



# THE LANCE

Holy Cross  
High School  
Flushing, NY

December  
2020  
Fall Semester

## Get to Know the New Faculty at Holy Cross

### Briana Tola & Alexandra Lynch

The Holy Cross community has expanded even greater this year! With the new freshman class of 2024 coming in, Holy Cross has gained some new faculty members as well. These eight new additions to the community are Ms. Paprocki, Ms. Franzese, Ms. Marone, Ms. Conway, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Velocci, and Mr. Quinn. With so many new faculty members, it is important to learn about these new faces, so *The Lance* interviewed them. This year it is especially odd to adjust with the new hybrid schedule, so these teachers have not only had to adjust to COVID protocols, but also to an entirely new environment. In the midst of a pandemic, it is important that Holy Cross has all hands on deck, so these new members of the Holy Cross community have been especially helpful to have during these times. Read the following interviews to get to know the new members of the Holy Cross faculty better.

### Ms. Paprocki

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: I teach 9th and 10th grade English.

Q: How do you like Holy Cross High School so far?

A: I love it here at Holy Cross. Everyone has been so nice and welcoming. I am truly enjoying getting to know all of my new students as well.

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## The Lance

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### Get to Know the New Faculty

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

A: My students have taught me that I need to be able to adjust very quickly because each class learns differently and sometimes some lessons work well with some classes but not for others.

Q: Is it weird becoming a teacher at a different school in the midst of this hybrid learning schedule?

A: It is very strange coming to Holy Cross in the midst of the pandemic because I am already trying to get to know so many new people and now I don't even get to see them everyday and even when I do see them, I don't get to see their entire face. I pray that sooner than later we get through this pandemic and all students get to come into school everyday without wearing face masks.

#### Ms. Thomas

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: Math.

Q: How do you like Holy Cross High School so far?

A: I enjoy being here and I love how helpful the administration is.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

A: The students here are very active in school sports and activities. They are not too fond

of math based on the topic we are on because it may be confusing to them which is common amongst most people. However, they are willing to learn and get their work done because they want to maintain a good grade and average.

Q: Is it weird becoming a teacher at a different school in the midst of this hybrid learning schedule?

A: Yes and no, when I was a student I was more so used to having 25-30 students in a class, having half of the class in school is easier for me to monitor students learning however, monitoring students learning on Google meet is not easy. I used the SmartBoard when student teaching, but now everything is technology based. I'm learning more and more everyday different techniques to get the students more involved in their learning through technology.

#### Ms. Franzese

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: I teach 9th and 10th grade English.

Q: How do you like Holy Cross High School so far?

A: I love Holy Cross. It is a great community to be a part of.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

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## ***Get to Know the New Faculty***

A: I have learned so much from my students so far and I am looking forward to learning more about them! The students have been very helpful to me.

Q: Is it weird becoming a teacher at a different school in the midst of this hybrid learning schedule?

A: Being a teacher during the hybrid learning schedule is new for everyone. It is a new process for all. I hope one day soon everything will be back to normal. One thing I definitely miss is seeing students smile! (The mask hides that)

### **Ms. Conway**

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: I teach Math.

Q: How do you like Holy Cross High School so far?

A: Holy Cross is a nice school. Everyone is friendly and helpful. The students in my classes are great.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

A: The students are respectful and good.

Q: Is it weird becoming a teacher at a different school in the midst of this hybrid learning schedule?

A: It is not weird, but it is different. It was hard to get used to a new schedule and routine. After a few weeks, it has been a bit easier.

### **Mr. Quinn**

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: Currently, I teach a class called Introduction to Occupation, which is a senior elective for business. It goes over the fundamentals of different occupations and essential life skills required for any jobs you might have.

Q: How do you like Holy Cross High School so far?

A: Being an Alum of Holy Cross, I love being back in the building, especially since I can share my life experiences with future Holy Cross Alumni.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

A: My students have shown me that they all have different learning styles. Some students respond better if I lecture a topic in class, and others prefer visual aids such as written notes or slides.

Q: Is it weird becoming a teacher at a different school in the midst of this hybrid learning schedule?

A: I think we both have the same answer to this question. Conducting school through a hybrid method is a unique experience for everyone. It has presented itself with a few obstacles we have all encountered, which had an interesting spin on the high school experience. I have found it very enjoyable but miss seeing some students in person. I find that I have a better time when I can converse with someone face to face rather than through a computer screen.

### **Ms. Velocci**

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: I am a School Counselor in the Guidance Dept.

Q: How do you like Holy Cross High School so far?

A: I enjoy working at Holy Cross. Faculty, staff, and administration continue to be very welcoming. I am learning something new everyday when I come here.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

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## **Get to Know the New Faculty**

A: I learned that the students are very friendly and are welcoming to new people at Holy Cross. I believe that Holy Cross is a tight community that is continuing to grow. Even with the changes with hybrid/fully remote learning, the students are learning to work with everyone to make sure we have a successful year.

Q: Is it weird becoming a teacher at a different school in the midst of this hybrid learning schedule?

A: It is definitely different with the hybrid learning schedule. Since not being at Holy Cross last year, I only hear stories from other faculty on how it is different this year compared to last year. Doing the hybrid/ fully remote learning, there is a lot going on and it is a change for everyone. What's nice to see is that everyone is staying optimistic and knowing that we are all in this together.

### **Mrs. Marone**

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: I am currently the girl's Physical Education teacher.

Q: How do you like Holy Cross High School so far?

A: I am enjoying teaching at Holy Cross. We are having a great time in gym class. The faculty has treated me well and has been extremely helpful.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

A: I have learned how the students have been able to adapt to this new "normal". As adults, we are much more resistant to change. The students have handled these changes very well.

Q: Is it weird becoming a teacher at a different school in the midst of this hybrid learning schedule?

A: I am starting a new career this year at Holy Cross. I was previously working in the medical field training cardiac patients. So, this is all new for me. I feel that this is an adjustment for everyone. Having smaller classes has been helpful to get to know all of my students. However, I do look forward to when we are able to resume a regular schedule.

### **Mr. Fischer**

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: I teach social studies, specifically US history and political science. In the spring, I will drop political science and teach economics.

Q: How do you like Holy Cross High School so far?

A: What I have enjoyed about Holy Cross HS is how helpful everyone has been helping me acclimate to my new community. Whether it's lesson planning, grading, or just having a conversation about topics outside of school, the faculty and staff at Holy Cross could not be more helpful.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

A: My students have taught me that it's important to keep class fun and engaging. As much as school can be stressful, my students are the best part of my job. They find ways to make me laugh and smile, which is more important than ever this year.

Q: Is it weird becoming a teacher at a different school in the midst of this hybrid learning schedule?

A: I think it's strange and not easy for any teacher at any school this year since the vast majority of us are new to hybrid learning. We're all making mistakes and learning as we go, and I think everyone understands that. However, we still need to be patient and kind to ourselves during this time.



# THE LANCE SPORTS

## Bowling Team

**Briana Tola**

JV and varsity bowling is currently 1-0, having beaten Xavier in its first match. The varsity team has a lot of returning players including senior Jordan Cooper, and juniors Francesco Mancini-Menditto and Erick Urgiles. One new player for varsity is a very promising freshman who has already established himself as the anchor of our varsity team. Michael Palmisano, former captain of the team Christopher Palmisano's younger brother. The JV team has two returning sophomores, Salvatore Abicca and Jayden Hamilton. They also have 3 new players, junior Chardae Williams who is the only girl on the team and freshmen Matthew Fernandez and Mauricio Hernandez. Jayden Hamilton is currently the captain of the JV team.



## Cheerleading at Holy Cross

**Alexandra Lynch**

It is now the third year of having girls at Holy Cross, meaning it is now the third year of having our Holy Cross cheerleaders. This year it is clear that all sports teams will be a little different than normal, but the cheerleaders are persistent in showing pep and spirit throughout these difficult times. This year the coach of the Holy Cross cheer team is Coach Paprocki, a new teacher here at Holy Cross. There are a total of 20 girls on the team, including some new sophomore and freshmen girls. The cheerleaders hope to cheer for the Holy Cross basketball team starting in November, but unfortunately, it may not end up being possible considering the state of COVID-19. If this is not possible, hopefully the cheerleaders are able to cheer on the football team, which will have games starting in January. Whether the girls are able to cheer on our sports teams sooner or later, they still continue to practice as much as possible.

According to Coach Paprocki, the Holy Cross cheerleaders are currently working on basic skills, such as motions and sideline cheers, on top of conditioning. This conditioning is in preparation to get the girls bodies stronger, so that when the cheerleaders are allowed to work on more physical skills like tumbling and stunting, they will be ready. It is not a normal year for anyone right now, which is why the school needs cheering on during these tough times. Nothing is certain right now about what the Holy Cross cheerleaders will do next, but they will continue to practice and hope to be cheering soon!

## Girls Soccer

**Kimberly Johnston & Isabella Defendini**

The Fall 2020 season marked the second year of the Holy Cross girls soccer program, led by Coach Sommer and Ms. Mulligan. We asked the coaches about their expectations for the season. "For one, it's our first official season. Last year, we had a small, dedicated squad that practiced but never really had the chance to compete. Now, with a team of varying ages and levels of experience, we are finally competing! While the team is experiencing the same growing pains any new program experiences, there's the bonus of watching the girls learn from each game. We are looking forward to this season and having our girls mentor any new soccer players who would like to join the team next school year!"

With their game against TMLA on October 7th, they became the first varsity girls team in the



school's history to play an official game. Captained by sophomores Jamie Jensen and Asma Chawdhary, the team plays their home games at College Point Fields.

"I think it's very cool being

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the first soccer team at Holy Cross because it's a new experience for everyone. We are learning and improving as we play, and hopefully as time goes on, the future teams at Holy Cross can succeed and do well in soccer," said junior Samantha Rodriguez. While their season was unfortunately cut short due to the school closing, the team will be back next fall ready to play! Beginning with the next class of freshman, Holy Cross will be fully co-ed and the girls soccer program will continue to grow.

## Boys Soccer

Our varsity boys soccer team, lead by Head Coach Mr. Tyburczy '02 look to dominate on the field this season, despite all the new challenges. With help from Assistant Coaches Mr. Martinez and Mr. Jaramillo, the team is ready for this new season. Likewise our JV team looks to prepare for the season with help from Head Coach Mr. Garcia and Assistant Coach Mr. Rojas. With both teams seasons underway we wish them luck.

## Flag Football

With a new season has come new challenges for the Knights football team. Due to health concerns, the team now plays flag football instead of tackle. While still very competitive, this does offer new challenges for the team as roles have changed and many players have to adapt to new protocols. The varsity team lead by Head Coach Mr. Smith with help from Assistant Coaches Mr. Duncan, Mr. Gazzillo, Mr. Moore, Mr. Rennie '09, Mr. Rowen '11 & Mr. Shaw are eager to take the field and rise to the challenge. Our JV team lead by Head Coach



Mr. McArdle '00 with help from Mr. Gerken, Mr. Goger '12, Mr. Marin '12, Mr. Meyer '08 & Mr. McGovern '99 are equally prepared.

# Open House



## Briana Tola

On Sunday, October 18th, Holy Cross hosted their annual open house. The open house is an opportunity for junior high students to come and see our wonderful school. This year it was a little different than other years because of the guidelines we have to follow.

Junior high students and their families came and got to meet with students and our faculty to see if they would want to be a future knight. We were the only school in Queens who had an in-school open house. This year instead of showing the extra curricular activities in the gym, we instead did it on the football field. On the football field, Holy Cross featured all of our clubs and sports teams, and answered any questions about our extra curricular activities. Mr. Cerbone made zeppoles for everyone to enjoy.

On Sunday, October 26th we had a virtual open house. Families had an opportunity to get on Zoom to hear about our wonderful school. Each department was available to answer any questions. Many families came and enjoyed their visit here at Holy Cross and we hope to have many more future knights.