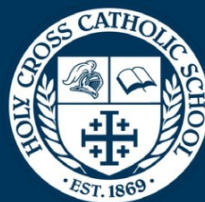
Application forms are now available for the Bartone and Holy Cross tuition programs. They are attached to this newsletter. You must have applied for the Archdiocesan Grant to be eligible for this assistance.



# OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021 4PM-7PM BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Scheduling tours March 1-12, 2021



[principal@holycrossonline.net](mailto:principal@holycrossonline.net)

[www.HolyCrossOnline.net](http://www.HolyCrossOnline.net)

(810) 765-3591





## ORDER YOUR 2020-21 YEARBOOK!

This year's yearbook will be 28 pages long (just like last year's) and filled with full-color photos and memories. The books will be here by mid-May and will be available **by pre-order only**—reserve your copy today! Cost is \$15 per book.

Family name \_\_\_\_\_

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

# of yearbooks ordered \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Checks can be made out to “**OLR.**” When they arrive, your yearbooks will be delivered to the student(s) you have named above.

---Orders need to be in the school office **by Friday, March 26**---

### YEARBOOK

Don't miss out on this year's Holy Cross yearbook! It will be 28 pages long, and filled with color photographs. The price will be the same as last year: \$15 per book; we expect they'll be delivered in mid-May. You'll find an order form in this newsletter--**orders will need to be in by Friday, March 26** to be included in this year's printing.

### 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 governmental orders, your parish, also, has such needs, and no other way to meet them than its parishioners and other donors.

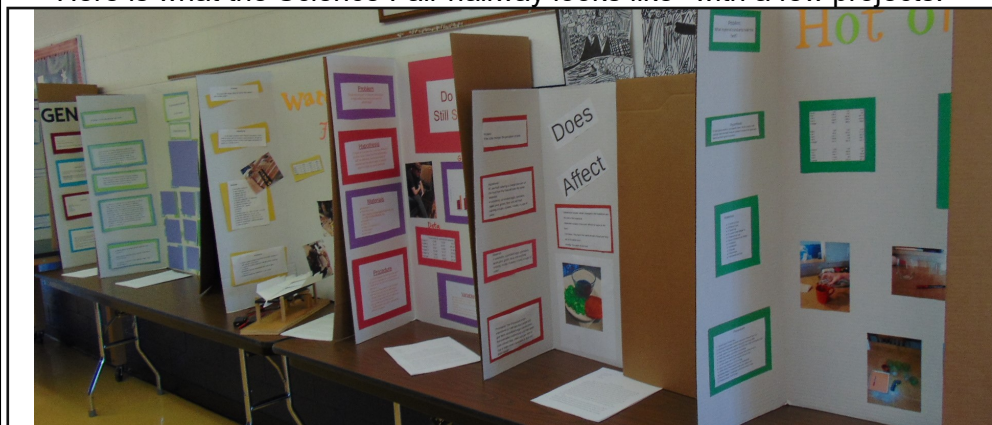
To give online to Our Lady on the River go to:

<https://ourladyontheriver.weshareonline.org/>

### SCIENCE FAIR

This week, our middle school's annual Science Fair began. Each student was assigned to submit a project based on an experiment s/he performed. Students began with a hypothesis (“I think this will happen”), recorded what they did during their experiment and the results, and accepted or rejected their hypothesis based on what actually happened. Research into the problem at hand and a supporting paper were also part of the project.

Here is what the Science Fair hallway looks like--with a few projects:



## Student Highlights

...for February:

**Nolan Dixon** and his two older brothers are new welcomed additions to our Holy Cross family. When Nolan grows up he would like to be an astronaut. He enjoys playing Minecraft and eating chocolate. In fact, if he had one wish, he would wish for a GIANT chocolate bar! His favorite place here on Earth is his grandparents' house in Lansing. Nolan's favorite color is black and his favorite animal is a rhinoceros. We are happy to have him in our Kindergarten family.

**Luke Borys** is a bright, hard working first grader. His favorite "food" is chocolate. Luke's favorite subject is reading, and he is getting better at it all the time! At home, he likes to play Fort Nite. When he grows up, he would like to work at the Ford dealer selling cars (he says building the cars would be too hard). **Lydia Zammit** is a spunky, smart first grader. Her favorite food is her dad's steak. Lydia's favorite subject in school is phonics, because she likes stretching out words. She said her "Mama Teacher" taught her all about phonics before she started kindergarten! At home, Lydia likes to play on "Dog Simulator" on her iPad. When she grows up, she would like to be a veterinarian.

**Olivia Brown** is an excellent helper in our second grade classroom. Olivia's favorite subjects are Math and Gym. She also participates in gymnastics. Olivia is playing a part in the school's upcoming play, The Jungle Book. I am so proud of Olivia and all of her hard work. I'm so happy Olivia is part of our Holy Cross family. **Shelby Zech** a joy to have in class. Did you know Shelby has three horses? The names of her horses are Luna, Lexi, and Minumus. She also likes penguins and bunnies. Her favorite color is black, and her favorite food is shrimp. I'm so proud of Shelby and all of her hard work! I'm so glad she is a part of our second grade family at Holy Cross School.

**Brennen Toupin** is a new fourth grader at Holy Cross this year. He has brought so much character to our classroom! Brennen is smart, funny, and very helpful at school. Brennen does very well in math and seems to enjoy school, along with all the new friendships he's made. Outside of school, Brennen enjoys spending time with his family and dogs. He enjoys going up north, playing outside, and his scooter. Brennen and I have so much in common since we share a birthday! I'm so glad he's part of our community. Keep up all the hard work Bren! **Rowen Snyder** came to Holy Cross from Port Huron schools. Within the classroom, Rowen is a wonderful example for his classmates. He comes in ready to work! Rowen enjoys math and reading. He LOVES to read, and has quite the selection of topics. Recently we studied our past presidents, and Rowen shared one of his favorite

presidential books with his classmates. He's always willing to help out when he can. Outside of the classroom, Rowen enjoys spending time with his mom, dad, and sister. Recently Rowen took a vacation with his family to the Rainforests and multiple national parks. He is so blessed to have these experiences! I am happy Rowen is part of our Holy Cross family!

**Emma Mensen** has been part of our Holy Cross family for many years. Emma loves reading, math, and art. Although Emma has been working at a distance, soon she will be fully back in person. We look forward to welcoming her back. When Emma isn't working on her school assignments, she is busy with her family at home. Together they enjoy biking, walks, crafting, gardening, and playing outside. She also has a cat named Sig. Emma loves animals and hopes to adopt a puppy soon. Continue to work hard Miss Emma!

Fifth grader **Ava Mensen** is a wonderful young lady with a bubbly personality and infectious smile. She is very creative and is always willing to share. Ava works very hard and has the determination to do well. **Isabella Smalley** is a caring young lady who works hard and stays focused on what needs to be done. Bella's willingness to share and help others show her compassionate and Christian attitude. She has many talents that extend beyond the classroom, including sports, cooking and dance.

**Miles Dixon** is one of our students who returned after a few years away. He has an outgoing personality, which helped him fit right in with the other sixth graders. Miles is hard-working and strives to do his best: but he knows how to have fun, as well.

Seventh grader **Lylah Schaening's** favorite subject is ELA because she loves her amazing teacher. She has three ducks that are named Fred, Gabby, and Larry. Lylah's favorite place to visit is California. She is a great student and I enjoy having her in my classroom!

**Olivia Ogden** is an intelligent eighth grader who is very serious about her school work. Olivia's favorite subjects are ELA and literature. It is completely normal to see Olivia with her Kindle in her hand reading throughout the day. Olivia's favorite book is *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. She is respectful to her teachers and peers and exhibits poise, maturity, and class. When Olivia is not in school, she is extremely busy with soccer. She is on a travel team, so she is constantly on the go. Olivia plans to attend Cardinal Mooney in the fall. Olivia and I have a very strong bond, she is like a daughter to me. I am very proud of Olivia!



# PTO Particulars: March 2021

Greetings Holy Cross families!! Man, has it been nice to see the sun! I could be speaking prematurely, but I feel Spring is in the air....

Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> marked our first ever Chocolate and Chat. It was a chance for the adults to enjoy a warm beverage while chatting with their fellow parents and caregivers. We were greeted with a beautiful, sunny day. Doesn't get much better than that! We are looking forward to more adult friendly events in the future.

Do you have a gift for organization? Can you "Marie Kondo" like nobody's business?? Then do we have a satisfying opportunity for you! Mrs. Davenport has requested volunteers to help her sort through some closets and storage rooms. Please contact her with any availability you may have.

Spring is coming. And so is...our Flower Sale! We are once again partnering with Vandebossche Farms to bring you fabulous flowers and gift certificates just in time for Mother's Day! The gift certificates make an especially nice gift-use them all summer and fall for plants, decorative items and exceptional produce! Keep an eye out for an informational flier and order form sent home with your eldest Crusader at the end of March/beginning of April. Flower and/or gift certificate distribution is set for Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> (the Friday before Mother's Day-hint hint).

Our Spring Book Fair is coming next month! This will be an expanded version of the Book Fair we held in the fall. What a great way to knock out some birthday, Easter or (very) early Christmas shopping! Stay tuned for more details...

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. We love our teachers and staff and want to show them how much positive impact they have on our children's lives!! We have started collecting "Teacher's Favorite" information and we look forward to spoiling them!

Speaking of teachers, for our evening meetings we like to hold a "Teacher Spotlight" that gives us a chance to extol the virtues of our wonderful teachers. Tune in to see your student's teacher!

Do you find yourself wondering about certain things such as...how do Dress Down Days work, what are appropriate sock colors, how do service credits work, etc.? We would like to present a lifeline for these questions and more! If your child is in Lower Elementary (TK/K-4<sup>th</sup> grade) please contact Becky Bryson (757-334-9662 or [beckybryson123@gmail.com](mailto:beckybryson123@gmail.com)) or Tiffany Mensen (810-335-2719 or [tiffany.mensen@gmail.com](mailto:tiffany.mensen@gmail.com)) and we will be happy to answer your questions or even just chat with you about your experience at Holy Cross. If your child is in Upper Elementary (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) the same is offered by Suzy DeVeney (810-434-3454 or [csdeveny@gmail.com](mailto:csdeveny@gmail.com)). We would love to hear from you!

We hope you will join our next meeting which is Tuesday, March 9th at 7:30am via Zoom. Please contact Becky at: [beckybryson123@gmail.com](mailto:beckybryson123@gmail.com) or 757-334-9662 with your email address so we can get the Zoom meeting codes to you! We ask this instead of a sending out a blanket invitation to the whole school to try to avoid any hacking incidents.

Warmest regards, HC PTO

