

ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM NEWSLETTER

Fourth Quarter 2017



INTRODUCING OUR NEWSLETTER

Greetings St. Lawrence School and Parish families! You're not mistaken. This is the first quarterly newsletter from the St. Lawrence School Advisory Team in quite a while. SAT had regularly sent out a newsletter to families a number of years ago, but at some point the newsletters, an important means of communication with school families, ceased.

SAT is a large part of the school's leadership. We learned during a September meeting with Ben Potts, Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, that part of that leadership responsibility is communicating our efforts to advance and develop St. Lawrence School.

With that in mind, SAT is renewing its commitment to creating an open line between us and all members of the school and parish. So we'll share our actions with you in this and future newsletters, and welcome your input and collaboration in making St. Lawrence School truly a school that delivers possibilities, one child at a time.

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ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE JAN. 28

Our school's annual open house is fast approaching on Sunday, January 28 from noon until 2:00 p.m. This important event allows us and the school staff to showcase the school to the community, with the end goal of welcoming new families and students. Current families are also invited to attend the open house. Please help spread the

SAT PILLAR LEADERS

President: Jason Schmid

Secretary: Steve Stoecklin

Curriculum: Lisa Freking

Finance: Julie Hafner

Marketing: Mike Perleberg

Retention: KC Witte

Spirituality: Amy Heinsman

Building & Grounds: Gary Hammerle

PTO: Amy Maxwell and
Melissa Lahey

Pastor: Father Peter
Gallagher

word about the open house by sharing the event with your friends and relatives with school-aged children. You can find, share, and invite people to the open house through the event page on the St. Lawrence School Facebook page.

NEXT SAT MEETING

Tuesday, February 6 in the St. Lawrence Church basement, subject to change. The public portion of the meeting begins at 6:30pm, with a possible executive session to follow. Email schooladvisoryteam@sls-apps.org if you would like to be placed on the meeting agenda.

JOIN THE SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM OR A COMMITTEE

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10.

Would you like to lend your time or talent to the School Advisory Team? We will need to fill at least three pillar leadership positions on SAT by the end of this school year: technology, spirituality, and PTO. Share your interest with an SAT member or email schooladvisoryteam@sls-apps.org. Please complete and turn in the application form at <http://stlschool.com/school-advisory-team>.

CONTACT US

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Advisory Team

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SEPTEMBER SAT MEETING RECAP

The September 12 SAT meeting included discussion on new team members becoming familiar with each other and the organization. New president Jason Schmid laid out some goals for the group, including increasing visibility, correcting past issues, and understanding the roles and responsibilities of SAT.

Principal Mike Odar expressed a desire for better data regarding curriculum, reviewed the school's good ISTEP scores with increases from the previous year, and gave an encouraging update on the new St. Lawrence Preschool class.

Gary Hemmerle said new drinking fountains will be installed soon, if not already.

PTO representative Amy Maxwell said the PTO has a new Facebook page. She added that spirit wear sales have been strong and that parent night was helpful for both parents and teachers. Melissa Lahey discussed and reviewed ways to continue fundraising for PTO.

Amy Heinsman said she is planning to work more with the staff on communicating ways that our families can get involved with reinforcing our character traits focus, as well as planning holiday food drives, ministering to our parish shut-ins, and having students assemble

care packages for needy families and individuals attending the Saturday morning Breaking Bread breakfasts.

Lisa Freking suggested teacher retreats to help strengthen teachers and help them grow together. She said St. Lawrence may be able to partner with other schools for teacher collaboration.

Mr. Odar reported that the school is one students short on school enrollment and one short on pre-school enrollment to meet budget, but the school is in a solid state budget-wise.

Mike Perleberg volunteered to head up production and publication of the new SAT newsletter. He and others distributed "new student" yard signs at the homes of new students just before the start of school.

NOVEMBER SAT MEETING RECAP

There was no SAT meeting in October. At the November 7 meeting, Fr. Peter announced that Phase 1 of the parish Master Plan will break ground as early as the spring, and includes the building that will connect the school and the church! Father said he will need input as we approach construction on issues such as car line, student safety during construction, and more.

Mr. Odar informed us that St. Lawrence School's 2016-2017 accountability grade is an A. More fantastic news to go along with the rise in ISTEP scores!

Amy Heinsman has been working hard on preparing to get feedback from the staff as to how the Spirituality Pillar can help them advance our children's spiritual needs. We also had a nice conversation about a potential Christmas Caroling activity for shut ins or those from the parish who just might need a little Christmas cheer. We should hear more about this very soon.

DECEMBER SAT MEETING RECAP

The School Advisory Team met on December 5. Mr. Odar shared an update on the Capital Improvement Campaign on behalf of Father Peter. Our principal said that generosity is December's character trait staff and students will be focusing on. Dearborn County Council is cutting gaming revenue for private schools in the county in 2018. The SAT weighed the pros and cons of repairing or replacing a heat exchanger on the school roof. A pep rally for the basketball teams was to be held on December 11.

Curriculum pillar leader Lisa Freking spoke about a Northern Kentucky University program called Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics and the potential benefits it could have on STEM education.

Mike Perleberg, marketing pillar leader, prepared a draft of the new SAT newsletter. He received approval to get signs created promoting St. Lawrence's status as a IDOE four-star school and the January 28 open house.

PTO pillar leaders Amy Maxwell and Melissa Lahey said the Yankee Candle fundraiser brought in \$1,900 for the school. The Trunk or Treat in October was a success, and they shared about upcoming events including Snacks with Santa on December 9. Over 380 lunches were served on Grandparents Day. Shannon Schmid will be stepping down as PTO chair at the end of 2017. A current ledger of PTO funds was shared. Restaurant night fundraisers have been successful. Kroger PLUS cards and Amazon Smile continue to provide a stream of PTO revenue.

Gary Hammerle, buildings and grounds, said archery season, which he coaches, will start soon. He said multiple water fountains in the school may need to be replaced, and use of PTO funds was approved for replacement.

SAT members will review the first three articles of SAT bylaws and discuss potential updates at the January SAT meeting.

Mr. Odar shared about identifying his goals as an administrator for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. A copy of Mr. Odar's goals was shared.

SAT will need technology, spirituality and PTO pillar leaders at the end of the school year. SAT will begin outreach to identify candidates.

SAT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – JASON SCHMID, PRESIDENT

Hello St. Lawrence families. My name is Jason Schmid, and I am the current President of the St. Lawrence SAT. I was elected in August and my term runs for one year. I would like to take just a moment to tell you a little but more about myself, my family, and my involvement with St. Lawrence. My wife Shannon and I both grew up on the west side of Cincinnati, and have lived in Dearborn County since 2001 when we moved to Bright. We currently live in Lawrenceburg on Ludlow Hill. We have four children enrolled at St. Lawrence: Annabelle in 8th grade, Grace in 7th grade, Jackson in 4th grade, and Audrey in 3rd grade. I have worked previously as a committee member within the Marketing Pillar of the SAT, working on the school website redevelopment with Eileen Keller and former Principal Karen White. I am also a rotating member of the music ministry at church, primarily at 11:00am Sunday mass with Mrs. Sheila Meyer. For the last 3 years I have been managing the sound and lights for the St. Lawrence Panther Players spring productions.



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The St. Lawrence SAT typically meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month, and your attendance is always welcome. I look forward to your input, and encourage you to contact me or one of the SAT members with your thoughts and ideas. If you have an issue that you would like to present to the team, please contact me in advance to get your topic added to our monthly agenda. Additionally, we have many opportunities for you to be a part of the SAT by joining a committee or working with a pillar chair. The SAT is a great chance to actively participate in the shaping of your child's overall experience at St. Lawrence. I personally look forward to working closely with our principal Mike Odar and pastor Fr. Peter, along with our dedicated pillar chairs to carry out our school's mission, and to make St. Lawrence School the best version of itself that it can possibly be. Thank you for choosing to send your child to St. Lawrence. Please let me know how I can be of assistance.

SAT'S MISSION AND VISION

At St. Lawrence School, we strive to teach as Jesus taught, instilling Catholic values that emphasize respect for the individual while fostering a love for learning and continuous growth. In a positive and caring atmosphere, our staff is committed to developing the whole child, focusing on both the head and the heart developing judgment and critical thinking, with a strong sense of values. This Christian value-based approach to education benefits both our catholic students and our students of other faith traditions.

Our **Vision** is to foster intellectual curiosity and build the skills needed to inquire in an atmosphere that honors and promotes individualized learning while living out the Gospel value of service, rooted in the traditions of Catholic faith.