



---

## It's About the Children!

August 8, 2008

Dear HCA Families,

Somehow another summer has slipped past us and we are setting our sights on our first day of school, August 25<sup>th</sup>. We will welcome our 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders back on that day. Kindergarten families will receive letters about their orientation and first day from their teachers. We are looking forward to seeing those of you who are returning and to having our new families join us. **Welcome, all!** At the direction of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, we will be exploring the person and message of Saint Paul this year. Our HCA theme will speak of our unity, *We Are One in Christ*.

The updated school calendar is posted on our website, [www.holycrossweb.com](http://www.holycrossweb.com). You will also find the supply lists, our updated handbook and introductions to our new teachers. *Look under the section "School News" for a picture and short biography of the newest members of our faculty and staff.* We have once again been blessed with talented and dedicated individuals to guide and teach our children. If you want any health or permission forms, etc., go to the Diocesan site [www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org) and look under the Catholic Schools section. You can download whatever you may need.

As always, students may begin arriving at 8:00 and must be here by 8:20. Parents are encouraged to walk their children in on this first day of the new school year. After dropping your children off in their classrooms, we invite you to Bishop Keating Hall for coffee and a chance to socialize with other parents and some of our faculty and staff. It is always enjoyable to catch up with old friends and meet some new ones. We will begin our regular drop-off routine on Tuesday. *Our opening school Mass will be on the first day of school at 10:00 A.M. We hope that all of you will be able to join us. We will be holding a Commissioning Service during Mass for our faculty and staff, parents and guardians, and students. Please consider spending your morning at HCA and beginning this year All United in Christ.*

Monday will be a half-day with dismissal at 11:30. Please do not plan to come in to school to pick up your children. Just join the dismissal line and the children will come out to you. If you do not yet have a carpool number, your family name will be announced. Please be sure to stop by the office some time during the first week if you need a carpool number or have to change yours. Please note that Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> is also an early, 11:30 dismissal for a Diocesan Curriculum Mapping workshop for our teachers.

All students who are new to our Middle School (all 6<sup>th</sup> graders and new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders) are invited to the Middle School wing for their orientation on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. Our orientation for new families will be in BKH at the same time. Parents and children are invited. New parents and their sponsor-families (*adults only*) are invited to a PTO

reception on Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the library and on our beautiful garden-patio, weather permitting.

Students are expected to be in complete (summer) uniform the first day of school. Please review the dress code regarding shoes, make-up, hair color and jewelry. The students who have the summer shorts option may wear them. Let's begin this school year with enthusiasm and a sprit of thanksgiving that we have each been called to be part of the Holy Cross Academy community. We are blessed!

Aviat Care will begin on the first day of school. Please register if you intend to make use of this program. It is important that the extended care staff knows to expect your child.

Information about the recess program, including the homeroom schedule for the year, will be sent home on the first day of school. The first two weeks of recess coverage will be provided by volunteers. If you did not sign up as a volunteer in May and would like to help, please email [hcarecess@cox.net](mailto:hcarecess@cox.net) or call Mary Beth Cameron at 899-6536. Parents in **6-2** will provide coverage during the week of **Sept. 8-12**; sign-ups will come home the first day of school and need to be returned immediately.

We are also enclosing our student **Emergency Forms** and a new form, a **Confidential Student Health History Update**. Please return those to us on the first day of school **at the latest**. We would love to have them earlier! We will be sending our family newsletter and attachments electronically this year. Our first newsletter will come home on the first day of school with information about signing up for the electronic newsletter. We will provide paper copies for those who do not have Internet access.

Our Back-to-School PTO meetings are at 7:00 P.M. on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> for Middle School and Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We hope to see you all there. And don't miss our Saint Mary Parish Ice Cream Social held here at HCA on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

A reminder to our 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents that all 6<sup>th</sup> graders must have a booster tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) prior to returning to school. We must have documentation before August 25<sup>th</sup>. All new students must hand in their immunization forms prior to the first day of school as well. Please help us out by getting all the paper work to us on time.

As you can see, we have been busy planning for our new school year in which we will be challenged to be one in Christ. May the remainder of your summer be blessed. Please know that you are in our prayers. We can't wait to see you again!

In Christ Jesus,

Mrs. Ellen Sandkuhler  
Assistant Principal

Sr. Susan Louise Eder, OSFS  
Principal