

## St. Mary Advisory Council Meeting September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016-Open Forum

Advisory Members in Attendance: Darren Thelen, TeAnn Smith, Jill Kowatch, Dawn Keilen, Alanna George, Amy Nobach, Brianne Henning and Justin Miller.

Opened with Prayer-Led by Darren Thelen

1. Tuition Raffle
  - a. Done by Amy Cook and Jenny Pohl. This is Jenny's last year and we appreciate the numerous years she has volunteered. Thank You!
  - b. This year over \$9,000 was raised by raffle sales
  - c. Grand Prize Tuition Winner Drawn-Christine Hagen
  - d. \$100 Prize Winners are as follows in order drawn
    - ❖ Mike Spitzley
    - ❖ Brent Nurenborg
    - ❖ Gina Thelen
    - ❖ Doug Pohl
    - ❖ Brian Weber
    - ❖ Steve Nurenborg
    - ❖ Shane Reitz
    - ❖ Erin Wingeier
    - ❖ Lynne Huhn
    - ❖ Lindsey Barker
2. Enrollment
  - a. St. Mary enrollment at 266 students this year
  - b. Diocese of Lansing as a whole has seen an increase of over 800 students for this school year
3. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp
  - a. Camp is next week. Will be leaving on Wednesday and returning on Friday. Bussing cost was approved and will be covered by Advisory Council.
4. Grading Scale
  - a. Grading scale is back to what it was two years ago, check Schoolspeak for grades. Next year there is likelihood of a transition to Powerschool.
5. After School Care
  - a. Working in collaboration with Nikki Arens and the Growing Patch. It is going well and it averages 15-17 students per day.
6. Athletic Collaborative
  - a. St. Mary is collaborating with St. Joes and P-W for athletics.
  - b. It came from the MHSAA that 6 graders were eligible to participate in certain sports therefore P-W decided to create official collaboration.
7. Funeral Rosaries
  - a. St. Mary students will continue to pray funeral rosaries outside the front of church as was done last school year.

8. Spanish Club

- a. Possibility of Spanish Club for 5 & 6<sup>th</sup> graders, depending on interest. Might meet an hour a week after school. St. Mary would hope to be able to cover the cost and offer this at no charge to students.

9. Cost of Educating Students

- a. It costs \$4,436 to educate one St. Mary student for 1 year. Average public school cost is ranging from \$7,000-10,000 per student per year.
- b. St. Mary has several areas that supplement what our parents pay in tuition
  1. Parish Collection is the biggest source of supplementation.
  2. Next is the Fr. Miller Trust Fund which gives St. Mary \$40,000-\$50,000 in revenue each year.
  3. Donations
  4. Dinner Raffle offers income and funds special project that are needed
  5. Fundraisers-Boxtops, and tuition raffle

10. Academic Achievement 2015-2016 School Year

- a. 78.2% of our 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students were proficient in Math, making us the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 29 elementary school in Math in the Diocese of Lansing.
- b. 91.3% of our 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students were proficient in Reading, making us the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 29 elementary schools in Reading in the Diocese of Lansing.
- c. At the average Michigan Public School, 35.8% of students are proficient in Math and 48% of students are proficient in Reading.

11. 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Big Zoo Lesson

- a. St. Mary 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be spending a week of school at Potter's Park Zoo. The estimated cost is \$60 per student. We have not yet finalized a week, hoping to do sometime in April. We have not yet secured transportation for the endeavor. This is an incredible opportunity for our students and we will need your help to make it possible.

12. Fund a Need

- a. Our bathroom project is complete. All of the toilets and urinals have been replaced and will be in working order for a long time. The vents have been repaired and installed where necessary and there is now good air flow. This project was made possible by the generosity of the Dinner Raffle contributors and the many volunteers who contributed to this project throughout the summer.

13. Behavior "Tickets"

- a. This is a new discipline policy that stresses the importance of Virtues.
- b. Justice, Prudence, Temperance, and Fortitude are the basis of these disciplinary tickets.
- c. Children who are given a ticket for failing to exhibit one of these important virtues will take the ticket home to be signed by a parent.
- d. This ticket gives the opportunity for reflection and conversation with parents about the specific virtue that needs to be practiced.