



Holy Cross Academy PTO Newsletter

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Dear Holy Cross Academy Families,

Thank you to all of the HCA Families, Friends, Neighbors and Saint Mary's Parishioners who supported the 2025 PTO Raffle Ticket Fundraiser! We are pleased to share that after awarding the \$10,000 in prizes as noted below, the PTO raised \$14, 275! The funds raised will be applied toward the PTO operating budget.

Raffle Prize Winning Ticket Numbers - All winners have been notified!

\$3000 - Ticket 221102

\$2000 - Ticket 220065

\$1000 - Tickets 418334 & 419376

\$500 - Tickets 221072, 220872, 220330, 418275, 220064 & 220465

For your information, the PTO's projected annual expenses for this school year includes the following:

\$12,800 - Annual disbursement of \$12,800 for HCA faculty stipends.

\$3000 - Annual IXL Membership for Middle School Students

\$1500 - Student welcome back to school festivities.

\$1300 - Faculty & staff welcome back luncheon & stocking breakroom with beverages and snacks.

\$1300 - Holy Cross Feast Day Celebration

\$6000 - Parish Picnic Inflatables & Games

\$3000 - Grandparents Day Event

\$4000 - Father/Daughter Dance & Mother/Son Event

\$3000 - Teacher & other staff Appreciation Week/Day

\$1600 - Muffins with Mom & Donuts with Dad
\$4025 - Administration / Miscellaneous Expenses

The PTO is able to fund these expenses through a variety of income sources that include restaurant spirit events, used uniform sales, event raffles (Father/Daughter Dance), the annual auction and other fundraising initiatives. This year we changed up the raffle to (10) \$10 tickets and we will also have a Race-for-Education, which is a new initiative on November 21, 2025. More information on the Race-for-Education will be posted below.

The Trunk or Treat was **spooktacular!** Many thanks to **Maryanne Harring & Deanna Rubright** from the PTO and all of the **amazing volunteers**, who did a **fantastic job making the night frightfully fun for all!**

With much gratitude,

The 2025–2026 HCA PTO
HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com

A note from Maryanne Harring
PTO Secretary & Trunk or Treat Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Trunk or Treat such a fantastic event! It was wonderful to see so many families come together for an evening filled with fun, creativity, and Halloween spirit.

A huge thank you to all the amazing volunteers who donated candy, decorated trunks, helped with set up and take down, and kept things running smoothly at the concession stand. Your hard work and enthusiasm made all the difference! We're so grateful for everyone who helped make this event such a success. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for supporting our school community, and we can't wait to see you at our next PTO event!

We'd love to get feedback or suggestions on how we can make next year's event even better. Your input helps us continue to grow and improve each year! Please email us at- HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com

Congratulations to Zach Haywood for winning our Pumpkin Carving Contest!

Congratulations to our Trunk Winners!

We loved seeing all the creativity and Halloween spirit on display. Winners,

keep an eye out as your trophies will be sent home this week with your oldest child.

Scariest Trunk Winner: Trunk # 1



Most Creative Trunk Winner: Trunk # 40



Funniest Trunk Winner: Trunk # 8





Friday, November 7, 2025, is the PTO is sponsoring a Chili Cook-off!

There are two slots left to enter your best chili for our Faculty & Staff Lunch! Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

If you would like to donate a garden salad w/ salad dressing, corn bread/bread/crackers or beverages for the chili cook-off, please click on

the link below!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090845A9A728A7F49-57927843-foodie>

UPCOMING RESTAURANT SPIRIT NIGHTS

Tuesday, November 4th 4-8pm Chipotle Mexican Grill

-Route 17 Location 28 South Gateway Drive

Thursday, December 4th 4-8pm Panera Bread

-Central Park Location 1760 Carl D Silver Parkway

It's a win-win!

Let someone else make dinner while supporting a PTO fundraiser!! Please don't forget to mention you are there for the Holy Cross Academy fundraiser and a percentage of your meal cost will be donated back to HCA!

WANTED!

Auction Event Planning Committee Members

The Spring Auction Event will be on Saturday, April 25th! The remaining details will be determined by a planning committee! If you have a knack for fun party planning, entertaining and fundraising; you are invited to join the committee!

Auction Event Planning Committee Kick-off Meeting

Thursday, November 13th 3-4:30pm

Please sign up using this link!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090845A9A728A7F49-60042575-hcauction>

Used Uniforms

If you need uniform items, please email HCAUNIFORMS@holycrossweb.com. Please include the specific uniform item(s) and size you are looking for so that inventory can be checked. Your email will be responded to within 3-5 business days or sooner.

Katie Ventura has been the used uniform closet coordinator since August 2024! **Many thanks to Katie and the volunteers that assisted with the used uniform sales on October 17 & 18th!** The October uniform sales provide

HCA families a valuable opportunity to purchase items just in time for the change to the winter uniform!



The PTO is seeking pictures of US Military Veterans!

Thank you to everyone who have already shared so many great pictures! We look forward to seeing more!! The PTO is putting together a slide show honoring members of the HCA community who are Veterans or served in the military! The slide show will be played the morning of the Race-for Education on November 21st! If you, or your spouse, or an HCA student's sibling, parent, aunt/uncle/grandparent or close friend served in the military - Please email a picture of them, preferably in uniform, by November 14th to HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com.

Race -for -Education on November 21st!

The PTO is excited to announce the upcoming Race for Education, our new fundraising initiative that will bolster the PTO's ability to support Holy Cross Academy and enhance the academic experience of our students. A Race-for-Education is a fun, healthy and interactive fundraiser. It's an energy-filled

activity with music, laughter and joy for the entire school! All students will get to participate in the race and race day activities regardless of their fundraising status. Each student, pre-K through 8th grade will walk, jog, run, skip or roll around a designated course as many times as they are able to during their scheduled race period. Students and home room classes will have opportunities to compete for a number of prizes and awards leading up to race day!

We invite HCA family members and friends to join the fun & your child on race day! The race challenges students to obtain tax-deductible donations by contacting friends, relatives, employers, etc. to sponsor them for their participation in the Race-for-Education and as they "race" laps around the course. The sponsor forms will include prepopulated donations amounts to choose from (\$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 or they can enter an amount of their choosing).

The activities will begin with an assembly in Immaculate Conception Hall, where we will pray for our military, and all members of our HCA family who have served or are actively serving in our armed forces. We welcome HCA family members who are Veterans, retired, discharged or actively serving military members to join us for a brief slide show presentation that will honor their sacrifice and service.

Race-for-Education flyers and the race day schedule will be emailed to all parents. They will also be posted in the Friday Crusader Chronicle and November 11 PTO Newsletter. Donation will be able to be made electronically using a similar payment link that was used for the raffle ticket fundraiser.

As a reminder, each family has an annual fundraising goal of \$100. If you only have one child at HCA and they are enrolled in PreK for 2 or 3 days per week, your fundraising goal is prorated to \$40 for the 2 days/week students and \$60 for the 3 days/week students. If your family did not participate in the raffle ticket fundraiser, this is another opportunity for you to meet your annual fundraising goal.

If your family reached your annual fundraising goal by participating in the raffle ticket fundraiser, you are not required to raise any additional funds. However, we sincerely hope you will support this fundraiser!! We encourage you to cheer on your student not only on race day, but also as they participate in the fundraising portion of the Race-for-Education. Every donation will make a difference!

The PTO's goal is to raise \$20,000. We can meet this goal if every student brings in \$50 in donation. The funds will allow the PTO to carry out the events outlined in the beginning of this newsletter, and it will help the PTO expand our support to the school, teachers, and students by bringing in age-appropriate guest speakers for students, as well as sponsoring educational opportunities for parents & teachers.

The PTO will survey parents towards the end of the school year regarding your fundraising preference for the 2026-2027 school year. If you would like to discuss this information further or have concerns, please reach out to the PTO via HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com.

Prayers & A-Helping-Hand!

Please continue your prayers and support for the Xhaferi family, pray especially for our brave student Ariyon! Please consider signing up to bless the Xhaferi family, which now includes a beautiful new baby, with a meal or Door Dash gift card. <https://mealtrain.com/13e2dq>**Expanded Ways to Earn Service Hours**



We received approximately 15 entries into the PTO's Cutest Pet Contest! Thank you! It's going to be a tough competition! Winners will be announced on the PTO Facebook Page October 31st and will also be included in the November 11th newsletter.

Do you have feedback for the PTO?

We have received a lot of great feedback regarding the grandparents' event. We already have a few improvements in mind for next year. As always, we are open to receiving constructive feedback about the work of the PTO! If you would like to respectfully share your thoughts or feedback, please reach out to the PTO via HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com.

Why is it important to give others grace?

Pope Francis emphasized the importance of giving grace to others as a reflection of the grace we have received from God. Pope Francis taught that everything we have is a gift, and we

are called to share this grace with others. This includes not only material gifts but also the love and kindness we extend to those around us. By doing so, we become instruments of acceptance, reconciliation, and forgiveness, embodying the spirit of generosity that Jesus taught us. God's grace is essential. "Conversion is a grace we must always ask for: 'Lord, give me the grace to improve. Give me the grace to be a good Christian.'"

DONUTS WITH DAD

Join us before school for donuts, hot coffee, and quality time together.



BEYOND HCA -Our students accomplish a lot at HCA, but there are also a lot of great things our students accomplish beyond HCA. Between November 3rd and December 19th, parents can email HCAPTO@holycrossweb.com a brief description of their student's "Beyond HCA" accomplishment along with

a picture. Depending on response; submissions will be included in the January PTO newsletter, or a special release PTO newsletter "Beyond HCA" edition.



Quick PTO Volunteer Sign-up links

Opportunities available throughout the year!

HCA Families: HCA Lunch/Recess Duty 2025-2026

Friday, November 7, 2025

Bring your best chili for our Faculty & Staff Lunch! Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090845A9A728A7F49-57927843-foodie>

Friday, November 7, 2025 **3:30-5pm -FULL

Holy Cross Academy: Father/Daughter Dance Event Planning Committee Kick-off Meeting

Thursday, November 13th 3-4:30pm

Auction Event Planning Committee Kick-off Meeting

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090845A9A728A7F49-60042575-hcaauction>

Friday, November 14, 2025 -FULL

Holy Cross Academy: Help w/ Donuts with Dad!

Friday, May 15, 2026, 7-8am

Holy Cross Academy: Help w/ Muffins with Mom!

*The PTO will announce additional events as the school year progresses.
However, the core PTO events are scheduled for the year on the calendar below!*

PTO Calendar of Scheduled Events

November			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
Tue, Nov 4	Chipotle Mexican Grill Spirit Night	4-8p	Route 17 Location 28 South Gateway Drive Fredericksburg, VA
Fri, Nov 7	Foodie Friday/PTO Chili Cook-off	11-2pm	PTO Sponsored 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Awards
Fri, Nov 7	Father Daughter Dance Planning Committee Meeting	3:30-5pm	Volunteer Opportunity
Thurs, Nov 13	Auction Planning Committee Meeting	3-4:30pm	HCA Conference Room
Fri, Nov 14	Donuts with Dad	7-8am	Volunteer Opportunity
Fri, Nov 21	Race-for-Education		PTO Fundraiser

December			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
Thurs, Dec 4	Panera Bread Spirit Night	4-8pm	Central Park Location 1760 Carl D Silver Parkway
Fri, Dec 12	Foodie Friday Grade 6		Volunteer Opportunity for 6th Grade Families
Fri, Dec 19	Open PTO Meeting w/ Coffee	9-10am	

January 2026			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
Fri, Jan 16	Foodie Friday Grade 5		Volunteer Opportunity for 5th Grade Families

Jan 26-30	Catholic Schools Week	PTO sponsored student treats
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February			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
Fri, Feb 13	Foodie Friday Grade 4		Volunteer Opportunity for 4th Grade Families
Sat, Feb 21	Father Daughter Dance	6-8pm	HCA Cafeteria Volunteer Opportunity

March			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
TBD	Used Uniform Sale	TBD	Time & location comng soon
Fri, Mar 13	Foodie Friday Grade 3		Volunteer Opportunity for 3rd Grade Families

April			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
All Month	Month of the Military Child		Mrs. James - Point of contact
TBD	Used Uniform Sale	TBD	Time & location coming soon
Fri, Apr 17	Foodie Friday Grade 2		Volunteer Opportunity for 2nd Grade Families
Sat, Apr 25	PTO Auction Event		Save the Date! Location & Details depend on survey results.
TBD	Mother/Son Event		April/May

May			
Date	Event	Time	Notes

May 4-8	Teacher Appreciation Week		See daily lunch assignments PTO sponsors "Appreciation Activities" throughout the week
Mon, May 4	Teacher Appreciation Lunch First Grade		Volunteer Opportunity for 1st Grade Families
Tues, May 5	Teacher Appreciation Lunch Kindergarten		Volunteer Opportunity for Kindergarten Families
Wed, May 6	Teacher Appreciation Lunch 7th & 8th Grade		Volunteer Opportunity for 7th & 8th Grade Families
Thurs, May 7	Teacher Appreciation Lunch 5th & 6th Grade		Volunteer Opportunities for 5th & 6th Grade Families
Fri, May 8	Teacher Appreciation Lunch 3rd & 4th Grade		Volunteer Opportunities for 3rd & 4th Grade Families
Fri, May 15	Muffins with Mom	7-8am	Volunteer Opportunity
TBD	Great Train Race YCF		Volunteer Opportunity

June			
Date	Event	Time	Notes
June 5	2025-2026 PTO Board Final Meeting & Handoff to 2026-2027 PTO Board	12:45-2:45pm	Tentative -time may change since 1/2 day.
June 5	8th Grade Final Walk Treats		Sponsored by PTO



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