



NATIVITY^{of}MARY SCHOOL

**Nativity of Mary School Advisory Council
Thursday, August 17 2017
7 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room**

Nativity of Mary School Mission Statement

“Nativity of Mary School provides a Catholic education that fosters academic excellence and spiritual growth while preparing students to become responsible citizens in a global society.”

PRESENT: Fr. Zehren, Dan Riley, Jody Lazo, Beck Eagan, Laura DePoint, Jeff Giles, Holly Long, John Polvony, Lydia Sokotu, Kathy Daggett, and Virginia Downey

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Welcome Sarah Gonnella
- Approved May and June Minutes; no corrections noted

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Tours/Visits/Phone Calls: Twenty tours this summer as of July 31st for various grades. Most are preschool.

Enrollment to date for 2017-18: *Preschool: 2 Day – 14/15; 3 Day – 15/20; 5 Day – 14/20; 5 Day EK – 14/15; K – 21/21; Gr1-28/29; Gr2 – 28/28; Gr3 – 39/41; Gr4 – 33/38; Gr5 – 32/33; Gr6 – 29/29; Gr7 – 25/26 ; Gr8 – 28/31 (Presently we have 319 enrolled with 346 potential. The students not “enrolled” are students who we anticipate returning, but they have not submitted paperwork. For these families, this has been typical. We have 11 new students in 1-8. Enrollment ended at 338 in 2017.)*

Curriculum: The new language arts curriculum was received. Middle School has met to set up the structure for the 60 minute class periods, with some joint, team teaching time and smaller pull out groups.

Professional Development: Teachers attended Responsive Classroom training for four days, if they did not last year. Some also took Orton Gillingham, Mental Health, or STEM classes.

Faith: The parish is offering a new preschool faith program. This will be available for our preschool students to sign up for once a week, during the preschool day. It will only be available for the afternoon students. Families will be able to sign up and there is a fee. This is a parish program that will be available for our families during the week, for parish families on Wednesday nights, and for Sunday morning school.

Technology/STEM – Maker’s Space:

- We received a grant for the Maker Space/STEM Room for \$1500 from the Minnesota Independent Schools’ Forum to be used toward purchase of new items for this space.
- We raised about \$14,900 for STEM purchases for the 2017-18 through Fund-A-Need.

- Items were purchased over the summer and with Marie Maslowski's help, we are setting up these STEM programs in our Maker Space/STEM room (the old computer lab)
- The laptops will be upstairs instead of the lab for all teachers to use for students
- During Open House and Launch Night families will be able to go into the room to check out some of the new materials.

Staff:

New Staff: Hired Sarah Thornton for the Tutor and Kayla Walleser for 4th Grade, both experienced teachers with multiple licenses.

Marketing/Fundraising:

- **New Kindergarten Scholarship** – *Half off for anyone who registers in August.*
- **New to Bloomington Welcome Partnership** – *both parish and school. We will receive a database of new families with children each month. Our ads and information is in the packet.*
- **Budget** – We ended the year over \$100,000 in debt to the parish. We are addressing this with additional fundraising and continued focus on enrollment.

New Program Rollout Update:

- **Tuition and fees** - \$4700 one child; \$6200 two children; \$7200 three children and the various preschool classes with their corresponding tuition (with two 5 day class options)
- **Discounts & Tuition Assistance come from:** Aim Higher; CCF; Nativity; St. Ed/St. Bon; New families; Tuition Incentive Program (We need to redo this)
- **Fundraising:** Read-a-thon; Scrip; Spirit of Spring support; 52 Club Raffle (returns as fundraiser)
- **Fees:** Field Trip Fee-\$50; Tech Fee of \$50 for K-3 and/or \$150 for 4-8; 6-7th Grade Retreat - \$185

The items that are different this year in these areas are:

- **Tuition Increases**
- **Aim Higher** - was done within TADS (you had to complete a TADS form) and then the Aim Higher Foundation awarded aid from these forms.
- **TADS** – the rollout took much longer due to having various TADS employees working on it with some on summer vacation. We anticipate the email from TADS to go out Aug. 21st. Families will receive an Instant Alert call to notify them as well. Many families did come in to pay off tuition. NEXT YEAR – recommendation would be to roll the fee into the tuition (\$4,850) so that no one has to pay the fee after the fact.
- **Discounts** - St. Ed's decreased their support to the school; New Families receive a \$500 discount as in the past, but only if they were new families. (Still seems to be some confusion about Kindergarten students, so we may need to revisit); The old tuition incentive program was dropped and we didn't create a new one....so need to do that this year.
- **Fundraising** - Clarification needs to continue helping parents understand that Scrip is \$250 profit, or buy out, then after that families build tuition credit from 50% of scrip proceeds (we may want to continue to discuss this- we were still below our fundraising budget goal); 52 Club Raffle was brought back in efforts to help us with fundraising goals

- **Fees:** Added technology fee in efforts to add ipads and chromebooks for more K-3; Made 6-7th grade retreat fee the same for both grades as costs have increased.

Back-to-School Packet: By now you should have received our "back-to-school" packet, or by this weekend, sharing updates and key forms for the new year. We anticipate that next year we may be able to do this all through TADS.

- Families do not have to enroll in online payments with TADS, they can also drop off payments in the office (either way is great)
- Families who pay in full are eligible for the \$100 discount. (If they are receiving financial assistance, this discount does not apply)
- There is a \$45 Fee with TADS to set up the monthly payments. If you pay in full online, you do not pay this fee.
- If you use a credit card to pay your tuition, TADS/the credit companies, charge a 3% fee

Lunch:

- **New:** We are going with a new lunch program, per recommendation from committee & SAC. Menus going home and online in packet. We are going to start with one course and add a second option in November. We will not do pre-orders at this time but base it on previous year's orders. When we go to two options, parents may have to order the alternate option.
- **Lunch accounts:** You will be able to pay into your lunch account through Cornerstone/Educate (where student grades are) - so one log in. You will also be able to see what they purchased. There is a \$1.50 fee per deposit, so recommendation is to make less deposits of greater amounts.

Mandatory Logos & MS Shirts:

- **Logo:** Rolling out that all shirts have to have the logos, from Educational Outfitters. They had a June sale for us, but will continue to allow you to both, bring shirts in for logo, or buy new shirts from them. They will not be at back to school night.
- **MS Shirt:** MS students can order a new green, logo long-sleeve shirt/pullover as part of their uniform! These are from Educational Outfitters as well.
- **Spirit Wear:** Continues to be on the first Friday and can be ordered from various vendors.

PTO:

Held many summer events, lower attendance but well received. They hosted a Kindergarten supper which was well attended and hope to do annually. They have a potluck planned for Aug. 20 at the park. They will coordinating the parade for Heritage Days.

TEACHER REPORT

- Kindergarten Camp successful
 - 12 families
 - 1st year
 - Can we offer Creative Clubhouse after?

2017-2018 COMMITTEE UPDATES/ASSIGNMENTS

- Focus for the Future
 - New committee this year to include Jody, Laura and Holly
- PTO
 - Attendance dropped in the summer months
 - Kindergarten picnic a success at K Camp
 - Leaders putting forth GREAT effort
 - Need increased communications between teachers and parents
 - Need to rotate teachers to the events
- Technology
 - New tech fee implemented for K-3
 - \$50/ child for new equipment
 - Not communicated prior to tuition agreement
- Fundraising/Development
 - New committee to be established this year
 - Kathy, Becky, Sarah, Jody
 - Kick off 9/1/17
 - Moving forward with Capital Campaign
- Safety
- Early Childhood Expansion
- Marketing
 - Ean Koerner joined the meeting
 - Website is still in the formatting layout phase

LUNCH PROGRAM UPDATE

- Cost increase of 10 cents
- Subside for every student is 35 cents
- Losing equipment with leaving BPS
- Using TAHER
- Providing plastic utensils and plates
- Must fix range hood
- Will obtain dish washer
- Purchased warming oven
- Volunteers will remain in place
- TAHER will provide Lead Staff

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT PREP

Mindy will forward materials for review.

NO EXECUTIVE SESSION due to time constraints

Next SAC meeting will take place on Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 am.