

**St. Andrew the Apostle School – HSA Meeting  
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Meeting called to order at 7:26 by HSA President Jen Fantry.  
Jen welcomed everyone and an opening prayer was led by Father Rick.  
Jen led Pledge of Allegiance.

Jen announced that the sign-in table is now in back of cafeteria.  
There are index cards for family name and child's name for tuition raffle. (\$1000 off next year's tuition.)  
Box tops collected at back table. (Sheets for box tops will be coming home this week.)

Home and school assignments were emailed to parents. If not received, let Jen know and she will resend.

Class parents were contacted. Jen has class lists and forms to distribute.

Background check and Protecting God's Children program must be done.

Reminder – Kids Stuff book sale ends 9/22. Payment is due or books must be sent back.

School spirit week is approaching:

9/22: Crazy Sock Day

9/28: School Spirit Day (Panda wear!)

Jen announced there will be a Vendor Sale. Robyn Ivey, the chair of the sale, announced the sale will be held in the cafeteria on November 14<sup>th</sup>. There are approximately 40 vendors interested. Vendors will be set up in café. Hours will be 9-2. Flyers will go out with more information as the date approaches. Parents asked to donate baked good for bake sale.

Jen thanked everyone on John Fantry's behalf for help with the carnival (John was carnival Chair). Jen thanked volunteers and people that did extra shifts. Chair people thanked.

Martha McGowan gave parking presentation. Reminded parents the entrance is **ONE WAY**. Also, drop off lane is for **drop-offs only**. If a parent needs walk children in, they **must** park somewhere other than the drop off lane and walk them in. **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO PARK BEYOND THE CONES CLOSE TO THE BUILDING. THIS AREA MUST REMAIN CLEAR, INCLUDING AFTER CARE. FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS CARS FROM BEING THIS CLOSE TO A SCHOOL BUILDING.**

Martha announced the Trunk or Treat event. Date is October 20<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers on the committee cannot be trunkers - volunteers are for the event (crafts, kitchen, etc.). Flyer will be sent home. There will be candy handed out, a movie, youth group haunted house, crafts and other activities. Food will be available for purchase in the cafeteria. **Limit of 300 children**. Cost \$10 per child and wristbands will be issued. Receipt will be sent home. Day of event, bring receipt to check in children and they will be given the SAS blue canvas treat bag so they can be easily identified as paid participants. Rain date will be 10/21. Chairman for the event is needed next year. If anyone is interested you can follow Martha and Jessie (Martha's co-chair) this year. **NO CLOWNS. No silly string. Meeting for volunteers is MANDATORY. All volunteers must attend.** Meeting is usually no longer than 40 minutes but everyone must attend. Being a trunker is something separate and they do not have to attend the volunteer meeting. Trunkers will be assigned spaces.

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Genie Refinski reported on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade fundraisers that are planned:

- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be selling raffles for Giants tickets. Game is 11/19. Giants vs. KC. Tickets for raffles go on sale tomorrow through November. Tickets \$10 each. A flyer will be sent home in the Tuesday folder.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade car wash will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The car wash will be held in the school parking lot from 8:30 – 3:30. There will be a couple different shifts for the students to sign up for. One parent is asked to be present with their child.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade clothing drive will be held on 10/14 and 10/15 in the school parking lot. Clothing that is collected will be donated to Catholic Charities.

Everyone is encouraged to support the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in their fundraising endeavors.

Mrs. Schirm – introduced the home school officers for the new school year. Mrs. Schirm invited all parents to contact any board members with questions or concerns.

Mrs. Schirm reported that many improvements were made to the school over the summer. School yard had been improved. Games built into the school yard. The Pre-k – kindergarten play yard has been expanded with more little tykes things to play with.

In courtyard, Wyatt Matthews built picnic tables as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Front entrance – new carpet donated. There has been a lot of painting done in classrooms, etc. Kitchen cabinets have been updated and painted. Kitchen has been updated and much more functional.

Mrs. Schirm announced that there has been an increase in the rigor of the curriculum. Goal is to prepare students by the time they finish 8<sup>th</sup> grade for a great high school experience. 5<sup>th</sup> grade will now be considered part of the middle school.

Syllabi will be sent home for older students. Parents and students must sign off so parents and students know what to expect for each subject that is being taught.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking HSPT tests. Practice sheets are being done and will be sent home. After school, a schedule will be set up by teachers for students wanting extra help. There will be no charge and students can work with teachers and ask questions. As long as students do the work, with the help of faculty and staff, each child will be ready for the test.

STEM in progress. Each child has a red notebook in which student is recording stem activities and how they can be used in their education. Curriculum is in all grades pre-k – 8.

New parent portal is now Rediker. Parents receive a sign in sheet with instructions. Enter user name and password (sheet will be provided tonight by teacher). Parent must remember this information. Mrs. Schirm will not have access to portal for if someone is locked out. It's a way to access student's information – grades, etc. for the entire school year. Each child will have their own profile for multiple-student families. Pictures from school portraits will be used in each child's profile. Calendars, notifications (can be from teachers), attendance, grades courses, averages all will be available to parents to check. Teachers can be emailed through the system as well.

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Mrs. Schirm applied for and received a \$3000 grant from the NJ Center for Child Protection. This money will be used for a seminar on bullying and child protection. Part of the grant includes the Center for Child Protection coming and giving a presentation on bullying on **October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00** (Stomp Out Bullying day.) Students can wear blue clothing of their choice on that day. This is a great way to kick off anti-bullying week. Staff from NJ center will be working with the students in age appropriate ways. It's important for parents to come and see what kids will be learning and hearing by attending the workshop on 10/2.

Spirit week is next week. Events are planned including Panda wear and crazy sock days.

Mrs. Schirm is looking to upgrade our cameras to record 48 hours of data and is ordering cones with chains to keep parents from parking too close to building. Also, more exterior lighting is being worked on. New locks (better security) will be put on windows. Current locks are too easy to get in. She is working on getting electric gates to secure children in school yard.

Mrs. Schirm introduced the faculty.

**Opened floor to questions:**

*Will redicker be used for school closing announcements?* Yes, Redicker will be used to notify parents of school closing.

*Will Spanish be offered in school again this year?* Spanish will be offered for second and third grade. Mrs. Sheridan will be teaching Spanish for now, as Mrs. Schirm is trying to find a permanent Spanish teacher.

Looking for an art teacher. The previous teacher resigned the day before school started.

Looking for a music teacher.

Dioscese has not given permission to release all Terra Nova scores due to the server having technical issues. SAS is still missing scores.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13.