

Professional Development, Curriculum & Fine Arts

Professional Development

- Teachers in Gr. K- 5 are implementing a new literacy program based on the work of Lucy Calkins. We have contracted with CESA 6 to provide ongoing professional learning for our elementary staff throughout this school year so that the implementation can be most effective.
- Partially funded through a grant from Arts Core, all teachers P3 – 12 will be introduced to arts integration techniques on Friday, September 22nd.
- All administrators and some members of the leadership team will be attending the Catholic Schools Summit this Friday, September 22. The Summit will focus on the Meitler study recommendations, and include break out session in key focus areas. All Board members are invited to attend.

Curriculum

- As indicated in the professional development section above, our largest implementation of new curriculum for the 2017-2018 school year will be literacy at Gr. K-5.
- Work will continue to be done with the survey data collected from staff and parents by the Academic Excellence Task Force last year.

Fine Arts

- The fine arts department at the high school spearheaded a Hurricane Relief Rally held on September 15th. They raised just over \$2800 plus a mound of non-perishable items all of which was donated to Catholic Relief Services.
- The Zephyr fine arts booster club (ZFAB) is being reinvigorated and work is underway for the second annual Family Feud game show / fundraiser to be held October 14th.
- ZFAB also committed to raising funds to cover approximately half of the cost of the band room renovation and creation of the fine arts storage room.

Admissions/Recruitment & Retention

- Our new Director of Admissions, Kelly Beisenstein-Weiss, joined SMCS in mid-August. Kelly has met with school principals to talk about student recruitment & retention, and will work collaboratively with them to support these key initiatives.
- Kelly is also our Fitness Center Manager, and has been working with staff and coaches to schedule supervision and training for after school student use of the facility.
- We will host an "SMCS Campus Showcase" on Sunday, October 1, just prior to the student homecoming activities. This event will be designed for families and alumni, and will feature tours of the campus and dedication of the Fitness Center.
- Grade school/middle school nights
 - Adding more activities for the students who attend. For example, we had a football toss game during halftime and all students were invited to play.
 - Football (9/15) ~ 75 students attended
 - Soccer (9/28)
 - Volleyball (10/10)
- Zephyrator (Student Ambassadors) is visiting each elementary school once/month to help celebrate birthdays
- 8th grade visit day will be on Thursday, October 5. Area 8th grade students will learn about academics, co-curriculars, one-to-one laptop program, and will enjoy lunch and the Homecoming pep rally!

Staffing Hires/Changes

- Marsha Britt starts 9/18/17 Zephyrfest coordinator
- Kali Behnke 1st grade SMM (Liz Hirst broke contract)
- Dina Lein PK4 teacher SG
- Dina Sturgell PK4 aide SG
- Joel Thomas SPIRITUS intern HS
- Fr. Jon Thorton HS Chaplain
- Still recruiting for 3 day PK4 teacher SG

Wellness – A flu shot clinic for all employees will be held in the HS Resource Center on October 9th.

Business Services: Finance-Technology-Food Service

Business Services /Technology – working together to prepare event software and technology support for upcoming fund raisers: Meet Me in the Middle, Connect 5, TASTE, Family Feud, and Z-Night.

Business Services

- Beginning of the year set-up: tuition statements; payroll changes; school fees and AFT accounts; t-shirts!
- New staff and returning staff training meeting
- Payroll software conversion/upgrade for 9/30 payroll: better reporting features; handles new COA; eventually will have open enrollment on-line

Technology

- New school year set-up – middle school and freshmen orientation to laptops
- Replacing and/or adding basic equipment (non-budgeted) – projectors; document cameras, smart boards
- State network conversion now set for early October; infrastructure replaced on hold until that is done. Everything set for installation once the state has finished its conversion
- \$200,000 fundraising initiative for infrastructure upgrade underway

Fund Development & Alumni Relations

- Combining of the BOT Development and Marketing Committees: Dustin McClone and Michelle Dejno met to discuss combining the two committees. They decided to keep them separate as we have a good group of fundraising oriented volunteers and the marketing committee has really experienced marketing strategists. With so many more school needs, operational needs, etc., BOT members will be asked to assist with fundraising efforts. There are nine steps to a powerful fundraising plan and BOT members can be involved in almost all of them (without making the actual 'ask').
- Annual Fund: the initial mailing of brochure and commitment cards will drop in the mail next week – right on target.
- Many new opportunities to engage alumni have evolved over the summer and we are excited to roll them out in celebration of our 20th year in the 'new' high school!
- Event Updates:
Meet Me In The Middle – this Friday, September 22
TASTE! A Brew Fest Event – Friday, October 13
Z-NIGHT – Saturday, November 11 (Jumbo Gumbo transformed)
- New Fundraising Opportunity: Zephyrs GOLD!