



The Cross and Community

A Holy Cross Academy Newsletter



Issue No. 1 | July 2025



Family Faith Reflection : A Mid-Year Pause with God

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." - Psalm 90:12

As we reach the midpoint of the year, July offers a perfect opportunity to pause and reflect-- not only on what we've done, but on how God has been at work in our lives as a family. Summer can be a slower season, a time to draw closer to one another and to God.

Take some quiet time this month as a family – perhaps around the dinner table, during a walk, or at bedtime-- to reflect on God's presence and blessings so far this year.

Consider these questions:

- How have we seen God working in our family this year?
- What are we especially thankful for?
- What have we learned or how have we grown in our faith?

July Prayer:

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for guiding us through the first half of this year. We are grateful for your presence in our joys and in our challenges. Help us to grow in love, wisdom, and faith as a family. Teach us to pause and hear Your voice. May we continue to walk with You each day.
Amen.

Dates & Reminders

July:

- 17- July Jamboree (HCPA)
- 20- - Uniform Resale

August:

- 4 - Teachers return to school
- 7 - ECEC Parent Meeting
- 10 - Meet the teachers/drop off supplies
- 11 - Middle School parent meeting & reception
- 13 - First day of school
- 13 - HCPA "boo-hoo breakfast"

President's Message

Dear HCA Families,

As we enjoy these long summer days filled with family vacations, camps, and well-deserved rest, school may understandably be far from your thoughts! Still, I encourage you to take a few moments together as a family to pause in prayer and reflect on the blessings of the first half of the year.

We hope you find this newsletter to be a helpful and encouraging resource as we look ahead. It will be in addition to your campus communications.

I'm truly grateful to be part of the Holy Cross Academy community and look forward to meeting you and your children in the coming weeks. I hope to see many of you at the July Jamboree on **July 17**, and I'll also be attending weekend Masses at Annunciation on **August 2nd and 3rd** – please come say hello!

Behind the scenes, the principals and I have been prayerfully planning and preparing for the new school year.

My primary office will be located at the Middle School Campus, and I look forward to being a visible and supportive presence across all our campuses.

In this edition of the newsletter, you'll find a warm welcome to several **new faculty and staff members**, as well as an introduction to our dedicated HCPA officers. We're excited for the year ahead and deeply grateful for the gifts each of these individuals brings to our community.

As always, thank you for your continued support and prayers. We're honored to partner with you in forming hearts, minds, and souls.

Blessings,
Toni Ponder



New Faces at HCA

New Middle School Principal: Michael Faust



We are delighted to announce Mr. Faust as our incoming Middle School Principal. "I'm honored to be selected as the next Middle School Principal of Holy Cross Academy!" Mr. Faust shared. "I look forward to getting to know and serve the HCA community as a collaborative, growth-minded, and faithful leader. The warm welcome from the administration and interviewing team I've encountered so far has been amazing. I can't wait to get to work and for my family to get to know such a wonderful community!" Mr. Faust is committed to building strong partnerships with families and fostering meaningful relationships among all members of our school community. Join us on August 11th for a parent meeting and a welcome reception.



New Middle School Dean of Students: Noelle Trueman

Mrs. Trueman, a familiar face within the academy, has taken a new role this year as the Middle School Campus Dean of Students. Mrs. Trueman will also continue to teach middle school math as well. When asked about her experience thus far at HCA, Mrs. Trueman said, "As a parent of HCA graduates and now a member of the staff, I can confidently say that my favorite part of Holy Cross Academy is the strong, supportive community it fosters. I look forward to another wonderful year working with the incredible students and families of HCA". We are excited to see Mrs. Trueman take on this new role as the Dean of Students at the Middle School Campus.



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New Faces at HCA

Liz Urbansky: ECEC Administrative Assistant



Mrs. Urbansky began her role in the beginning of the summer. When asked about her new role, Mrs. Urbansky said “I love being in a position where I can help staff, families and the kids”. We are delighted to have Liz working at HCA at our Early Childhood Campus.

Adam Sims: Middle School Physical Education Teacher



Mr. Sims brings 10 years of educational experience and a true passion for helping every student reach their potential. Mr. Sims said, “I am excited to get started at Holy Cross Academy. I look forward to creating a fun learning experience through teaching Physical Education and Health at Holy Cross.”

Michele Ferber: Middle School ELA Teacher



Ms. Ferber is “thrilled to be joining HCA to use my passion for literature to help students grow academically and spiritually”. Michele served as a high school English and most recently the reading specialist for the Webster Groves School District. Please join us in giving Michele a warm HCA welcome!

Holy Cross Happenings

Save the Date -
November 8th



More details to follow. In the meantime, if you are interested in being apart of the planning committee, please contact **Janie Fechter** at jafechter@hca-stl.org

HCA Summer Camp 2025

Holy Cross hosts a summer camp for K-5 students and this year's camp was a success! Each week had a different theme with activities correlated to that theme. The themes were: Safari, Sweet & Sour, Insects, and Farm. Each week the campers participated in daily activities, as well as trips to the pool and other field trips. Thank you to **McKinley Robbins**, 4th grade teacher and summer camp director, for all of her efforts in making camp an enjoyable summer experience for our students.



Faculty & Staff Gathering

HCA faculty and staff came together to catch up during their summer break and enjoyed lunch at Llywelyn's Pub.



Holy Cross Parents Association

Purpose:

The Holy Cross Parents Association (HCPA) supports our school in numerous ways, including community building events, campus specific activities, parent evenings, and specialty support for teachers and staff. All parents are encouraged to participate, with involvement opportunities ranging from board positions to event chair to activity support. Our school community is important to us as parents and through our events and outreach, we hope to continue to foster this welcoming, supportive, and family environment. To reach one of the HCPA officers, please email hcpa@hca-stl.org.

HCPA Officers

President: Marie Laury

Lillian (7th), Connor (4th), Austin (1st), and Oliver (PreK)

Vice President: Angela Kovarik

Ellie (3rd), Annie (1st) and Josie (1st)

Treasurer: Erin True

Lucy (1st), Ben (PreK), and Ellie

Secretary: Sandy Schwab

Mariela (1st)



Want to learn more about HCPA?

For more information about leadership, how to sign up for events, and volunteer opportunities, visit holycross-stl.org/hcpa. Scan the QR code below to volunteer and sign up for HCPA sponsored events.



Mother/Son SLU basketball game