

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC
SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FALL
2026**

Principal's Message



**DEAR STUDENTS, FAMILIES, TEACHERS, AND STAFF OF
HOLY CROSS SCHOOL,**

WELCOME BACK TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

**WE GATHER AS THE HOLY CROSS SCHOOL COMMUNITY,
AND WE ARE REMINDED THAT EACH NEW BEGINNING IS A
GIFT FROM GOD. A NEW SCHOOL YEAR BRINGS
OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN, TO GROW, TO MAKE NEW
FRIENDS, TO SERVE OTHERS, AND TO DISCOVER THE
MANY GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN EACH OF US. LET US
REMEMBER THE VALUES OF COMPASSION, RESPECT, AND
PERSEVERANCE THAT ARE AT THE HEART OF OUR
SCHOOL COMMUNITY.**

**THIS YEAR, OUR FOCUS WILL BE ON FOSTERING A
NURTURING ENVIRONMENT WHERE EACH STUDENT CAN
THRIVE ACADEMICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY. WE HAVE MANY
EXCITING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES PLANNED THAT
CATER TO THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS,
ENCOURAGING THEM TO GROW IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE
AND FAITH. LET US BE OF SERVICE TO EACH OTHER AS
JESUS HAS TAUGHT US BY HIS EXAMPLE.**

**I ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO ENGAGE WITH US THROUGH
VARIOUS EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE
YEAR. YOUR SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT ARE VITAL TO
CREATING A WARM AND WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE FOR
ALL.**

**MAY WE BEGIN THIS YEAR WITH FAITH IN OUR HEARTS,
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, AND LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.
LET US REMEMBER THAT JESUS WALKS WITH US EACH
DAY—WHEN LEARNING IS EASY AND WHEN IT IS
CHALLENGING, WHEN WE ARE JOYFUL AND WHEN WE
NEED ENCOURAGEMENT.**

September Prayer

A Prayer for the New School Year
Heavenly Father,

Thank You for bringing us together for another school year.
Thank You for the gift of our students, families, teachers, and staff.

Bless Holy Cross School community with Your peace, wisdom, and joy.

Guide our teachers as they inspire and encourage our students.
Give our students curious minds, caring hearts, and the courage to always do their best.

Help us to be kind to one another, to forgive when we make mistakes, to help those who are struggling, and to recognize Your presence in everyone we meet.

Lord Jesus, walk beside us throughout this school year.
Help us to grow not only in knowledge, but also in faith, compassion, and love.

Bless our classrooms, our playgrounds, our families, and our entire school community.

May everything we say and do bring us closer to You.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God bless you all with a wonderful, joyful, and faith-filled school year!

Welcome back!

Mrs. Walker





Important Dates For September 2026

August 31st	HCS office re-opens
September 7th	Labour Day (No School)
September 8th	No School
September 9th	First Day Back for 1-8 Group 1 Kindergarten
September 10th	Group 2 Kindergarten
September 11th	Full Kinder + Gr. 7 AT
September 14th	PAC Used Uniform Sale
September 15th	Mass + Gr. 8 AT
September 17th	Welcome Back BBQ
September 22nd	Early Dismissal @ 2:00 PM
September 24th	Grade 7 Retreat
September 29th	Orange Shirt Day Colour Day
September 30th	Truth and Reconciliation Day No School

[Sign up for our weekly updates by clicking here](#)

HCS STAFF FOR 26-27 SCHOOL YEAR

MS. SHERRY SANKOH – KINDERGARTEN

MS. KATE MCARTHUR – GRADE ONE

MRS. JESSICA SAN JUAN – GRADES ONE-TWO SPLIT

MRS. MARIIA POLISHCHUK – GRADE TWO

MR. DALE KRAWCHUK – GRADE THREE

MR. BRADEN EWCHUK – GRADE FOUR

MRS. JEAN GULOWATY – GRADE FOUR

MRS. SONIA BATISH – GRADE FIVE

MRS. MARITA PEREZ – GRADE FIVE

MS. LAURA EBBELING – GRADE SIX

MRS. NATASHIA VISELLI-ANDERSON – GRADE SIX

MR. ROM CIRIC – GRADE SEVEN

MR. NICK JONES – GRADE SEVEN

DR. ANJU BAJAJ – GRADE EIGHT

MRS. CHERYL MUNRO – GRADE EIGHT

MRS. MICHELLE HENSHAW – MUSIC

MR. BRENDAN BILAWKA – PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

MISS. BREANNE BEAUBIEN – RELIGION

MRS. SHERILL VERA CRUZ – MIDDLE YEARS FLEX SUBJECTS

MS. KAREN STUBBS – RESOURCE

MS. JILL ANDERSON - ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

MRS. ANNA KATCHANOVSKI - FINANCE COORDINATOR

BUILDING MANAGER - MR. OREST SEREDIUK

CUSTODIAL STAFF MRS. SVITLANA IEMELIANENKO

MRS. KSANET HAGOS BEKENETAB

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM - MR. BRETT BOURQUIN (VP)

MRS. CATHERINE WALKER (PRINCIPAL)

HCS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS

MRS. TRISH NEUSITZER

MS. MARYROSE TABING

MS. TRACY FRASER

MS. KARINA PARASHCHAK

MRS. PAM BEMBENAK

MRS. JIRAPAN DIMALANTA

MRS. PURNIMA SINGHA

MS. PUNEET CHOCHAN

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK MS. KIDANE FOR ALL OF HER HARD
WORK LAST YEAR AND WISH HER ALL THE BEST IN HER
FUTURE JOURNEY.**

Join the **Holy Cross** Parent Advisory Council



**Become a voice for your family,
help shape the school experience!**

Connect. Collaborate. Celebrate!
First Meeting September 22nd,
2024!



ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PACS AGM ON
SEPTEMBER 22ND 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
BRETTBOURQUIN@HOLYCROSSSSCHOOL.MB.CA
WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!





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.



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 area 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 1) 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 or 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.

AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL UPDATE

With the new year come some changes regarding after-school dismissal.

A reminder to Grade 7 and 8 parents that any students left on site after 3:30 will be required to go to program, where the doors will be locked to ensure the safety of all of our students.

Permission slips were sent out in your welcome back packages. They are due back by September 18th.

Thank you for your understanding.



SPORTS REPORT VOLLEYBALL

VOLLEYBALL SIGN UPS ARE UNDERWAY!
MAKE SURE YOUR GRADE 7 AND 8 STUDENTS
SIGN UP TO REPRESENT OUR SCHOOL!



WELCOME BACK!

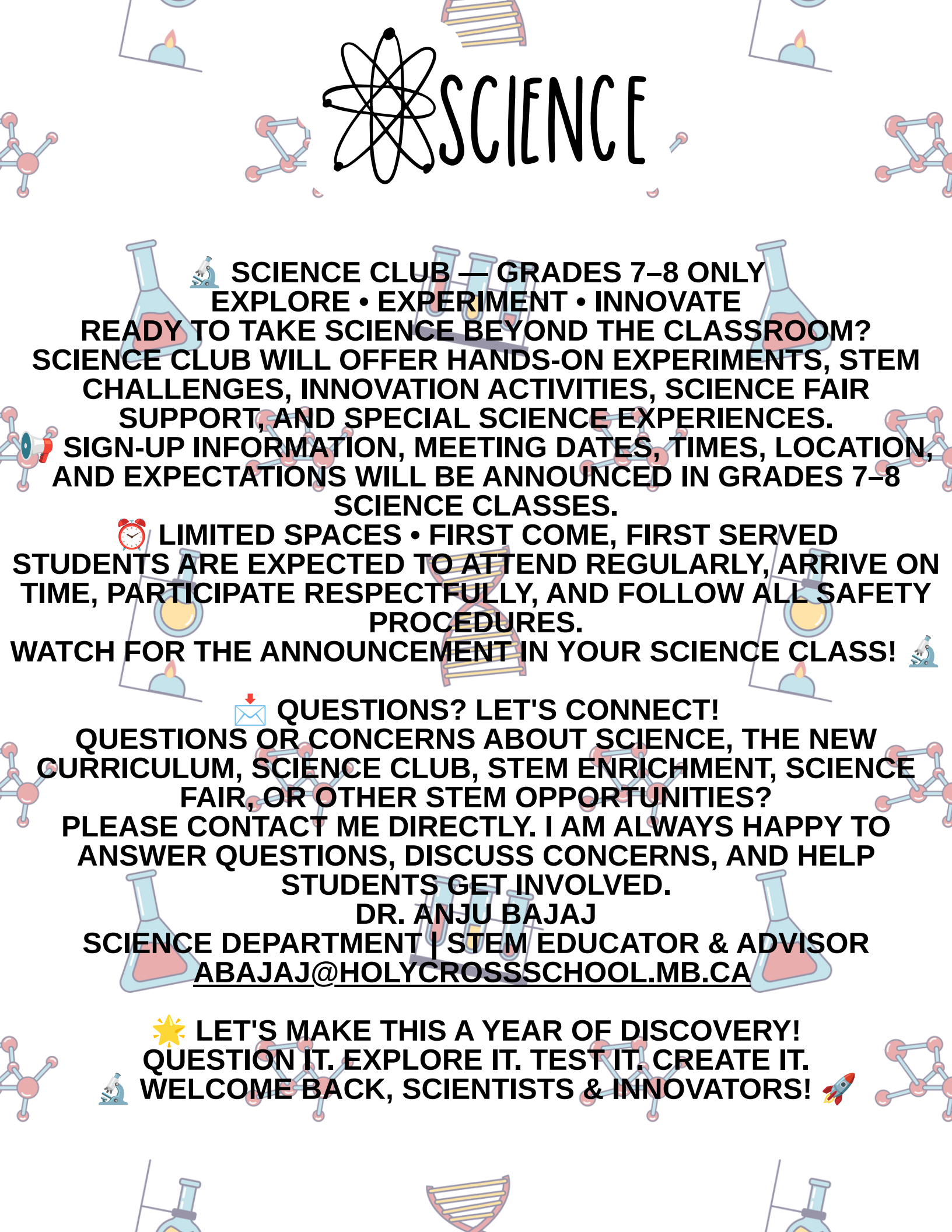
SCIENCE • STEM • CURIOSITY • INNOVATION

DEAR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES,
WELCOME BACK! WE ARE EXCITED FOR A NEW YEAR OF CURIOSITY,
DISCOVERY, CREATIVITY, AND HANDS-ON LEARNING!
THIS YEAR IS ESPECIALLY EXCITING AS WE BEGIN IMPLEMENTING THE NEW
MANITOBA SCIENCE CURRICULUM FOR KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 8,
MANDATED BY THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA, WHILE CONTINUING TO
EXPAND STEM OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM.

 OUR SCIENCE GOAL
ASK • INVESTIGATE • CREATE • INNOVATE

 GRADES K-8 SCIENCE
A NEW WAY TO LEARN SCIENCE
STUDENTS WILL LEARN SCIENCE BY DOING, QUESTIONING, INVESTIGATING,
AND SOLVING REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS.
 INVESTIGATE & EXPERIMENT
 THINK CRITICALLY & USE EVIDENCE
 DESIGN, CREATE & INNOVATE
 ANALYZE DATA & COMMUNICATE IDEAS
 EXPLORE SCIENCE, SOCIETY & SUSTAINABILITY
 LEARN THROUGH INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES
 DEVELOP FUTURE-READY SKILLS
OUR CLASSROOMS WILL BE PLACES WHERE STUDENTS QUESTION,
EXPLORE, COLLABORATE, SOLVE PROBLEMS, AND APPLY THEIR LEARNING.

 GRADE 6 STEM ENRICHMENT
BUILD • DESIGN • TEST • IMPROVE
GRADE 6 STUDENTS WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE:
 ENGINEERING & DESIGN
 TECHNOLOGY & CODING
 PROBLEM-SOLVING
 SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION
MATH IN THE REAL WORLD
CREATIVITY & INNOVATION
LEARN BY DOING. BUILD IT. TEST IT. IMPROVE IT!



SCIENCE

 **SCIENCE CLUB — GRADES 7–8 ONLY**

EXPLORE • EXPERIMENT • INNOVATE

READY TO TAKE SCIENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM?

SCIENCE CLUB WILL OFFER HANDS-ON EXPERIMENTS, STEM CHALLENGES, INNOVATION ACTIVITIES, SCIENCE FAIR SUPPORT, AND SPECIAL SCIENCE EXPERIENCES.

SIGN-UP INFORMATION, MEETING DATES, TIMES, LOCATION, AND EXPECTATIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN GRADES 7–8 SCIENCE CLASSES.



LIMITED SPACES • FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND REGULARLY, ARRIVE ON TIME, PARTICIPATE RESPECTFULLY, AND FOLLOW ALL SAFETY PROCEDURES.

WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN YOUR SCIENCE CLASS! 



QUESTIONS? LET'S CONNECT!

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT SCIENCE, THE NEW CURRICULUM, SCIENCE CLUB, STEM ENRICHMENT, SCIENCE FAIR, OR OTHER STEM OPPORTUNITIES?

PLEASE CONTACT ME DIRECTLY. I AM ALWAYS HAPPY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, DISCUSS CONCERNS, AND HELP STUDENTS GET INVOLVED.

DR. ANJU BAJAJ

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT | STEM EDUCATOR & ADVISOR

ABAJAJ@HOLYCROSSSCHOOL.MB.CA



**LET'S MAKE THIS A YEAR OF DISCOVERY!
QUESTION IT. EXPLORE IT. TEST IT. CREATE IT.
WELCOME BACK, SCIENTISTS & INNOVATORS!** 

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
EUCCHARIST 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.**

Serve Your Community.



Make a Difference in Education.



Join the Holy Cross School Board



Shape the Future of Our Students.

Join Today – First Meeting is
September 24th, 2026

