



## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

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March 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Holy Cross Students:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9) “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let our requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4:6) God is with us. He gives us hope in difficult times as we pray and trust in Him.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation this past week as things changed rapidly for education. Decisions have been based on guidance from Sedgwick County Health Department, the State Board of Education, Kansas Lutheran Schools, and Day School Commission of Holy Cross. In the coming weeks, we will continue to have quality Christian education. The delivery will change from a traditional model to an online educational model. We will be guided by standards as we utilize our current curriculum. The teachers have been already preparing, and they will continue preparing as we dive into this new way of delivery. The delivery style will include recordings, videos and live communication with pre-arranged times.

Schedule:

- **March 23-March 27** Teachers will meet virtually and in small groups to plan. They will be communicating with you.
- **March 30** Online instruction will begin for Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Preschool:** High quality preschool education will continue. Day Care will discontinue. We know that day care may be an option in Wichita, but the Day School Commission has decided that day care will not be in session at Holy Cross due to safety concerns. Options for child care include: Child Care Aware on the KDHE website. Click on the Child Care Licensing and Local County Contacts link: [http://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/download/county\\_contacts.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/download/county_contacts.pdf) I would encourage all preschool parents to take advantage of this great opportunity. If you know other parents who would like to enroll, encourage them to enroll online or contact Mrs. Myers. Mrs. Myers will be sending additional details about the preschool program.

**K-8:** Holy Cross is accredited through the State of Kansas. The Kansas State Department and our Kansas Lutheran Schools have provided great support during this past week. K-8 will also be online. We will continue to utilize our textbooks as much as we can. These materials will be enhanced by many online resources. Our goal is to provide high quality Christian education. Phones, IPADS, computers and other electronic devices can be used. Many sessions will be prerecorded so they can be done at different times during the day. We will try to have some online sessions so that other children can connect to each other. Teachers will be in contact with you this next week. Instruction will include core curriculum, religion, Spanish, music, art, PE, and band. There will be no state assessments this year. We did complete the Iowa Assessments and will send the results to you when we receive them back. Grades and report cards will continue.

**6-8:** 6-8 will continue to use the surface tablets and Microsoft software as their delivery service. Instruction will include core curriculum, religion, Spanish, music, art, PE, and band. Our science and social studies are already available online. Pastor Myers will be using Zoom for his 8<sup>th</sup> grade religion class. Middle school will be one of our easiest adjustments as we have already had the ability to teach online.

**Procedures:** There will soon be a Sign Up Genius online that will be posted on the COVID-19 response page: <https://lovemyschool.net/covid-19/> This is for you to make appointments to come next Thursday or Friday to school. There will be tables in commons with students' belongings, books and packets to pick up. Library books should be returned, as well as sports attire. Each child will have a marked space. Each Friday we will have teacher baskets in the lobby for packets to be dropped off and picked up as directed by the teacher. Not all packets will need to be returned. Teachers will provide directions in the coming week.

**Safety:** The COVID-19 virus is communicable on cardboard up to 24 hours and on metal up to 72 hours. Therefore, we will attempt to keep the school doors by the gym doors, with tables in the commons area. Please enter, drop off and pick up. Please abide by the social distancing rule. All teachers will wash their hands before handling any of the papers or belongings. Once you return papers, we will let them sit all weekend.

**Jogathon:** Please have your own private Jogathon to raise money for our school. There is an online option available on our website. Thank you for doing this.

**AR:** Mrs. Dobler will have some kind of AR celebration online. Students need to be rewarded!

**Mental Health:** This is a difficult time for children and parents. The children miss their routines, friends and teachers. Teachers miss their students. We will try to provide some mental health times at the COVID-19 response page: <https://lovemyschool.net/covid-19/>

**Future:** Once we are able to return to normalcy, we will have a year-end celebration (field day) for all students and teachers. We will schedule an 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, and, if at all possible, reschedule the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip.

**Communication:** Each day, starting next week, I will have daily devotions for the parents. Teachers and students will lead devotions for the students. The devotions will be recorded at <https://lovemyschool.net/devotions/>

Check the following sites for updates:

- school COVID-19 response page: <https://lovemyschool.net/covid-19/>
- church COVID-19 response page: <https://holycrosslutheran.net/covid-19/>

Facebook will also be another means of communication.

**Equipment:** If you do not have enough technology at your house, please let us know and we will loan you equipment.

**Library Books:** Check with your local library branch for reading materials. Many books can be ordered online for pick up at your local branch.

**Payments:** Please contact Adrian Peppers or Mrs. Boettcher if you are experiencing financial hardship.

**Scholarship Fund:** There have already been layoffs. We want all children to continue their education at Holy Cross. If you would like to donate to the Scholarship Fund, please contact Adrian Peppers or Mrs. Boettcher to help others in this time of need.

I ask for your prayers and understanding as teachers develop a new delivery service. We know there will be glitches, and we will work them out.

Each day I pray that you and your families may be spared of the COVID-19 virus. Please pray for safety for all, our school families and our staff.

We are in partnership together. If you have more than one child, we realize this may be a real challenge to you. We will help and support you however we can. Please email me with any questions or concerns you may have.

May God richly bless you.

In Christ,

Mrs. Boettcher