



# The Cross and Community

A Holy Cross Academy Newsletter



Issue No. 2 | August 2025



## Family Faith Reflection :

### As I send you off to school

By Anna Liesemeyer

As I send you off to school, I hold my breath and pray, that courage and confidence will walk beside you, and be a friend today. That you will never doubt your abilities, and hold your head up high, and no matter the obstacles you face, that fear won't blind your eyes. As I send you off to school, I wonder if they know, just how much you mean to me, and how hard it is to let you go. Will you learn to stand up for what is true, even when it gets tough? Will you be honest, steadfast, and strong, when fighting for the good is rough? Will you remember what we told you, every day for the past few years? That the only thing that matters is how you treat your peers? I hope you learn that sometimes, you just have to MESS UP.

Sometimes the mistakes you make, are what reveal the big steps you must take to GROW UP. As I send you off to school, bittersweet tears drop off my face, knowing that the best part of me, is stepping forward in time and place. I swallow hard, and place my trust, in the ones who were meant to be. The teachers, friends, and educators, meant to open doors on behalf of me. The people will cross paths with you, the beating part of my heart. To form, to nourish, and encourage you, and help you choose the very best places to start. And so as I send you off to school, I swallow hard and pray, that I learn to watch you fly and soar to the heights God can't wait to show you today.

**Please check the Google calendar on the website for important dates. You can sync this calendar to your calendar.**

## President's Message

Dear HCA Families,

**30 NEW families** are beginning their fresh start and new school year at Holy Cross Academy! We welcome **13 families** from St. Simon's School. Welcome to you and we are delighted you are here. For our returning families, if you see a new face, please extend a warm welcome. Let's make sure our new families feel apart of our HCA family!

*“Serve one another through love.” Galatians 5:13. The Academy’s theme this year is Serve. Taken from our core value of Community: “HCA is a community of learners, ministers and servants. Doctrinal instruction, meaningful liturgies and service opportunities come together to help students grow in their personal relationship with Christ and create a united faith community.”*

Every month of the school year, we will have an area of focus for service. From now through the end of September, the focus will be **Serve at School**. As a united faith community, we want to make this theme a family affair too! We are working on a few service ideas and opportunities for families. If you have any suggestions, please share! Of course, we welcome parents to serve at school. Parent volunteers are welcome and necessary to create this special community. (Please see the information regarding the Prevent and Protect Requirements). Please know that I am praying for you and your children as we begin this new year together. It's going to be a great year.

Peace,  
Toni Ponder

## Serving HCA: Volunteer Compliance

**Please check with your campus secretary to determine if you are in compliance.**

1. Go to [preventandprotectstl.org](http://preventandprotectstl.org)
2. At LOGIN, click on the blue word REGISTER
3. Enter passcode: stlprotect
4. Select location: Holy Cross Academy
5. Complete your personal information using your legal name
6. Create username and password
7. Agree to the Terms of Use and click SUBMIT
8. You will then be prompted to submit info. for a background screening
9. If you haven't attended a "Protecting God's Children" workshop, you will be prompted to register. If you have previously attended a PGC workshop, the system will find you and ask you to confirm your previous record of attendance.
10. You will view two online training videos, and agree/sign the code of Ethical Conduct. The entire process should take 20-30 min. Unless you haven't done the PGC Workshop. Please contact your campus secretary if you have any questions.





# 2025/26 First Day of School

# BACK TO SCHOOL



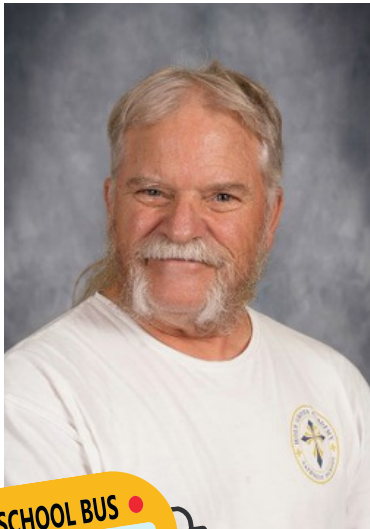
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# News You Can Use

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## Shuttle Bus System

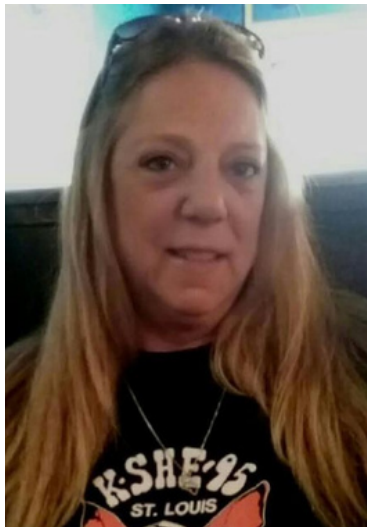
Our Academy has a unique shuttle bus system to support the transport of students and alleviate travel time for parents at the beginning and end of the school day. The bus drivers are Ted Arunski and Diane Stolle. In the Principal Welcome Letter (delivered by email on Friday, August 1), a bus shuttle registration form was included. If you have questions about the bus and its arrival and departing times, please contact your campus secretary.



Mr. Ted



Ms. Diane



## Behind the Letters

HCA - Holy Cross Academy, the Academy  
Our Parishes:

SMA - St. Michael the Archangel,  
Shrewsbury

OLP - Our Lady of Providence,  
Crestwood

ANN - Annunciation, Webster

SHF - Seven Holy Founders, Affton

Campus Breakdown:

ECEC - (2 -5 year old's) Early Childhood  
Program

Primary Campus - Kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup>  
grade

Intermediate Campus - 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Middle School Campus - 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Other:

ASP - After School Program

HCPA - Holy Cross Parents Association

DOT - Dress Out Today

AMI - Alternate Methods of Instruction

NWEA - Standardized Testing



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# From the Pews

## Seven Holy Founders Trivia Night



## St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor - September 27

Annunciation and OLP parishes will participate together at the Hizert Pavilion in Fenton Park. All are welcome. The funds collected will go to aiding our neighbors in need with utilities and other necessities throughout the year. The walk begins with a prayer service and will include a one and one quarter mile walk.



## Dance Class - Sign up today!



## Annunciation Men's Club Trivia Night - September 20

The Annunciation Men's Club is hosting their annual Trivia Night on September 20th. For more details about the event and how to register, see the image below.



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# Sacraments

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## Meet Ann Kelly: Academy Sacraments Coordinator

Mrs. Kelly is a familiar face to many, as she has been with HCA since 2020, and has been serving in parish ministry within our HCA parishes for 14 years. She and her family are parishioners at Annunciation. She currently works full-time as the Parish School of Religion (PSR) Director for our four HCA Parishes. Additionally, she serves as the Sacraments Coordinator, assisting HCA and PSR families with communication between our school and parishes regarding the Sacraments. Mrs. Kelly said, "It brings me great joy to be a resource in helping families deepen their relationship with Jesus and His Church and become more connected with their faith community in their school and parishes." Previously, Mrs. Kelly taught religious education at the middle school campus for 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders. "I would love to meet your family and answer any questions you may have. You will see me throughout the year visiting each of the parishes and campuses, so please say hello!" Mrs. Kelly at [akelly@hca-stl.org](mailto:akelly@hca-stl.org).



## Sacrament Dates & Meetings

### First Reconciliation Parent Meetings

SHF Parishioners - 10/16 at 6:30PM - Mary Room

SMA Parishioners - 10/21 at 6:30PM - Primary Campus

OLP & ANN Parishioners - 10/22 at 6:45PM - Middle School Campus

### First Reconciliation

All Parishes - 12/6 at 10am

### First Communion Parent Meetings

OLP & ANN Parishioners - 2/5 at 6:30PM - Middle School Campus

SMA Parishioners - 3/10 at 6:30PM - Primary Campus

SHF Parishioners - 3/12 at 6:30PM - Mary Room

### First Communion Rehearsal

SHF - 4/7 at 6:30PM at SHF Church

SMA - 4/14 at 6:30PM at SMA Church

OLP & ANN - 4/16 at 6:30PM at OLP Church

### First Communion

SMA - 4/18 at 11AM at SMA Church

OLP & ANN - 4/19 at 10:30AM at OLP Church

SHF - 4/19 at 9am at SHF Church

### Confirmation Group Meeting for All Parishes

9/25 at 6:30PM at Middle School Campus

### Confirmation Luke 18 Retreat for All Parishes

1/10 from 8:30AM - 8:30PM - Middle School Campus

### Confirmation Mass for All Parishes

4/25 at 10AM at the Cathedral Basilica

These dates are on the school google calendar on the website.

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# Making Us Proud

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## Alumni Spotlight - Angie Mulita '16

Holy Cross Academy holds a special place in the heart of Angie Mulita, who remembers it as a community filled with dedicated teachers, supportive staff, and lifelong friends. "HCA gave me so many fun memories, prepared me for the future, and even helped me find my lifelong best friends that I have today," she shares. Today, Angie is pursuing her dream as a medical student at the University of Missouri - Columbia. She is grateful for the strong foundation Holy Cross provided to help her reach this milestone.



## Serving Student - Jack S

HCA student Jack S, a resident of Crestwood and Scout with BSA Troop 914, recently created a short film as part of his Citizenship in the Community merit badge. His video showcases what makes Crestwood and the surrounding area a great place to live, work, and play. With thoughtful storytelling, strong editing, and a love for his community, Jack's project is a wonderful reminder of the vibrant community we share. We are so proud of Jack and the hard work he dedicated to this project. Click [here](#) to watch Jack's video!



We know all of our HCA students and alumni are stand outs in our community--doing wonderful things large and small! Let's celebrate them. We would love to feature your student and our alumni community. Please send your student and alumni news to Janie Fechter at [jafechter@hca-stl.org](mailto:jafechter@hca-stl.org).

