



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC ACADEMY

7501 Martin Grove Road, Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 9E4
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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Students,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year!

I would like to introduce myself as Principal of Holy Cross Catholic Academy and I am looking forward to another successful and fulfilling year with the school community. I am joined by Vice Principals Mr. W. B. Lechman, Ms. T. Di Paola, and Ms. N. Pescador. As a team, we look forward to supporting our students and encouraging them to meet their full potential.

As we prepare for school start-up, kindly review the dates below and other important information:

- **Tuesday, September 5th** – Grade 9 Orientation Day (Grade 9 students *only*)
- **Wednesday, September 6th** – All grades attend school

On *Tuesday, September 5th*, Grade 9 students will participate in Orientation Day. Grade 9 students are to attend school in full uniform to meet their teachers and participate in activities that will assist them with their transition to secondary school. *Grade 9 students are asked to locate their names on the alpha lists posted in the atrium and then proceed to their homeroom (Period 1 class).* Throughout the day, Grade 9 students will be receiving their timetable, locker information and school lock. ***Students who have not paid the student activity fee will be required to purchase a lock. The cost of the lock is \$13. All students must use a school issued lock. Please see Ms. De Luca in the main office to purchase a lock. Lunch will be provided for all students on Grade 9 orientation day.*

All students will attend school on *Wednesday, September 6th*. The school day starts promptly at *8:25 am and ends at 2:30 pm*. The student drop off area is located at the back of the school. Students are encouraged to be at school early to locate their name and homeroom location posted in the atrium and cafeteria areas of the school. Please be cognizant of the construction and turn signal back up on Martin Grove Rd and plan for the additional time this may add to your commute. All student timetables will be distributed in their homeroom class. Students with period 1 spare are to pick up their timetable in the main office. Please arrive early to avoid the morning rush.

Transportation

Bus services will begin on the first day of school. Students may only ride the school bus assigned to them. It is the expectation that all students who access transportation services behave in a manner that is respectful and safe for all those on the bus. Students who qualify for transportation can access their bussing information on schoolbuscity.com.

Daily Timetable

8:20 am - 8:25 am	Morning Rush Music Begins
8:25 am - 8:30 am	National Anthem and Prayer (Students to be in class)
8:30 am - 9:46 am	Period 1
9:51 am - 11:06 am	Period 2
11:11 am - 1:11pm	Period 3 Lunch A: 11:11 am - 11:51 am Lunch B: 11:51 am - 12:31 pm Lunch C: 12:31 pm - 1:11 pm
1:15 - 2:30 pm	Period 4 (Prayer @ 2:25pm)
2:30 pm	Dismissal

Uniform

It is the expectation for students to be in full uniform. Uniform items can be purchased from [DGN Kilters](#). Students must be in uniform from bell to bell. Please ensure you have purchased your items in advance and are prepared for school. Also, a reminder that students are to wear black shoes. Slides, Crocs, white sneakers, Uggs and slippers are not permitted. Parents/guardians will be contacted if students are not in proper uniform. Please take some time to review our school uniform procedures [HERE](#).

Accessing Timetables

Students will have access to their timetable on September 1st after 4:30 p.m. Students can view their timetables under the student tab on the [Holy Cross Catholic Academy website](#) and log into the [ConnectEd Student Portal](#) by clicking on the connectEd logo. (See image below)

The screenshot shows the Holy Cross Catholic Academy website. The header includes the school logo, the name "Holy Cross Catholic Academy", the tagline "Sharing The Future...", and a search bar. The navigation menu includes: Home, Our School, Parents, Students, Catholic School Council, Parish, and Contact. Below the menu, the "Students" section is highlighted. It contains icons for "Report It!", "D2L (VLE)", "G-Suite", "Library Learning Commons", and "Guidance". A red box highlights the "Connect Student Portal" logo, which includes the "connectEd" logo and the text "CLASSROOM WEBSITES". A red arrow points to this box with the text "CLICK HERE". Below the logos are icons for "D2L", "Google Classroom", and "Google Sites".

For assistance logging into the Student Portal, submit a ticket requesting assistance here: <http://help.ycdsb.ca/VLE/> or follow the instruction in the [Edsembli Student Portal Guide](#)

Course/Timetable Change Requests

For students wishing to connect with Guidance regarding their timetables, please review the information on the Holy Cross Guidance website for details. Please note that at this point in time, all student timetables should be considered finalized. Changes to a student's timetable will only be made if they meet the criteria outlined on the Guidance website. Please access the Guidance website [HERE](#).

Food Delivery

Student use of food delivery services to the school, such as UberEats, Skip the Dishes etc. is **not permitted** and these services will not be allowed to enter the school property.

Mental Health

Talking to your child about the return to school can help to ease fears or uncertainty. Here are some ways to start the conversation:

- Who are you looking forward to connecting with?
- How are you feeling about the school year?
- What is one thing you feel excited for?
- How can I help you feel comfortable about school?

[12 Step checklist for back to school- Anxiety Canada](#)

[How to Support a Mentally Healthy Back to School for Your Child](#)

Follow Us! Be sure to provide updated email and contact information to the Main Office to ensure you get our school communications. Our school calendar of events is on our school webpage: <https://hocr.ycdsb.ca/> You will also find us on Instagram: **@hcca_hawksnews** and Twitter/X: **@HCCA_hawksnews**

The staff at Holy Cross Catholic Academy have been busily preparing for our return to school. It is important to reflect on the roots of our faith and our ability to call on the Lord for guidance, inspiration, and companionship. Our faith helps us stay grounded and we should continue to seek out moments to reflect on the many good ways the Lord journeys with us. It will be through our faith that we will be blessed with good health and energy to sustain ourselves this upcoming school year.

On behalf of the Holy Cross Administration, we hope you had a very blessed summer and enjoyed time with family and friends. May you continue to be filled with positivity and hope and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Sandra Abate
Principal

Holy Cross Catholic Academy Mission Statement

"Holy Cross Catholic Academy fosters an inclusive learning community of globally minded, lifelong learners who are committed to being compassionate and collaborative communicators, driven to achieve excellence through student-centered inquiry with faith as our guiding principle." *December 2018*