



Saint Mary School

RIDGEFIELD

HSA Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2023

HSA Board Attendees:

Ann Russell, HSA Co-President

Marcy Miller & Kristy Pylypshyn, HSA Co-Vice Presidents

Janine Simon & Vera Melkonian, HSA Co-Treasurers

Meghan Newman, Room Parent Coordinator

Welcome and Updates from Rachel Ambrosio:

- Rachel opened the meeting with a prayer and discussed some noteworthy dates.
 - **12/7 is the Christmas Pageant.** Please check the newsletter for instructions regarding attire and when to arrive
 - Student Government will be selling concessions for \$1 each. Please bring cash if you would like to purchase items such as candy canes, rice crispy treats, and bottled water.
 - **Grades K-5 will have no homework beginning the week of 12/11 until break.**
 - **Middle School will have midterm exams beginning 1/9.** Because this is shortly after break, teachers will send home the review packets for the exams prior to break to allow students ample time to study.
 - Rachel stressed that the purpose of sending them early is not to add extra pressure during Christmas but to make sure all students have enough time to prepare.
 - Students will have two exams a day. There will be a study block before the morning exam and again before the afternoon exam.
 - Each day of exams is a full day of school.
 - The Middle School Breakfast will take place on 1/12 to celebrate the end of exams.
 - **8th Graders are busy preparing for their Elements Fair.**
 - **Holiday Stroll and Blessing of the Crèche** takes place on 12/1 and St Mary Parish will have a table on Main Street.

Upcoming HSA Events:

Ann reported on the upcoming events.

- **Coffee & Conversation Series**
 - SMS Mom Laura Maher has planned a monthly conversation for parents that will focus on social and academic topics.
 - Due to Christmas, the next session will take place in January rather than December.
 - Laura stated that parents have expressed an interest in social media and children, so that will likely be the topic for January.
- **Holiday Cards**
 - The SMS holiday cards should be arriving any day. We will meet in the Barn by the Church to help stuff and address the cards, which will be sent to families, alumni, and supporters of the Saint Mary Fund.
 - We welcome anyone who is interested in helping. The date and time will be shared with the SMS community once we receive the cards. Coffee and crumb cake will be provided.
- **Father Daughter Dance 1/19/2024**
 - Both Yes and No RSVPs for the dance are due by December 15th. Please be sure to respond even if you will not be attending.
 - FACTS payments for the event will be processed on the RSVP date.
 - The Father Daughter Dance Committee will meet on Tuesday, 12/5.
 - Volunteers are needed for the day and night of the event. If you are interested in helping, please be sure you have completed VIRTUS training prior to the event. Contact Monica Harron at harronm@smsridgefield.org if you have any questions regarding the VIRTUS training.
- **Mother Son Night 2/9/2024**
 - A sports themed event is planned at the Boys and Girls Club of Ridgefield.
 - Games will be led by the staff at Boys and Girls Club, who did an outstanding job last year engaging the boys and moms.
 - Invitations will be distributed soon.
- **Gala 5/4/2024**
 - Planning is underway for the Gala. Renee Whitworth, Gala co-chair, reported that the committee is meeting immediately after the HSA meeting to discuss donations from businesses.
- **Family Bingo Night 1/26/2024**
 - Marcy Miller shared that the 8th Grade has decided to host a Family Bingo Night in January. This event will serve as a fundraiser for the 8th grade. The money raised will be used to fund a gift that will go back to the school.

- PreK 4 through 8th grade is invited to attend with their families. Note: This is not a drop off event! Each student should have at least one parent or adult accompanying them to share in the fun of the evening!
- Food and drinks will be available and small prizes will be distribute to Bingo winners.
- **Spirit Wear**
 - Ann Russell reported that the HSA has a limited selection of spirit wear available to purchase at the end of the meeting

****The next HSA Meeting will be held on January 5, 2024****