



## Holy Cross School

1008 Jefferson Street  
Mendota, IL 61342  
815-539-7003  
fax: 539-9082

Reverend Peter Pilon  
Pastor  
Mrs. Anita M. Kobilsek  
Principal

January 26, 2021

Dear Parents,

We thank the Mendota Police Department for helping us with our arrival process last week. We appreciate all that the first responders do for us. We appreciate you!

Thank you to our many community donors for our Catholic Schools Week ad in the Mendota Reporter. We appreciate your support!

We have several items ready for 2021-2022.

In the OptionC File Library you will find:

- Preschool registration form
- Kindergarten to Grade 8 registration form
- Ready, Set, Grow Extended Care Fees Sheet
- Learning Lambs Preschool Tuition Amounts
- Kindergarten to Grade 8 Tuition Amounts
- Spalding Scholarship Application Protocol
  - must complete this before the HCS Monsignor Wissing Scholarship Application
- FACT Financial Application - must be complete for the Spalding Scholarship - If you already have an account, you can just update how you want to pay
- Empower Illinois Application - <https://empowerillinois.org/apply/how-do-i-apply/>
- HCS Monsignor Wissing Scholarship Application - complete the Spalding Scholarship first
- Catholic Schools Week information

Peace,  
Mrs. Kobilsek

### **Donations for Essential Workers**

We are working on a school wide project for essential workers. We are gathering packaged snacks, packaged food treats, etc. for a gift from our students and staff. We will also accept monetary donations so we can fill in with what we need. Please send your donations to the school office. Make sure envelopes are marked with "Essential Worker."

We are collecting these items this week and through February 3rd. We are in our initial stage of the planning process. So we have some details to work out. Thank you for your help!

### **REPEAT - 8th Grade Fundraiser - January 29 - Athletic Day**

Hello Holy Cross School families! The 8th grade class officers have planned an Athletic Non-Uniform Day taking place on Friday, January 29, 2021. Dress up as an athlete/player from your favorite sport! You are able to wear sweatpants or jeans on the day. Please refrain from

wearing: leggings as pants, bottoms with rips or tears, and skirts, dresses, or shorts above the knee. Thank you!

Pay \$1.00 or more to participate.

### **Catholic Schools Week**

Yes, you can be out of uniform all week February 1-5, 2021

Yes, you can wear loose fitting sweat pants

No leggings as pants

No rips or tears

**Monday, February 1: Crazy Sock Day**

**Tuesday, February 2: Crazy Hat Day**

**Wednesday, February 3: Western Wednesday**

**Thursday, February 4: Red Day for the Holy Spirit**

Wear a red shirt to remember the Holy Spirit's call for our vocation

**Friday, February 5: Class Color Day**

8 – Black

7- White

6 – Blue

5 – Orange

4 – Green

3 – Gray

2 – Pink

1 – Yellow

Kindergarten – Purple

Preschool – Rainbow

Teachers will match their class's colors

Yes, you can be out of uniform all week

Yes, you can wear loose fitting sweat pants

No leggings as pants

No rips or tears

8<sup>th</sup> Grade raffle all week. 1 ticket for \$0.25 or 5 for \$1.00

Tickets will be sold in the homerooms

Virtual Scholastic Book Fair: Visit our Book Fair Homepage and click "Shop Now" to get started: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/holycrossschool>

We are grateful for our many benefactors and prayer warrior supporters. Thank you!

Registration begins for Preschool to Grade 8 for 2021-2022  
Inquire by calling the school office at 815-539-7003

### **8th Grade Raffle**

A raffle will be held during Catholic Schools Week from February 1st to the 5th. Tickets may be purchased from their homeroom teacher first thing in the morning. Students will be able to place their tickets on the numbered containers during the day. You can buy one ticket for \$0.25 or 5 tickets for \$1.

Students can bring money in a marked envelope for the raffle. Again, we have our covid protocol to adhere to so some procedures will be different than past years.

The 8th Graders have the raffle items in the trophy case for all to view. The items are numbered. There are cans that have a number that correlates to the raffle items. Students can place their ticket in the can of the raffle items of their choice. If you have questions, please ask the homeroom teacher.

The 8th grade class would greatly appreciate any donations to include in the raffle such as money donations or gift items. Thank you! This can be sent to the office which will be delivered to the 8th Grade class.

### **Can you please help us with Valentine supplies?**

We appreciate your help with this project. Thank you for your generosity.

The Cupids (students) at HCS will be working on a darling project to create Valentine's Day cards. In order for these adorable creations to occur, we are asking for your assistance in gathering supplies.

The students at Holy Cross School will be creating Valentines this week and the week of Feb. 1st. They will be delivered to nursing homes and assisted living facilities near and far, the week of February 8th.

We want our sweeties in our long term care facilities to know how loved they truly are. Our heartfelt creativity is needed!

We are asking for your help with supplies so the students can make their many creations. We would appreciate it if the supplies were here by Friday, January 29. Thank you for your generosity.

Here are some examples of the supplies that we need:

- Colorful cardstock
- Shades of pink and purple paper
- Glitter glue
- Heart/ Valentine stickers
- Fun accessories
- Heart stamps and ink pads
- Paper doilies
- Valentine Coloring Books so we can tear out the pages
- Etc.

Get creative with your donations. We appreciate your help!  
We are looking forward to putting a smile on some faces.

Please send your donations to school by Friday, January 29th.  
Again, thank you for your help!!!!

### **REPEAT - MAP Testing for Kindergarten to Grade 8**

Kindergarten through Grade 8 are taking their winter MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) probes. Please see that your child gets a good breakfast and is well rested. These will be two great ingredients for success for your child.

### **REPEAT - Virtual Scholastic Book Fair**

This year our Scholastic Book Fair will be all virtual. See the letter from organizer, Mrs. Jamie Beetz.

Dear HCS families,

The HCS Book Fair is now **OPEN!** You can shop our Scholastic Book Fair online from 1/22/2021-2/4/2021! All purchases benefit our school and connect kids with new books, favorite characters, complete series, and more.

You'll love the NEW option to shop for Book Fair exclusives directly from the interactive booklist and enjoy these special online shopping features:

- \* Over 6,000 items, including new releases, best sellers, and value packs
- \* All orders ship direct to home
- \* FREE shipping on book-only orders over \$25\*
- \* All purchases support our school and earn 25% in rewards

Visit our Book Fair Homepage and click "Shop Now" to get started:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/holycrossschool>

\*Free standard shipping is available on book-only orders of \$25 or more, after all discounts are applied. Free standard shipping (books) must be selected during checkout. Orders containing products other than books are not eligible for this shipping promotion.

Yes, the HCS 2021 Book Fair is Online this year, but we still want to donate books to the Teachers classrooms and library. In the past years we have set up baskets for each teacher to fill with books that they could use in their classrooms, but since the 2021 Book Fair is online, we are trying something new. The teachers eWallet accounts are included below. Families can donate to their accounts. Scholastic has a recommended amount of \$30 dollars, but you can change that to any amount you would like. The teachers will then be able to shop with those funds to purchase books for the classroom. The teachers are always so thankful for all the books they receive to share with the HCS students. Thank you in advance for all the generous donations!

Jamie Beetz, Book Fair Coordinator

Here are the links to the teachers' e-wallets. You can add a donation for their class wish lists through the links below. The company's default donation amount is \$30.00 but you can donate any amount that you wish. The teachers did not state the \$30.00. You can make a class donation as you wish. Thank you for supporting Holy Cross School.

Miss DeLong - Preschool

[https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en\\_US&walletId=2160355](https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en_US&walletId=2160355)

Mrs. Williams - Kindergarten

[https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en\\_US&walletId=2159522](https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en_US&walletId=2159522)

Mrs. Connelly - Grade 1

[https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en\\_US&walletId=2160200](https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en_US&walletId=2160200)

Mrs Weber - Grade 2

[https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en\\_US&walletId=2160208](https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en_US&walletId=2160208)

Mrs. Knapp - Grade 3

[https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en\\_US&walletId=2160204](https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en_US&walletId=2160204)

Mrs. Chapman/Mrs. Holland - Grade 4

[https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en\\_US&walletId=2160356](https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en_US&walletId=2160356)

Mrs. Doyle - Grade 5

[https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en\\_US&walletId=2160201](https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en_US&walletId=2160201)

Mr. Patrick - Grade 6

[https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en\\_US&walletId=2159444](https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en_US&walletId=2159444)

Mrs. Hornung - Grade 7

[https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en\\_US&walletId=2160048](https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en_US&walletId=2160048)

Mrs. Motter - Grade 8

[https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en\\_US&walletId=2159404](https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en_US&walletId=2159404)

Mrs. Happ - Library (it may say 8th grade but will be K-8)

[https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en\\_US&walletId=2160206](https://shop.scholastic.com/ewallet/fund?lang=en_US&walletId=2160206)

**REPEAT - Penitential Meal**

For the past thirteen years, as part of our Lenten practice, we have had a Penitential Meal. The Penitential Meal is planned for Wednesday, February 17, 2021. We ask that all students and staff participate in this meal. Students who normally eat a cold lunch are asked to join us for \$2.50 for hot lunch that day. We realize there are some food allergies so you can contact Mrs. Christman if you need to check the ingredients.

Penitential Meal: Remembering the suffering and death of our Lord and the suffering of those, in other parts of the world, who are so less fortunate than us, we will all participate in a Penitential Meal. We will partake of a meal similar to what a child in need would eat. The meal will consist of a bowl of broth with little rice or barley, a piece of bread with no butter, and usually the children would drink water (if they had it). The Holy Cross School children will be offered one white milk with no options for a second milk. Seconds will not be offered. All students and staff are asked to participate. The money that is saved from the lunch will be donated to the Holy Childhood Association.

How wonderful it is to hear the young students ask when we will do this because they look forward to it. If you have questions or comments, please contact Mrs. Kobilsek at 539-7003.

### **REPEAT - Spring Pictures – Friday, February 26th**

We will have Spring Picture day on Friday, February 26th in the morning. You do not send money at this time. After the pictures come in, you can select the photos that you would like to purchase.

Since this picture day is on a Friday, the 3-year-olds may come in any time between 8:30am and 11:30am or 12:30-1:00pm to get their picture taken if they would like. Pictures will be in the gym balcony. Group sibling pictures are not an option any more.

Uniforms do not have to be worn. Shirts must have sleeves and cover the stomach. Words or pictures must be appropriate. Skirts must be knee length. No legging-kind of pants may be worn without a knee length skirt or knee length sweater. No shorts. No capris. No exercise clothes or sweat pants. Khakis or corduroy pants may be worn. A belt must be worn if the pants have a belt loop. Jeans may be worn. No rips or tears.

Once the pictures come back, parents are able to purchase only the pictures that they want from the actual package. All pictures not purchased must be returned. If you have any questions, please call the school office.

### **REPEAT - Optional Parent Teacher Conferences for K-8**

**Thursday, March 4 in the Afternoon**

**K-8 11:30 Dismissal on Thursday, March 4, 2021**

Kindergarten through Grade 8 have optional parent/teacher conferences in the afternoon of Thursday, March 4. You can sign up through [www.OptionC.com](http://www.OptionC.com). You will have to log in as the parent and not the student. They will be held from 12:30-3:30pm with 10 minute conference times.

The conferences will be in zoom or google meet. The teachers will communicate with you on which platform they will use if you sign up.

Let us know if you have questions. 815-539-7003. It is all set up and ready for you to register.

There will be an 11:30am dismissal for Kindergarten to Grade 8. Preschool is in session in the AM and PM.

**REPEAT - Preschool is in session for a Full Day on Thursday, March 4, 2021**

On Thursday, March 4th, the K-8 families have optional parent/teacher conferences in the afternoon. Preschool will be in session in the morning **and** the afternoon.

**REPEAT - No School Friday, March 5, 2021**

There is no school for preschool to grade 8 on Friday, March 5, 2021.

**REPEAT - Picture Retake Day**

We are working out a solution to picture retake day. That was supposed to happen on December 3rd. We will get back to you on that. The Spring picture date has been tentatively set for Friday, February 26, 2021.

**REPEAT - Holy Cross School Spirit Day**

Holy Cross School Spirit Day will be every Friday. Let's keep up our much needed school spirit. This means spirit wear shirts with school pants or school skirt or jumper.

**REPEAT - Box Tops for Education has a New System**

Our school will continue to collect Box Tops for Education this school year. You download the Box Tops for Education app on your phone. You scan your receipt. By scanning and choosing Holy Cross School, you are helping Holy Cross School earn cash. If you have any paper Box Tops, please send them into school.

A good rule to have is to check the boxes and bags before they go in the garbage. With the new system, the box top icon is not a coupon but an image to remind you to scan your receipt. If you see a Box Top icon, scan your receipt and choose Holy Cross School, Mendota.

**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.

**Scrip**

The Scrip order form is in the File Library in OptionC. 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 Walter 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.

**Coming Up:**

Theme for the 2020-2021 School Year - Fruit of the Spirit. Here is the link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCU0IP5ioa8&t=16s>

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

Zoom link for Masses - this link never changes

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9138050856?pwd=RzZtRi8xNjJtNHg4dnhNb2MzNzBEUT09>

Meeting ID: 913 805 0856

Password: 811195

Friday, January 22 - Thursday, February 4, 2021 - Virtual Book Fair

Visit our Book Fair Homepage and click "Shop Now" to get started:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/holycrossschool>

Friday, January 29 - 8th Grade Fundraiser - "Athletic Day" non-uniform day - \$1.00 or more

January 31 - February 6 is Catholic Schools' Week

Friday, February 12 - No School for Lincoln's Birthday

Wednesday, February 17 - Penitential Meal for lunch

Friday, February 19 - 8th Grade Fundraiser - "Fancy Pants" non-uniform day - \$1.00 or more

Friday, February 26 - Spring picture day - Lifetouch does not take family pictures anymore - sorry

Thursday, March 4 - 11:30am dismissal for Kindergarten to Grade 8 for optional parent/teacher conferences from 12:30-3:30pm.

Thursday, March 4 - Preschool in session in the morning and afternoon

Friday, March 5 - No school for Preschool to Grade 8 - Extended Care is available

Friday, March 26 - 8th Grade Fundraiser - "tie-dye/neon day" - \$1.00 or more

April 2-11 - Easter Break - Happy Easter! - No school - Extended Care is available

Friday, April 30 - 8th Grade Fundraiser -

"Decade Day" K-2=70's; 3-6=60's; 7-8=80's - \$1.00 or more

Monday, May 17 - Last day for 4-year-old preschool class

Tuesday, May 18 - Last day for 3-year-old preschool class

Wednesday, May 19, Thursday, May 20, Friday, May 21 - Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences

Monday, May 24 - Tentative Picnic in Purple Park

Tuesday, May 25 - Tentative last day - 11:30am dismissal