

St Mary School HSA Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2022

HSA Board Attendees:

Allison Carballo & Ann Russell, HSA Presidents

Marcy Miller, HSA Vice President

Janine Simon, HSA Treasurer

Kristy Pylypshyn, HSA Secretary

Jillion Elliott, HSA K-8 Room Parent Coordinator

Welcome

Rachel opened the meeting with a prayer.

Guest Speaker: Jeanette Campo (Dean of Students and Third Grade Teacher)

Jeanette discussed the literacy program at St Mary for grades K-5. Several materials used in the new literacy program, including Jump Into Literacy books, were on display for attendees to view. Teachers have been working to expand classroom libraries to provide a wide variety of books for students to read. The literacy program helps to foster a love of reading through reading and writing activities. Part of the literacy program, includes a new grammar program that helps develop better grammar skills. Teachers are already seeing skill development in this area. Jeanette provided examples of conversations she had with students at recess that demonstrated their knowledge of the grammatical concepts taught in the classroom.

Teachers are utilizing a workshop model to teach literacy in the classroom. This model consists of three steps: a mini lesson (10-15 minutes), time to share with a partner what they will write about (5 minutes), and work time/conference time where they continue to build on their ideas (25-30 minutes). Students are engaged in the entire writing process from brainstorming to publishing their stories.

Students also have independent work time that is typically 35-45 minutes. During this time, students work on their writing or add to a piece they have already started. Teachers also use this time to work with students one on one.

The new literacy program aligns with the new standard based report cards used in grades K-3. There is an emphasis on what is learned rather than simply memorizing information to achieve a high score on a single test.

Parents who have additional questions about the literacy program, can contact Jeanette Campo directly at campoj@smsridgefield.org.

HSA Updates

Ann Russell provided updates. Trunk or Treat and classroom Halloween parties will both be held on 10/28. There is no rain date for Trunk or Treat. 4th and 5th grade will be leading Trunk or

Treat this year. Look for an email from class parents regarding how you can help with the classroom Halloween parties. Also, please remember to submit your class dues. A portion of the class dues helps with the classroom parties.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held November 15th and 16th. HSA will be providing lunch for the teachers during conferences. Farah Fehring will be leading this.

Farah Fehring reported that 60 sandwiches were provided to Dorothy Day Hospitality House in Danbury. She thanked the first group of volunteers who made the sandwiches.

Allison Carballo thanked Marcy Miller and Jess Perez for planning a successful parent night out on 10/6.

The next HSA Meeting will be held on November 4th following First Friday Mass.