

St. Albert the Great PTO Meeting Minutes August 1, 2022

Attendance: Tara Cavo (President), Sara Anderson (Vice President), Sherry Gabert, Katie Duckro, Selina Evans, Kiley Beyer, Ashley Garcher, Tina DeVaney, Emily Collura

Opening Prayer: Our Father

Welcome

School Report: Sherry Gabert

- Sherry shared that she emailed families with the names of the new staff members for the upcoming school year.
 - Mrs. Mary Kincaid – 5th grade
 - Mrs. Hilary Toerner – Music and Band, grades 5-8
 - Miss Katie Bensman – 7th and 8th grade Science, Algebra, and Pre-algebra
 - Mrs. Diane Benke – Administrative Assistant
 - Mrs. Jacqueline Borchers – Pre-kindergarten Aide
- There will also be a new counselor. She has some experience working in Catholic schools.
- The school is still in need of one pre-kindergarten aide.
- The upper grades have also had a couple changes: Mrs. Hankey will now be teaching 7th grade religion and Mrs Gabert will be teaching 8th grade religion, due to Mrs. Steffan's retirement.
- Homeroom packets will be available beginning 8/15. 6th-8th grade students will have schedules emailed to them.
- There will be no orientation days this year prior to school starting. The first day for students is August 18. The exceptions are preschool, prekindergarten, and kindergarten, which will have staggered starts. Information is coming from those teachers to families.
- School will begin with masks optional, as they were at the end of last year.

Finance Report: The group reviewed the Treasurer Report/Bank Reconciliation for June, 2022 submitted by Ann McManus, Parish Accountant. The ski trip withdrawal was a different amount than budgeted, so we will take this into consideration for the upcoming year. Also, the School Messenger cost is almost two times more than last year.

Discussion Items:

Committee Signups

- Meet the Teacher – This will be held Sunday, August 21 after the 11:00 Mass. It will be after school starts this year, so that students can show their parents around to their classrooms. Students can still bring their supplies on this day. There will not be tours, but PTO will have a welcome table with PTO information and advertise the upcoming Happy Hour. We may also have a slideshow and maybe cookies.
- Walk-a-thon – Katie will chair this.
- Pie Sales – Tina will chair this fundraiser again.
- Christmas Tree Sales – Jacie will chair this again.
- Catholic Schools Week Teacher Appreciation – Selina will chair this.
- Knollwood Gift Cards – Sara will chair this event.
- There had been prior discussion of doing a flower/plant fundraiser in the spring. However, Sara reached out to the company and they only wanted to book organizations that would commit to this, Mumkins in the fall *and* poinsettias in the winter. She will reach out to see if they have any availability for just flowers/plants as spring gets closer.

Happy Hour (5:00-6:00 p.m. on Friday, August 26)

- Everyone is asked to invite someone to this event. It helps to have a personal invite!
- We need to stress to attendees that in order to be involved with PTO, it is not mandatory to attend all meetings.
- Kiley is putting together a slideshow (thanks, Kiley!) of PTO events throughout the year to run continuously at the event. Please send her pictures of events that you have to be included in the slideshow . PTO members will mingle and be wearing name tags.
- Older students will provide child care during the event. We will have snacks and beverages.

PTO Representatives at Orientation Meetings

- We'd like to have someone provide a short blurb about PTO at the upcoming orientation meetings:
 - Kindergarten (Tuesday, August 9 at 7:00) – Kiley
 - New families (Wednesday, August 10 at 7:00) – Sara
 - Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten (Thursday, August 11 at 7:00) – Ashley
- Representatives could talk about our fundraisers; specific items/experiences we provide with the money we raise; experience is not necessary; and that Mrs. Gabert attends so it is a good way to be “plugged in” to what is occurring in the school.

Classroom Parent Ambassadors

- Mrs. Gabert approved this idea, so the list of ambassadors was reviewed. Ambassadors are asked to reach out to the teachers for email addresses for parents of students in their classes; then reach out to them to introduce themselves, explain the role, and invite them to attend the upcoming Happy Hour. event.

Good of the Order:

- Uniforms: There have been issues with Deuce and Lands End. Sherry is looking into other companies for uniforms.
- Spirit Wear: We are looking into a website that would provide spirit wear sales 2-3 times each year.
- School Mass: School Mass will be held on Mondays this year, instead of Wednesdays.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Collura