

ST. THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL

BASILIAN FATHERS – 1900

St. Thomas High School

Mothers’ Club General Meeting

October 9, 2019

Minutes

1. WELCOME/OPENING PRAYER

The October 2019 General Meeting of the Mothers’ Club was held in St. Basil Hall on October 9, 2019. Meryl Gregory, President, called the meeting to order at 11:47am and led us in prayer.

Quorum - Yes

Minutes Approved - Yes

1. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
   1. Dr. Dominguez ‘96

* See Attached Principal’s Report
* Thank you for trusting us with your sons. We are off to a good start of the year.
* End of 1st Quarter
  + Trying to communicate with our guys, especially those who may be struggling a bit, we’re going to learn from our successes and our failures.
  + Let’s focus on what is under our control and not belabor what we can not control
  + 1st Quarter is no longer under our control – we are going to move forward to the 2nd Quarter. A fresh start… Fresh opportunity to bring grades up for the 1st Semester
  + Experience over the years has tough me blasting a kid or having an ugly conversation is not effective. Better to leverage lessons learned.
  + 2nd Semester we will set new goals – optimistic and positive light
  + We need to create a sense of urgency. There is a difference between a sense of urgency and a sense of panic
* Parent/Teacher Conferences
  + We made a change to the format – Why? Because it speaks better to the integrity between teacher and parent. Better positions everyone to have more appropriate conversations. We will make changes in the process as we go forward.
  + If you were unable to get a slot on the sign-up-Genius, you may contact the teacher directly to set up a meeting
  + Added piece on Tuesday – both before and after conferences there will be a 30 minute session for Freshman parents to have a conversation about where we are.
    - What Dr. D. loves most about STH. The other piece of the puzzle is the involvement from the parents. You can NOT be too involved in your child’s life. Freshman year is not the year to let you son spread his wings and do his own thing. Be involved. They need the support.
* Thank you to Jenny Hanks for stepping up to be in charge of the second STH store in St. Basil Hall. If anyone would like to help, reach out to Jenny directly.
* October 16 is PSAT Testing – boys are free to go home when they are finished. Seniors will have the day off.
* October 24 is a Case Study night given by the counseling department. Open to all families. They will go through college applications and give examples of why a student was granted or denied admissions to a particular college.
* October 31 – Fall Olympics
  + Mandatory day, but not academic. Full day of Olympic type competitions based on their houses.
  + Food trucks on campus for lunch
* November 1 – Father/Son Mass at 7:40am. The time was moved up to accommodate getting to work.
* Prospective Student event today. Initially targeted for public school, but had a mixture of both public and private. 76 young men on campus (biggest group ever). Hosted the families in the Cafeteria. This week alone we will host over 250 families.

1. GUEST SPEAKER
   1. Dr. Gotay – Campus Ministries (substitute for Max Holmes who could not make it)

* Service Hours
  + New online system – Database collects hours
  + All your son’s past hours should already be in the system
  + There are several opportunities on the database to select from to do school approved service hours
  + If your son wants to do community service somewhere that is not in the database, put the information about the service onto the website. This will send Dr. Gotay an email and he will say either Yes or No.
  + Hours required are… Freshman 10, Sophomores 20, Juniors 30, Seniors 40. The big change from the old system, is that hours no longer roll over. But, they can “carry over” hours for their senior year. Meaning, if they do more than their required hours in any year, they will roll over ONLY to their senior year.
  + Moving toward half social and half religious
  + If any group needs help, they can reach out to Dr. Gotay and the boys can get service hours for helping.
  + If you find any glitches in the system, you can email Dr. Gotay, but be sure to CC Veronica Looper. Veronica is Dr. Gotay and Mr. O’Brien’s administrative assistant.
* Campus Ministries
  + Thursday morning prayer – Rosary and is attended by a lot of the non-catholic students
  + Reconciliation twice a week on Monday and Wednesday mornings before school. As soon as one of the priests show up, Dr. Gotay makes an announcement.
* Pray Daily – Campus ministries focuses on how your son is doing. How are you today? Are you praying? Where do you see God in all of this?
* No Father/Son retreat planned at this time. Dr. Gotay would like to add this element to the Senior Retreat.

1. OFFICER REPORTS
   1. President – Meryl Gregory

* No school on December 20. Cookie day will stay as scheduled.
* College Ornament Tree – Chelette Stephenson, Director of Counseling, has her own College Ornament tree, so we will no longer be requesting. We will use those that have already been donated.
* Mothers’ Club Closet – showed examples of plates, bowls, dish towels, scissors, etc…that are nicely organized and available to be checked out for events. There are several things that have been saved and placed in the closet by Catherine Chandler and other mothers. Be sure to check out on the clip board… AND check them back in on the clip board with any notes of things that are missing.
  1. Vice President – Barbara Pane
* All Chair positions have been filled
* Shout out to Meryl for the fantastic article she shared about teens and stress in the Mothers’ Club Newsletter
  1. Treasurer – Laura Sage
* No Report
  1. Recording Secretary – Gwen McKeehan
* Minutes are on the table to review and approve
  1. Past President – Shawn Savarino
* Motion to approve minutes
  1. Communication Secretary – Dena Skucius
     + Hope everyone is getting the Newsletter. If you have any questions or have something you want to add, let me know.

1. BIG 3 UPDATES
   1. Auction – Catherine Rentz and Mary Beirne
      * Saturday, November 9th
      * Tables still available
      * Invitations have been sent out – don’t have to wait for the invitation. Everything is available online on the school website. Plus everything you need to know is in the Parisian Press.
      * An Evening in Paris – Black tie or Cocktail. The theme color is pink. We want everyone there no matter what you wear!!
      * Raffle Item – beautiful hoop diamond earing, donated by Markle Jewelry. Jo Anne Donovan is selling the raffle tickets. Tickets are $100 and only 100 tickets will be sold.
      * Tailgate to benefit the Wine and Spirit Pull, Friday, October 11 at 6:00pm Joe O’Brien Grove - Rain or Shine
        + - Admission to the tailgate is a bottle of wine or spirits valued at $50 or more… or cash, check or credit card
          - Sponsors – Canes and St. Arnolds Beer
          - Also an Admissions event hosting about 75 families.
      * Teachers Wishlist – The booth will have a contest between grade levels and alumni called “Flight to Paris” for the grade or alumni that gives the most toward the teachers wishlist.
      * Specs event in September was great. Have a lot of great wines valued at well over the $50 minimum
      * The Puppy has been born – a black, male Labradoodle. Pictures soon!!
      * Decorations – Work days
        + - Thursday, October 10, 12:00pm – 3:10pm. Upstairs St. Basil Hall. Other workdays will be announced in the Parisian Press
          - November 8 – Set Up Day. All day, meals will be provided.
      * Baskets – Looking for donations of Amazon bubble wrap, especially the big air bags.
      * Felicia Sutton, Decorations Chair, is asking for donated frames. They don’t have to be in great condition, but they will need to be donated because they will be painting them.
        + - Increasing the number of items donated, increases the amount of money that goes back to the school.
      * Class Registries – Each class has been assigned different registries. Links have been sent out several times, but will be sent out again via Facebook and the class captains. Please donate from the registries to help fill the baskets for the silent auction. It works just like a wedding or baby registry. Items will be shipped directly to STH.
      * Travel Miles – If you have extra travel miles that you would consider donating, that would help tremendously. This will help make some of our travel packages more appealing.
   2. Round Up – Amber Caver

* March 1, 2020
* Still need volunteers
  + Sponsor Coordinator
  + Someone to make sure all sponsors get appropriate recognition (signs, newsletters, etc…)
  + Eagle Court Co-Chair – Everything that goes on in the gym
  + Black Jack Table
  + Dinner for Two
  + Food Court - help with media relations
* Round Up is like a carnival. Games, rides, food court in Cemo, beer garden in Joe O’Brien Grove.
* Maria Varcados – Big Red Market
  + A mini holiday type market – this will be the 6th year
  + Maria has visited 3-4 markets around town already and will visit a few markets next week. One on October 26th in the Katy area, Cinco Ranch, that she will not be able to attend. If anyone is able to go for her, please let her know. She has packets ready to give to potential vendors.
  + Good reply from past vendors that will return this year. Some potential new vendors.
  + The vendors fee goes directly to the school. Last year it was very close to $10,000!!
  + Over 30 vendors last year – Great assortment of vendors
  + Need a new Chair for next year since Maria’s boys will be graduating.
  + Preview night before Round-Up with light Hors d’oeuvres and wine. Especially nice for the moms who are volunteering the day of Round-Up to be able to shop and visit.
  1. Style Show – Dena Skucius
* Wonderful opportunity to see Seniors walk with their mothers.
* Luncheon at River Oaks Country Club
* Meeting this afternoon to finalize more details

1. STANDING COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL EVENTS
   1. Parent/Teacher Conferences

* Two dates and times. Different from previous years.
* No Reception or food since everyone will be coming and going for their appointments
  1. Social Event
* Pinot’s Pallet – 12 moms attended and painted a Halloween themed painting. Lots of fun!
* November 14 – Lunch at the Dunlavy
* One more way to meet other moms and visit with moms you already know ☺
  1. Speech and Debate – Anita Bryant
* Was selling Dress Down For Debate passes for $5 before the meeting to raise money for the expenses incurred going the different Speech and Debate competitions.
* Boys and faculty have been supportive… boys want to wear tennis shoes. There was a long line this morning during sales
* Forensics team effects all the boys since they are all required to take speech
* Very appreciative to be able to have a second day to sell passes. Originally it was only one day.

1. OLD BUSINESS
   1. Homecoming 2019 – Mums sold out this year for the first time. More sales than any other year.
      * Morning Buzz article about Mums written by Senior mom Karen Vine Fuller. Link online if you haven’t read the article
      * If you have any other events or STH “Buzz” that you feel we should be show casing in these neighborhood publications, let’s get it out there!! You can contact Karen Vine Fuller directly.
      * Let’s get the word out about the great things happening St. Thomas!!
   2. National Honor Society
      * Dana Cahill did an amazing job with her team of Freshman moms! Beautiful Cake… absolutely perfect event.
      * **10 National Merit Scholars**
   3. College Night Last night at Strake
      * Felicia did an incredible job promoting STH. We had the best high school table and swag for the College Admissions Counselors in attendance.
   4. Mark deTranaltes – Director of Advancement
      * Annual Fund is doing very well
      * Every class met the first goal of 25% and received an ice cream treat.
      * Important to remember, although large donations are great, it is more important to have participation. When Mark submits requests to foundations asking for money, the first question asked is “what is your own community doing?”
2. NEW BUSINESS
   1. School Store
      * Jenny Hanks has graciously volunteered to be over the second STH store inside St. Basil Hall
      * The store will be open two days a week
        1. Tuesday afternoons 2:00pm-4:00pm
        2. Thursday mornings 7:30am-9:30am
      * Eventually they will have emergency type items for sale such as pencils, pens, paper etc…
   2. Eagle Treats
      * October 23 – New Date
        + Still have some slots available for food – looking for down-home comfort food type dishes for the teachers to enjoy (ex. King Ranch Chicken, Chicken Pot Pie)
        + Changed to a block day lunch because the teachers on first lunch were getting all the good stuff. With block lunch they can all come at the same time.
3. Meeting adjourned 12:46pm