



# LANCE

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1955

NOVEMBER 2024

[www.holycrosshs.org](http://www.holycrosshs.org)

FALL SEMESTER

## FRESHMEN EXPERIENCE 2024

by: Effie-Marie Verteouris '26

### Class of 2028

The students and faculty of Holy Cross High School welcomed the Class of 2028 at this year's Freshman Experience. This gave the students opportunities to meet future friends and teachers, "I felt more comfortable on the first day of school knowing that I had friends to see throughout the day and know who I would be in my classes with" - Efthemia Zazzarino, Class of 28.

The incoming freshman participated in multiple ice breaker activities that were held in our school gym such as: Perfect "Blind" Square, Flip the Tarp, Key Punch, River Rapids, Giant Jenga, "Bullnose", Art Activity and Tug-A-War. The incoming freshman also participated in a team-building scavenger hunt that took place all throughout the building. After these activities, campus ministry held a prayer service praying for the incoming freshman as they are about to start their highschool experience.



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LANCE SPORTS



# The Lance

Published by the students of  
Holy Cross High School

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This publication seeks to follow the Holy Cross philosophy, objectives, and mission statement. We reserve the right to edit all articles for grammar, taste, clarity, content, and availability of space. Letters are accepted. Please direct them to the editors or the moderator.



## New Teachers at Holy Cross

by: Juliana Lopez '25

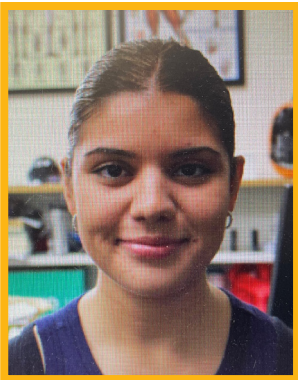
This year Cross has a few new faces on the faculty team. We have to get to know these new teachers, and introduce them to the Cross community. What better way to do that than to ask them some questions.

Let's start with the new faces of the:

English Department: Mrs. Hoffman



English Department: Ms. Normandia



History Department: Mr. Jounakos



Math Department: Ms. Dolan



How long have you been teaching?

"This is my 19th year of teaching. I have taught in both the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Diocese of Rockville Centre. I began my career in education as an Art teacher and did that for five years before I became an elementary classroom teacher, then a Jr. high ELA teacher, and finally a high school English teacher. I miss my art teacher days, so sometimes I must do something crafty in the classroom to get the creative bug out of my system." - **Mrs. Hoffman**

"This will be my first full school year teaching, but I have taught at the undergraduate and high school level before." - **Ms. Normandia**

"I have been in education for the past 3 years but this is my first full time teaching position." - **Mr. J**

"I'm currently in my 25th year of teaching. I taught 22 of those years at Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx." - **Ms. Dolan**

Why do you like teaching?

“I genuinely loved learning and wanted to do my best. I hope to create a safe place for my students where they feel comfortable, confident, and learn a few lessons along the way. When I see my students have that “aha” moment and all the puzzle pieces click together, I am reminded that I chose the right career.” - **Mrs. Hoffman**

“Teaching allows me to experience my favorite subject and passion for the first time over and over again through my students’ eyes. In addition to that, having the opportunity to build connections and bonds with my students is an irreplaceable experience.” - **Ms. Normandia**

“There are many reasons but the main reason is that I enjoy getting to know my students and become an outlet for them as they navigate high school. “ - **Mr. J**

“I love seeing the “a-ha” moment when a student finally understands math.” - **Ms. Dolan**

Is there a reason you teach the subject you do?

“Reading is such a privilege and one we often take for granted. I get extremely excited over stories, poems, and writing, and am elated to share that passion for the written word with my students. Since I was a little girl my favorite place to go was the library. (Now it is the bookstore, and I may have an addiction to paperbacks– I blame it on the yearly Scholastic Book Fair.) My father was a teacher so I always had an inkling that I would follow in his footsteps. Helping set up his classroom was one of my favorite things to do every August with my dad. Shopping for school supplies was an event I looked forward to... When I was ten, I met my ELA teacher, “Mr. C.” who I was lucky enough to have for the next four years! He continued to foster my love of reading and writing...If I can sprinkle some of that love of learning that Mr. C gave me onto my own students, then I will have truly paid it forward.” - **Mrs. Hoffman**

“When I was in high school, my high school English teacher was my role model and her class established my love for English. I have always wanted to be for a student, what she was for me. Having the space to explore topics and dig deeper with my students that I love is incredible.” - **Ms. Normandia**

“ I teach social studies because it has always been my favorite subject and I feel it is often regarded as boring when it is incredibly interesting.” - **Mr. J**

“I’ve always loved math. It just made sense to me. I am very passionate about the subject and hope to convey that to my students.” - **Ms. Dolan**

Any specific goals you want to achieve while in cross?

“My ultimate goal is to turn my students into readers. That is no small task. In this age of technology, social media, and immediate gratification, words and prose are lost. I want to share my passion for literature with my students and have them fall in love with books, one word at a time. Having students enjoy reading and asking if I could recommend books that they could read for fun is always a wonderful feeling.” - **Mrs. Hoffman**

“To make the very most of my time here, and hope to inspire and motivate (and hope to stay).” - **Ms. Normandia**

“I want to continue to become a better teacher, learn from the mistakes that I have made and realize a dream I have had for a long time.” - **Mr. J**

“ I want to be part of the community.” - **Ms. Dolan**

Why did you choose Cross?

“It has always been my ambition to teach at the high school level, when I saw the ad for an opening in the English department at HCHS I applied immediately. After meeting with Mrs. Roesch and Dr. Blanchard I felt confident that HCHS would be a good fit for me. The English department has been very welcoming, and I admire how the Catholic tradition is woven into the daily routine of each day.” - **Mrs. Hoffman**

“Holy Cross has always been close to home, going to TMLA and having Holy Cross be our brother school during those years have brought me close to the Holy Cross community and I have made friends for life through that connection. Holy Cross is the perfect combination of comfort and growth as I embark on this teaching journey.” - **Ms. Normandia**

“I feel that Holy Cross gave me and continues to give me a great chance to succeed as a teacher and through the knowledge of the amazing teachers at Holy Cross I can continue to become a better teacher.” - **Mr. J**

“My strong faith and commitment to Catholic education align with Holy Cross’s mission and philosophy on education. Holy Cross provides the environment where I can contribute to the academic and spiritual growth of the students. My hope is to have my students enjoy the beauty of mathematics while instilling strong Christian morals and values in my classroom.” - **Ms. Dolan**

How do you like the community so far?

“The faculty and staff have been so supportive and helpful to me as I have transitioned into my new role. I am grateful for everyone who has taken the time to help me and “check in.” Getting to know the students has been wonderful and it always makes me smile when a student passes me in the hallway and says hello.” - **Mrs. Hoffman**

“I have been immediately welcomed by all members of the community and that has been such a blessing. The willingness to help, check in, and be a support system is incredible. My students, as well, have been open and kind during this mid-semester transition.” - **Ms. Normandia**

“I love the community at Holy Cross. It is a school with teachers who are here to help. You always have someone watching your back.” - **Mr. J**

“Everyone has been so welcoming so far. My colleagues are so helpful in showing me the ropes. My students have been so lively and engaging and don’t make me feel like I’m the “new” teacher.” - **Ms. Dolan**

Any facts you would like us to know about you?

“I am a huge Harry Potter nerd and a proud Slytherin. “Mischief Managed.” - **Mrs. Hoffman**

“I absolutely love talking about music and sports, so please stop by my classroom to recap games and give music recommendations!” - **Ms. Normandia**

“One fact about me is that I come from a big family. I am one of five kids and when you live with six other people you quickly learn how to play as a member of a team.” - **Mr. J**

“I love to cook. I’m a big trivia buff. Being on Jeopardy is a bucket list item. I have been on Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (I didn’t win any \$).” - **Ms. Dolan**





Holy Cross Fall Blood Drive



by: Julia Lopez '25

As a community every spring and fall we come together during the school day and donate blood (16+) . We have the student body, faculty members and even outside visitors come in and do this amazing donation. Donating blood is something that’s very important and needed for emergencies. Our sophomore dean Mr. Kani runs the blood drive every year and has been running it very effectively, providing snacks and water before and after donating blood, taking care of any symptoms that may be an outcome from donating. Something to keep in mind for the next time you have the chance to donate is that a patient who receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, is lifesaving and that care starts with one person making a generous donation.

“The blood drive is an essential part of being a good citizen. Every person that goes into the hospital for an accident, surgery or cancer treatment needs blood, and there is no such thing as artificial blood. Only 2% of all eligible donors actually donate blood, so every person that donates counts. Thank you to all the students who participated.” - Mr. Kani

Like Mr. Kani said, thank you to anyone who took time out of their day to donate blood, if you missed the chance this time make sure to check in during the spring you will have another chance! As Holy Cross Knights we take any chance to help the community out!



HOLY CROSS NEWS:  
OPEN HOUSE 2024-25

by: Emmanuel Okorie '28



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 19, 2024 10AM-3PM  
Register today at [www.holycrosshs.org/RSVP](http://www.holycrosshs.org/RSVP)

Creating the caring and accomplished leaders of tomorrow ... Today

Each year, Holy Cross’s Open House offers upcoming students and their families a firsthand look at what makes our school a welcoming and inspiring place to learn and grow. The event provides an opportunity for visitors to explore the campus, meet teachers, and discover the wide variety of programs and extracurriculars available at HC. Guests were greeted with a warm welcome and a guided tour around the school’s facilities, from our science labs to the art room to some of the classrooms. Along the way, student volunteers from all grades shared personal experiences and insights, making it easy for visitors to picture themselves as part of the HC community. Teachers from each department hosted demonstrations and Q&A sessions, giving families a peek into the vibrant learning environment that HC is known for. Clubs and teams also set up displays, showcasing everything from the school’s robotics team to its world language programs. It was a beautiful opportunity for students to discover programs that they are passionate about, just like our representatives. On the right is an image of the school’s band room. Led by Mr. Cochrane, brings a passion for music and a dedication to his students, encouraging them to work together, perfect their sound, and push their creative boundaries. Under his guidance, the band has been famed for its impressive performances at school events. Take last year’s Walkathon event for example, where students and staff members walked together whilst listening to the orchestral sound of the band. Visitors left the event with a clear picture of what life at Holy Cross could look like—a place where students are encouraged to pursue academic challenges, nurture their talents, and build lasting friendships. For many families, this open house offered an exciting first step toward joining the HC family.






# HOLY CROSS WALK-A-TTHON




## THE LANCE



WRITE FOR THE LANCE.  
DESIGN FOR THE LANCE.

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# Snaps

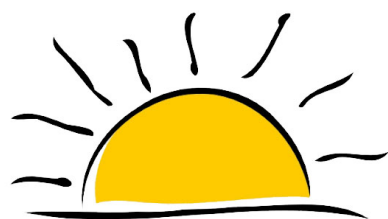








# SENIOR SUNRISE & LAST FIRST DAY



by: Marley Ramos '25

Before the seniors, (Class of 2025), Entered their last first day, a Senior Sunrise at Fort Totten was held on September 6th to commemorate these last few moments that the seniors would have before starting the school year. Maya Cios ('25) says, "Senior Sunrise was such an amazing experience! We all met up at Fort Totten before heading to our senior orientation. Getting up early to watch the sunrise with so many of my classmates was totally worth it. Seeing everyone come together, laughing, talking, and just soaking in the moment, really felt like the perfect way to kick off our last year. It was a chance to appreciate how far we've come and to look ahead at everything we still want to do. Sharing that beautiful morning with everyone made me feel grateful and excited; it was definitely the best start to our senior year I could have imagined."

Then on September 9th, was the Last First Day of School for all the seniors. While it was a moment for others, it was to celebrate their last time entering their first day of highschool, it left a bittersweet feeling for many. Jeannine Zephirin ('25) says, "I was a bit sad that this would be my last year here, since going to school here has been my normal for the last few years," she adds, "I'm happy because I'll probably be able to have new experiences and meet new people." The Last First day was filled with memories, wearing our black senior polos with pride and our character backpacks showed that us seniors are growing up and becoming the adults that we all wanted to be.

However, despite these sentimental moments, these will not be our last. We still have the whole year to immerse ourselves in our school community and enjoy our senior year. Welcome to senior year, Class of 2025! Cheers to the memories that we will continue to make this year!



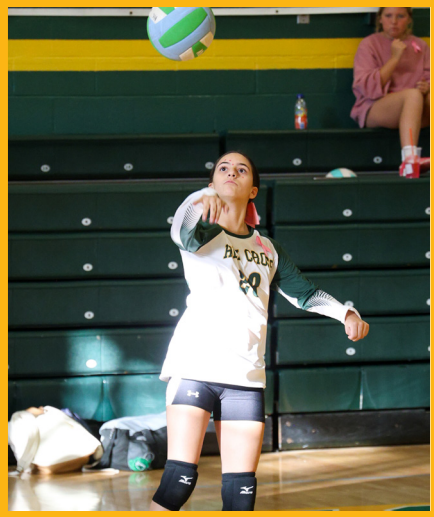


HC GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

VARSITY



JV







## HOLY CROSS ATHLETICS



### GIRL'S CHEERLEADING

by: Effie-Marie Verteouris '26

The Holy Cross Cheerleading Team is a dynamic and energetic group. Their new coaches Ashley Altoro and Kaitlyn Farran, alumni from the class of 2023, have helped create a team where these girls are able to have fun while also learning new skills and stunts. As they are finishing up their fall season, they have started to prepare for the basketball season. The girls help raise school spirit by doing things like performing in the pep rallies, open house, as well as starting to cheer for other sports such as the girls and boys soccer teams.

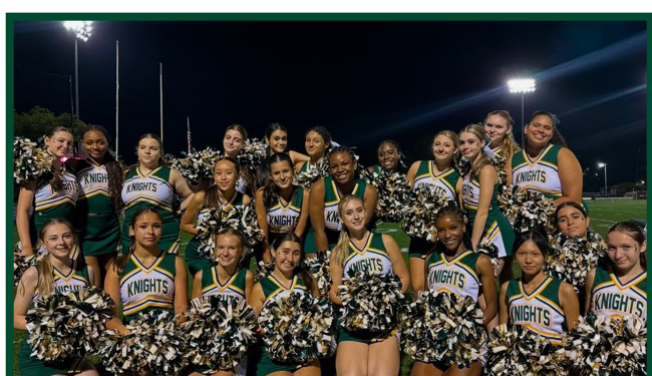
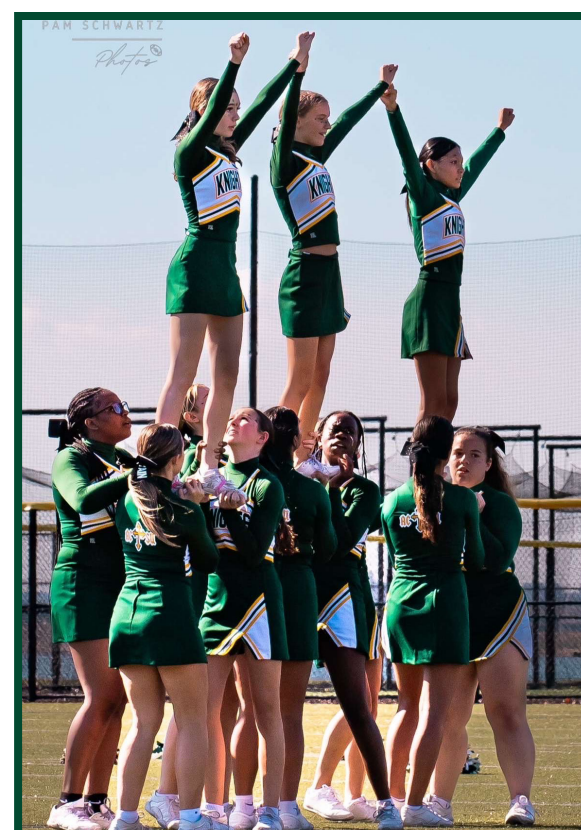


The team's captains, junior Valentina Roveto and senior Shannon Chmil, have shared what they have experienced so far from the cheer team.

"Doing cheer has impacted my life for the better and my experience at Holy Cross. I enjoyed all the friendships and sisterhoods I made along the way. I can say working hard and putting in the effort has got me to my title as the cheer captain." - Valentina Roveto '26.

"Being on the Varsity Cheerleading team has been an amazing experience, cheering for our teams and performing at our school-spirited events. Being a captain for 2 years in a row. I'm honored to lead our team that has done nothing but show dedication and cheer our best for HCHS!" - Shannon Chmil '25.

This shows how ultimately the cheer team at Holy Cross has given these girls long lasting friendships, and allows them to be part of all the fun events at the school!



GO KNIGHTS!!!





## GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER

by: Marley Ramos '25

**Captains -**  
Vivian Monteverdi '25 &  
Maria Krzewski '27

**Head Coach -**  
Ms. Guiseppeone &  
Assistant Coach Will

Siun Kelly & Brianna Zaikowski ('26) -

**I**mportant games: "Honestly our first loss was to Scanlan [was an important game]...I think it was good for us to experience a loss and that was really a point in soccer where I wanted to get better even more than I did before."

**Captains:**  
"Vivian is amazing on the defense line at communicating what she wants to and getting the job done. Maria is incredibly nice and good with her words. Whenever we would come together and talk as a team I felt like she gave the best speeches. She made me feel comfortable

Girls Varsity soccer qualified for the playoffs, coming in 4th place out of 10 this year. They lost their first round match against Msgr. Scanlan 3-0.



## BOY'S VARSITY SOCCER

Boys Varsity lost a first round playoff game to Regis 3-0. They did have their most successful season in a few years, winning two league games and tying three.







HOLY CROSS

A T H L E T I C S



HOLY CROSS  
VARSITY FOOTBALL  
2024 CHSFL AAII DIVISION  
CHAMPIONS



GO  
KNIGHTS!!!