



ST. THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL
BASILIAN FATHERS – 1900
St. Thomas High School
Mothers' Club General Meeting
October 13, 2020
Minutes

I. WELCOME/OPENING PRAYER

The October 2020 General Meeting of the Mothers' Club was held via Zoom Conference on October 13, 2020 at 12:00pm. Holly Schlosser, President, called the meeting to order at 12:05pm and led us in Prayer.

Quorum - Yes
Minutes Approved - Yes

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Father Murphy, CSB

- a. Thank you to everyone for a successful first quarter
 - i. The boys have been spectacular and have done everything asked of them. Their attitude and preparedness are to be commended.
 - ii. Senior Class is a very special class and a great group of leaders who seek to build great community within the student body.
 - iii. Lend a Little Help Project – grateful for the outpouring of generosity, kindness, goodness and effort.
- b. Our main effort is to be safe while continuing to offer a great education. We are going to continue to do our best to be smart about how we address issues with the Pandemic. Make decisions based on the best data and information that we have. When we make decisions, we are not just making decisions about your son. We are making decisions about students, faculty and staff.
- c. Second Quarter
 - i. Big Events in NEW ways. Please be engaged as much as possible
 1. Gala – Virtual on November 7
 2. Father-Son Mass – Split in two groups November 4&5 on the football field
 3. Mother-Son Mass – pushed back to Spring 2021
- d. Very excited about opening new buildings on the Joplin Campus.
 - i. Small Gym
 - ii. Weight Room
 - iii. Wrestling Room
 - iv. Sports Training Room
- e. Waiting for approval from the City to break ground on the new Father Wilson Baseball Field
- f. New Inductees for the STH Hall of Honor will be announced very soon. There has not been anyone inducted since 2014
 - i. Ceremony in January for 5 new inductees

III. GUEST SPEAKER – Dr. Maxwell Holmes, Director of Admissions

- a. Mothers' Club interaction and networking with families is instrumental in helping with Admissions.
- b. Recap of Last Year
 - i. Class of 2024 – We had just sent out acceptances when everything shut down and we went remote. Through everything, we still ended up with 169 students.
 - ii. First year since I have been here (5 years) that we were able to maintain or increase the size of a particular class with transfer students, which is a testament to Dr. Dominguez, Father Murphy and our Faculty.
- c. Current Year
 - i. Going in the right direction even while dealing with COVID
 1. We are doing everything possible to reach out to families
 2. We do not have the traditional 8th grade class tours
 3. We are not able to host students
 - ii. Finding New and Old ways to connect with families
 1. Social Media is a big one
 - a. Using Videos and Quotes from students and current families
 2. Flyers – to get our name in front of as many families as possible in the city of Houston
 3. Monthly Admissions Newsletter
 - a. Informative Guide for Families

- b. Help navigate potential students through the journey
- iii. Visits
 - 1. Virtual Zoom Conversations
 - 2. Walking Video Tours
 - 3. Evening - After school hours in person tours
 - a. Offered everyday starting at 3:30pm and some Saturdays
 - b. At Capacity – there is currently a waitlist
 - 4. Open House
 - a. Created 4 mini Open House Series
 - i. October 17
 - ii. November 5
 - iii. November 17
 - iv. December 6
 - b. Roughly 25% capacity for each event
 - c. Expected to see 185 eighth grade families (36 each event)
 - d. Able to meet faculty and staff and tour the campus, including Joplin.
 - e. Able to showcase how we are growing and what we have to offer student athletes
 - 5. Ahead of the game in regards to applications – seeing a lot of progress and success with what we are doing.
 - 6. How Moms can Help
 - a. Please pass along the Newsletter to any family with current middle school boys
 - b. Volunteers needed for the Open Houses. Will send link to doodle poll to sign up.
 - c. If you know any families with current 8th grade boys interested in St. Thomas, please pass contact information to Dr. Holmes.

IV. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Dr. Dominguez '96

- a. See Attached Principal's Report
 - i. Re-Opening Update
 - 1. Feedback is always welcome, whether it be praise or criticism.
 - 2. Please be empathetic to others in the community. There is always someone out there that is really struggling with decisions made by administration regarding how to handle the return to campus.
 - ii. Academic Update
 - 1. Reasoning behind 100% remote after Thanksgiving
 - a. As a community and Catholic School, we value family togetherness and bonds that families share. We want faculty, staff, students and the rest of our community to be able to visit over the holiday without fear of contracting or exposing loved ones to the virus.
 - 2. Reasoning behind cancelling Finals
 - a. We need to maximize instructional time due to the loss of instructional time over the semester.
 - b. We could not find a platform that could guarantee test security electronically that worked with our current system.
 - 3. National Merit Semi Finalists.
 - a. St. Thomas has FOUR!! That is the most we have had in a couple of years. There is not a Private Catholic School that serves boys who has more!!
 - i. Note: We also have 8 National Commended Scholars.
 - iii. Walk-a-Thon
 - 1. Fundraiser done by our Student Organization Department.
 - a. Director Joe O'Brien
 - b. Typically the students pay a lump sum to walk around the bayou. This year the walk will be much shorter... to the Parking Garage.
 - i. Students who pay the lump sum get admission to various school activities such as Movie Night on the Field, Homecoming, Crawfish Boil, Top Golf and more.
 - ii. This year it is only \$25 and can be purchased through the Team Store.
 - iv. Homecoming
 - 1. Friday, October 23
 - 2. Some Students will be allowed to sit in the stadium, others will be able to watch from the baseball field
 - 3. Mums – will be a little more simple this year, but they will still be available on the Team Store

- 4. No Dance
- v. Spring Break WILL happen!!
- vi. Covid Cases
 - 1. 3 cases
 - 2. Contracted off Campus
 - 3. Contract Tracing from in-house council with guidance from the CDC
 - a. Notify any one who falls under close contact by the CDC
 - b. Also notify others that we feel should know
 - i. Teachers
 - ii. Groups or meetings that the infected person may have attended

V. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. President – Holly Schlosser
 - i. No Report
- b. Vice President – Mary Yokubaitis
 - i. No Report
- c. Treasurer – Lizette Rumohr
 - i. Eagle Treat Donations are showing up on our books
 - ii. Please notify me via email of any expenses for reimbursements requests
- d. Communication Secretary – Alicia De Alva
 - i. Thank you for reading the Newsletter
- e. Recording Secretary – Gwen McKeehan
 - i. Call for September Minutes to be approved
 - 1. Motion – Meryl Gregory
 - 2. Second – Lizette Rumohr
- f. Past President – Meryl Gregory
 - i. No Report

VI. BIG THREE

- a. Round Up
 - i. When we get the final word that Round-Up will happen, we will need LOTS of volunteers because it will be put together in a much shorter time-span
- b. Style Show
 - i. No Report
- c. Auction/Gala – Catherine Rentz, Christine Cummins, Julie Perry and Catherine Chandler
 - i. November 7 at 7:30pm - Virtual
 - ii. Theme - The 20's Roar Again
 - iii. Everyone should have received the Invitation in the Mail.
 - iv. The Gatsby Gazette Newsletter will be emailed every Monday with all the fun and exciting news and updates about the Gala.
 - 1. There will also be information in the Mothers' Club Newsletter and the Big Red News
 - v. Please buy a Watch Party – Catered by Mandola's – it is not too late!!
 - 1. 2 levels for party of 10 – fully catered at your home
 - 2. 2 levels for party of 10 – meal delivered to your home
 - 3. 2 levels for party of 2 – meal delivered to your home
 - 4. All watch parties come with a YouTube link for the event
- d. Live event at 7:30pm with special and surprise guests!!
- e. Bid Pal as the bidding platform – Bidding opens October 26
 - i. Register in advance so you can be ready to Bid!!
 - ii. Instructions are on the Auction Invitation
- f. Raffle Tickets
 - i. Buy a chance to win a beautiful Marco Bicego 18 karat gold, 18 inch semiprecious stone necklace, donated by Thomas Markle Jewelers
 - ii. Text STHAUCTION2020 to 243725 to purchase your ticket
 - 1. \$100 each
 - 2. Only 100 tickets sold
- g. Silent Auction Registries
 - i. Shout out to Freshman and Sophomore class for filling their registries 100%
 - ii. Registries are now closed
- h. Wine/Spirit Pull
 - i. You may still drop off donations to the advancement office
 - ii. Must be valued at \$50 or more

- iii. May order at Specs.com
- i. Dessert Auction
 - i. 10 special desserts will be up for auction
 - ii. In order to have them delivered in time for Watch Parties, bidding will close Thursday, November 5th

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Young Life – Meryl Gregory
 - a. Young Life is a worldwide interdenominational organization to know and grow your faith
 - b. STH chapter is under Heights on the Bayou
 - c. The leader is Catholic, but you do not have to be Catholic to join!
 - i. Liz attended Duchesne, her sister graduated from Duchesne, her father graduated from STH, and she has relatives who attended to IWA
 - ii. She has been involved and very familiar with all three schools
 - iii. Young Life trained
 - d. Invitations are extended to all STH boys and Duchesne and IWA girls
 - e. The first meeting had a huge turnout... over 150 kids!
 - i. Going forward, there will be two groups to comply with COVID
 - 1. Seniors and Juniors one week
 - 2. Sophomore and Freshman the alternate week
 - ii. On the weeks without an in person meeting, a virtual meeting will be available
 - f. Meetings are every Monday evening starting at 7:13pm and last 1 hour
 - g. Amy Huggins – STH alumni mom was instrumental in bringing Young Life at STH and joined us on Zoom today!
 - i. Received Blessing from Cardinal DiNardo
 - ii. Very much a God thing
 - iii. Everything is being done following STH COVID guidelines
 - h. Advertised on Social Media and STH website and newsletters
 - i. No need to register prior to attending. Just show up!
- b. Social Events – Heather Curran Kelly & Stephanie Bourg
 - 1. September event at Betsy's was a huge success
 - 2. October event – Sunday, October 18, 4:00pm-6:00pm
 - a. Love Shack at Levy Park
 - b. Check Facebook the day of event for any date changes due to rain/weather
 - c. Parking available on the street as well as a parking garage across the street
 - d. Levy park does not have picnic tables, so please bring your own chair so that we can provide our own seating and social distancing
 - e. Love Shack offers drinks as well as "fun foods" such as hotdogs and hamburgers
 - 3. November 15 – Location TBD
 - a. Open to suggestions
 - 4. December 8 – Christmas Luncheon at Damian's
- c. Moms In Prayer
 - 1. Raquel Miller leads Moms In Prayer meeting via Zoom every Tuesday morning at 8:00am
 - 2. Lunch Social – Thursday, October 22 at 11:30am at Coppa in Rice Village
 - a. RSVP to Raquel (information in the Mothers' Club Newsletter)
- d. Eagle Angels
 - i. Committee chair – Anita Bryant
 - 1. Helps to provide meals or any other needs to families in need in our STH community
 - ii. More volunteers needed – See SignUp Genius

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- i. Cookie Chair – September was a huge success!
 - 1. Moms enjoyed baking and distributing Cookies to the boys... and being on Campus!
 - 2. October dates – October 23 & 26
 - a. SignUp Genius available in Mothers' Club Newsletter to bake or distribute
- ii. Eagle Treats – September was a big hit with the faculty and staff
 - 1. Next event - October 29
 - 2. Monetary donations are appreciated and can be done through the school store
- iii. Social Events – September event had a huge turnout!
 - 1. October event, Sunday, October 18 at the Love Shack in Levy Park 4:00pm-6:00pm

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- i. College Night – typically a big event that hosts Colleges at Strake Jesuit.
 1. St. Thomas always has the best table with the best treats and giveaways!
 - a. This years event was virtual
 - b. October 14 - In lieu of College night, we will have a Counselor Appreciation Day to honor our counselors and LED staff.
 - c. Meryl Gregory – We have Thank you notes and treats to let them know how much we truly do appreciate all the advice, counseling, guiding, and extra enriching they give our boys
- ii. Father – Son Masses
 1. November 4 & 5 (one for Aquinas and one for Basil)
 2. Outside on the football field with social distancing
- iii. Music Guild – Homecoming Mums
 1. Mums have been provided by the Music Guild for many years
 2. Mum Mom Fight Never Dies – The tradition will continue this year!
 3. 100 single Mums will be available at \$50 each
 4. 100 armbands will be available at \$35 each
 5. Will be available at the Eagle Store later this week
 6. Pick Up information will be available on EBN
 7. Due to time constraints, name streamers will not be available
 - a. Letters may be purchased at Michaels, Arne's and Hobby Lobby if you would like to personalize your Mum or Armband
- iv. National Honor Society Induction has been moved to January
- v. Mother – Son Mass has been moved to Spring 2021
- vi. Mothers' Club Christmas Luncheon
 1. December 8 at 11:00am – Damian's
- vii. Next Meeting, Tuesday, November 10 at 12:00pm via Zoom

X. UPCOMING EVENTS

October 18	Moms' Social – The Love Shack 4:00pm-6:00pm
October 23	Homecoming
October 26	GALA AUCTION BIDPAL GOES LIVE!! Let the bidding begin!!
October 30	St. PiusX Home Football Game
November 4&5	Father – Son Masses - Stadium
November 7	GALA!!! It will be a Roarin' Good Time!!
November 10	November General Mothers' Club Meeting, 12pm

XI. Meeting adjourned 1:24pm

St. Thomas Mother's Club
Principal's Report
October 13, 2020

1. **Re-opening update** - We welcomed nearly all of our students back this week to the Hybrid Learning Model. We continue to monitor the situation, seek medical counsel, and gradually allow more of our community to engage on campus. Next week we will host both our annual Walk-a-thon and Homecoming.
2. **Standardized tests** – Historically, our students perform very well on standardized tests. In an effort to ensure our young men have an opportunity to take the SAT and ACT despite the current pandemic, St. Thomas is offering in-school opportunities for our juniors and seniors to take both the SAT and ACT. Seniors have an opportunity this fall, while juniors will have a similar opportunity in the spring.

This Wednesday all freshmen and sophomores will take the PSAT. Remember to bring a number 2 pencil and calculator. A handful of seniors are taking the second offering of the SAT on this same day. All other seniors and all juniors do not have school this Wednesday, October 14.

3. **Herff Jones** - Junior ring information will be available and sent to you as soon as Herff Jones makes their online platform available. All families will be able to order both junior rings and senior graduation announcements electronically. Herff Jones will host a day in the Joe O'Brien Grove when families can view sample rings and graduation announcements. Details from Herff Jones will be sent to you as soon as they are made available.
4. **Academic Update** - Please visit the website and read through the policies. Most of your questions can be answered there. <https://www.sths.org/campus-life/return-to-campus-2020/>.
 - a. 1st quarter grades go live today.
 - b. LEC and counseling department are fully operational in Hybrid and Remote.
 - c. Quarter 2 starts this week.
 - d. 100% remote for the second quarter after Thanksgiving holiday.
 - e. Finals have been cancelled. Last day of first semester is Thursday, December 17.
5. **Father/Son Mass** – The annual Father/Son Mass will be held in person over two days at Granger Stadium. Basil students will attend on Wednesday, November 4 and Aquinas students will attend on Thursday, November 5. Seniors will have preferential seating and full details will be released this Friday.