



The Cross and Community

A Holy Cross Academy Newsletter



Issue No. 13 | July 2026



Family Faith Reflection:

July often brings some of the most relaxing and joy-filled days of summer. As families enjoy vacations, celebrations, and time together, it is also an opportunity to pause and recognize the many blessings God has placed in our lives. The slower pace of summer invites us to be present, appreciate the gift of each day, and grow closer to Him.

In this month of gratitude and celebration, we are reminded that true freedom comes from living as disciples of Christ. God calls us to use our gifts, talents, and time to serve others and share His love with those around us. Whether through a kind word, a helping hand, or simply spending meaningful

time with family and friends, we can continue to reflect Christ in our everyday lives.

As summer continues, we encourage your family to stay rooted in faith through prayer, attending Mass, and finding moments to experience God's presence in the beauty of His creation. Even amid busy summer schedules, these simple practices help keep our hearts centered on what matters most.

May the month of July bring your family joy, rest, and many reasons to be thankful. We pray that God continues to bless our Holy Cross Academy community and prepare our hearts for the exciting year that lies ahead.

Holy Cross Happenings

Reggio Pre-K Open House



REGGIO PRE-K ★ OPEN HOUSE ★

DISCOVER HOLY CROSS ACADEMY'S
NEW PRE-K PROGRAM!

● **SUNDAY, JULY 26** ●
11AM - 1PM

COME SEE THE CLASSROOM
AND MEET THE TEACHER!

PRIMARY CAMPUS
7630 SUTHERLAND AVE.

 holycross-stl.org acourtois@hca-stl.org

Summer Fun at ECEC

July at our Early Childhood Campus has been filled with lots of summer fun! The students have been participating in water play, arts and crafts, outdoor learning experiences, and much more. While our other campuses are quiet, ECEC has been filled with laughter and play!



New ECEC Director

We are excited to welcome our new Early Childhood Director, Mrs. Katie Donnelly, to the Holy Cross Academy community! Mrs. Donnelly brings a wealth of early childhood education experience, and we are thrilled to have her leading our Early Childhood Education Campus. We look forward to the many wonderful things she will bring to our students, families, and staff in the years ahead.

Upcoming Dates

July 19 - Uniform Resale. 9-11am, Primary Campus

July 26 - Reggio Open House, 11am-1pm, Primary Campus

July 29 - July Jamboree, 5-7pm, Intermediate Campus

August 9 - K-8 Pop-In/Meet the Teachers

August 10 - ECEC Parent Meeting, 6pm and Middle School Band Meeting, 6pm

August 13 - First Day of School, Early Dismissal

August 14 - Early Dismissal

August 27 - K-5 Back to School Night

Faculty & Staff Corner

Q & A with Mrs. Tricia Oldani

What is your role at HCA?

1st Grade Teacher

What is the most rewarding part of working in education?

To see the progress the students make during the course of the school year.

What was your favorite subject in school?

Reading.

What is your favorite board game?

Sequence.

What saint would you most like to meet?

St. Mary.

What is your go-to comfort food?

Pizza.

What is one way you try to live out your faith each day?

I try to help others and keep praying daily.

What is one thing you hope every student remembers from their time at HCA?

Faith is most important.



Q & A with Mr. Adam Sims

What is your role at HCA?

Physical Education grades K-2 and 6-8.

What is a lesson your students have taught you?

Be patient and enjoy life each and every day.

Favorite drink or snack to keep at school?

Diet Dr. Pepper.

What is your favorite TV show to binge-watch?

Big Bang Theory.

What was your favorite subject in school?

Physical Education.

What is your favorite board game?

Clue.

If you could have any celebrity as a co-teacher, who would it be?

Yadier Molina.

Summer or Winter?

Summer.

What is one thing you hope every student remembers from their time at HCA?

How important their faith is.



From the Pews

Celebrating America
Trivia Night
in Support of
Affton Christian Food Pantry
Saturday, August 15, 2026

Doors open at 6 pm
Trivia Starts at 7 pm

Seven Holy Founders : Parish Hall
6741 S. Rock Hill Road 63123

\$30 per Person
Book a Table of 7-10 Players
Beer & Soda Bar Included

Bring Cash for Bonus Fun!
Raffles, 50/50, Silent Auction & More

Reserve Your Table Today!
Scan QR Code to Register
Call or Text: 314-580-3138
actpphone@gmail.com
Sponsorships Available!



School Supplies Collection

July 25 & 26 to Aug 1 & 2, 2026

OLP and Annunciation Justice Seekers, are collecting **NEW** school supplies for St. Frances Cabrini Academy, a Catholic Elementary school in South St. Louis City, which serves 190 students from 12 different countries. Any supplies that are provided are greatly appreciated! Thank you for supporting this worthwhile project!

Most needed items:

Expo markers & erasers • Crayola markers • Post-it Notes
Glue Sticks • Pink / Green / Yellow Highlighters
Pink Erasers • Blunt Tipped Scissors
Ziploc Gallon Size Bags

Cash donations are also welcome or checks can be made out to "St. Frances Cabrini Academy."



Collection Boxes:

Annunciation in Bride's Room
and OLP in vestibule.

The Women's Group at St. Michael the Archangel
Invite all women in the parish to join the
"Women of St. Michael"

It's a great way to get involved with the parish,
and meet people.

We assist with parish events;
Fish Fry Fridays, Oktoberfest, Parish Picnic, and
Host Bunco nights throughout the year.
We meet on the third Wednesday of the month.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact

Rita Feeney, (314) 712-7919, or
Darlene Arnold, (314) 276-5199.



Our own Jenna Clark has written a book about her Dad, Dr. Jon Clark, previous principal at Webster High and regular 8:00 Mass Sunday Mass attendees. It's a beautifully written book about family love, courage and faith. Highly recommend reading. Jenna will be selling this book at all weekend Masses on July 25 & 26 at Annunciation.

Holy Cross Parents Association

Hello from HCPA

The Holy Cross Parents Association (HCPA) is a partnership of parents, teachers, and school leadership working together to strengthen our Holy Cross Academy community and support our students. Our goal is simple: to create opportunities for families to connect, celebrate, and build lasting relationships while giving back to the school in meaningful ways.

Throughout the school year, HCPA organizes family events, supports student and teacher appreciation efforts, and provides opportunities for parents to get involved. Funds raised through HCPA-sponsored activities are used to enhance the student experience and support the various campuses' needs throughout the year.



HCPA Meetings

HCPA meets quarterly, and all parents are welcome and encouraged to attend! Whether you have ideas to share, questions to ask, or simply want to learn more about what's happening in our school community, these meetings are great opportunities to do so. Meeting dates and times will be shared in advance through HCPA communications and listed on the FACTS calendar.



How to Get Involved

There are many ways to participate in HCPA—no matter your schedule or availability! Whether you're interested in chairing an event, volunteering for an hour, helping with teacher appreciation, supporting holiday collections, or sharing a new idea, there is a place for you.

A SignUpGenius with volunteer opportunities will be shared at the beginning of the school year and included in future HCPA newsletters.

We can't wait to partner with you and make this school year an amazing one for our students and families!

Your Holy Cross Parent Association Board:

President Marie Laury

Lillian (8th), Connor (5th), Austin (2nd) and Oliver (K)

Vice President Marlo Iverson

Anders (5th) and Ellis (2nd)

Treasurer Kerrie Forbes

McKenna (ECEC-3)

Secretary Sandy Schwab

Mariela (2nd)

Holy Cross Parents Association

Upcoming HCPA Events

July Jamboree | Wednesday, July 29 | 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Intermediate Campus

Don't forget to join HCPA for a fun and casual summer evening with HCA families! Enjoy pizza, sweet treats, and playground fun as we reconnect with friends, welcome new families, and get excited for the school year ahead.

[Sign up here](#) so we have an estimated headcount for food.

Boo Hoo Breakfast for Kindergarten and Reggio Pre-K Parents | Thursday, August 13 | 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. | Primary Campus

Kindergarten and Reggio Pre-K are big steps for our little ones—and a big moment for parents, too! HCPA invites Kindergarten and Reggio Pre-K parents to join us after the first-day drop-off for our annual Boo Hoo Breakfast. Come enjoy some refreshments, meet other parents, and celebrate the start of this exciting new adventure together. (HCPA is also seeking 1st and 2nd grade parents to provide treats and serve as ambassadors at the breakfast. If interested, please email hcpa@hca-stl.org.)

HCA Singing During 7th Inning Stretch | Tuesday, August 25 | 6:45 p.m. | Busch Stadium

Mark your calendars for one of our favorite HCA traditions when our students have the opportunity to sing “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” during the 7th inning stretch of the August 25th Cardinals game. Tickets are \$22 each and will be billed through FACTS. Register your students to participate and reserve your tickets [here](#). *NOTE: We'll need to meet a minimum ticket purchase requirement to make this exciting opportunity happen.*

