



June 9, 2020



Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to take a minute to thank all of you for sending us your amazing children and supporting the work we do here at Holy Cross Academy. I encourage you to keep brain pathways strong by requiring your children to read almost every day. Summer slide, or the loss of learning is a true issue for our students who lose months' worth of gains by not keeping up with their skills.

We had successes and some challenges, yet despite all, we continued the work that had to be done to ensure the safety and educational needs of our children. There are countless people to whom I owe an expression of gratitude. An expression of special thanks goes to all the volunteers, PTA President, Mrs. Kat Smith and her Executive Board members, Co-Vice President, Amy Burke; Co-Vice President, Kelly Nitka and Treasurer, Sarah Welty.

Their presence and support make a much stronger working community to achieve the school's goals and ensuring our students' are our top priority. Additional thanks go to Mrs. Charissa Keavey, BDR President, and all the members of the BDR committee who have worked so hard for the betterment of Holy Cross. And last but not least, the spiritual guidance and support of Father Manning who not only met with the children on a regular basis at school, but could always be counted on to approve some of my crazier initiatives (including flying in a hot air balloon).

I would like to thank our hard working and caring faculty and staff who have made a huge difference to our students. Their commitment is outstanding and your children are the beneficiaries. Thank you for providing rich and engaging, well-rounded experiences for them and knowing that education is about wonder and fostering curiosity, along with development of social skills so needed to succeed. For these, and a million other things, I am truly grateful.

In closing, I take this opportunity to congratulate all students of Holy Cross Academy! I wish you all a very happy, safe and enjoyable summer. Please be sure to take time as family to talk, play, attend Mass and READ together.



### **CONGRATULATIONS** **Newly Selected Student Ambassadors**

Each year, the Student Ambassador program seeks the best quality candidates to represent Holy Cross Academy to guests and prospective families. In March, each faculty member was invited to name ten students they identified as excellent candidates. Voting was anonymous and confidential and was completed before the COVID-19 school closure. Though many students received nominations from the faculty, the 5 boys and 5 girls with the most nominations are invited to the Student Ambassador program. Congratulations to the following students:

Maxine Camillone  
Olivia Domagala  
Mairead Kane  
Elizabeth McCarthy  
Hannah Nitka

Jack Fitzpatrick  
Daniel Burgess  
John Keavey  
Samuel Mago  
Carter Wackrow

### **SOAR BINDERS**

This past year, we received funding from the PTA to purchase the SOAR binders for every student at Holy Cross Academy. This fall, we are requesting that parents purchase the 2” solid white three-ring binder for each of their children to assist in keeping them organized by subject matter. The 2” solid white three-ring binder can be purchased at Staples, Walmart, or any store that sells school supplies.



### **Preparing for re-entry into Holy Cross in the Fall**

We will be meeting with staff, faculty, and parent groups to assess the multiple levels of reopening Holy Cross Academy. Utilizing both national and state health guidelines, we are assessing the most effective way to implement these recommendations specific to our students, parents, faculty, and staff within the physical property of the school. We will be publishing our specific program as soon as we receive updated information.

We realize that there are many concerns and questions for parents regarding the health of our children in this post-pandemic world. Please be assured that the safety of our children, faculty, and staff is the number one concern at this time as we move forward to the re-opening of Holy Cross Academy in the fall.



### **SUMMER HOURS**

Holy Cross Academy is open during the summer Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Please do not hesitate to contact the school at (732) 842-0348 if we can assist you in any way.

Look forward to seeing you in August. To those of you who are leaving us for new places, we wish you all the best!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Mark DeMareo*  
Principal