



ST. THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL
BASILIAN FATHERS – 1900

St. Thomas High School
Mothers' Club General Meeting
February 9, 2021
Minutes

I. WELCOME/OPENING PRAYER

The February 2021 General Meeting of the Mothers' Club was held via Zoom Conference on February 12, 2021 at 12:00pm. Meryl Gregory, Past President, called the meeting to order at 12:01pm and led us in Prayer.

Quorum - Yes
Minutes Approved - Yes

II. GUEST SPEAKER – Chelette Stephenson, Director of Counseling

- a. Be sure to follow the Counseling Department on Social Media
 - i. Will start highlighting our seniors who have made College commitments early
 - ii. College Knowledge – Juniors and Sophomores
 1. It has been very challenging to visit colleges this year due to the pandemic
 2. Looking to roll out some programming after Spring Break to help with College Knowledge
- b. We are very strategic with our four year planning with your son because we don't want you to be overwhelmed.
 - i. Please be sure to read the Counseling Newsletter.
 1. Information is broken up by grade level so you can see what your child is working on right now.
 2. Resources are provided
 3. Suggested conversations you can have with your student to continue with what is going on in the counseling department as well as the classroom
 4. Information on summer programs to visit with colleges or programming here at St. Thomas
 5. Sent out every 2 weeks on Fridays
- c. Counseling Department also supports your son academically
 - i. Checks grades
 - ii. Do you need support from the LEC
- d. If your son tells you he doesn't know what to do. Ask him if he has spoken to his teacher. They need to be able to advocate for themselves. This will help them in college and in their future jobs.
- e. Currently in the process of course selection for current Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors for next year
 - i. We encourage parents to join these meeting virtually
- f. Focus for Spring Semester – Helping the student see their whole self.
 - i. Opportunities to learn more about themselves – What they like and don't like
- g. Ways to discover more about yourself
 - i. Alumni Mentor Program – New this year
 1. 72 boys are matched with a mentor who is a graduate of St. Thomas and learning about different careers
 - ii. Clubs and Organizations on Campus
 - iii. Collaborating with the Theology department on Community Service
- h. YouScience – Please make a note to ask your son if he has completed
 - i. Students can see their strengths
 - ii. Areas they may want to explore
- i. March – will begin talking about the summer
 - i. Encouraging college tours
 - ii. Setting Goals
- j. Wednesday Work Shops
 - i. Held during lunch study hall
 1. Give information and work on some tasks
- k. Senior Fridays
 - i. Discuss the transition to college

- ii. More details to insure that they are set up for success once they get to college.
- I. Proud to announce that our Senior Class has reached 91% of students being accepted into a 4 year college
- m. Tip for underclassmen moms – If you know a senior mom, reach out to them to get tips on their successes. What worked for them... it's good to have a mentor.
- n. Please reach out to the Counseling Department for any help or questions you may have.

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Father Jim Murphy, CSB

- a. Proud of the student body, especially our senior class who have been going forward despite all the cancellations, obstacles and changes thrown at them this year. We feel this is a reflection of what parents are doing at home.
- b. Speaker Matt Fradd – Sponsored by Campus Ministries
 - i. Sunday – spoke to parents
 - ii. Monday & Tuesday – spoke with student body about struggles of pornography.
 - iii. Combined science with real useful parenting tips
 - iv. Hoping to provide video of the discussion
- c. Ash Wednesday Mass – Wednesday, February 17
 - i. Outside Mass in Stadium
 - ii. Sprinkle ashes (No crosses on forehead)
- d. Virtual Steps for Students – Saturday, February 20
 - i. Coach Labus is coordinating STH run – along the Bayou
- e. St. Thomas is trying as hard as possible to provide as much normalcy as possible. This takes an extraordinary amount of effort from the St. Thomas faculty, staff, coaches.
 - i. Please reach out to other parents that you haven't spoken to or seen recently to make sure they are staying connected to the school. Reach out to offer support to other families in an effort to maintain community during this challenging time.
- f. Grateful to everyone who has helped with Round-Up, Style Show, NHS Induction and everything going forward
- g. Hall of Honor Induction – 5 amazing alumni were inducted in January
 - i. Alumni that we want our current students to see and hear their stories
- h. 30 Hour Fast – Next Week
 - i. Important part of our celebration of Lent
 - ii. Ask your sons about their participation in this event
 - 1. Not too late to sign up. Just contact Coach Q or Veronica Looper
 - iii. Fasting is about getting some level of control over our appetites. Recognizing what it means to be hungry, and that discomfort.
 - 1. Understanding that there are people who are hungry every day.
 - iv. Getting control of our physical reactions to stimuli. Understanding the impact to external stimuli on us.

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

- a. Senior Focus as we come to the end of their high school career.
 - i. Parent will receive an email from Will Nash about an opportunity to purchase a Senior Ad for the yearbook.
- b. Upcoming Mass events
 - i. Ash Wednesday – February 17
 - ii. Mother-Son Mass – March 25
- c. What the end of the year will look like:
 - i. Prom – There will be something – TBD
 - 1. Should know something by early March
 - 2. Joe O'Brien had advocated for the boys and is working on plans
 - 3. Open to creative ideas from parents or students
 - 4. Plans need to be doable and safe
 - a. Make sure we do what is right for the teachers and community as the boys return to school the following Monday
- d. Spring Break – Making determination on whether students will work remotely the following week
- e. Senior Privileges
 - i. Each class has different "asks". Each class is different

1. Class of 2021
 - a. Friday dress down days – khaki shorts, jeans, STH t-shirt, collared shirt, must be tucked in. Must wear socks and belt. They can wear athletic shoes every day if they wish.
 - b. Hair code – They may have long hair, but they must shave
 - c. Extended Lunch – Joe O'Brien Grove is extended into the parking lot. Ping-pong and foosball table. Extra benches. Give them the time and space they need to enjoy that time.
 - d. No Off Campus Lunch this Semester
 - i. This is something that we may not return to due to added liability to the school.
 - ii. Looking at adding options like Food Trucks once a week, Uber Eats or other food delivery options
 - e. Traditional Overnight Retreat has been canceled, but there will be a Senior Retreat on campus.
- f. School Connectedness
 - i. Why students persist through graduation and are successful
 1. A lot of it had to do with their level of connectedness to their high school
 2. Currently we see more students struggling with through the pandemic
 3. We need to look at this problem differently. We can continue to try to do the normal things we have done in past years.
 - a. How to create a fun atmosphere
 - i. Maybe add some early dismissal days with fun activities on campus for the guys to have some collegiality and to blow off some steam
 - ii. Open to suggestions

V. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. President – Meryl Gregory for Holly Schlosser
 - i. No Report
- b. Vice President – Mary Yokubaitis
 - i. No Report
- c. Treasurer – Lizette Rumohr
 - i. No Report
- d. Communication Secretary – Alicia De Alva
 - i. No Report
- e. Recording Secretary – Gwen McKeehan
 - i. Call for January 2021 Minutes to be approved
 1. Motion – Alicia De Alva
 2. Second – Meryl Gregory

VI. BIG THREE

- a. Round Up – Amber Caver, Jodi Diamond, Barbara Villafranca and Mark DeTranaltos
 - i. Sunday, March 7 Noon-4:00pm
 - ii. Raffle drawing at 6:00pm live on YouTube
 - iii. Last day for boys to turn in money is Thursday, March 4
 1. Ticket sales are little behind
 - a. Phone calls were very successful
 - b. Mailings have gone out
 - c. Churches not allowing sales this year
 - d. The usual door-to-door, getting out shaking hands and meeting people can't be done this year.
 - e. Texting is OK this year
 - f. Working on safer online payments
 - g. Be creative and safe with your sales
 - iv. Drive Through "Car"nival
 - v. Pre-purchase your favorite food items
 - vi. Bringing back some of our favorite carnival games and creating some new ones that you can play from your car
 - vii. Come in through Shepherd Drive and make a loop around the school

- viii. Everything can be pre-purchased through the online Eagle Store
 - ix. The Round-Up Gazette will have all the links you need.
 - x. Donations:
 - 1. Sponsorship opportunities to be on the back of the Round-Up T-shirt
 - 2. Theme baskets will be in a Silent Auction
 - a. Looking for Theme Basket donation items or if you would like to donate money towards purchasing items to build baskets.
 - i. Deliver items to the front office
 - 3. Grade Level Donations
 - a. Juniors & Seniors - \$5 - \$10 gift card to anything
 - i. Drop off at front office and label Round-Up
 - b. Sophomores – Whole homemade or store bought cakes
 - c. Freshman – Sweet treats to use as prizes
 - i. Cookies or brownies pre-packaged (May be multiple cookies in one package)
 - 4. Looking for carnival prize donations for the younger children – Information in the Gazette
 - xi. Volunteer Needs:
 - 1. Three Sign Up Genius links in the Round-Up Gazette
 - a. Food Booths, Water, Car Check-In, Carnival Booths, Car Wash and more
 - 2. Specific Needs: Contact information in Gazette and this weeks Mothers' Club Newsletter
 - a. Chair – Prize Booth
 - b. Coordinator for the "Car Hops"
 - c. Toy Spin Kid Game
 - d. Eye Spy – Help Create
 - e. Matching Game
 - f. Decorations Committee
 - xii. COVID safety:
 - 1. Masks
 - 2. Limited number of people per booth
 - 3. 3 shifts to spread people out
 - xiii. Big Red Market – Nicole Perger
 - 1. Virtual this year – Opening March 1 and will be open for 2 weeks
 - 2. Access market on STH website
 - a. Direct links to vendor websites to shop
 - 3. If you know someone who has a full functional website and you feel like they would benefit by participating, we would love to have them join
 - a. Cost to Vendor - \$150 plus a \$50 gift donation
 - 4. Questions: Nicole at bigredmarket@sths.org
 - xiv. Sponsorship opportunities – Paige Dominey
 - 1. Don't assume we have reached out to anyone. If you know of anyone one you think would like to be a sponsor please let me know. I want to be the person to reach out to them.
 - a. thedomineys@gmail.com
- b. Style Show – Meryl Gregory, Gwen McKeenan
 - i. Going Great! We had a meeting with the 65 Senior moms who are have signed up to participate
 - ii. Cheers to 50 Years!!
 - c. Auction – Catherine Rentz
 - i. \$425,000 plus raised!!!

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Social Events – Heather Curran Kelly & Stephanie Bourg
 - i. February 20, Saturday, 9:00am-11:30am – After Steps For Students Event
 - 1. Yoga and Mimosas – Co-host with the Annual Fund
 - 2. Please RSVP to Heather by February 17

3. Booster Club Pop Up Shop will be open
- ii. March 30 – Picnic
 1. Picnic under the Oak Tree on the Joplin Campus
 2. Silver Stone Events will offer boxed lunches
 - a. Prepared menu to be ordered and we will pick them up for you
- iii. April 8 – 6:00-8:30pm - Moms night out with Art and Wine
 1. Supporting St. Thomas moms as well as the Annual Fund
 2. Katy Antill Art Studio
 3. Estelle Love from Scout and Cellar Wines will be providing wine
 4. Art and wine will be available for purchase with a portion of proceeds being donated to the Annual Fund
 5. Look for email with more details and RSVP to Heather
- b. Cookie Committee
 - i. February 12 – Still need volunteers – Sign Up Genius in the Newsletter
- c. Eagle Treats
 - i. February 11 – Show Your Love
 - ii. March 10 – Pot of Gold
- d. Moms in Prayer – Held virtually
 - i. Raquel Miller does a beautiful job leading moms in prayer
 1. No RSVP needed
 2. you don't have to say anything... or you are welcome to speak as well.
 3. Set Program -this is an international program

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. NHS Induction
 - i. First on campus event for the Mothers' Club
 1. Take away cookies and bottled water
- b. 2021-2022 Executive Board Self Nominations
 - i. Please prayerfully consider self-nominating

IX. UPCOMING EVENTS

February 15 – Faculty In-Service
 February 17 – All School Ash Wednesday Mass
 March 9 – Mothers' Club General Meeting
 March 25 – Mother-Son Mass
 April 2 – Easter Holiday

- X. Meeting adjourned 1:04pm