



St. Mary Catholic Schools

Grades P3-12

SMCS Board of Trustees President's Report April 20, 2016

Curriculum/Professional Development

Professional Development

Our April focus includes technology and assessment. Teachers will be trained to use shared Google docs with each other and explore ways to implement in the classroom. Assessment will focus on formative assessment – using assessment to change instructional delivery and improve student learning.

NWEA MAP Testing

We are in the middle of spring MAP testing for grades 1-8. This is the final testing for the current school year. Next year we plan to add Kindergarten to the MAP testing schedule. *Note: Kindergarten and first grade students have audio support that accompanies the testing.*

Project Lead the Way (PLTW)

We are continuing to work on our plan for Project Lead the Way for 2016-17. Recently Jill Ahles, Molly Griffin, and Jeanine Leege visited Lourdes Academy in Oshkosh to see how they are implementing PLTW. Lourdes staff shared how they organized community resources, funding, training, and materials. Jill is coordinating the effort for SMCS and is working with the leadership team to identify potential members for an advisory group and to develop a three year implementation and budget plan for our system.

Enrollment

The application period for the WPCP program closes today. We have 115 applications; 100% verified.

Enrollment for 2016-17:

- Elementary Preschool and PreK numbers are down; typical for this time of year for Preschool, but some concern for the PreK numbers in our two Neenah elementary schools attributed to NJSD competition. Too early to project fall numbers.
- Elementary K-5 is down just a bit at 364 for next year vs 372 this year. Good news is that we had five students enroll this week. Efforts continue to recruit new families. Kindergarten numbers are good.
- Middle school enrollment is at 175, an 8% increase.
- High school enrollment is about even, at 251 which includes internationals.

Staffing/Benefits/Safety

All current teachers who indicated they would like to return to SMCS for 2016-17 received a contract on April 15.

Sue Simonsen will be leaving her position as Alumni Coordinator in Advancement the end of July.

Benefit renewals, safe environment audit and coordinating on-site biometric screenings for employees/spouses with health insurance are currently being worked on.

Fine Arts

Spring concerts kicked off this week, with the elementary schools featured first. The new the third grade exploratory band night will coincide with the 4th and 5th grade recital on April 25.

Our high school concert band received a 1st place rating for the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) Concert Festival held in Kaukauna today. The judges were quite impressed with our band, mostly comprised of underclass students. The adjudicator complimented the students' technical facility, musicianship and sensitivity to style between the three contrasting pieces performed. Their performance and conduct throughout the day gave a terrific reflection of our school and system.

The Wisconsin Singers concert is Sunday, April 24, at 4:00 p.m. in the FAEC; sales are good, but tickets still available.

SMCS students will have their art work on display in the FAEC corridors as part of our visual art show from now until May 13.

Business Services: Technology-Finance-Food Service

Interviews were conducted with our SMCS key staff members by our volunteer Technology Consultant to assess current challenges and future needs.

The tuition assistance financial review process is underway; a great deal of work has also been given to the WPCP application process.

A push will be made for "free and reduced" lunch applications to benefit our school.

Fund Development

Annual Fund: \$151,268 (\$48,732 to go); ahead of last year at this time.

- Email to alumni and donors who have not yet given will be going out right after Zephyrfest
- Postcard in June for 'last chance to give'
- Personal notes and contacts will continue
- PLEASE think of any others you can contact or ways you as Board members can assist in bringing in last dollars needed to reach our goal!

FATE Endowment Funds: Are formally established and will be communicated soon

Additional endowment work continues on fund performance, records management and funder communication

Strategic Giving: Working with a few donors on legacy giving plans

Zephyr Fields: Have received a few nice donations to put toward the project. Fundraising continues, but can't provide final cost estimate until Facilities & Grounds finish the estimate for other details (batting cage roof, storage shed/team meeting building, etc.)