


News from Holy Cross Catholic Academy

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From: "Holy Cross Catholic Academy" <rbusch@dioama.org>

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Holy Cross Catholic Academy Communications

MISSION STATEMENT



The mission of Holy Cross Catholic Academy is to challenge all students to attain their full potential to contribute to church, school and society as we share the life and message of Jesus.

**We Believe
We Desire
We Do**

At the last meeting of the HCCA Advisory Board, the following "Social Media Policy" was approved. This policy is effective immediately. Please read and familiarize yourself with this policy, which was explained to all HCCA students today.

Holy Cross Catholic Academy Social Media Policy

The use of social media (including, but not limited to, communication through texting, blogs, and social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter) is one of the fastest growing forms of communication in the United States, especially among youth and young adults. As Pope Benedict XVI has noted in his recent messages for the World Day of Communication, the Church has an obligation to utilize social media as a means of evangelization and to teach others to use these forms of communication responsibly and safely. All members of the Holy Cross Catholic Academy are urged to read the 43rd, 44th and 45th World Day of Communication messages of Pope Benedict XVI as background for this policy. These are available at www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/communications/index_en.htm.

Holy Cross Catholic Academy encourages administrators, faculty, staff and students to make full and responsible use of social media as a means of furthering the educational, spiritual and social mission of the school. However, since comments published through social media might have a harmful effect on the school, its personnel and/or members of the student body, all Holy Cross Catholic Academy administrators, faculty, staff, students and volunteers are required to adhere to the following policy regarding the use of social media.

- Members of the HCCA community may use social media as a medium of self-expression, but must recognize that anything published via social media

is no different from making such comments in any public forum. Therefore, any and all comments published through any form of social media which denigrate, disparage, discredit or disrespect the school, any member of the administration, faculty or staff, or any student, or any such comments which may be construed as doing so, are subject to disciplinary action to be taken against the author of the comments and any and all persons who contribute to the spread of those comments through social media.

- No photos of any member of the HCCA community should be posted or shared through social media without the permission of the persons in the photo (and, in the case of students under the age of 18, their parents).
- A member of the administration, faculty or staff of Holy Cross Catholic Academy may "friend" students on his or her social networking site(s) if and only if all of the following conditions are met:
 - the student initiates the friend request;
 - the parents of the student give written permission for the friend request to be accepted (either in writing or through an email);
 - the parents, if they so request, also are accepted as friends on the site;
 - friend requests by all other students will be accepted if parental permission is given (such that the administrator, faculty member or staff member may not "pick and choose" which friend requests from students will be accepted);
 - comments posted by the administrator, faculty member or staff member on his or her social networking site and all other sites linked to that site conform to the Diocese of Amarillo's Code of Pastoral Conduct; and
 - the social networking site of the administrator, faculty member or staff member is used in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the mission of Holy Cross Catholic Academy.

Fr. Robert A. Busch
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