Dear Parents,

Welcome to Crucifixion School! We know your child’s educational experience here will be a positive and enjoyable one for you and your child. Many activities take place at Crucifixion School throughout the year. These activities help build friendships among our children and with us parents. Being new to the school, or have been here awhile, some of these things may be quite overwhelming and you may feel that you always have a question about something. It is our hope that this handbook will help answer some of those lingering questions that may arise throughout the year.

This handbook is a compilation of answers to questions that have been asked by many parents over the years. We felt it was important to put this information together to assist families of Crucifixion School. You certainly may have other questions that are not addressed here. Our advice to you - *Don't be afraid to ask*!

We hope your relationship with Crucifixion School will be strong and long lasting. Our children are our greatest resource. The faith-filled environment in this school teaches our children to love and respect one another and gives them the opportunity to practice these values daily. Parents and staff need to work together to ensure quality education for our children.

We hope you find this handbook helpful.

Contact Information:

Mr. Harpenau, School Principal
Ms. Mormann, School Secretary
Teachers (See Website)
School Board Members
Crucifixion PTO Board

Back (L-R)  Danica Nissalke
            Emily Sannes
            Nicole Veghlahn

Front (L-R)  Jessica Glasspoole
            Kristina Bildeaux
            Becky Kramer

“Learning to Grow, Love and Live Within a Christian Community”
We have plenty of events and parent involvement opportunities for everyone to participate in. Kids love it when their parents come to school....it gives them a chance to show them off to the other kids. 😊 Below is our calendar of events. Highlighted items reflect opportunities for parents to be involved in Crucifixion School. Everything is detailed later in this document.

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**School Board Members (2017-2018)**

**Book Fair:** The book fair is held in early December. It is typically open for about a week, including the night of the Christmas concert for parents to come in and do some holiday shopping. The children are able to view the books and then come back during the school day and purchase the books they wish to buy. Please send money that your child will need if you choose to have them participate. Each teacher has a “wish list” for their classroom. Families may choose to purchase a book for their child’s classroom. A special sticker will be placed on the inside cover of the book to note who donated it. Help is needed to work at the book fair during the school week and before and after the Christmas program. This fundraiser provides the school with books and other educational material based on the amount of money earned from the book sales. It is always amazing how many free books the school gets off this fundraiser. Contact person is the school librarian, Mrs. Emily Wieser.

**Birthday Books:** Every year around the time of your child’s birthday, the librarian will send home a letter asking if you would like to make a donation toward a book or books with specific monetary donations listed. You can choose to donate or not, but if you do send a donation in, the librarian will set up a date during the school time for your child to choose a book. That book will have a label placed in the book saying this book was donated in “child’s name” with date of birth included. The child will be the first to check out the book also. It will then become part of the Crucifixion library collection. Contact person is the school librarian, Mrs. Emily Wieser.

**Big Boar Fundraiser:** We have a Big Boar fundraiser in the spring. Families are given tickets to purchase and/or sell to others. The meal is catered and consists of pulled pork sandwich, potato salad, beans, and a roll. This is a carryout meal and you do not even need to get out of your car when you pick it up! Families have also been asked to bake whole pies to sell at the event, they always sell out quickly. This is also a fun event to help out with and does not require a major commitment. Contact person is the school secretary, Ms. Kristi Mormann.

**Catholic Schools Week:** Catholic schools week is typically held the last week in January, but please check the school calendar for exact dates and activities. The teachers plan many fun activities for the children throughout the week. Some of these may include a talent show, dress up days and sporting events with the teachers. Remember you are welcome to school for these events. All the children are encouraged to participate in these special activities.
**Communication:** Communication is necessary as we continue to strive to improve our school and ensure a quality education for our children. There are several opportunities that parents can take advantage of to express ideas, ask questions, or have concerns addressed.

1. Get to know the members of the School Board and the PTO members. The majority of these people had or have children in Crucifixion School. There is a wealth of knowledge with this group of people and all are willing to help out in any way they can.

2. Get involved in the school PTO committee. This is your opportunity to have a voice in your child’s school. New ideas are always welcome. The PTO meetings and fundraisers are a chance to get to know fellow parents as well as staff members. Contact a member of the PTO board if you are interested in becoming part of this organization.

3. Attend the School Board meetings. These meetings are the second Tuesday of the month. The meetings are noted in the bulletin and participation is welcome. If there is a particular item you would like discussed and have put on the agenda, please contact school secretary or any board member.

4. Participate in the various parent involvement areas that take place throughout the year. Whether it is helping in a classroom, library, volunteering, or being a chairperson of a fundraiser, you will be involved in what is happening at Crucifixion School and become friends with many other people doing the same thing.

**Field Trips:** The children go on various field trips throughout the year. A field trip permission form is in your registration packet. Parents are informed in advance of a field trip of where they are going, what time they leave/return, and where and when they are going. Teachers send home specific information on the event they are going to and any additional information you’ll need to know – like if they will need to bring a sack lunch or money. Please have your child dress appropriate as some events take place outside while it is wet and cold. Many times the blue Crucifixion School t-shirt is worn on field trips. There is a one-time field trip fee paid when school starts that will cover the majority of the field trip cost for the school year. The Crucifixion PTO covers all transportation costs. Contact person is the school secretary, Ms. Kristi Mormann.

**First Confession and First Communion (2nd grade):** Students prepare to receive their First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist in second grade. Prior to receiving each of these sacraments, students and parents share an hour of learning centers. The centers are approximately one week before each sacrament and contain fun projects and activities. The student is to attend these learning centers with a parent or guardian. First Confession is held in December, and students receive their First Communion in early May. Contact person is the second grade teacher, Mrs. Shannon Bezdicek.
**Gala:** This is our largest fundraiser of the year. Everyone is invited to a fantastic meal followed by a live and silent auction. When it is all over, we have the music start up and enjoy the rest of the night. This event is semi-formal and has some adult beverages for you to enjoy. 😊 It is a wonderful night for everyone to enjoy. Picture L-R: Deb Covey, Jessica Glasspoole, Sarah Dohnalik, Becky Kramer, Danielle Lamb, Blake Sjoborg, Chris Fortsch, Arlene Holland Cassie Sjoborg.

**Grandparents Day:** This is a very special day when the children can invite their grandparents (or other significant relatives and family friends) to attend mass and a special lunch with the children. The mass usually begins at 10:00 am. A letter is sent home with the children to designate how many will be attending. The letter is returned to school for the reservation to be confirmed. The grandparents meet the children in the school and walk over to mass. After mass, the children do a special presentation with lunch. This event happens in the fall.

**Holiday Fair:** The Holiday Fair benefits the Crucifixion School technology program. It is held in late November/early December for holiday shopping in the school’s auditorium. It is a one stop shopping with home based sales companies and crafters selling their products. They have booth rentals so if you have a product to sell this is a great opportunity to sell to a large crowd. Contact person is the school secretary, Ms. Kristi Mormann.

**Hot lunch Visitors:** Any parent is welcome to come have lunch with their child. Simply call the school secretary in the morning and let them know you are coming for lunch. The kitchen only prepares enough food for the students and visiting guests. You can pay cash or have the amount deducted from your families lunch account. You can also bring a sack lunch. Lunch begins at 11:00 am. You can wait by the lunch line until your child’s class comes down and then join your child with his or her class. Jim Frie is the Crucifixion School cook.

**KC Marathon:** It is usually held the first Friday in October. It has been a tradition at Crucifixion since 1978. Families are asked to obtain pledges to walk in the 4-mile marathon that begins and ends at the school. The 4K, preschool and kindergartners’ will walk 1-mile. Children can earn prizes for a certain amount of pledges they obtained. This is a great way to start off the school year and meet the kids, as parents are welcome to walk along with their children.
Mardi Gras: Mardi Gras is an afternoon of family fun – a carnival held the Monday before Ash Wednesday. The children have class in the morning and after lunch they are dismissed to the gymnasium for the carnival. There are numerous carnival games, food, prizes, raffles, a silent auction, giant inflatable slide, souvenir booth, super-duper kid give-a-way, and so much more. **This is one day when your child should bring money to school with them. They need to purchase tickets to play games (50 cents per ticket).** This event is open to the community and parents and other family members are encouraged to attend. You may join your child right away or may want to come and meet them at the regular school dismissal time. Food is served until 6:00 so you may want to come after work and have supper. This is a fun day to volunteer and many people are needed to help the PTO board members run this day smoothly. Families are asked to bring in cakes for the cakewalk. Many reminders will be sent home about this fun event.

Mardi Gras is officially kicked off with the King Cake event. Each class is treated with cupcakes. The baker for your child’s class has hidden a small plastic figurine of baby Jesus in one of the cupcakes. The children are each given a cupcake and asked to break the cupcake in half to see if they have the figurine. The child who has the figurine is given a special bag of prizes that pertain to Mardi Gras. The children love this event and it really gets them excited about the Mardi Gras carnival.

Mardi Gras is probably the highlight of the year for most students at Crucifixion and an event that the children remember for a lifetime!

May Crowning Mass: This special mass is held the first Thursday of May at the 8:05 mass. The mass is in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Children are asked to bring flowers to mass to honor Mary. They come into church by class and present their flowers to her. Please do not feel you need to buy flowers for your child to bring. Any flower is fine—any type that is out at this time. This is a beautiful mass to attend if you able to do so and the children wear their Sunday best. Any questions about this event can be directly to your child’s teacher.

Music Concerts: There are 2 music concerts is held in December and May. This is a wonderful tradition that is sure to make you proud of your child and the school itself. The music teacher, Mrs. Kelly, will send home information about what the children should wear. Contact person is the music teacher, Mrs. Kelly.

Roast Beef Dinner: This event takes the first Saturday of November. Each family will receive tickets to the dinner that they can purchase or sell to others. The meal is served in the school auditorium. The meal is a complete roast beef dinner with potatoes, vegetables, rolls, and all the trimmings. Families may help the day of the dinner or may also join the Roast Beef Dinner Committee.
**School Picnic:** The annual school picnic signals the last day of school. The picnic is held at Kistler Park in La Crescent. Children walk from the school to the park, and back to school, in time to get on their regular bus route. A variety of games and activities are played before lunch, and after lunch is a pool party for Crucifixion students and their families at the La Crescent Aquatic Center. The students are typically asked to wear their blue Crucifixion School field trip shirts. Remember sunscreen and review safety rules with your child before the day of the picnic. There are many volunteers helping out and children are assigned to a group that they stay with throughout the day. This is another weekday event that is well worth taking a half day or whole day of work off for. Parents and preschool children are always welcome to attend.

**Special Masses:** Throughout the school year each classroom will have special masses that they will plan and participate in. The teachers will send home a note with your child letting you know when their classes’ special mass is. If your child has a reading part in the mass, they may need to practice at home, especially if he or she is a younger reader. Any questions about these masses can be directed to your child’s teacher.