

Lourdes Home & School Agenda - August
August 12th, 2020
Hosted via Zoom

Attendees:

Present: Megan Stopulos (President), Lindsey Jennings (Ex-Officio), Jen Foley (President-Elect), Angie Kaney (Secretary), Katie Ellis (Room Parent Coordinator), Becca Armstrong (Publicity), Trisha Smith (Hospitality), Andrea Reilly (New Family Ambassador), Rebecca Gimbel (Treasurer), Jilly Tandy (Treasurer Elect), Kim Jondle (New Family Ambassador), Jennifer Alongi (Principal)

Not present: Meghan Cornish (Room Parent Coord), Erin Emerle (Volunteer Coordinator), Katie Adams (New Family Ambassador), Amber Edwards (Volunteer Coord)

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm.

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we come to you at the beginning of this school year with our many feelings, expectations, fears and hopes. Give us patience with ourselves as we transition as well as patience with one another. Give us a new perspective to see persons, events, and work as an invitation to develop the many gifts you have given us to be used in service for others. Amen.

2. Introductions

2020/2021 Home & School Board

President: Megan Stopulos

President-Elect: Jen Foley

Ex-Officio: Lindsey Jennings

Secretary: Angie Kaney

Treasurer: Rebecca Gimbel

Treasurer Elect: Jill Tandy

Room Parent Co-Chairs: Katie Ellis and Meghan Cornish

Volunteer Co-Chairs: Erin Emerle and Amber Edwards

Hospitality Coordinators: Kristen Grchan, Jen Bradley and Trisha Smith

New Family Ambassadors: Kim Jondle, Andrea Reilly, Katie Adams

Publicity: Becca Armstrong

Megan S will post a document for sharing contact information (email/phone #'s) soon.

3. Approval of Minutes – 9 people approved the posting minutes with the google form.

4. New Business

- a. **Unpack the Backpack:** August 21, 8am-4pm by appt only – for new families only. Those families will meet with their teachers with an opportunity to get familiar with their homeroom / school.
- b. **New Family Night:** August 13th, via Zoom. Organized by the New Family Ambassador team to introduce the new families. It will be a casual setting, and a chance for new families to ask questions.
 - i. **Additional thoughts for New Family Ambassador efforts:** The goal is to engage and welcome new families in different/creative ways to bring families together. Maybe coffee in the park for new families, some type of way to socialize / meet others in a safe way. Andrea would like to brainstorm ideas. Ms. Alongi encourages this committee to avoid gathering at Big Toy or on school campus. Perhaps new families could bring coffee and masks and meet at McManus Park, along with buddy families too. After discussion it was decided to host a coffee in a nearby park the morning of the first day of school. Jen Foley will bring individually wrapped snacks for small children and attendees will be encouraged to bring their own coffee. It will be promoted at New Family Welcome Night. There is also a desire to welcome kindergarten families and to do something in a safe environment in lieu of the Kindergarten breakfast (Jen Foley will send out an invitation to kindergarten parents for a similar gathering / invitation to attend Mass on 8/28 at 9am and then go to Dunn Bros afterwards). There was also a suggestion to meet early in the parking lot to meet other families near the giving tree. This could perhaps be coordinated by the New Family Ambassador Team or room parents. TBD.
 - ii. **GIFT BAG FOR NEW FAMILIES.** K-8 new families could receive a gift bag of Lourdes “stuff”. Perhaps a Rosary, or Lourdes swag (sticky notes), ink pens, hand sanitizer, bracelets, car decals). There are about 24-28 new families. Andrea R and Kim J will brainstorm and evaluate the plan for this. Ms. Alongi can do a delivery in Orion if need be.
- c. **Meet the Teacher Zoom:** August 21st – K through 8 teachers will do coordinate and facilitate these meetings. Preschool / Pre-K will have a later night.
- d. **Teacher Welcome - Ideas for teacher appreciation:**
 1. Ms. Alongi recommends we write letters of encouragement to the teachers, a note of appreciation might mean more to them than anything else (boxed lunches, cookies, etc).
 2. Welcome Back signs for teachers (Megan S. will reach out to Kris Girskis, Meghan Cornish)?
 3. There is usually a Mass for all teachers/staff. We could write prayers / petitions during the teacher / staff Mass on 8/17 at 9am.
 4. Megan S. mentioned preparing a prayer card. Prayers for teachers...a prayer card to be given out to teachers at the beginning of the year.

5. Perhaps we could order boxed lunches from La Flama for teacher welcome week. **Megan** will reach out to them and organize. This could potentially come out of the Hospitality budget.

- e. **Student Welcome** – There was discussion about writing names in chalk outside of the school for the first day. Perhaps 3 parents can do this without bringing too many people together on the school campus...
- f. **New Family Welcome** - How can we keep families engaged / build relationships when we can't gather at the school? *See notes above.*
- g. **Registration Update (from Ms. Alongi).** Most families are excited about getting back to school full time. Some families still nervous about returning, and Ms. Alongi is trying to balance the support for the 100% home-school / virtual instructions, and not asking too much of teachers due to the additional hours required to support this effort. There is still movement about registration / enrollment. Home & School has asked Ms. Alongi to continue to share with our group about ways to help / support / show the love to our teachers, especially in the first few weeks of school. Our teachers are willing to go above and beyond to ensure school is a successful experience for our families.
- h. **Curriculum Night** – Unsure at this time how this will be done. It might be via zoom. Ms. Alongi recommends not spending any effort on planning for this night at this time.
- i. **School Volunteers Update.** There will be no adult volunteers in the school at the start of the year (including library, lunch room, recess duty). Only two SCRIP volunteers will be allowed in the school. The reason is for contact tracing, if there is potential exposure, it will make contact tracing easier if adult interaction is limited.
- j. **Room Parent Update.** Room Parent Coordinators can't do much yet, as school is still putting together class lists. Once class lists are set, Ms. Alongi can share this with Room Parents. Perhaps there could be Zoom meetings with classes / parents as a way to connect? Maybe a homeroom meeting scheduled by the room parent to bring parents of each class together? Perhaps the 100% Home-instruction families could find ways to connect too, since their experience is a little different. They might be able to meet up at the park or find ways to connect. **Lindsey Jennings** plans to reach out to Erin Emerle, who might be able to brainstorm ideas together. Katie E asked about the birthday buddy plan for the next school year. Individually wrapped snacks are good (it would be safer for the teachers). Ms. Alongi thinks it can be similar to how we did this last year, with collecting money and purchasing monthly birthday treats.
- k. **Communication**
 - i. New email address – we can use this email for communicating to everyone, and will be a dedicated H&S email:
homeandschool@lourdes.pvt.k12.ia.us

- ii. Other ways to communicate: Continue doing Facebook posts and communicate with parents this way too. The group will continue to consider the best ways to communicate with families.
- l. **Budget Update** – Rebecca has thoughts about how to set up the budget for the 2020-21 school year. We have many questions about how to set up the budget for next year, because of all the differences with COVID impacts. It is too soon to tell which events will be cancelled. We will have to be flexible with our budget planning. Executive committee small group can meet to discuss the budget. Rebecca recommends the small group review and make comments on the budget she's posted in the treasurer folder. **Rebecca** to follow up with the group on next steps.
- m. **Mask Sales.** Mask sales were good. Higher than expected. H&S purchased additional masks, and are selling them to families who didn't order earlier. Megan will compile a spreadsheet with tracking of requests and will manage responses and distribution.
- n. **Pushing Scrip.** We need to still sell it and promote it. Still waiting on the accounting. Rebecca proposes we write the church donation from the SCRIP checking account. **Jill Tandy** will continue working toward providing a report of SCRIP results. Once we know those results, we will know how to proceed with the church donation.
- o. **Other fundraising:** Becca's Photo Opp. Posted on the Lourdes Facebook page. 9 boxes/poses of your child mixed and in a photo shoot. You can sign up for a slot on the Facebook page. Proceeds will go to benefit Lourdes H&S. It is possible to split up a family, and they can have parents and multiple kids. One session is a set price. Thank you Becca!
- p. **1st Day School Supplies** - delivered Tuesday, August 12th
- q. **Used uniform sale** - could be in library on August 21st. Since this is at the same time as UnPack the Backpack, we could set it up ahead of time, and then the family could come into the Library to look at uniforms, they could leave money at the front desk of the school. Megan will ask Ms. Alongi if existing families can come in increments of 15 minutes to shop used uniform sales too. **Rebecca G** and **Megan S** will touch base with Ms. Alongi about details / set up / sign ups / donations (plaids) / concerns about donations and stopping the spread etc.
- r. **New Art Teacher:** Ms. Haley Burney. *Is there anything else we can do to welcome her?*
- s. **Google Drive** – Permissions have been set and communicated out to past/present committee members to assist with transferring files, and serving as a long-term storage location for H&S Files. Let Angie Kaney know if you have trouble with access.

5. **Upcoming Events** - we will be flexible with the calendar and at this point are not scheduling any additional events.

6. **Wrap Up & Closing Prayer**

Loving God, bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake today. Refresh our souls and renew our spirits as we embrace the beautiful ministry you have called us to. We welcome those who are new to this community and ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts you have given them. Lord, make our hearts pure as we prepare for the return of students to this school, and may you guide them to return with open hearts and minds eager to learn. We ask this in Your name, Amen

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Angie Kaney, Secretary