



Trinity Catholic HSA All School Meeting

September 16, 2019

PRESENT HSA Executive Board, Class Representative and Advisors

TCHS Scott Smith, Deacon Michael, Cindy Willette

PARENTS Representing all grades

LOCATION Media Center 3rd – TCHS

Deacon Michael led the group in prayer to open up the meeting.

Deacon Michael discussed that a Catholic school is a Christ-centered school. It does not mean we become a seminary. We gain access to Christ through beauty; its art, its music, its liturgy – an invitation that simply says come along with me. Every hour, every day He is right here with us, making this school unique. He addressed questions about (1) Discipleship; he hopes to form a group soon (2) A Mission trip; he would like to continue and (3) March for Life; slated for January.

Tricia LaValle, HSA President, explained how the HSA supports all aspects of the school; its students, teachers, administration, BOD, and Chaplain. The HSA acts as a conduit to bring their ideas to life and make school days great while educational. HSA's initiated some non-cash ideas to fundraise, such as:

- **Year-long recycling** – cell phones, ink cartridges, small electronics, list on the website.
- **October - Donation Day** – gently used clothes, shoes, hats, toys, books, small appliances, pots, pans, dishes. A large container will be positioned in the side parking lot for a week to collect items. HSA receives a percentage of each pound. It will be there during a home football game, so it provides an opportunity to promote community involvement and allow all a Fall clean-up!
- **Year-long - Gift cards** - physical, online gift or email gift cards are available. HSA gets a percentage of the gift card's initial value and reloads. Great to do all food shopping with; all holiday shopping with; can engage relatives around the country to use.
- **Amazon Smile**- Look for Trinity's code, and we'll get a percentage of each sale.
- **Stop & Shop**- sign up online, does not affect gas purchases.

Events

- Pizza Friday's have been successful. *Still looking for a Chairperson.*
- Freshman Senior Picnic- need volunteers, information to follow
- Mum Sale- proceeds to go to the Chaplin fund.
- *Adult Social - Bedford Hall, October 24, 6-8 pm.* Encourage current parents to invite friends and alumni.
- Parent Coffee- two more for the year
- Night of Unity- everyone please come
- Local bible studies- lots in Stamford, listed on our website.
- Fashion Show- loved by the students, professional, proceeds help fund scholarships.
- Senior Prom- HSA fundraising pays for the DJ. Two hundred kids in attendance for 2019 Prom.
- Senior Week- will be worked out.
- Faith Cards- HSA funded initiative

Principal, Mr. Scott Smith, discussed the Faith card initiative is to improve student culture and reward students for their positive achievements in the school. Mr. Smith said this started an open discourse with current students and inevitably strengthened relationships by getting to know them better.

Mr. Smith that the parents are the backbone of the Trinity community, and we should promote the positive initiatives at the school. Mr. Smith spoke from the heart to the vision he sees for TCHS knowing that Trinity is a work in progress, but headed towards a successful future. Personalized learned also teaches soft and transferable skills beyond original educational content which teaches them how to take ownership and invest in themselves, learning, and future opportunities. A competitive 21st century requires us to prepare our students to have the skills to ask themselves what's valuable to them.

Mr. Smith's vision of PERSONALIZED LEARNING is about educating the entire person. The model is academic, but knowing the student on a personal level will help them succeed.

Mr. Woodside, Religion, and Social Studies Teacher gave an overview of personalized learning. He provided handouts to demonstrate how the 80-minute period flows and how smaller groups within the classroom rotate through different activities, approaching the subject matter from different angles. In this way, the concepts are learned better and faster so that more material is covered and a higher level of learning is engaged.

Mr. Smith spoke about intentionally creating small advisory blocks so teachers can connect with students beyond their academic strengths and weaknesses. Understanding a student's interests, hobbies, passions inspires a lifelong love of learning. During advisory blocks, individuals will speak to students about their careers and life experiences. - *Bob Lynch, will be talking on October 3, about his career in Sports Marketing.* If any parent or knows a friend or colleague who is interested in sharing their story, please contact ssmith@trinitycatholic.org

Mr. Smith asked for parents to communicate with the administration about what's going on with our children. He wants to do his best to improve the school but needs the information to implement changes. Capture their successes and broadcast it because people who aren't close to the community are squashing efforts to make this happen.

Cindy Willette, Admissions, spoke about the OPEN HOUSE on September 29, 2019!! Cindy shared with the group there is a new hire, Lauren Manzino, the new Director of Admissions. Cindy will stay on a bit longer to help Lauren get up to speed. Lauren is working closely with Bob Lynch and Cindy Willette to ensure a successful Open House! We need parent volunteers to showcase TCHS at middle school fairs in the area!

Monica Welch, TCHS Board of Director Development Committee Chair and interim volunteer contact for Advancement and Alumni Relations, spoke about how the Board of Directors has been working tirelessly on supporting the mission and vision of TCHS. Monica and other Board members have been present at many Trinity events, engaging the administration, HSA, parents', students, alumni, because they genuinely believe in the future of TCHS. A significant effort over the next 100 days from the BOD is underway. Monica highlighted some specific needs and asked for help and for us to pass the message along. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Monica at mwelch@trinitycatholic.org. Monica mentioned **ways you can help:**

- If you are at the school every day – pour through old yearbooks, see who you know
- Need to be at home? Projects you can do at home exist
- Spend time in the car driving around town? – You can help by dropping things off
- Check the mail daily at school
- Be a TCHS Tour Liaison
- Grandparents Day – October 11 to assist or extend an invite, please contact: sheilakuhl@gmail.com
- Ideas for Homecoming week
- Reimagine the Gala (Tailgating - Vines & Steins)
- Memorial Mass Ideas are needed

Alumni Reach-Out assistance needed:

- Create an alumni newsletter
- Be an Alumni liaison for a decade (i.e., 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, 00's, 10's)
- Legacy School Reach-out needed
 - St. Mary's - Eileen DeMarkey
 - Central Catholic – need a point person
- Many opportunities are available!!

Development Committee Meeting – Monday, October 9

Tricia LaValle adjourned the meeting.