

ST. THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL

BASILIAN FATHERS – 1900

St. Thomas High School

Mothers’ Club General Meeting

September 11, 2019

Minutes

1. WELCOME/OPENING PRAYER

The September 2019 General Meeting of the Mothers’ Club was held in St. Basil Hall on September 11, 2019. Meryl Gregory, President, called the meeting to order at 11:40am and led us in prayer.

Quorum - Yes

Minutes Approved - n/a

1. GUEST SPEAKER
   1. Director or Counseling – Chelette Stephenson

* Has 14 years of Counseling experience– True passion and seeing the students have that Aha Moment
* This Summer she met with Freshman parents. Best advice to Freshman parents… find a Senior parent to see what they have done.
* September – meeting with Sophomores and Juniors to set goals.
* Naviance – Showing boys what their GPA means and what long term mean
* Working on Social, Emotional and Well Being besides just GPA and Test Scores
* Counselor Newsletter going out weekly – Please subscribe on website, go to academics and counseling, then to Newsletters. You can also look at past Newsletters. Counseling department likes to think of it as a 3 legged table.
* Instagram – STH\_Counselors – Short blurbs
* Upcoming College visits. Posted on Instagram and newsletter. Please ask your boys if they have sign up for visits on Naviance.
* Have conversations with your boys – College visits and Naviance scatter grams for colleges he is interested in attending.
* A goal of the Counseling department is assuring that they can graduate from College.
* There will be career counseling for all grades
* If you want your son to go to a specific college visit or counseling session, you are welcome to email the Counseling Department and say “Hey, please make sure my son goes to this”.
* 9th – 11th grade boys are assigned to counselors based on their last name
* Counselors are meeting with boys a minimum of 3 times a semester
* Dinner conversations – do you know what your GPA is. Do you know how to use the GPA calculator that Mr. Fuchs made?
* Chelette asked for any ideas of how to get the boys motivated to attend the college visits – “College Knowledge”, please send her an email
* Updating scholarship list on Naviance
* Workshop Wednesdays at school for the boys
* To have an excused absence for an on campus college tour, contact the Dean of Students office 10 days prior to absence. You can go to the counseling website for a form.
* Super Saturdays – Every college posts these days. Everyone you want to see on that campus will be there.
* Also take advantage of seeing the recruiters that come to the STH campus. They are likely the admissions person that will be reading your application.

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

* See attached report
* Campus Store – Opening a campus store in St. Basil Hall. Ready to go with a soft opening. Staffing needed. Volunteers needed to cover 2 hours twice weekly. Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning.
* Parent Teacher Conference – Change the format to have more privacy. Teachers will be asked to stay late on 2 evenings and parents can set 10 minute appointments. Sign up online. There will not be enough slots for everyone. If you are not able to get a slot and would like to meet with the teacher, email the teacher directly to set up a time.
* Friday, September 13, teachers will be sending out emails to parents of students who currently have below a 75 for the class.
* Back to school night was cancelled and will not be rescheduled. Logistically challenging.

1. OFFICER REPORTS
   1. President – Meryl Gregory

* Theme - Be Present – Be present in your son’s life, be present here at St. Thomas, take the time, get involved. It is the most beneficial thing you will do.
* Everyone must check in through the office prior to heading to St. Basil Hall for the meeting
* Welcome Tea – Thank you to Sarah McCoy – Such a great event. Also thank you to everyone who signed up to help.
* Back to School Night – Casey Boettcher did a great job setting up. Dylan Michael’s (Junior) family donated Chick-Fil-A from their two Kingwood franchises. Although the event was cancelled, the food did not go to waste. They fed the janitorial staff, teachers, athletes and others stranded in the storm.
* Eblast from Dena – there was a mistake about the date for the IWA dance. Both IWA and Duchesne orientation dances will be held Saturday, September 14
* Social Events – Monthly – A great way to meet other moms. More later
* Auction – our biggest fund raiser – you will hear more later
* Homecoming – Girls want to go. Please encourage your boys to get dates, take a friend, etc…
* Eagles Angels – Morphed into a specific group to support STH families with various needs. Families who have a death or illness in the family, or a financial struggle. Any type of hardship really. We can’t help if we don’t know about it. If you know of a family who may need assistance please quietly, respectfully contact Meryl or Gail Calkins. If you are interested in being on the Eagles Angels team, please contact Meryl Gregory directly
  1. Vice President – Barbara Pane
* Every committee has a binder with years of information inside. So don’t be intimidated to volunteer because you have these binders as a great reference. Please return binders to Barbara two weeks after the event
* One Chair opening for the Baccalaureate Mass Reception in May. Please contact Barbara if you are interested.
  1. Treasurer – Laura Sage
* Scan and email all receipts to Laura – Receipts will not be accepted after 45 days of date on receipt.
* New Tax ID forms on line – No taxes will be reimbursed
* New Check Request form on line
* On website – Parents tab – Mothers’ Club
  1. Communication Secretary – Dena Skucius proxy Meryl Gregory
* Sends out Newsletter
  1. Recording Secretary – Gwen McKeehan
* Records minutes – FYI… recording the meeting on phone.
  1. Past President – Shawn Savarino
* Shout out to current officers for working hard all summer ☺

1. BIG 3 UPDATES
   1. Auction – Mary Beirne

* Table sales – forms in the back if you haven’t put a table together yet
* Raffle tickets for the earrings on sale now. $100 each… only 100 tickets will be sold
* Registries for Silent Auction Baskets. Co-Chair Christine Cummins is in charge. The information for registries is in the newsletter as well at the Parisian Press
* Parisian Press will come out every Monday (Tuesday if delayed). All 3 chairs contact information is in the press. You are welcome to email them about anything. It will also be in the Eagles Nest Magazine which will be mailed to everyone soon. They are also on the website.
* Specs event last night – September 10 – Great Turnout
* Tailgate event – October 11 to benefit the wine/spirit pull. Admission is a bottle of wine valued at $50 or greater… or $50 cash/credit card
  1. Round Up – Laura Reyes and Jodi Diamond
* Volunteers needed – Can sign up on website
* Maria V – Big Red Market
  + A mini holiday type market – this will be the 6th year
  + Maria scouts for new vendors every year. Would love if anyone would like to help her scout. Or if you know of someone who would like to have a booth please contact Maria. Has information packets to give vendors. Not on website at this time.
  + Over 30 vendors last year – Great assortment of vendors
  1. Style Show – Catherine Chandler (Mothers’ Club Liaison)
* Working on Theme and Logo

1. PRESIDENTS REPORT
   1. Father Jim Murphy, CSB

* Welcome to Father Dutch Reese Community Room
* Renovation of the Priest residence for an adult meeting space. Includes the Father Glass Board Room and the Father Belish Dinning Hall. Primarily to open up Mary Moody as a student space.
* Heart of Mothers’ Club is being the front line of helping promote the good we are trying to do at St. Thomas. Not just volunteering, but welcoming people to the school. Parents need to be the voice to our friends and to the Houston community about this incredible school and all the good things that are going on here.
* A lot of work on campus besides the renovation of the Priest’s residence/St. Basil Hall. The locker rooms are being updated completion expected by summer. The Shepherd entrance – tied to concerns about security. Needed to lay concrete and other things underground because of Harvey. It’s a frustration, but a reality. This is something the Basilian Fathers do well. They deal in reality.
* Joplin Campus – Officially take ownership of the campus December 31, 2019.
* Moving the baseball field to the back corner – again underground work that was not expected needs to be done.
* The Heart of the Campus – by moving the baseball field, it opens green space and practice fields as well as allowing students to be able to stand in the center of the campus and get a 360 degree view of the school.
* School year started very well – Camp Aquinas was amazing
* What he asks of the Mothers’ Club is to be that constant support and voice to community about who we are as a school. Uncompromising academics and uncommon brotherhood.
* Auction – Excited for the auction honoring a German, an Indian, and an Irishman by going to France ☺ Trying to convince Father Schwenzer to dress as a French mime.
* Father Murphy’s mother and some of his sisters will be attending the Auction – So you will be able to meet some of the “Murphy Clan”

1. STANDING COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL EVENTS
   1. Social Events

* 1st event is Bingo in the Heights Thursday, September 12. Doors open at 5:00pm, bingo begins at 6:30pm. Please arrive by 5:00 and bring a bottle of wine or snack to share with the group.
  1. Homecoming
* St. Thomas website under Mothers’ Club – HOCO 101 – everything you would think to ask is on there.
  1. Class Facebook Pages
* good source for questions – same information is shared elsewhere so don’t feel like you have to use it.
  1. Moms in Prayer – Raquel Miller – proxy Dr. Dominguez
* Every Tuesday morning 8:00am in the chapel – All mothers invited. Come as you are. Very casual
* They pray for each other. They lay it all out there. You can share as much or as little as you would like and it is confidential.
* The power of togetherness
* Meryl says it is worth going. Raquel has a direct line to Heaven ☺ Absolutely beautiful when she prays.
* Moms in Prayer is an International group
  1. Homecoming Mums – Jennifer Nguyen
* Orders have started online – please order as soon as possible
* Moms have been working hard to get all the ribbons with sons and daughters names on them
* All information is in the Newsletter
  1. Eagle Treats Jennifer Nguyen
* September – February all sign-ups are full
* September Breakfast had to be pushed back a week – all volunteers have been notified
* If you would like to chair next year, please help Jennifer one month to learn how it is done.
  1. NHS Induction Ceremony – Dana Cahill
     + September 25
     + Looking for 1-2 more volunteers for setup, cleanup, etc…
     + For Junior & Seniors, so nice to have Freshman & Sophomore moms help
  2. Cookie Break Committee – Valerie Lee
* Once a month we provide Chocolate Chip or Sugar cookies to all the students in the courtyard on a Monday.
* Fall sign up is 100% filled – 5 volunteers each month
* Specific request – cookies must be 4 inches to make it even across the board. Also no nuts and other specifications
* 2nd year – encourage boys to come get them… they are free!!
* 1st one is Monday, September 16
  1. Speech and Debate Guild– Anita Bryant
* All the boys at the school have to take speech
* For Speech and Debate they have to dress up for events. This year they are having a fundraiser called “STH Dress Down for Debate!”. For $5 you can buy a ticket to dress down on October 11. You can only buy a ticket on campus at lunch. This fundraiser was needed because typically there are two middle school speech tournaments on campus. This year there will only be one at the end of April which cuts into the teams fundraising efforts to help with the costs of going to competitions.

1. OLD BUSINESS
   1. Welcome Tea – Discussed earlier
   2. Back to School Night – Discussed earlier
2. NEW BUSINESS
   1. Dr. Dominguez

It’s nice having Moms on campus. He has fond memories of his friends mothers being on campus and encouraged our moms to be visible on campus for the boys. Moms are the heart and soul of the school. This should not be overvalued. Keep up the enthusiasm stay engaged.

* 1. A Freshman mom from St. Ambrose commented how welcome she felt. She appreciated the warmth from the community. Very Thankful for the welcome.
  2. Auction Teasers from Catherine Chandler
* Labradoodle
* Ireland Trip
* A Place to Stay in Paris!
* Meet the “Murphy Clan”
  1. Question raised about the possibility of using Venmo to pay for things.
  2. Parent-Teacher Conference – Dr. D. will message us directly about times and dates. He is thinking 4:00-6:00pm one evening and 5:00-7:00pm on another evening.
  3. Mother-Son Mass December 10 – Correction from dates on the back of the Agenda stating December 9.

1. Door Prizes awarded – Names drawn by Father Murphy

* STH Styrofoam Cups and Beautiful White Flower Arrangement

1. Meeting adjourned 12:42