



Holy Cross School

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Reverend Peter Pilon
Pastor
Mrs. Anita M. Kobilsek
Principal

August 20, 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Holy Cross School for the 2019-2020 school year. We welcome our new families and new teacher. Our new 7th Grade teacher is Mrs. Kylie Horning.

Our enrollment is 190 in PreK-Grade 8. That is awesome! Come to a school Mass with K-8, and you will see that there are only 9 to 10 empty pews in the back of the church.

Our theme this year is Good Enough. We are good enough to keep working to be our best to be a Saint. Our theme song is *Good Enough* from We the Least. We are grateful to Michaela DeLong, Nathanael DeLong, Dell May and Noah DeLong, from We the Least, for allowing us to use their song all year. We ask the Lord to help us have a great year of teaching and learning.

Students will be practicing the fire drill procedures with their teachers. We will be having a tornado drill soon and we will have a drill for our emergency preparedness plan soon. Please see that you speak to your child/ren about your own family's plans for these perils.

We will be checking the students for head lice soon. This is something that is required when school begins and after longer breaks.

Peace,
Mrs. Kobilsek

We Are Trying Paperless Tuesday Envelopes and Paperless Report Cards

We are trying paperless Tuesday Envelopes and paperless Report Cards this year. I am attaching what would be in the Tuesday Envelope envelope to your email in OptionC. Some of the items will be in the File Library in OptionC. If you ever have any questions, please contact us in the school office and we will help you out.

You will need to print out the Grandparent Lunch form, complete it and send it back to school by August 29, 2019.

You will need to print out the Scrip order form, complete it and send it back to school so Lorraine can place your order.

For the quarterly report cards, parents of Kindergarten through Grade 8 will be able to view their child/ren's report cards in OptionC. Parents, you will have to view them through the parent side not the student side. Again, let us know if you have questions. The Quarter ends on Friday, October 18, 2019.

Please let us know of your suggestions.

Eucharistic Procession and Blessing of the School

On Wednesday, August 21st Fr. Fulgens will lead the procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the school at 1:00pm. Fr. Fulgens will bless the school and the students and staff. The students will be saying the rosary as the procession continues throughout the building. Following the procession, the Eighth graders will go to the church for adoration and reconciliation. What a wonderful way to begin the school year. Thank you, Fr. Fulgens and Fr. Pilon.

Library Help

If you are interested in helping in the HCS library, please call the school office at 539-7003. We are grateful for our awesome library volunteers. We thank them for their help! If you would like to help and need a little training, we can help you out with that. We need help!

Holy Cross School Spirit Day

Holy Cross School Spirit Day will be the first Friday of each month unless we let you know differently. We have some choices for spirit wear. They can be purchased through Sports and Stuff. Students may wear these spirit wear shirts or the Holy Cross School Warrior t-shirts and SCHOOL PANTS or SCHOOL SHORTS. We are happy to show our spirit! We will have Holy Cross School Spirit Day on the first Friday of each month unless you are informed otherwise.

The hooded sweatshirts are not part of the regular school uniform that can be worn during class, throughout the school day.

You can purchase from Sports-N-Stuff, the light weight and heavy weight heather grey HCS logo covering over our uniform shirt. Please contact Mrs. Thomas for more information. The next Holy Cross School Spirit Day will be Friday, September 7.

Fall School Pictures

School pictures will be taken on Monday, August 26, 2019. This will be for the 4-year-old preschoolers, Kindergarten through Eighth Grade students, and faculty and staff. The order form is found online at www.mylifetouch.com. The Holy Cross School code is EVTQTC3GV. 3-year old preschool students are welcome to come in that day or wait until October 10th. 3 year olds can come in between 9:00-11:00am and 12:30-1:30pm on August 26th.

We ran out of paper order forms, so the afternoon 4-year-old class will order online. I thank them for helping me with this trial study I am doing with them. The other students should have received a paper copy of the order form August 19th or 20th.

Students may wear their school uniform. Students may wear nice clothes. **No jeggings. No blue jeans or blue jean shorts may be worn.** Skirts must be knee length or longer. Shirts must have sleeves and stomachs must be covered. Appropriate words and pictures must be worn. No "Crocks". No sandals. No flip-flops. No hair dye or glitter. No makeup. No shorter skirts with leggings. No leggings as pants. Non-uniform shorts must be knee length. If you have any questions in regard to certain items, please bring them in to Mrs. Kobilsek BY August 23rd.

Picture retake day will be Thursday, October 10, 2019. This will be for the 3-year-old preschool students if they did not come in on August 26th, students who were absent, and for students who need a retake.

Safe Environment Modules, Driver Safety Modules, DCFS and Background Check

All volunteers and staff are required to complete three Safe Environment modules online. It is entitled CMG Connect Diocese of Peoria. <https://peoria.cmgconnect.org/>

The 3 online Driver Safety Modules can also be found by logging into the following website. <https://peoria.cmgconnect.org/> Please create only one user per person. Do not create a new user if you have already logged in.

It will also direct you to complete the DCFS form. Fill it out. Print it out and sign it. Return it to Mrs. Thomas so we can send it to Peoria.

The last part is the background check through selection.com. You can pay online for \$9.00.

If you need a computer and the internet, please let us know so we can help you arrange your work at school. Let us know if you need help.

Sports Parent Meeting

Parents of Holy Cross students in our Holy Cross sports, will meet on Tuesday, September 10 at 5:30pm in the school basement for the Sports Parent Meeting. It should not last longer than 25 minutes. Please mark your calendar. The Family Math Night will follow immediately in the school gym.

Family Math Night

Holy Cross School is using a new Math Curriculum this year. It is called Eureka Math by Great Minds. We will have a Family Math Night on Tuesday, September 10 from 6:00-7:00pm in the school gym. Each of the homeroom teachers will be there and the students will be showing some of the ways we will be working with numbers and ratios. Parents bring your kids. Kids bring your parents. There will be a table set up for each grade. See you on September 10th.

Grandparent Lunch

Tuesday, September 3rd is the day that the student's grandparent/s or adult/senior friend can come and eat lunch at Holy Cross School. We invite you to visit your grandchildren in their classrooms the half-hour before the first lunch period or the half-hour following the last lunch period. If grandchildren are in both groups, please indicate which group in which they will eat. These are the lunch times:

11:15-12:00 Last name's A-L

12:00-12:45 Last name's M-Z

Reservations are due Thursday, August 29, 2019. The reservation form is attached to this email and it is also on www.OptionC.com in the File Library. If you have questions, please call Mrs. Thomas at 539-7003. Please, please, please get your reservations in on time.

Pay the day you come. Adult lunches are \$3.50 and student lunches are \$2.50.

No School Monday, September 2

Please enjoy your Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 2nd.

The Exultation of the Holy Cross

Our Parish Feast Day is Saturday, September 14, the Exultation of the Holy Cross. Although we will not be in school that day, we remember the following regarding the holy cross.

Let us, therefore, not be ashamed of the Cross of Christ; but though another hide it, do thou openly seal it upon thy forehead, that the devils may behold the royal sign and flee trembling far away. Make then this sign at eating and drinking, at sitting, at lying down, at rising up, at speaking, at walking: in a word, at every act. St. Cyril of Jerusalem, 386 A.D.

11:30am Dismissal September 18, 2019

There will be an 11:30am dismissal on Wednesday, September 18, 2019. District 280 and District 289 will be dismissing at the same time so there will be bus service at 11:30am. **THERE IS AFTERNOON PRESCHOOL for the afternoon 4-year-olds.**

Pulled Pork Dinner and Open House

We will be having our Pulled Pork dinner and Open House on Thursday, September 26, 2019. The Dinner will be from 4:30-7:00pm. The Open House in the classrooms will be from 6:00-7:15pm. We hope you will be able to help at the dinner, eat with us and join us in the classrooms.

No School Friday, September 27, 2019

There is no school Friday, September 27. The Holy Cross School teachers have an in-service with the Diocese of Peoria. There is no Preschool that day, either.

Bus Zone

This is a reminder for you not to be parked in the bus zone in the front of the school on the north side of Jefferson Street at the end of the day. There needs to be room for two buses. Thank you for your attentiveness to this matter.

Lunchroom Supervision

If you know in advance that you cannot be at your scheduled lunch hour, please call Mrs. Thomas. If you have an emergency on the day you are assigned, please call Mrs. Thomas at 539-7003. **You need to be at the school at 11:25.** Lunch is 11:30-12:15. Thank you for your help.

Box Tops for Education

Our school will continue to collect Box Tops for Education this school year. By clipping Box Tops and turning them in, you are helping Holy Cross School earn cash. If you have been saving them all summer, now is the time to turn them in. **Please help us.**

A good rule to have is to check the boxes and bags before they go in the garbage. If you see a Box Top, clip it and send it to Holy Cross School. The expiration dates matter, so don't let them sit too long.

Collect Your Empty Cartridges

One of our fundraisers is to collect your empty ink cartridges. We send them in and receive cash in return. Please help us.

Shoparoo

Help us with an EASY way to raise funds for Holy Cross School. It is called Shoparoo. Download the app called Shoparoo. Select Holy Cross Elementary School Mendota. Take pictures or your receipts through the app. Our school receives a check when we have a minimum of 25,000 points.

School Masses

Our school Masses will be on Wednesdays at 8:00am. Please feel free to join us.

Scrip

Enclosed is the Scrip order form. The businesses listed are only a few of the choices. If there is something you would like that is not listed, please write it on the order form and write the amount that you want. You can always direct your questions to Lorraine Loomis in the business office at 538-6151.

This is an easy fundraiser for the school and it helps reduce your tuition for next year, as well.

Acts of Love Campaign for Catholic Charities and Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry

We are collecting boxes of cereal, macaroni and cheese, rice, and PopTarts for the Acts of Love Campaign for Catholic Charities and Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry. Each grade is asked to collect 5 items each month. Students can bring the items into their classrooms and give them to their teacher. The first collection is due Monday, September 16. If the goal is met, the grade jean day will be Friday, September 20th. Thank you for helping our kids in our Diocese and community.

No more Iowa Test of Basic Skills for Grade 3-8 Map (Measure of Academic Progress)

With the help of the Diocesan Curriculum Council, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria has made a decision to stop giving the Iowa Test of Basic Skills standardized tests in the fall. All of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Peoria will be giving the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) assessment three times a year. It will measure student growth. Of course with this being the first year, we are bound to go through some bumps along the way. We just ask that the students do their best. Kindergarten

through Grade 8 will be taking these assessments three times a year. The students will be taking these beginning next week, in January and in April. Please be patient with the teachers as we are learning so many new things this year.

No School Friday, September 27, 2019

There is no school for Prek to Grade 8 students at Holy Cross School on Friday, September 27, 2019. The teachers have a Diocesan Inservice in Ottawa. Ready, Set, Grow Extended Care will be available.

No School Friday, October 11 and 14, 2019

There is no school on Friday, October 11. The teachers have an institute all day. There is no school on October 14 for Columbus Day.

Parent Teacher Conferences for Kindergarten to Grade 8

There will be Parent Teacher Conferences for Parents of Kindergarten to Grade 8 students in October. **Preschool will be in session in the morning and the afternoon on both of the days.** Tuesday, October 22 there will be an 11:30am dismissal. Conferences will be scheduled for Tuesday, October 22 from 1:00-4:00pm. Preschool will be in session that afternoon. Thursday, October 24 there will be an 11:30am dismissal. Preschool will be in session that afternoon. Conferences will be scheduled for Thursday, October 24 from 3:00-7:00pm. There is no school on Friday, October 25 for any of the students. Ready, Set, Grow Extended Care will be available from 7:00am to 5:30pm that week, as usual.

Thursday, October 31, 2019

On Thursday, October 31, 2019, Halloween, Holy Cross School will be in session until 2:00pm. There are no 2:00pm or 2:55pm buses since the public schools will be dismissing at 11:30am. Holy Cross School will dismiss at 2:00pm including Preschool. There will be Trunk or Treating in the parking lot for those that would like to participate at 2:00pm.

TENTATIVE Christmas Program Date

Our TENTATIVE Christmas program date is Tuesday, December 10. It is not for certain but is tentative.