HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL
Queens, New York

PRESIDENT
Start Date: July 2022
holycrossshs.org
OVERVIEW

“How we educate the mind will change with the times; how we cultivate the heart is and will remain timeless.”

This quote, from Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., founder of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, summarizes Holy Cross High School’s mission of educating young adults to know, to love, and to serve.

Holy Cross High School is a highly regarded Catholic secondary school in Queens, New York, serving 750 students in grades 9-12. Sponsored by the Congregation of Holy Cross, the school is steeped in a Catholic tradition designed to help students be spirituality centered, develop their intellectual abilities, strengthen their emotional and physical maturity, and understand the Christian truth of each person’s relationship to others.

While operating within the 200-year-old tradition of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the school is also committed to finding new ways to approach education for each generation of students. Holy Cross uses a 1:1 Chromebook program, offers an impressive array of STEAM courses, and is committed to supporting each student’s intellectual, spiritual, and social-emotional development for college and life beyond.

Mission

Holy Cross High School, a Catholic college preparatory school in Queens, New York, educates the hearts and minds of young people following the educational and spiritual vision of Blessed Father Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Holy Cross embraces students who reflect social and economic diversity. The school strives to instill within each student a desire to identify and fully develop God-given talents while pursuing excellence in all endeavors.

Holy Cross’s varied academic programs and activities nurture and promote spiritual, intellectual, creative, social, and psychological growth and development. As Blessed Father Basil Moreau wrote in 1856, “Education is the art of helping young people to completeness.”
Holy Cross High School seeks a dynamic leader as its next President starting July 2022. The successful candidate will be an experienced educational leader devoted to the school’s mission and programs. The President is responsible for the overall vision, leadership, and management of the school and reports to the school’s Board of Directors. The Board seeks a relational and visionary servant leader to take the school to its next chapter of excellence. This is an exceptional opportunity to lead a forward-thinking school with deep ties to its community and an unwavering commitment to its Catholic identity and Holy Cross mission of “Educating Hearts and Minds.”

SCHOOL HISTORY

Holy Cross High School traces its history to 1838, when Blessed Father Basil Moreau founded the Congregation of Holy Cross. The plans for the school began on the campus of the University of Notre Dame in the early 1940s out of a friendship between The Reverend Monsignor Edmund Reilly, Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the Flatlands section of Brooklyn, and The Reverend Father Frederick Schulte, C.S.C. In September 1955, Holy Cross High School officially opened its doors as a high school for boys in the still incomplete building in the Bayside community in Queens. With the support of parents and the leadership of the Brothers of Holy Cross, who assumed all financial responsibility and built the school through their own funding, Holy Cross was well on its way to educating generations of young men in the context of the Holy Cross tradition.

In 2017, Holy Cross High School enhanced its mission by moving to coeducation. In so doing, the school joined the majority of the 23 secondary and post-secondary academic institutions sponsored by the Congregation of Holy Cross in the United States.
THE SCHOOL

In the Bayside neighborhood in Flushing, New York — a community within the borough of Queens — Holy Cross draws 750 students from more than 30 cities and towns throughout the greater New York City metropolitan area. In the Holy Cross tradition, the school provides a supportive, nurturing environment for young people as they grapple with ideas and explore new possibilities in preparation for lifelong service and contribution to the world.

The school was founded as an all-boys school, but transitioned to coeducation, with the 2021-22 school year marking the first year with both girls and boys in all four grades. The shift to coeducation is part of the school’s larger strategic plan to evolve as a leading-edge school based on the guidance of Blessed Father Basil Moreau, who in 1856 wrote, “How we educate the mind will change with the times; how we cultivate the heart is and will remain timeless.” Overall, the plan includes a focus on academic excellence in a 21st-century context, institutional sustainability, and a commitment to strengthening the school’s Holy Cross identity.

The professional faculty at Holy Cross are well-experienced and adept at implementing educational practices and techniques designed to meet each student’s individual learning style. The curriculum is designed to stimulate interest, intellectual curiosity, and creativity while preparing students well for college and life beyond.

The faculty and staff also strive to develop each student’s innate capacity for independent decision making, good judgment and respect for others. They are dedicated to the emotional and spiritual development of young people and recognize that a student’s education and development are reinforced by active participation in the school, the community, and places of worship.

Holy Cross High School is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education.
ACADEMICS

Holy Cross High School’s curriculum provides students with four levels of college preparatory studies. Graduation requirements for all students include courses in English, fine arts, world languages, mathematics, science, social studies, and theology. Combined with more than 50 innovative electives and 42 Honors and Advanced Placement courses, Holy Cross offers an inspiring selection of courses to spark new interests and allow students to carve a personalized path for learning. Students can also earn college credit through the St. John’s University College Advantage Program. All students graduate with a New York State Regents Diploma, while many graduate with a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.

Along with offering a 1:1 Google Chromebook program, Holy Cross has invested over $1,000,000 in its STREAM (Science, Theology, Robotics, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) program and is the only local high school with such an offering. The school’s signature Science Research program makes it possible for academically strong students to partner with local universities and hospitals to conduct independent research. The program provides a forum for cutting-edge research in the fields of quantum physics, engineering, and other scientific fields of exploration by pairing students with mentors in their chosen field of study. Affiliations have included, among others, Columbia University, Cornell University, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Manhattan College, New York Institute of Technology, North Shore University Hospital, Sloan Kettering Hospital, and Tufts University. Students in the program pursue credit from the SUNY system through the University of Albany.
For incoming students benefiting from greater assistance in the foundational areas, the school’s St. André Academic Success Program provides small class sizes, literacy-centric coursework, and rigorous monitoring of progress.

The Holy Cross High School Guidance Department seeks to assist students reach their highest academic, social, and spiritual potential. This is accomplished in collaboration with parents, teachers, and administration embracing the mission and philosophy of Holy Cross. Thoughtful college and career planning begins junior year. The goal is to have students accepted to colleges that have the academic majors, extracurricular programs, and an environment conducive to their future success.
THE ARTS

Holy Cross believes that art education should identify and develop intrinsic artistic talents. To that end, the school offers a wide-ranging visual and performing arts program.

The music department offers both vocal and instrumental courses including Concert Band, Concert Choir, String Ensemble, Guitar and Bass Ensemble, and Music Theory, among others. Students can also join the Holy Cross Student Theatre. The fall drama and spring musical allow cast and crew to master theater production skills including acting, set design, stage management, technical design, and direction.

The studio art department offers courses ranging from the introductory to the advanced college preparatory levels. Courses include Studio Art, Advanced Studio Art, AP Art Studio, Drawing and Design, Advanced Drawing, Painting, and Sculpture.
ATHLETICS

Holy Cross has a highly regarded and successful athletics program, with 22 teams which compete in 10 different interscholastic sports. A varied intramural program is also available to students. Led by dedicated coaches, the program promotes positive sportsmanship, integrity, camaraderie, and academic and athletic excellence. Each year approximately 75% of students participate in athletics. Many athletes go on to play at the college level, with a number reaching the professional ranks.

Sports include bowling, soccer, cross country, volleyball, football, basketball, ice hockey, baseball, golf, indoor and outdoor track, golf, handball, and softball.

Holy Cross High School competes in greater New York City’s Catholic High School Athletic Association, and the Catholic High School Football League. Teams have won numerous league and state championships over the years.
SCHOOL LIFE

Developing community lies at the center of the school life programs and initiatives. Student clubs — more than 40 in all — offer opportunities that harness talents, develop skills, build friendships, strengthen bonds between teachers and students, and challenge students to manage their time wisely. Clubs range from the Art Club to Model UN, Dance Team to Photography, Robotics to World Languages.

The Campus Ministry program coordinates and supports the liturgical, sacramental, and spiritual needs of the school community. Comprising more than 40 students, the student Campus Ministers group is an active and public example of service and leadership.

Community service rounds out the school’s community-life programming, with the goal of helping students grow and develop into culturally and socially aware individuals through their actions of helping others, both within and outside of the school community. The service learning program combining an interdisciplinary Classroom Component with a community-focused Experiential Component. The Classroom Component primarily focuses on understanding the human condition, social justice, and character education. The Experiential Component is centered on a varied service obligation that has students respond to the needs of the community.
CAMPUS

Holy Cross occupies a full block in a quiet residential neighborhood just off Francis Lewis Boulevard in Flushing, New York, and is easily accessible by both public and private transportation. The main building is a traditional mid-century Catholic School building, with all classrooms upgraded with state-of-the-art technology.

The campus includes a gymnasium, track, and multi-purpose turf field. In support of athletes is the Monteiro Family Sports Medicine Facility. This new, state-of-the-art physical rehabilitation center is on par with a Division 3 College Training facility. Students can also work out at the 1,900-square-foot Stephen J. Ross Memorial Fitness Center.
FLUSHING, NEW YORK

Queens, the site of the 1964 World’s Fair and the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament each year, is a New York City Borough on Long Island across the East River from Manhattan. The Flushing area, where Holy Cross is located in the Bayside neighborhood, is one of the borough’s hubs and a dynamic, diverse community. With a population of around 72,000, Flushing features a thriving collection of neighborhoods and lively commercial centers. It is also the home of the historic Queens Botanical Gardens.

Of course, a main attraction for those moving to the area are all the benefits of New York City and the surrounding region — including the arts, restaurants, parks, and other cultural institutions, as well as access to the Atlantic beaches and other outdoor attractions. Public transportation makes it easy to get around the New York City area.
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

One of 23 secondary and post-secondary institutions in the U.S. to belong to the prestigious consortium of academic institutions sponsored by the Congregation of the Holy Cross (including the University of Notre Dame), and the only such high school in the entire state of New York, Holy Cross High School is rock-solid in every material and spiritual sense and has attained remarkable growth and momentum. In 2017 the school expanded its mission by converting to coeducation and the presence of young women has brought a whole new level of energy and spirit to this distinguished institution. Enrollment has surged robustly, the school has just completed an impressive capital campaign, and will soon be undertaking transformative improvements to its campus facilities. The Board is excited about the promise of this exceptional moment in the life of the school, and expects the next President to build on the extraordinary momentum and remain true to the school’s Catholic and Holy Cross traditions while focusing on the following opportunities and challenges:

• The next President will have the privilege of embracing the charism and values of the Congregation of Holy Cross and exemplifying them in her or his daily life and practice—while also keeping the educational vision of Holy Cross founder The Blessed Basil Moreau at the heart of the school.
• This is a very competitive education market. The president will need to craft and implement a bold vision for the future, while mobilizing strong communication skills to convey the story of Holy Cross and help ensure it is the Catholic High school of choice in the area.
• The student body at Holy Cross is diverse but the faculty less so. Recruiting faculty of color should be a key priority as should be enhancing the school’s diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
• The move to coeducation has been a huge success but it will be important to ensure that the curriculum and programs (girls’ athletics, clubs, fine and performing arts, etc.) are compelling to female students and can help drive further increased enrollment among young women.
• The next President should be a “people person,” but one who also has solid financial acumen. He or she should be a relatable, visible presence, comfortable interacting with the community within and beyond the school. Someone who enjoys attending school events, likes being the “face of the school,” and is a passionate fundraiser.
• Now that the school has been so successful in raising the funds for the new athletics and convocation center, a near term focus of the next President will be getting the construction completed, which will not only enrich the educational experience and provide a great new asset for admissions, but also keep Holy Cross High School’s enviable momentum rolling.

**DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS**

Holy Cross High School operates in the President/Principal Model. In this increasingly popular leadership design, the Principal reports to the President and is responsible for the day-to-day academic operations of the school and the quality of the student learning experience, which frees up the President to be the outward facing “institution builder” — the vision-setter, the fundraiser, friend raiser, and public champion of the school’s powerful Catholic identity and values. As such, the Board of Directors seeks a dynamic and mission-driven leader who will use the platform of the presidency to raise the profile and the compelling value proposition of the school in the community and to affirm the excellent work of the faculty and staff.
To qualify, you will need to be a practicing Catholic with a proven track record of success and passion for mission. The Board welcomes candidates from other Catholic or independent schools as well as accomplished executives from other mission-critical career venues such as higher education; non-profit foundations, associations, and charities, and the like; or the corporate, civic, and professional services arena. While knowledge of education and school operations is preferred, other qualities and experiences will also be greatly valued, especially visionary, entrepreneurial leadership and the ability to inspire, lead a high performing team, and create demand for the extraordinary gifts of a Holy Cross High School education.

TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A one-page statement of educational philosophy and practice;
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate’s permission) to:

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