

St Mary School HSA Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2023

HSA Board Attendees:

Allison Carballo & Ann Russell, HSA Co-Presidents

Marcy Miller & Kristy Pylypshyn, HSA Co-Vice Presidents

Janine Simon & Vera Melkonian, HSA Co-Treasurers

Meghan Newman, Room Parent Coordinator

Welcome by Rachel Ambrosio, Principal:

- Rachel opened the meeting with a prayer and provided school updates
 - Every class has new students this year.
 - Rachel has spent time getting to know the new students by spending time with each classroom in the mornings.
- Facilities Updates:
 - The Language Lab area on the third floor will provide opportunities for collaboration between the French and Spanish teachers and will be beneficial when middle school students begin working on their projects for the World Language Expo.
 - The Middle School math classrooms are now across the hall from each other on the third floor.
 - With only one 5th grade class this year, Music has to what was the second 5th grade classroom near the gym.
- Rachel shared the professional backgrounds of the newly hired teachers.
- Reminder that Back To School Night for parents will be held on September 14th.

Update from Amy Dowding, Director of Mission Advancement:

- Due to the time constraints of an early dismissal, Amy will provide updates at the next meeting.

Welcome From Allison Carballo, HSA Co-President:

- Allison welcomed all attendees and introduced the HSA Board Members.
- Spirit Wear is available for order and can be worn on the first Monday of each month. Students who do not have spirit wear or choose not to wear those items to school can wear their gym uniforms on the first Monday of each month instead.
 - Sam Maio, Spirit Wear Coordinator, reported that the deadline for ordering Spirit Wear is September 5th, but it may be extended to Friday, September 8th.
 - Sam and Allison encouraged parents to stop by Tiger Sports on Catoonah Street in Ridgefield to check sizes as the clothing seems to run large. Please contact Tiger Sports with any questions.

- Spirit wear can be ordered at
<https://catoonahink.com/saintmaryschool2023/shop/home>.
- HSA Board Vacancies:
 - The Board is looking for interested parents to serve as the HSA Secretary and the Charity Liaison. If you are interested in either of these roles, you can speak with any of the HSA Board members. Contact information for the current HSA Board can be found at <https://www.smsridgefield.org/parents/hsa>.

Volunteers and VIRTUS Training:

- HSA events require help from the school community to be successful and we appreciate all parents who are able to give their time or energy in these efforts. Volunteers are needed to help serve on various committees and assist with events throughout the school year.
- VIRTUS Training:
 - All volunteers are required to complete this training prior to volunteering for any activities.
 - Training consists of a 3 hour in person or online training as well as a background check. For training dates and locations, visit <https://www.virtusonline.org>.
 - Monica Harron, St Mary School Business Manager, should be contacted with any questions about the training or background checks. She can be reached at harronm@smsridgefield.org.
- VIRTUS Trained volunteers can sign up to help with the upcoming events at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A48A8AE2EAAFC1-hsacommittee1>.

Event Calendar:

- **Hospitality Committee**—Ongoing for HSA Meetings
 - This committee will help provide light refreshments at the monthly meetings
- **Senior Luncheons**—First Luncheon is September 12th (Chaired by Andrea Wolf)
 - To show our appreciation for the seniors in our community, a hot lunch is provided each month in the Hall following the noon Mass.
 - Each grade (beginning with 8th) is assigned to a month and will open the luncheon with a brief prayer or song, interact with the seniors, and assist in serving the meal.
- **Fall Book Fair**—Week of October 2nd (Chaired by Andrea Wolf and Sheila Gray)
 - This year, we will be using a faith based company called I55 Book Fairs.
- **Fall Parent Social**—October, TBD (Chaired by Marcy Miller)
- **Trunk or Treat & Halloween Parties**—October 27th
 - Classroom Halloween Parties are led by the class parents(s)

- Trunk or Treat is held after school in the side parking lot. Parents can decorate their car trunk and provide treats for students. Please remember that all treats must be nut-free.
- If you are interested in leading the Trunk or Treat event, please contact Allison (Allisoncarballo@gmail.com) or Ann (annmatthaei@hotmail.com)
- **Father/Daughter Dance**—January 19, 2024 (Chaired by Tricia van Brakel)
- **Mother/Son Event**—March 2024, TBD (Chaired by Marcy Miller & Meghan Newman)
- **Gala**—April 2024, TBD (Chaired by Renee Whitworth & Vera Melkonian)
- **Spring Book Fair**—Week of April 8, 2024 (Chaired by Andrea Wolf and Sheila Gray)
- **Teacher Appreciation Week**—Week of May 6, 2024
- **Golf Outing**—May 20, 2024 (Chaired by Andrea Wolf)
- **Memorial Day Parade**—May 27, 2024

****We hope you will join us for the next HSA Meeting to be held on October 6, 2023****