



THE BASILICA SCHOOL OF SAINT MARY

Founded 1869 - Alexandria, Virginia

The Basilica School of Saint Mary Home and School Association Agenda and Committee Reports Thursday, January 9, 2025 - 7:00 pm St. James Library Media Center

HSA MISSION

The mission of the Association is to provide a structure where parents partner with the administration and faculty to support the spiritual and academic excellence of the School's children. The Association supports the School through four core activities:

- School community development
- Fundraising to support the school
- Assist with the facilitation ministry outreach to the school community
- Providing parents of students with knowledge about school functions and activities

AGENDA

1. 7:05 PM Call to Order – Sarah Magruder Lyle, HSA President
2. Opening Prayer and Pastor's Report - Father Hathaway
 - a. Clergy Updates**
 - i. Bishop was on retreat in Florida.
 - ii. Father Peter was on retreat in West Virginia.
 - b. Upcoming Events:**
 - i. First Penance: Scheduled for February.
 - ii. Catholic Schools Week (CSW): Occurring later this month.
 - iii. Blessing of the Infant of Prague Statue: (1/10/25).
 - iv. Pastor's Principal Lunch
 - c. Virtue of the Month: HUMILITY**
 - d. Jubilee Year:** celebrated every 25 years, with the theme for this Jubilee being "Hope."
 - e. 230th Anniversary of the Basilica:**
 - i. A series of activities are planned throughout the year to commemorate this milestone.
 - ii. Key Event: Gala and dinner at Belle Haven, scheduled for December 6, 2025.

3. Principal's Report – Mr. Robert Loia, Principal

a. **Fundraising and Events:**

- i. Christmas Tree Sale: Successful event; fewer trees sold than last year, but it remained profitable.
- ii. Our Lady of Guadalupe Blessing: Held before Christmas break with prayers, singing, and an afternoon celebration featuring Mariachi music, hot chocolate, and churros.
- iii. **Christmas Program:** Took place on the evening of December 12.

b. **Academic Updates:**

- i. MAP Testing: Scheduled to begin week of 1/13/25).
- ii. HSPT Scores: Results for 8th-grade placement show strong improvement:
 - Median Scores: 83rd percentile (this year), compared to 79th (last year) and 66th (two years ago).

c. **Upcoming Events:**

- i. Catholic Schools Week (CSW): Starts January 26.
 - Family Mass: Scheduled for 11:30 a.m.
 - Book Fair & Open House: Book fair open after Mass with an open house at the school.
 - Teacher Luncheon: Hosted by HAS in advance of CSW.
- ii. Mother Cabrini Dinner: February 2, celebrating Italian culture.

d. **Admissions:**

- i. Enrollment Progress: Admissions is moving quickly, with over 200 applications received for next year, a slight increase from last year.

4. Treasurer's Report – Joe Young, HSA Treasurer

NO UPDATE

5. Teacher's Report - Mrs. Luechtefeld

a. **Appreciation:**

- i. **Christmas Gifts:** A special thank-you to HAS for the thoughtful gifts provided to non-homeroom teachers.
- ii. Popcorn and Champagne: Well-received and appreciated by staff.

b. **General Updates:**

- i. Everyone is settling back into routines after the long break.
- ii. Excitement is high as the community returns to school.

c. **Upcoming Initiatives:**

- i. Auction Planning: Mrs. L will coordinate with Anne Mathis to explore teacher experiences for the auction, focusing on showcasing hidden talents among the teachers.

6. Committee Updates

a. New Family Committee - Amy Jones/Kristina Reynolds

NO UPDATE

b. Christmas Tree Sales - Roy Shannon/Seamus Curly

NO UPDATE

c. Youth Apostolate, including overview CYO Fall and Winter Sports - Marian Staron

UPDATE

1. Trail Life is going on a hiatus due to leadership needs. Parish leadership will reevaluate in the summer best way to move forward.
2. CYO basketball is off to a good start despite the many practice cancellations; grateful for great support from Mr. Loia and Mr. Webb in their continual commitment and support of CYO sports and gym use/set up.
3. All other youth activities continue as usual and are revving up as the new year begins.

d. Hospitality Committee - Cara Sims

NO UPDATE

e. Annual Fund - Anne Mathis

See included PDF

f. Gala and Auction - Summer Bravo

UPDATE

1. Tickets are live! Early bird tickets sold out within the hour! And we are currently selling standard price tickets at a very fast pace.
2. All partnerships from last year have renewed with the exception of one which we hope to hear back from shortly. Now we will work on more new sponsorships and contributions.
3. Auction items and baskets are trickling in. And sign up forms for class baskets, sign-on parties and donations are all live and publicly available from our auction website.
4. We plan to have social media posts and messenger content regularly to spotlight large scale auction items, what to wear and other fun topics in the coming weeks.
5. Fundraising Breakdown:
 - \$43,500 in partnerships
 - \$16,600 in ticket sales
 - \$4,200 in Tuition Raffle sales
 - \$64,100 total as of 1/7/25

g. FIS - Erica Dempsey/Anne Heishman

UPDATE

1. FIS will provide parents with a status update in mid to late February, detailing their share totals as of the end of January. Parents will have the opportunity to reach out if they believe any shares have been overlooked.
2. At the request of Mrs. Shufflebarger and Mrs. Lusch, FIS and the room parent coordinator are coordinating the logistics for a special project dedicated to the teachers. The display will be presented to each teacher on January 31 as part of Catholic Schools Week. Additional communication to the parents from the room parents will be shared later this week or early next week
3. FIS will create/write a position next year to be a dedicated CSW liaison to make sure all needs are taken care of timely and efficiently. Shares to be determined

h. Room Parent - Ashley McMurry

UPDATE 1

Room parents and some other parent volunteers successfully delivered the churros and hot chocolate for Our Lady of Guadalupe. A big thank you to Mr. Scalsky and the kitchen staff for their help.

UPDATE 2

The assistant coordinator assembled Christmas Gifts for staff and faculty without home rooms and we delivered those before the break. She did a fantastic job and was able to include hot chocolate bombs and mini panettones in the packages.

UPDATE 3

Catholic Schools Week - I/the room parents are working on the following:

1. Gifts for staff and faculty without home rooms. I am hoping to have the NJHS assist with an aspect of this, as they have in the past (support request on that below).
2. Arranging volunteers for Community Day - I anticipate this request being sent tomorrow. If enough room parents are not able to help, I will ask them to request volunteers from their classes, though I should only need about 8-10 people, so I don't anticipate this being an issue with the lead time (support request on that below as well).
3. Clergy Appreciation Gifts - Ms. Shufflebarger let me know that the previous coordinator was unable to lead this effort so Erica and I, with Mrs. Biegel's help, are taking care of this.
4. Teacher Appreciation Day Collages - Ms. Shufflebarger and Mrs. Lusch would like students from each class to fill out cards explaining their teacher's virtues and have them made into a collage to place outside each class on Teacher Appreciation Day. I didn't receive this request until Monday when I emailed them to check in, so given the relative size of the project, and the short notice, FIS has agreed to send a request via Saints Seeking Shares to get a volunteer coordinator for this project for each class. I am working on a

template that they can choose to use (or create their own), and the room parents will communicate the instructions to the class parents.

SUPPORT/DECISION

1. For item "1" above - Is Mr. Murphy still the advisor for NJHS?
2. For item "2" above:
 - a. I will need to know what time the volunteers should be at school to help move the food items from the cafeteria to the classrooms.
 - b. Will they be in their Sainly Families or in Homerooms? I will need to make sure I know where we are taking things.
 - c. Will the food already be divided in the way it needs to be taken to the classrooms, or would you like us to do that too? If you do, should I arrange for volunteers the afternoon before to divide things out?
 - d. Last year, 8th graders helped to bring the completed meal kits from the classes to the cars delivering to Christ House. Will that be the case again?
 - e. Do I need to coordinate with Christ House or has someone taken care of that piece?

i. External Fundraising - Kara Fiala

UPDATE

1. HSA Dinners
 - a. Italian place for 1/16
 - b. LT for February.
 - c. Looking into Chalkboard BBQ, District Taco for March/May
2. School Supplies Box
 - a. Received a quote from Sprouts School Supplies, and waiting on a quote from EduKitInc.
3. Spirit Wear
 - a. Need to be connected with a point of contact.

j. Father-Daughter Dance (March 22) - Kerstin Magnuson-Anderson

NO UPDATE

k. Mother-Son Event (DATE ?) - Kerry Rygiel

UPDATE

1. Waiting on pricing from bowling, top golf and flag football. Will report back on which one we have decided on for the Mother-Son event.

l. Family Wellness - Erin Bell

UPDATE

1. February 4th identified as the date some people on the committee thought they could attend as small group discussion leaders.
2. Topic is on use of social media/technology in relation to mental health.
3. May need a few volunteers to assist with the event (2 potential already).
4. Time/location: 7 pm in the Library Media Center

SUPPORT

1. Would this be something the HSA would be interested in helping with in order to put on a successful night?

m. Trivia Night (March 15) - Eva Domotorffy

UPDATE

1. Woody Paik & Eva Domotorffy are co-hosting with Byron and Cassie Pickard.
2. Trivia night will be Saturday, March 15th in the Lyceum.
3. Suggest a 7pm start time.
4. Add to the school calendar.

7. New Business: no new business
8. Next HSA Meeting: February 13, 2025 7:00 p.m. in the Library Media Center
9. 8:04 PM Adjournment – Sarah Magruder Lyle, HSA President