

# ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM NEWSLETTER

Second Quarter 2018

## PLANNING, PREPARING, KEEPING COOL...

As summer break ends, parents' attentions begin to turn from pool parties and vacations toward getting ready for the upcoming school year. For the St. Lawrence School Advisory Team, the shift in focus is no different.



We have closed the book on the 2017-2018 school year and look toward a 2018-2019 school year that will bring some changes and new faces to our school community. Chief among them is our parish's new pastor, Father Benjamin Syberg. Coming from Our Lady of the Springs Church in French Lick, Father Syberg is new to the Lawrenceburg area. Next time you see him after mass or another function, please join us in making Fr. Ben feel welcome.

Like many in the church and school, our team was saddened to lose Father Peter Gallagher under difficult circumstances. Please continue praying for him and that we as a school and parish can go forward bravely and unified.

Kyle Koelling, a legendary teacher at St. Lawrence, is off sipping drinks on a beach somewhere now that he has reached a much-deserved retirement. Our school administrators had a great challenge in filling Mr. K's role as both a science and social studies teacher in our junior high. We believe Principal Mike Odar has found the right person for the job in Mrs. Heather Pennington. She has 16 years of teaching experience at St. Dominic's in Cincinnati and leading a program similar to our Panther Prides.

We also want to thank SAT facilities chairperson Gary Hammerle for all the work he has been putting into making our school a safer and more secure place for all students and staff. School safety is a top concern of SAT and the school administrators. The SAT, PTO and school administration are continuing to invest in the security of our campus. Rest assured that our children are safer than ever.

### SAT PILLAR LEADERS

President: Jason Schmid

Secretary: Steve Stoecklin

Curriculum & Learning:  
vacant

Facilities: Gary Hammerle

Finance: Julie Hafner

Marketing: Mike Perleberg

PTO: Katie Lainhart

Spirituality: Brandy Branham

Student & Staff Retention: KC  
Witte

Technology: *vacant*

Pastor: Father Benjamin  
Syberg

Principal: Michael Odar

## JOIN THE SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM OR A COMMITTEE

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." **2 Timothy 2:15.**

We'd like to extend a special thanks to those who have submitted applications to become a member of the School Advisory Team.

The SAT is still welcoming any help we can get. Would you like to lend your time or talent to the School Advisory Team? Share your interest with an SAT member or email [schooladvisoryteam@sls-apps.org](mailto:schooladvisoryteam@sls-apps.org). Please complete and turn in the application form available at <http://stlschool.com/school-advisory-team>.

### CONTACT US

St. Lawrence School  
Advisory Team

524 Walnut Street

Lawrenceburg, Indiana

47025

[schooladvisoryteam@sls-apps.org](mailto:schooladvisoryteam@sls-apps.org)

[www.stlschool.com/school-advisory-team](http://www.stlschool.com/school-advisory-team)

### NEXT SAT MEETING

Tuesday, August 7 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](mailto:schooladvisoryteam@sls-apps.org) if you would like to be placed on the meeting agenda. Every meeting begins and ends with a prayer for our SAT, staff, students, and families.

### APRIL SAT MEETING RECAP

The April 3rd SAT meeting included discussion around a few school safety matters. New equipment has been purchased to help keep the school building secure. An after school emergency policy for coaches and club sponsors is being developed so those individuals overseeing students at after school activities will know what to do in the event of major and minor emergencies.

Principal Mike Odar shared a lookout on the projected enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year. He also provided an updated on the impact that the defunding of the riverboat grant will have on St. Lawrence School. Mr. Odar also provided an update on the recruitment of a new junior high teacher to replace the retiring Mr. Koelling.

SAT President Jason Schmid asked SAT members to consider goals to achieve by the end of the school year. Jason wants SAT to have a good presence at parish council meetings, and is asking members on a rotating basis to attend the meetings each month. He also shared some feedback from a Lawrenceburg High School teacher who complimented St. Lawrence alumni coming to high school prepared for the high school academic level. Jason shared that the St. Lawrence building project is on hold indefinitely until Father Peter's return.

The SAT continued to review the SAT by-laws, making adjustments and updates to sections 4 through 12. KC Witte is handling editing of the document.

## **MAY SAT MEETING RECAP**

SAT met on May 1 to discuss and approve the 2018-2019 school budget. Julie Terrill and Beth Murphy joined us to share a presentation on the budget proposal. SAT reviewed the various operating expenses, enrollment, and an increase in tuition cost. They suggested making a push for more online giving at church to help the school's finances. SAT thanks Julie for helping assemble the school budget.

The team is planning a state of the school event on May 14. Principal Mike Odar and SAT members planned to present to parents attending the meeting.

Mr. Odar shared about the updated enrollment outlook for next school year and cost savings from a new cleaning service. Mrs. Heather Pennington has been hired as the new junior high social studies and science teacher.

Retention pillar KC Witte is putting the finishing touches on the new revised SAT by-laws.

School safety continues to be an active discussion on SAT. The team wants to ensure the safety of children among fellow students. Facilities pillar Gary Hammerle shared new information and potential pricing of building safety improvements.

The SAT is working to find applicants to help fill open positions on the team, namely the PTO, technology and spirituality pillars.

## **JUNE SAT MEETING RECAP**

The June SAT meeting included the revelation that St. Lawrence Parish will be receiving a new priest this summer: Father Ben Syberg.

Principal Mike Odar gave the latest outlook on enrollment of the 2018-2019 school year. He said all staff have been signed to contracts and there has been positive feedback on the hiring of Mrs. Pennington as a new middle school teacher. Mrs. Jaehnen will be an aid to assist with other specialist teachers in the 2018-2019 school year.

Facilities pillar Gary Hammerle provided a walkthrough on some new school security equipment, price quotes for other building safety upgrades, and a goal to have information ready for Father Ben to review and decide on.

Retention pillar KC Witte presented a revised emergency procedure form for after school activity coaches and leaders to follow.

There are some potential candidates interested in filling open chair positions on SAT starting with the 2018-2019 school year, but nobody has committed to joining SAT just yet. Former SAT member and school parent Ryan Padgett has stepped up to run the Major Award Committee.

## SAT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – STEVE STOECKLIN

Hello St. Lawrence families and parishioners,

My name is Steve Stoecklin and I am the Secretary of the School Advisory Team. I have just completed my first year on the team and will be entering my second year of my term. My wife Jackie and I have been parishioners of St. Lawrence since 2009 and our first child started school here in the fall of 2014. We now have three children going to school here. Lucy is in 5th grade, Sophia is in 3rd grade and Charlie is entering pre-school.

Both my wife and I were born and raised on the west side of Cincinnati and had the fortunate experiences of going to Catholic grade schools and high schools. I have always had a strong sense of wanting to help and give back when it comes to Catholic education and experiences. I have been a track and field coach at Elder High School for 14 years and have participated in various voluntary activities since joining St. Lawrence parish. My wife Jackie served a year on the SAT and is now involved with PTO and can often be seen at school during lunch and recess duty. Giving back to St. Lawrence is something we enjoy doing as we get to meet and know many members of the parish, staff and community.

My vision for the SAT is to share my experiences both personally and professionally with the team and hope what I can share is beneficial as we face new challenges each day. I have learned over the past year on the SAT that collectively everyone wants to see the best version of what our school has to offer. By working together as a team to set priorities and goals it's been rewarding to see the progress that's been made. I look forward to starting my 2nd school year on the team as we will continue to work together for the students and all of those who make this school the great place it is today.

"It's not so much where we are now but it's the direction in which we are heading!"

## 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.