

# Holy Cross High School



## PARENT INFORMATION FOR GRADE 9 2026-2027



### Overview

We are excited to welcome your child to Grade 9 at Holy Cross for the 2026-2027 school year!

The transition to Grade 9 represents a significant change in the lives of students and families. Creating a strong bridge between elementary and high school requires a collaborative relationship between parents, students, teachers, counselors and administrators at both levels.

The purpose of this resource is to provide families with information about academic pathways and supported programming. Our hope is that this opens the door to conversations between students, families and educators.

More information regarding Holy Cross programming can be found in our Registration Booklet on our website: [www.gscs.ca/hch](http://www.gscs.ca/hch) under the 'Registration' tab.

## Timeline of Preparations for the Transition to Grade 9

### JAN

- Holy Cross administrators visit grade 8 classrooms to provide important information about high school, Grade 9 programming and registration; students receive registration packages
- Grade 8 teachers and elementary administrators meet with Holy Cross administrators, counselors, Learning Assistance Teachers & English-as-an-Additional-Language Teachers to discuss transition process

### FEB

- **Thursday, February 5, afternoon** - Grade 8 students from feeder schools visit Holy Cross; Grade 8 teachers bring completed registration forms to Holy Cross, including completed parent permission forms for grade 9 supported programming
- **Monday, February 9, 7:00 pm** - Grade 8 Open House for parents & non-feeder school students who have not had an opportunity to see the school
- **Friday, February 13** - Grade 9 registrations for 2026-27 school year due from feeder schools with permission forms (signed by parents) for supported programming
- Holy Cross Administration begin the process of creating the Grade 9 timetable and placing students in supportive programming

### MAR

- Transition meetings between Holy Cross Grade 9 counselor, Learning Assistance Department and Grade 8 Teachers take place

### JUN

- Grade 9 students and parents receive information from Holy Cross regarding the 2026-27 School Year

## Course Selection & Supported Programming

In January and February, students and parents will receive detailed information regarding course selections and supported programming. Families are strongly encouraged to access the Holy Cross 2026-2027 Registration Booklet prior to this time to review course descriptions, academic pathways and opportunities at [www.gscs.ca/hch](http://www.gscs.ca/hch) under the 'Registration' tab.

***Students who have accessed supported programming in elementary school and/or have been recommended for supported programming in high school are strongly encouraged to continue to access this programming at Holy Cross. Accessing the recommended supported programming will allow students to have a positive experience, build confidence and be successful in high school.*** This includes: language supports (EAL - English as an Additional Language), Learning Assistance tutorials (to help in accessing accommodations), co-taught transition classes (English Language Arts A & B, Social Studies), and supported math classes.

Information regarding supported programming, including these permissions forms, will be shared with parents by the elementary school. The following is some information on these supported programs:

**Learning Assistance Tutorial** - The LAT tutorial is a non-credit class designed to provide students with extra support in the areas of academics, organization, and classroom accommodations. It is also meant to support the transition from elementary school to high school. Typically, grade 9 students are scheduled to have Learning Assistance every other day for the full year.

**English as an Additional Language (EAL) Tutorial & Sheltered Courses** - These classes are for students who require extra language, cultural and contextual support. The EAL non-credit tutorial provides learners with additional support in their academic courses. Sheltered courses in the EAL program at the grade 9 level follow the regular curriculum with special supports for EAL students. These may include English Language Arts 90 classes, Catholic Studies 90, Science 90, Math 90A and Math 90B.

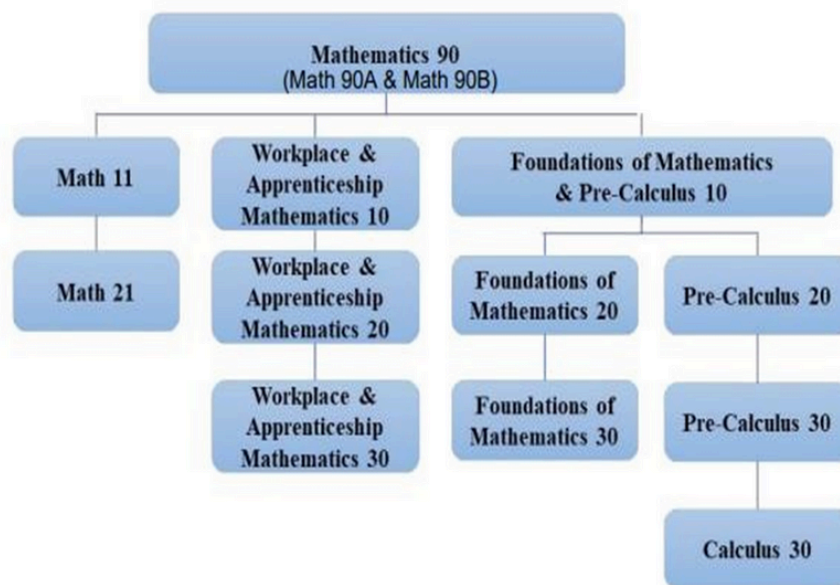
**Co-Taught Transition** – The Grade 9 Transition Program allows grade 9 students to have the same teacher for four of their ten classes during their first year of high school (English program). A full description and advantages of the the Grade 9 Transition Program can be found in our online registration booklet found at [www.gscs.ca/hch](http://www.gscs.ca/hch) under the registration tab. In the co-taught transition program, a Learning Assistance Teacher will work alongside the subject area teacher in three of the four transition classes. This is designed to provide additional support for students who may have learning difficulties and/or a learning disability. Co-taught classes are a part of the regular curriculum programming in high school. For example, students who register in co-taught classes are taught the same curriculum as students who are registered in the non-cotaught classes. Co-taught transition classes include English Language Arts A90 & B90 & Social Studies 90.

## **Supported Math Programs and High School Math Pathways:**

**Bridge Mathematics 90** – The goal of Bridge Math is to provide students who struggle with mathematics the opportunity to learn outcomes from the previous grades and to work towards grade 9 outcomes. *Upon completion of this year-long course, students will receive a regular Math 90A and Math 90B credit and will be recommended by the classroom teacher to register for a particular grade 10 math class for their grade 10 year.*

**Mathematics 90 Supported** – These classes are designed for students who are ready for Math 90 but would benefit from additional support in math. There may be two teachers in the classroom or a teacher and an EA. The class size will be smaller to allow for more support. *Upon completion of this year-long course, students will receive a regular Math 90A and Math 90B credit and will be recommended by the classroom teacher to register for a particular grade 10 math class for their grade 10 year.*

Note that the above supported math classes cover the grade 9 math curriculum. Student achievement in these supported grade 9 math classes should be considered carefully when choosing a math pathway in the grade 10 year. Families often find the following high school math pathway diagram and descriptions useful:



**Math 11 & 21** - Enrolment in Math 11 & Math 21 is reserved for students who have permission forms signed for modified programming. These students have been identified for this pathway through work with the Learning Assistance Department and in consultation with family. Post-secondary educational options for students completing this pathway will be limited and can be discussed with the Holy Cross Student Services team.

**Workplace & Apprenticeship Mathematics** - This pathway is appropriate for students considering a technical school program, community college, or direct entry into the work force. This course is sufficient for the majority of trades, but some technical school programs will not accept Workplace Math for admission. Topics include algebra, geometry, measurement, number sense, statistics and probability.

**Foundations of Mathematics** - This pathway is appropriate for students considering a post-secondary program (university or some polytechnic programs) that does not include a focused on math or science program. Students may also choose this pathway if they are unsure of their future program of study. For most university or polytechnic programs, Foundations of Math would be a sufficient pre-requisite. Topics include financial mathematics, geometry, measurement, number sense, logical reasoning, relations and functions, statistics and probability.

**Pre-Calculus** - This pathway is appropriate for students considering a math, computer science, science, or business program at a university or technical school. Most university admission requirements will use a 30-level math for admission averages. Some programs will specify Foundations of Math 30, Precalculus 30 or Calculus 30 as required or recommended courses. In particular, Calculus 30 may be required for some post-secondary programs. Topics include algebra and number sense, measurement, relations and functions, trigonometry and permutations, combinations and binomial theorem.

#### **A Note About Advanced Courses:**

Advanced Placement courses (AP) start in grade 10 for English and Art and continue through grade 12. AP courses in Biology, Chemistry, Math, French and Music are available in grade 12. Students wishing to take AP courses are accepted into these courses based on a selection process.



The following registration cards will be received by students in their registration packages brought to grade 8 classrooms when an administrator visits each feeder school. More information about details of these courses will be provided to students and parents at this time and can be found at [www.gscs.ca/hch](http://www.gscs.ca/hch) under the 'Registration' tab.

**A. ENGLISH PROGRAM**

REQUIRED COURSES	
<b>Transition</b>	
✓	Catholic Studies 90 (CST90)
✓	English A90 (ELA90)
✓	English B90 (ELB90)
✓	Social Studies 90 (SST90)
<b>Math</b>	
✓	Mathematics A90 (MAA90)
✓	Mathematics B90 (MAB90)
✓	Science 90 (SCI90)
✓	Physical Education 90 (PEB90/PEG90) -\$38 fee (gym strip, lock)
ELECTIVE COURSES	
<p><i>To complete the requirement of ten courses students must select <b>one</b> course from Group "A" and <b>one</b> course from Group "B".</i></p> <p><i>In Group "B" please select your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice by placing a 1, 2, or 3 on the line to the right of the class.</i></p>	
<p><b><u>Group A</u></b> <b>Arts Education</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Arts Education 90 (AED90) -\$25 fee (Art, Drama, Music)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Band 90 (BAR90) -\$30 fee</p> <p><b>Instrument:</b> _____</p>	<p><b><u>Group B</u></b> <b>Electives</b></p> <p>___ Construction &amp; Carpentry 90 (CCA90) -\$70 fee</p> <p>___ Digital Arts 90 (DAR90) -\$20 fee</p> <p>___ Foods &amp; Clothing 90 (FCL90) -\$50 fee</p> <p>___ French 90 Core (FRE90)</p> <p>___ General Practical Arts 90 (GPA90) -\$55 fee (Combination of Construction &amp; Carpentry 90 and Foods &amp; Clothing 90)</p>
<p><b><u>Group C</u></b> <b>Optional Elective Course</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Choral 90 (CHO90) - \$20 fee – noon hour class</p>	<p><b><u>Current Grade 8 Support:</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Learning Assistance Program</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> English as an Additional Language Program</p>

**B. FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM**

<b>REQUIRED COURSES</b>	
Études Catholiques 90	(ECA90F)
Français A90	(FRA90F)
Français B90	(FRB90F)
English 90	(ELA90F)
Sciences Humaines 90	(SHU90F)
Mathématiques A90	(MAA90F)
Mathématiques B90	(MAB90F)
Science 90	(SCI90)
Physical Education 90	(PEB90/PEG90) -\$38 fee (gym strip, lock)
<b>ELECTIVE COURSES</b>	
<i>To complete the requirement of ten courses in the French Immersion Program, students must select <b>one</b> elective in the area of Arts Education.</i>	
<b>Arts Education:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts Education 90 (AED90) - (Art, Drama, Music) - \$25 fee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Band 90 (BAR90) -\$30 fee <b>Instrument:</b> _____
<b><u>OPTIONAL ELECTIVE (11<sup>th</sup> class)</u></b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Choral 90 (CHO90) - noon hour class - \$20 fee