



Home and School – Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 9, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Parish Hall

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Presenter(s)</u>
Welcome and introductions	Emily Rohl
President Emily Rohl called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Emily said an opening prayer. All attendees introduced themselves.	
Message from the Principal	Mrs. Cormican
<p>Mrs. Cormican, the new principle, introduced herself and shared an update on the school. (see attached report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 new staff members joined the school. - She shared enrollment numbers over the past several years – the school gained 6 new students since last year. - Several improvement projects were completed over the summer – new flooring in the upstairs hallway and 4th and 5th grade classrooms. New paint inside and outside along with landscaping on the exterior of the school. Tables, chairs, and cubbies were also purchased for \$42 from the Spring Valley School District. - Teacher evaluations will be completed this year. - Students in K-5th grade will attend mass on Wednesdays at 8:30. Students may sit with their family after Communion. - The 3rd Pot-Luck and Kickball event will be held Sunday, September 12 after the 10:30 mass. - Used religion books are available. Contact Mrs. Cormican if you are interested in having a religion book at home. 	
Treasure’s Update	Ashley Nelson Tom Wisniowski
Ashley and Tom have not received any information on the budget. Last year, the finances were taken away from the Treasurer. Ashley and Tom will connect with Angie McHardy and Amy Matzek for information on the budget reports.	
Carnival Update	Mandee Brenner and Ashley
Mandee and Ashley are the new carnival chairs. They are currently actively planning for the event – scheduled for February 6, 2022. The theme is travel. Sponsor letters will go out soon. The next committee planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5 th at 6:00pm at the 715 Steer and Beer. Please contact Mandee and/or Ashley if you are interested in joining the Carnival Committee. All are welcome and participation is encouraged!	
Gala Update	Amy Loberg
Last year’s gala raised \$83,000. It was a huge success. The plan for 2022 is to host a hybrid event featuring both an online an in-person event. The theme is Oktoberfest and will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2022. The gala will be held in outside tents in the school parking lot. There will be a beer garden and German bands. Please contact Amy if you are interested in joining the Gala Committee. All are welcome and participation is encouraged!	
Golf Tournament Update	Mark Matzek
The 1 st annual golf tournament in August raised \$5,500 with 16.5 teams. Mark wants to continue to improve and grow the event. Please contact Mark if you are interested in joining the golf committee. All are welcome and participation is	

encouraged!	
Marketing and Recruitment Update	Emily Loberg
<p>Limelight Media was hired over the summer to provide marketing for the church and school. Since then, Limelight has provided the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launched new church website - Created church brand - Assisted youth group in promotion of upcoming events/fundraisers - Expanded/improved church e-newsletter - Updated school website - Provided promotion, graphic design, and branding for the golf tournament, carnival, and gala - Provided marketing for recruitment efforts – newspaper print advertisement, Facebook ads, school banners. The new banners are arriving soon and volunteers are needed to hang them on the school. Ashley offered to connect with Jeff Plummer to see if he can help. <p>A group of parents also met over the summer to work on recruitment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parish families that have children in the district but aren't currently attending St. Francis were contacted and asked to consider St. Francis. - Messaging on recruitment was shared with all area churches and posted in the St. Francis church bulletin. - St. Francis School participated in the E3 – Thursday night in the park. 	
Eagle Edition Update	Elise Gregory
<p>The Eagle Edition will be going out again this fall. Some of the topics include: the St. Francis difference, welcome from the principal, new construction projects, and an alumni spotlight. The goal is to have the newsletters printed by 10/18 but assistance is needed for stuffing the envelopes. If you are available, please help stuff envelopes on Tuesday, October 26 at 6:00 at the Parish Hall.</p> <p>Amy Loberg shared that the school purchased a donor database – Little Green Light. This system organizes all school donors and creates an efficient method for contacting donors. The database costs \$34/month.</p>	
Parent Drop-Off/Pick-Up	Shari Turvaville
<p>Shari requested that the school resume the previous (pre-pandemic) pick-up and drop-off routine. The previous system involved parents parking and then walking their child to the door rather than dropping them off at the door. After much discussion, no decisions were made. Mrs. Cormican will continue to discuss the drop-off and pick-up process with the teachers. For now, continue the current process.</p>	
EPL Fundraiser	Amy Loberg
<p>The Ellsworth Public Library (EPL) is currently raising \$2,000,000 for a renovation project in a new library space. They have raised most funds, but are still seeking \$200,000 for furniture and landscaping. The EPL supports St. Francis School, so Amy asked if the school would be interested in supporting the library project. Amy proposed a penny war. The Home and School committee was supportive of this fundraising effort. It will run the month of October and the teachers will keep track of the money raised. Also, the EPL is hosting a gala on Saturday, October 23rd. If you are interested in attending, please contact Amy Loberg for tickets.</p>	
Seasonal School Gatherings	Elise Gregory
<p>Elise offered to organize an outdoor event for St. Francis families, such as a hike or visit to a local orchard this fall. Tom Wisniowski offered to host at his orchard. Tom and Elise will connect and try to set-up a date.</p>	

H&S meeting time and platform (virtual, in-person, combo)	Emily Rohl
<p>Several families contacted Emily before the meeting to ask if the H&S meetings could have a virtual option. Unfortunately, it's difficult to host both an in-person and virtual meeting in the parish hall without proper technology (microphones and cameras). A compromise was proposed – hosting two in-person meetings this year and two virtual meetings. However, those in attendance prefer the in-person format. Emily will continue to work with the school to see if an option for adding a virtual component is possible.</p> <p>Emily also discussed the 7:00 meeting time. All in attendance were fine with keeping the 7:00 time but want the meeting duration to stay around 60 minutes.</p>	
Homecoming Parade	Emily Rohl
<p>The Ellsworth homecoming parade is on Friday, October 1 at 5:00. The Home and School committee agreed to participate. Interested families should meet at the bus garage at 4:30 and wear St. Francis attire.</p>	
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Principal's Report
Home and School Meeting
September 9, 2021

- 1) Thank you to everyone for your warm welcome and support! Everything you do is greatly appreciated!

- 2) We have had a great start to the school year overall. We are blessed to have fantastic veteran teachers and we welcomed the following amazing new staff members:
 - Miss Mary Schmitt:3rd grade
 - Mrs. Alyssa Brockman:1st grade
 - Miss Sabrina Avery: K
 - Miss Kailey Brenner: T/Th teacher assistant and afternoon Eagles Nest
 - Mrs. Kristine Pfaff: M-F Before school Eagles Nest and 3/4YK MWF.
 - Mrs. Ashley Plahn: M-F After school Eagles Nest and 3/4YK MWF.

- 3) Enrollment:

	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019
3YK	18	16	10	NA
4K	14	11	9	9
K	13	9	6	15
1st grade	9	5	14	14
2nd grade	6	12	12	18
3rd grade	12	10	15	13
4th grade	9	13	9	22
5th grade	11	10	18	16
Total	92	86	93	107

4) School Improvements:

Many projects were completed over the summer including new flooring in the upstairs hallway, and 4th, and 5th grade classrooms; new paint and new landscaping. The stairs will also be redone any day now.

We were fortunate to be able to purchase many items from the Spring Valley School District. We purchased several kidney-shaped tables, cubbies for second grade, a couple of cabinets for early childhood classrooms and many little chairs. The total cost for these purchases was \$42.00. If purchased new, the total cost would have been ~\$4000.00.

5) Teacher Evaluation

All teachers will be formally evaluated this year. New teachers will be evaluated three times and veteran teachers will be evaluated at least once.

6) School Mass:

We attend Mass on Wednesday mornings at 8:30. This Mass is also live-streamed. K-5th grade attend Mass. Students may sit with family members after Communion as was done previously.

7) Pot-Luck and Kickball

The third Pot-Luck and Kickball event will be held this Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021 after the 10:30 Mass. Water, lemonade, and coffee along with plates and silverware are provided. Please bring a main dish to pass. The weather forecast looks beautiful and this is a great way to continue/increase involvement within our St. Francis community.

8) Curriculum

If you would like a used religion book to have at home, they are available for 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. Please let me know and I will send one home with your student.

9) I thank God for all of you and your wonderful children that I have the privilege of seeing daily. I am enjoying learning their names and playing with them at recess. I have received many lovely gifts of knotted blades of grass! I enjoy watching their confidence grow in just these first six days of school. You can be very proud of their manners. It is a joy to come to work!