

## *Principal's Welcome Letter for 2017-18 School Year*

Welcome and welcome back, Holy Cross Families!

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, I hope that you have enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer! As I begin my first year at Holy Cross School, I am particularly grateful for the blessing of this community of staff, students and families in my life, and am eager to see you on the first day of school, **Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**. **September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> will be half days of school with noon dismissals.**

We have spent the summer working hard to strengthen and enrich our academic program, fortify our identity as an outstanding Catholic school, and put systems in place that will facilitate teacher/family communication in every classroom. We are proud and excited to launch the 2017-2018 school year with our incredibly talented and dedicated teaching staff and your ongoing support and partnership!

Let us begin this school year grounded in the Mission Statement of Holy Cross Catholic School:

*The community of Holy Cross is dedicated to educating the whole child in a God centered faith-filled environment. Living in the light of Christ's teachings, we celebrate and value the dignity of each child as we provide superior Catholic Education by nurturing the whole child; spiritually, intellectually, physically and emotionally.*

Below please find some important notes and reminders about the start of the school year. Thank you in advance for your attention to the many details.

- **Morning Procedures: Doors open at 7:40a.m., school begins at 8:00 a.m.**
  - **Morning Car Line:** Enter the parking lot, weave around all the way to the front door and then stop to let your child out. Do not stop at the gym or the first door. **FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN, PLEASE DO NOT PARK AND WALK THEM THROUGH THE LOT DURING THE CAR LINE.**
  - **Students in Grades 1 through 8** will report directly to their assigned homerooms where they will be greeted by their classroom teachers.
  - **Kindergarten students** will start with student/parent day 9-10:30 a.m. on September 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Pre-K:** Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> - Back to School Night (6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for Parents ONLY)
  - **Pre-K:** Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> - students will start with the student/parent day beginning 9:00 a.m. finishing at 10:00 a.m.

**Pre-K:** Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> – first day of Preschool begins at 8:15 a.m.

**5 Day Session** dismissal at 11:45 a.m.

**4 Day Session** dismissal at 10:30 a.m. (the first week of school only)

- **Late students:** Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. will receive a late pass from the Nurse's Office and be marked late by their homeroom teacher. They will need to have a parent bring them into the building to sign them in. Students that are late more than 5 times will require a parent conference.
- **Afternoon Procedures:** School is dismissed at 2:30 p.m. each day.
  - **Afternoon Car Line:** Enter the parking lot and pull up behind the last car. Children will be dismissed from the sidewalk to their car, one row at a time. Please do not get out of your car. The teachers will assist small children as needed. PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON WARD AVE. ALL CAR RIDERS MUST BE DISMISSED VIA THE CAR LINE.
  - **Students who are picked up** will meet their families in the school parking lot.
  - **Students who take the bus** will meet in the front of the school, and wait in their bus line until the designated staff person directs them to their bus.
- **Back-to-School Night:**
- Please join us as you meet the new principal, staff and PTA members. This event will be hosted by the PTA. We look forward to unveiling some exciting news about the future of the Holy Cross Catholic School!
- We have redesigned Back-to-School night so that it not only includes valuable information about the school and classroom, but also gives you an opportunity to meet other families, learn and share strategies that you can use to keep your children motivated at home.
- We are requiring that all families attend and have provided multiple opportunities for you to do so. We have assigned the evening that given grade levels should attend, but if you are unable to attend the designated evening, please plan to attend the other night.
- **Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>:** Preschool Back-to-School Night - 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>:** Back-to-School Night Workshop for K through Grade 5 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>:** Back-to-School Night Workshop for Grade 6 through Grade 8 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- **School Handbook:** With school safety, student learning, and teacher/family communication as our highest priorities, we have revised the School Handbook so that it lays out the policies and the procedures that we will follow during the 2017-2018 school year. You will be able to access the Handbook effective the first day of school. We will dedicate time during the Back-to-School Night Workshops to review the most important parts.
- **Tuition Reminders:** For returning families, all outstanding balances must be paid in full in order for your child to start school on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. No exceptions to this policy will be made.

- **School Supplies:** Students entering Kindergarten, First and Second Grade will receive all supplies required for the school year on the first day of school. An invoice will be sent home for the total amount owed. Grades 3 through Grade 8 should visit the school website for the supply list required for their grade.
- **Summer Packets:** Summer reading and math assignments must be completed by all students entering Grades 1-8. They are available on the website for you to print at home. Completed assignments are required for the first day of school.
- **Parent Teacher Association:** Holy Cross' Parent Teacher Association will meet regularly throughout this school year to discuss ways to support school events and initiatives, as well as to plan events and fundraisers that will engage our entire school community. We welcome all parents who are interested in participating!
  - The first meeting is on at Back-to-School Night on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
  - Meetings can be found on the PTA calendar.
- **After School Care Program:** Students in Pre-K through Grade 8 are invited to participate in After Care, which runs from 2:30-6:00 p.m. each day. More information can be found on the school website. The registration form must be submitted prior to your child's first attendance at after care.
- **Uniform:** Holy Cross scholars proudly wear school uniforms according to our dress code. Dress code will be strictly enforced this year and we appreciate your attention to detail before you send your child to school. Families can purchase school uniforms at Flynn and O'Hara at [www.flynnohara.com](http://www.flynnohara.com) or locally at the store location in Holmdel. The PTA also hosts several gently-used uniforms sales each year where you can find great bargains.
- **Lunch Program:** Lunch is provided by Simplified Culinary Services and is available to all students at a charge of \$4.50. A menu will be distributed two weeks before the start of a new month.
- **Wednesday Updates:** Our primary means of communicating with you will be through the Wednesday Folder that is emailed home every Wednesday.

Thank you again for your attention to the many details of the new school year. As the school year draws closer, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions that you have.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Mark C. DeMareo  
Principal