



THE BASILICA SCHOOL OF SAINT MARY

Founded 1869 - Alexandria, Virginia

The Basilica School of Saint Mary Home and School Association HSA Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 15, 2026 | 7:00 PM

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 of ministry outreach to the school community
- Providing parents of students with knowledge about school functions and activities

Call to Order at 7:00 PM – Ashley McCurry, HSA President

Opening Prayer and Pastor's Report – Father Hathaway

- The meeting opened with a communal prayer to the Holy Spirit. A reflection was shared on St. Teresa of Jesus (St. Teresa of Avila), including her reform of the Carmelite order and her spiritual writings.
- The Basilica will receive relics of St. Carlo Acutis following Veterans Day. The relics will be available for veneration in the chapel on November 11, with a 9:00 AM mass - additional information to be shared in advance.
- Diocesan voter-education materials were discussed, including the "Vote No" campaign related to two ballot amendments and parish outreach encouraging voter participation.
- The upcoming Diocesan Week of Service will include service opportunities such as a walk for the homeless, a food drive, and student service projects.
- The school community prayed approximately 700 rosaries on October 7 for school families.
- Oktoberfest and the recent talent contest were both reported as successful and well attended.
- A LEGO model of the Basilica is expected to be available for sale in December. Details will be shared ahead of the sale.

Principal's Report – Mr. Robert Loia, Principal (via Ms. Fraga)

- At the Mass of the Holy Spirit, eighth-grade students participated in a pinning ceremony; altar servers, guild members, and honor society/student leaders were also recognized.
- Seventh- and eighth-grade students participated in Patriot Day service activities, including letters to first responders and Pentagon personnel.

- Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist visited the school as part of preparation for the Feast of St. Francis. Art classes and sixth-grade students also focused on the life of St. Francis through related projects and a pageant.
- The school held its first schoolwide adoration procession, with students coming out of their classrooms to participate.
- The Living Rosary was held, and recent eighth-grade activities included a tailgate and the October 16th dance.
- Coffee with the Principal sessions have begun. Parents may send grade-level topics or concerns to Mr. Loia for discussion during their sessions.
- Fall Open House registration is underway, with 138 attendees registered as of the meeting.
- The school received its first Purple Star designation in recognition of its commitment to military-connected families. The HSA discussed recognizing the faculty and committee members who supported the designation through an “H is for Honor” activity.
- The school continues to work through the Praelio process to identify an appropriate permanent armed-security provider that is a strong fit for the school community.
- Parent-teacher conferences will take place November 11 (full day) and November 12-13 (half days). Middle-school families may schedule brief conferences with individual subject teachers rather than only the homeroom teacher, including teachers students have not yet had in their rotation. If students have not had a particular teacher requested to conference with, it’s helpful for parents to note that during sign-up.

Teacher’s Report – Ms. Hunt

- Fall MAP results were sent home in student folders.
- The faculty retreat was well received, as was the recent parent and staff social.
- The BSSM Choir and BI Band performed at the NCEA Gala at the Mayflower earlier this month; both groups received wonderful feedback, and it was suggested having the Jazz Ensemble provide entertainment for future events.

Treasurer’s Report – Joe Young (via Ashley McCurry)

- Year-to-date finances remain on track, with approximately \$20,000 in cash on hand.
- Boost in midyear revenue is expected from the Christmas Tree Sale and the Gala.
- A deposit has been placed for Christmas trees. The team is targeting the Saturday after Thanksgiving for the start of sales, pending final confirmation.

Events + Committee Updates

- **Fall Clean-up Day**
Scheduled for Saturday, October 24. FIS distributed the SignUpGenius, some classes have designated assignments, and mulch has been ordered.
- **Halloween Candy Collection**
The Military Families and Health & Wellness committees will host a post-Halloween candy collection to benefit service members, including members of the D.C. National Guard.
- **St. Nicholas Festival**

Scheduled for Saturday, December 5. Planning includes a bounce house and sponsored items from Nestlé. A save-the-date will be included in upcoming school communications.

- **Christmas Tree Sale**

Final start date and operating plan are being confirmed.

Annual Fund

- Halo's Week of Generosity is scheduled for the following week.

FIS Overview – Erica Dempsey/Molly Conway (via Ashley McCurry)

- Nearly all committee-chair vacancies from the beginning of the school year have now been filled.
- A February update will address FIS shares.

Class Captain Updates

- Kindergarten has held two successful class events; its final planned event is coffee at Eclairons around the Little Saints Parade. A kindergarten parent outing also included a diaper drive that collected more than 2,000 diapers for the MaRiH Center. They will send us a list of needs they have so we can look for more service opportunities for students. Mother of Light was noted as another potential recipient of service initiatives.
- Third grade's Cox Farms outing was successful. An upcoming hike and picnic are planned, along with participation in Fall Clean-up Day and sandwiches afterward.
- The nomination process for new Class Captains will begin soon, with new captains to be installed in January. Interested parents or those who have nominating suggestions should contact Stephanie Dolan.
- Father Hathaway noted Misha's as a potential partner for future BSSM events.

CYO Updates

- CYO has 607 registrations across fall and winter programs. Basketball leads with 272 registrations and tennis has 193. The cross-country championship is scheduled for November 7; the tennis season close has been moved to November 8.
- Blaze girls' Bible study and the St. Dominic Savio Society are beginning in October. The Savio Society will focus on service projects, including volunteer support and sandwich-making for the community.
- The next F3 gathering is November 6. The prior gathering drew approximately 40 participants, and sixth-grade parents are exploring a class event around the November meeting.
- Junior Catholic Daughters meets October 18.

New Business

- **Items to be emailed to HSA@smsva.org by 5pm on day of meeting**

Next HSA Meeting: Monday, November 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM

- **Adjournment – Ashley McCurry, HSA President at 7:45 PM**