

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

September is such an exciting time for us, welcome to a new school year at Holy Cross School, and a new beginning. The staff is so excited to meet our new students and welcome all parents and students back.

I wish to welcome our new staff, parents, and students to our community. I wish to welcome back parents and students who have been a part of the

journey in education and Faith at Holy Cross School.

I am excited and honoured to embark on this journey with our vibrant school community. As your principal, I am committed to ensuring that every student thrives and actively participates in their learning and faith journeys.

At Holy Cross School, our mission is to provide a safe and caring, Christfilled environment where quality education for all students challenges them to achieve their dreams. Our dedicated staff at Holy Cross School remains unwavering in their devotion to fostering success for each student, focusing on a well-rounded education that includes faith, academic excellence, and a nurturing and enriching environment where every child can thrive and strive to meet their personal goals.

We, the staff of Holy Cross School also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our parents for their continued support and involvement. Your engagement is vital to our shared success, and we encourage you to actively participate in your child's education. We are always eager to welcome parent volunteers, whether in the classroom, on our Parent Advisory Council, School board, or

at various school events throughout the year.

We are looking forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and joy. Together, as a community, we will support our students in their academic and spiritual journeys. Thank you for entrusting us with the education and formation of your children. Thank you for being an integral part of our school community. Let's make this year extraordinary together! It is an honour and privilege to be able to serve the community of Holy Cross School, and I look forward to another great year!

God Bless,

Mrs. Catherine Walker



Prayer for the Beginning of the New School Year Dear Lord, as we begin this new school year, we gather once again as your community of believers.

We thank you for the energy and the spirit that you renewed in us through the summer months.

We thank you for the time to enjoy our family and friends and to reflect on what is important in our lives.

Let this year be marked by enthusiasm and love so that, with the inspiration of your Spirit, we may continue to grow in our faith.

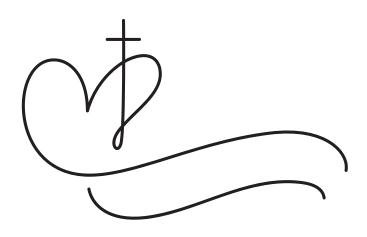
We ask for Your guidance and blessings upon our school community. Grant our students the wisdom to learn and grow, the courage to face challenges, and the strength to embrace their unique gifts.

Bless our teachers and staff with patience and inspiration as they nurture and guide each student.

Help them to create an environment of kindness and respect, where every individual feels valued and supported.

We also ask for Your continued protection and support for our families. May they find joy and fulfillment in their involvement with our school and may their partnership with us be a source of encouragement and strength.

We ask this in your Holy name. Amen.









September 2025 Dates! Look for the weekly update

September 3rd	First Day Back!
September 5th	All Kinders attend
September 11th	Feast of the Holy Cross Mass
September 11th	Welcome Back BBQ @ 5:30
September 16th	Early Dismissal @ 2PM
September 17th	Pizza lunch order forms due back
September 19th	6 + 8 lmmunizations + Terry Fox Walk
September 25th	Grade 7 Retreat
September 26th	pizza lunch
September 29th	Orange Shirt Day Colour Day
September 30th	No School (truth and reconcilliation day)

Sign up for our weekly updates by clicking here

HCS STAFF 2025/2026

2024/2025 Holy Cross staff List

Kindergarten

Mrs. Pankiw and Ms. Sankoh

Grade 1

Mrs. Sonia Batish + Mrs. Jessica San Juan

Grade 2

Mrs. Polishchuk

Grade 3

Mr. Krawchuk

Grade 3/4

Mr. Ewchuk

Grade 4

Mrs. Gulowaty

Grade 5

Mrs. Vera Cruz and Mrs. Perez

Grade 6

Mrs. Viselli-Anderson and Ms. Ebbelling

Grade 7

Mr. Ciric and Mr. Jones

Grade 8

Dr. Bajaj and Mrs. Munro

Specialists:

Mrs. Henshaw (Music)

Mrs. Lampman (Religion/music Braden Klassen (French/music/art)

Phys Ed Team

Mrs. Polishchuk - (Kindergarten)

Mr. Bilawka- (1-6)

Mr. Jones (7/8)

Resource

Ms. Stubbs

Custodian

Mrs. Iemelianeko

Building Maintence

Mr. Serediuk

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Katchanovski

School Secretary

Ms. Anderson

Admin Team

Mr. Bourquin + Mrs. Walker Educational assistants will be announced in September

HCS EA'S 2025/2026

Please join me in welcoming all of our Educational Assistants for the 2025/2026 school year!

We are so happy to welcome new faces and returning faces, and are looking forward to an exciting year.

Mrs. Trish Neusitzer
Ms. Mary Rose Tabing
Ms. Tracy Fraser
Miss. Kristi Lange
Ms. Karina Parashchak
Mrs. Lisa Courcelles
Ms. Salem Kidane
Mrs. Pam Bembenek
Mrs. Jirapan Dimalanta
Mrs. Purnima Singha





THE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO....

THE WELCOME BACK BBQ:

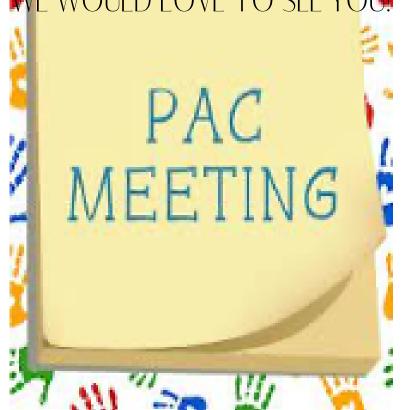
Every September, our PAC puts on a welcome-back BBQ for our parent community! It is a great way to connect with other families and staff, and is a great kick-off to the school year. We are also looking for new members to join our PAC so we can continue to run fun and egaging initatives for our school to help raise fund for various events. Please consider joining our team!



THE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO....

ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PACS AGM ON SEPTEMBER 16TH AT 7PM
PACS ARE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE, INFORM AND EMPOWER FAMILIES AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS. RESEARCH SHOWS THAT WHEN FAMILIES ARE POSITIVELY INVOLVED IN THEIR CHILDREN'S SCHOOL EXPERIENCE, THERE IS A POSITIVE EFFECT ON OVERALL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT. PACS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS TO GET INVOLVED AND KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN THEIR CHILD'S SCHOOL AS WELL AS PROVIDE A VOICE FOR PARENTS TO HAVE A SAY IN THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION. IT'S ALSO A PLACE TO SHARE IDEAS AND CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

FOR MORE DETAILS E-MAIL
PACHOLYCROSSSCHOOL@GMAIL.COM
WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!





OFFICE PHONE POLICY

This year at Holy Cross, students will not be taken out of class to recieve phone calls. The office will take a message and deliver it to the classroom teacher either by phone call or email.

Students will also not be allowed to make phone calls during the day, if they need to communicate a message home our office staff will reach out to the parents in order to ensure our office staff is aware of the phone calls going out.

Thank you for your understanding.

HCS Admin Team





SCHOOL SICKNESS POLICY

Families are asked to continue to monitor their child's health every day prior to sending them to school and follow best practices. If you think your child has an illness that can be spread to others please keep them at home. If while at school your child exhibits cold or flu like symptoms such as, but not limited too; fever, runny nose, headache, or nausea, families will be contacted to pick their child up from school and take them home.

Please, call the school office by 9:00 AM. If your child is going to be late or absent, please remind your child to sign in at the office if they are late! Email your child's teacher and the office if you will pick them up early from school. Students will not be paged after 2:20 for unarranged pick-ups. Students will also not be called down for appointments until the parent(s) have arrived at the school.

NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2025

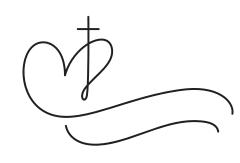
WHY WE WEAR ORANGE SHIRTS?

Phyllis Webstad, from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Indian Band), left her home community at 6 years old to attend a residential school in British Columbia. Initially, she was excited to go to school and went shopping with her granny to pick out a new outfit for school; she chose a shiny orange shirt. When she arrived at the Residential school her orange shirt was taken away from her and never returned. The colour orange has always reminded Phyllis that her feelings didn't matter, how no one cared, and how left to feel like she was worth nothing.

On September 30th, Canadians wear an orange shirt to demonstrate the commitment to reconciliation and opening and continuing the dialogue about residential schooling. The slogan for Orange Shirt Day is "Every Child Matters".__lt is important educators are aware of this focus as in the early grades this curriculum focuses on what it means to matter and how children matter in our communities residential schooling has had on Canada both past and present.

How is Holy Cross Honouring National Truth and Reconciliation Day?

Throughout September and the rest of the school year, Holy Cross students will be learning about Residential Schools and the history of the Indigenous people of Canada through videos, classroom discussions, and literature. Additionally, the seven sacred teachings will be incorporated with our Christian Actions and the 5 Traits of a Holy Cross School Learner. On September 29th, 2025, students at Holy Cross school are encouraged to wear Orange shirts as an acknowledgement of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.



Mass Times Reconciliation

Monday-Saturday @ 7:45 AM Monday- Saturday following 7:45 AM Mass Saturday @ 4 PM No reconciliation on Sunday Sunday @ 7:45 AM, 10 AM and 12 PM Private reconciliations available by appt. only

Religious Life at Holy Cross

As a Catholic School, Holy Cross has monthly masses for the whole school, and also holds smaller grade-grouping masses throughout the year. Our first celebration is the Feast of the Holy Cross on September 14th. All students participate in these masses, and those who are Catholic and have received their First Communion are welcome to receive the bread that has become Jesus at communion.

For families who are non-Catholic, we want you to know the message that we try to communicate to your children here in the school: God's love includes every one of His creatures, and He wants to pour out His blessings on everyone. However, the sacrament of the Eucharist is also a sign of participation in and unity with the Body of the Church, and so it is not open for all to receive. This does not limit the outpouring of God's love, and so all are invited to come forward for a blessing. Students who are non-Catholic or who have not had their First Communion are invited to cross their arms across their chests as the sign that they wish to receive a blessing.

For parents interested in First Communion for their children, this can be prepared and celebrated through the school. There will be a meeting scheduled in October or early November to provide you with more information. Any questions can be directed to Heather Lampman at hlampman@holycrossschool.mb.ca. If your child is in grade 5 or above and you are seeking First Communion, please contact me immediately. If you are seeking Confirmation for your child, please contact your parish.



We want to take this opportunity to share some of the safety precautions we have put in place to keep students, families and staff safe.

First, we will ensure that the gate at the east end of the parking lot remains closed from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Secondly, the student drop-off at the back door is 1-way traffic. Parents are to come up the back lane from Niverville and exit onto Braemar. DO NOT enter the back lane from Braemar as it is against the flow of traffic.

Thirdly, after school, students are directed to the waiting adjacent to the parking lot, we ask that families pick up their children from the waiting area, rather than have them run across the back lane and potentially into oncoming traffic. The back lane will again be 1-way traffic. Parents are to line up along the back lane entering from Niverville and exiting VIA Braemar.

We at Holy Cross School have a responsibility to I) ensure the safety of pedestrians on surrounding streets, and in the back lane, during arrival and departure 2) ensure our neighbours have access to their properties 3) provide space for emergency vehicles to drive down the back lane. We need students, staff, and parents all working together to provide a safe and courteous system for dropping off and picking up students from school.

Kindergarten Students: Use the Gym Door (located at the front of the gym) for entry at 8:20 a.m. and exit at 3:00 p.m. on Dubuc Street.

Grade 1 to 8 students will meet at the rear of the school (Parking Lot) The doors open for student entry at 8:20 a.m. and exit at 3:00 p.m. Supervision is provided until 3:15 p.m. Doors will be opened at 8:20 a.m. in the case of inclement weather the doors will open at 8:15 AM.

After 8:30 the front and back doors will close and students will need to wait until 8:40 when announcements are complete before the doors open again and they can sign in late at the office. Parents must come in ot sign out their students if they are being pick up for an appointment.

Outside supervision is provided between 3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. It is not safe to drop your child off at school and leave them unattended. Students who are outside and unaccompanied by their guardians will be directed to Before & After Care. Dismissal at the end of the day begins at 3:00 p.m. Families are to wait outside until the hallways are clear before they enter the school. Any students not picked up by 3:15 will be taken to the program. As a reminder the program doors will not open until 3:15 PM.

VOLUNTEER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NEEDED

>>>>>

What you will do

- Collaborating with fellow board members to make strategic decisions that enhance the school community.
- Actively participating in monthly board meetings, committees, and other vital activities to fortify the school's governance.
- Adhering to and upholding the by-laws and policies that are the foundation of Holy Cross School.
- Leading and engaging in fundraising and community outreach efforts to foster the school's development and expansion.
- Collaborating with the PAC for various project initiatives. E.g. used uniform sale.



Nice to Have: While not mandatory, candidates with construction or building experience and project management skills are highly encouraged to apply.



>>>> Indicate your interest by sending an email to board@holucrossschool.mb.ca