

## Holy Cross School Grade 7 Information Package

Welcome to Grade 7 at Holy Cross!

I am incredibly honoured and thrilled to be able to experience this Grade 7 year with all of you and your children. It is a pleasure to work with such an amazing group of students and I look forward to the year ahead.

This package includes information about the curriculum, the classroom expectations, and the important events that will happen throughout the course of the year. If you have questions regarding anything discussed in this package, feel free to ask me in person, contacting me through the school office at 604 299-3530, the 'Remind' App, or through email at [cdefazio@hcschool.ca](mailto:cdefazio@hcschool.ca)

### **My Philosophy:**

I am not just a teacher. I am an initiator of curiosity, a mentor, a coach, and, most of all, a facilitator of learning. Our classroom will be a learning community driven by respect, fairness, and character. I will encourage the students to push themselves in all categories by challenging them daily in order to get their personal best every single day. I plan for the students to not only learn but to *experience* the curriculum, encouraging them to take risks, make mistakes, and ask questions at the same time. I plan to design and implement learning experiences for students that are engaging, creative and meaningful. I aim to teach students by using lessons that promote imagination, discovery, critical thinking, and fun, as well as many cooperative learning opportunities.

-Mr. C. DeFazio

## Curriculum Overview

*More information regarding the Grade 7 Curriculum can be found in Parent Packages and the Ministry of Education Website*

<b>Christian Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The theme for this year is “What do you want of me, Lord?” Our focus will be to find out what God wants of us in our lives during this Sacramental year. We will try and seek God’s plan for us through reading scripture, exploring the lives of saints, participating in the Sacraments, reflection, and performing acts of charity.</li> </ul>
<b>Math</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will develop a deeper understanding of numbers, patterns &amp; relations, shape &amp; space, geometry and statistics &amp; probability. We will engage with the material through hands-on activities, drills, and problem solving exercises.</li> </ul>
<b>English</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Reading:</b> We will aim to empower students by giving them tools that allow them to be “meta-cognitive” or aware of their thinking while they read.</li> <li><b>Writing:</b> We will become proficient writers by practicing strategies and showing how to engage and invite our readers’ thinking through our writing. Students will be asked to reflect often this year by writing online reflections called <i>Don’t Just Think It. Ink It</i>, to help improve paragraph writing skills and writing from different perspectives.</li> <li><b>Speaking:</b> We will become confident and thoughtful speakers by delivering various presentations and participating in public speaking projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This year’s focus will be on ancient civilizations. We will explore the history of peoples and places like Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, and ancient Greece and conduct an inquiry into how these past civilizations have shaped our identity today.</li> </ul>
<b>Science</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This year’s areas of interest include hypothesizing and developing experiments, evolution, ecosystems, chemistry and the earth’s changing environment.</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Career Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will promote positive relationships and deeds in our communities (classroom, school, beyond the school) through performing acts of service and demonstrating excellent leadership. We will study topics that include goal setting, successful work habits, maintaining good emotional and physical health, as well as safe and morally sound decision-making. We will also begin exploring various careers and job opportunities and learn some skills that will help us choose which path will bring us joy.</li> </ul>
<b>Art</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our art education will be integrated in a variety of ways with our other study areas. We will emphasize learning about how we can manipulate a variety of materials and media so as to be able to express ourselves in a meaningful and beautiful way.</li> </ul>

## Important Dates and Events

*Please notify the teacher immediately if you child cannot attend any of these dates*

<p><b>Oct. – Nov. 2018</b> (Dates TBA) @ HCS</p>	<p><b><u>Foundational Skills Assessments (FSA)</u></b> The BC Ministry of Education requires every grade 7 student to complete a BC wide assessment test prepared by the Ministry of Education to ensure students are learning the BC curriculum.</p>
<p><b>Sunday, November 4, 2018</b> 1pm-9pm @ TBA</p>	<p><b><u>Spirit Day</u></b> Spirit Day is designed to celebrate the Grade 7 students of our Archdiocese and has grown tremendously since the inaugural event in February 2005. This event will get participants excited about receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, and awaken the Holy Spirit in young and old alike. The day will include sessions, testimonies, games, music, skits, prayer, food, and Mass.</p>
<p><b>November 6-9, 2018</b> Tuesday – Friday @ Camp Timberline</p>	<p><b><u>Grade 7 Outdoor Education</u></b> Grade 7 class will stay at Camp Timberline for 4 days and 3 nights. This will be a trip that aims to foster faith development, team building, cooperation, and self-discovery. Parents are invited to come up for a Mass and some camp fun on the Wednesday evening.</p>
<p><b>TBA</b> (Date TBA) @ HCS</p>	<p><b><u>Confirmation</u></b> Grade 7 students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.</p>