

# Holy Cross Catholic School

1745 S. Clinton Street \* Defiance, OH 43512 \* 419-784-2021

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**To:** HCCS Parents

**From:** Sr. Lynda Snyder, SND; Principal

**Date:** March 2017

**Subject:** Response to Open Letter to HCCS Parents & HCCS Leadership

Recently I received a memo from a parent and school volunteer leader Kristen Killion regarding the retention of our students. The memo was addressed to parents and school leadership and is enclosed for your review on the reverse side of this letter.

Our school leadership is working hard to make enrollment through 8<sup>th</sup> grade an attractive opportunity for all families. I appreciate Kristen's reflection on this topic and her bold faith in sharing her thoughts openly. It has inspired us to work harder to overcome our retention challenges.

Kristen's letter inspired the slogan "U-Knighted" and an idea was born to thank you and your children for being a part of the HCCS family. Upon enrollment for the coming school year, your child will receive a "U-Knighted, Forever Knights" t-shirt. He/She may wear this shirt with uniform bottoms every Monday for the rest of the school year. I hope these shirts will help you to display your school spirit and unite us further in strengthening the future of your children and our school.

I invite your response and support of Kristen's "What If, Why Not" question. Please don't hesitate to call me at 419-784-2021 or email [srlynda@defianceholycross.org](mailto:srlynda@defianceholycross.org). Together we'll continue the discussion!

Leading & Learning through Christ,



Sr. Lynda Snyder, SND

Take up the shield of faith. Put on the armor of light. Receive the sword of spirit.

We are United. We are Holy Cross Knights.

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

## What if....and Why not??

I feel compelled to write this letter after someone asked me how we like Holy Cross and how long we plan to stay (aka "When are you pulling your child out?"). That made me think of what an odd question that is. When you ask others about how they like their school, and they answer that they absolutely LOVE it, do you follow that question with another asking when they are leaving their wonderful school? Of course, not! They love it there! So why is Holy Cross any different? Why are we all leaving and letting our upper grades dwindle. I asked several people over the years that we have been at Holy Cross and the answer is usually the same. "The class size seems to get just a little too small around 5<sup>th</sup> grade, so we are going to pull him/her before then". And here is where I struggle to understand what is happening. Everyone seems to love the school, and everyone is leaving because everyone is leaving...but what if we all just STAY?! Wouldn't that solve the reason we are all going to leave in the first place? STAY! Our class sizes don't dwindle and our programs have a chance to build and become stronger to entertain the sports and outside activities that are lacking from the program thus far. (And if that is a reason for leaving, there are equal opportunities to join sports with the other schools, so you aren't missing out on that aspect of things if you stay.) If we STAY we are giving our children the chance to continue this wonderful education with the most important things being taught first! We aren't going to find another place like this that can teach our kids in this way. So we need to talk with one another and agree to stick together as parents, keeping the strong bonds our children have made with their friends and caring staff. We need to be the first group of parents to really look at how we can make a difference and STAY and keep our classes strong! We need to get rid of the "when are you leaving" mentality and create a "why would we ever leave" mentality. I hope that maybe this will start some much needed conversations about why YOU are going to STAY! What if we all did? Why not?

Yours in Education,  
Kristen Killion