

St. James School Council Meeting Minutes

1/15/2024

Those present:

- Mr. Eric Chamberlain
- Michelle Wilson
- Michelle Rainey
- Fr. Andrew Thomas
- Eric Kassenbrock
- Ryan Dewig
- Josh Elpers

The meeting was opened with prayer. Mission Statement read by those present. November minutes are approved and will be posted.

Old Business:

Architectural assessment update, getting committee together to meet with Haefer for options
Fire exit stairs from old school was discussed again. Some teachers have given input. Will be placing rolling racks for book storage and remind/enforce that kids only take what is needed over to art/music so they can have a hand available to hold railing.

Principal's Report:

Report Card and Midterm Checks were great successes. Best grades I have seen since joining St. James

Speech meet success: Week 1 – 3rd place, Week 2 – 2nd place, Week 3 – 2nd place, 2nd place in biggest division (Overall as well)

Advent Program December 5th with tons of positive feedback from community. St James Band performance at Mater Dei with other feeder schools on December 11th, students were excellent

Breakfast with Santa – 8th grade did an outstanding job helping and raised most for a breakfast to date.

Christmas Card Contest – Winners Allie Rose and Chloe Karcher. There were only 5 total winners in the diocese, and we had two! This card was used by the Diocese and Bishop Siegel to send across the US and Europe.

Unique to St. James – Advent and Lent Gatherings and special events. During Advent, students spent a class period per week in school families celebrating the 4 virtues of Advent. Above and beyond in our Faith from announcements to gatherings.

School Spelling Bee moved to Friday, January 17th, with Diocesan Wide Bees on Feb. 18th

Come and See Night and Kindergarten Round-up scheduled for January 30th

Teacher Retention Survey will be distributed in February

2nd Round of Teacher Observations will begin in March

Upcoming Events:

January 20th: Virtual Learning Day from January 6th snow day

January 27th-31st: Catholic Schools Week

January 27th: Faith Sharing with Sr. Irma
January 27th: Canned Food Drive for St. Vincent de Paul begins
January 28th: 8th Grade Catholic Schools Week Mass at St. Benedict Cathedral
January 30th: 5-7pm Come and See Night + Kindergarten Round-up
January 30th: Mater Dei Come and See Night
January 31st: Youth Group Lock-In (6pm – Midnight)
February 3rd: Registration begins for Sts. Peter and Paul and Holy Cross Parishioners
February 7th: Quarter 3 midterms and eligibility check
February 12th: Gibson Southern visits 8th Grade
February 17th: Virtual Learning Day from January 7th snow day
February 18th: Diocesan Spelling Bees
February 20th: Gibson Southern visits for 8th grade 1v1 (GS students only)
February 24th: Accepting all student enrollment
February 24th: Faith Sharing with Sr. Irma
February 25th: Mater Dei visits for 8th grade 1v1 (MD students only)

New Business:

Tuition – handout given that will be sent to everyone soon regarding registration priority, tuition rates, and scholarship opportunities

2025-2026 School calendar handed out and reviewed

Parent Engagement Policy handout given (contractual agreement, timeline, and communications being sent out with prepared dates). Volunteer opportunities will be communicated regularly. Track it Forward program to be used.

Writing/applying for \$25,000 MEO grant to be used for a Reading Specialist

Sub-committee reports:

Marketing – Come and see night, mostly for entering K and 6th graders, on 1/30/25

Legislative- No report

Youth Group – Skating lock in on January 31st

PTO – handout given from December meeting – made lasagna lunch for teachers before Christmas, baskets being put together for fish fry raffles-\$25 donation being asked for, Fundraiser being added in the spring to pay towards playground, \$15,000 dressing profit.

Athletics – Track starting soon. R'z giveback scheduled for 3/20 lunch, dinner, and gift cards.

Technology – No report

Meeting closed with prayer

Next meeting will be February 26th, 2025, at 5:30 pm in the Resource room