



# Holy Cross School

300 Dubuc Street, Winnipeg, MB, R2H 1E4

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Dear Holy Cross School Community,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School year. I hope that your summer has been blessed with rest and relaxation. I am humbled and honoured to be the new principal at Holy Cross School. I am blessed to have the opportunity to work among such a dedicated staff, school board, and parent advisory council. It is a responsibility, privilege, gift, and honour for me to be the administrator of such an amazing faith-based school community.

We are pleased and excited to welcome all returning and new students to Holy Cross School for the 2023-2024 School Year. We hope that everyone has had a wonderful summer filled with many memories and sunshine. Grades 1- to 8 students will have their first full day of school on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. **Please note that Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten are on a separate and staggered start schedule and they enter the building through the gym doors on Dubuc.**

We have completed the landscaping of the old convent site and it is now ready to be used as a play space with playground mulch installed over the summer.

The school outside has received a new coat of blue paint on the trim and when you come inside you will see that the walls have been updated as well with fresh coats of paint. We have also been busy installing new flooring in many rooms as well as updating the library space.

We will continue to promote good health practices, such as frequent hand washing and staying home when you are feeling sick, but we will be able to resume most of our pre-pandemic activities.

## **Arrival/Dismissal**

At the beginning of the day, on September 6, 2023, grades 1-8 students will meet in the parking lot at the rear of the school. Signs will be placed on the yellow pillars with grade and assigned class. All school supplies **do not need** to be brought to school on the first day.

Supervision begins at 8:15 a.m., for safety reasons any students arriving prior to 8:15 a.m. will be directed to the Before and After program. Students arriving after 8:30 a.m. are considered late and will need to enter through the main doors to receive a late slip. During inclement weather, students will begin entry at 8:15 a.m.

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students will enter and exit through the main Gym Doors located on Dubuc Street.

### **Dismissal at the End of Day**

At the end of the day, students will exit through the back gym doors. **Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten will exit through the main gym doors located on Dubuc Street at 3:00 p.m.** If your child is here after 3:15 pm they will be directed to the Before and After Care program and a charge may be incurred.

### **Before and After School Care**

For safety reasons any students at the school before 8:15 a.m. or at school after 3:15 will be directed to the Before and After program. Before and After care is available to families from 7:00 a.m. to 8:25 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Families are asked to continue to monitor their child's health everyday prior to sending them to school and follow best practices. If you think your child has an illness that can be spread to others, please keep them at home. If while at school your child exhibits cold or flu like symptoms such as, but not limited to: fever, runny nose, headache, or nausea, families will be contacted to pick their child up from school and take them home.

### **Mask Wearing**

Staff and students are no longer required to wear masks while at school. The wearing of masks at school is a family decision. We support families that continue to wish their child to wear a mask. The school will no longer be providing masks.

### **Visitors/Volunteers**

Visitors are now welcome in the school. If you want to meet with a teacher, we ask that prior to coming to the school you make an appointment to ensure their availability. We are beginning the process of welcoming volunteers back into the school. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the office to discuss volunteering opportunities. For safety and security all visitors and volunteers will continue to sign in and out of the office before entering the school

### **Hygiene and Cleaning**

Enhanced cleaning and sanitation of high traffic and high touch areas will continue. We have custodial staff dedicated to cleaning and disinfecting through out the day. The focus will be on high-touch surfaces and common areas.

### **Lunch and Cafeteria**

Students in pre-kindergarten to grade 4 will continue to eat lunch in their classrooms. Students in grades 5-8 will eat in the school cafeteria. Students eating in the cafeteria will have assigned seating. We have a, "No Sharing" of foods policy. This includes foods shared as part of a class celebrations, including birthday treats. (Birthday treats are to be individually packaged and will be distributed by the classroom teacher. It is at the discretion of individual classroom teachers if they allow birthday treats in their classroom and they have the support of the administration in their choice.) Students must bring their own lunch from home. Microwaves are also not available. Students are encouraged to bring lunches that do not require reheating at school or use thermos containers to keep their food warm.

**Drinking Fountains**

Refilling stations are available for use, but regular water fountains are not in operation. Students are encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottle to school.

**Field Trips**

Field trips are as they were prior to pandemic restrictions. Staff and students will be required to follow the protocols of the venues.

**Air Quality**

To ensure that classrooms have fresh clean air, classrooms have a commercial grade Hepa air filtration unit.

Yours in faith,

*Catherine Walker*

*Principal*

*Holy Cross School*

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*Service is the rent we pay for our time on earth. Mohammed Ali*