

St. Ambrose School - H.S.A. Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Welcome, Opening Prayer, and Updates

Old Business and Recaps

- **Summer Event – Somerset Patriots Game** – was held in July and lots of families were in attendance. Thanks to Jon Grinberg for coordinating this event!
- **Summer Event – St. Ambrose Carnival** – was held in late June and we had beautiful weather! Thanks to everyone who came out to support the school by purchasing wristbands and tickets, volunteering to work games, set and clean up, and so much more!
- **Welcome Back Ice Cream Social** – was held in August to welcome new and existing school families! It was great to see the students meet their teachers, play with friends, and enjoy some delicious ice cream, provided by Old School Catering! Thanks to Joan Hodgins and Christine Wulff for chairing this awesome event!
- **Ralph's Dine Out Event** – was held on in September. Many SAS families and friends attended the event throughout the night and enjoyed delicious ices and ice cream! The profit check has not yet been received, but the event was successful in getting kids and families together for a fun time! Thank you to Jen Venetucci for organizing this fundraiser!!
- **Metro Fundraiser** – ended this past week. Deliveries are scheduled to arrive at the school before Thanksgiving break and will be sent home with students/parents. Thank you to all who participated and for Janine Ramirez for chairing the fundraiser!
- **Color Run** – was rescheduled to October 6th due to the stormy weather conditions last weekend. We look forward to a great time! Thank you to Sandy Younan and Mrs. Mohin for chairing this event so wonderfully!
- **Route 9 Discount cards** – are available for \$20 each in the Main Office. Please reach out to Danielle at 732-679-4700 with any questions.
- **Silverball Passes** – are available in the Main Office. They make great gifts for kids and are a fun way to enjoy an event with family and friends. Thanks to Jen Venetucci for coordinating this fundraiser!

- **Class Parents** have been assigned for all grade levels and homerooms, except PreK4 so far. All requirements are mandated by the Diocese for the protection of all children. Please reach out to LeeAnn Bocanegra or Kathleen Vitale with any questions. Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to serve!

- **New Business and Looking Ahead**

- **Pocketbook Bingo** is scheduled for October 4, 2024! This is sure to be a fun night of Bingo and great prizes! Tickets are still on sale. Please contact Janine Ramirez or Carmela Scala with any questions or to purchase tickets!
- **Pretzel Days** – they will begin on Friday, October 11th. Order forms and payment can be sent directly in to the main office. Please refer to the schedule for when pretzel days are held – please note that every half day is not a pretzel day. Thank you to Joan Hodgins and Irene Michael for generously offering to handle the pretzel program for this year! Please direct any questions to the Main Office.
- We have some great **Family Dine-Out nights** scheduled for this year – beginning with October 11th at La Rosa Chicken and November 22nd at Panera. If you have time, please try to stop in, or order take-out, to support those restaurants, and St. Ambrose School!! Please direct any questions to Jen Venetucci or the Main Office.
- **Halloween Fun!** Our **Halloween Trunk or Treat** is scheduled for Sunday, October 20, 2024 (rain date October 27, 2024) in the school parking lot. This year will be even more exciting...you will be able to purchase yummy treats from an Italian food truck during the event! Please contact Maria Balogh at mriggi@comcast.net with any questions! The school is also hosting a **Halloween Costume Party** on Friday, October 25th in the school gym for students and families. The flyers containing further details for each event has been sent out to the school families. We hope to see you there!! Happy Halloween!!!
- The **St. Vincent de Paul food drive** will be held in the school on October 24-25, 2024. A flyer will be emailed home soon with a list of requested items. If possible, the food pantry representatives have asked that we stick to the requested list, as stocks are carefully determined. All donations are greatly appreciated! Please contact Kathleen Vitale or Michele Rosenberg with any questions.
- Our **Read-A-Thon** will run from November 4th through November 15th. This is a wonderful event to foster literacy and a love of reading! The teachers will promote it throughout their ELA studies, and parents/families can support and encourage their children at home by sponsoring them to read! Further information will be sent home in the next few weeks! Please contact Kathleen Vitale at kathleenvitale913@gmail.com with any questions.

- Our **Elf Shoppe** is scheduled for December 5-6, 2024. Thanks to Beata Zatorska for coordinating this event and shopping for over 3,000 items!! A schedule for the students to shop will be available as the event approaches. Please contact Beata at beata78@aol.com with any questions. As Beata is an 8th grade parent this year, we are thankful that a few moms have shown interest in chairing this event in the future, and will “shadow” Beata this year. If you are interested in assisting, please reach out to Beata or Kathleen. Thank you!
- The **Breakfast with St. Nicholas and the Vendor Fair** are scheduled for December 8, 2024. Details will be available soon. Thanks to Carmela Scala and Christine Wulff for chairing the event! Please contact Carmela at scalacar@gmail.com with any questions about the Breakfast or contact Kathleen Vitale at kathleenvitale913@gmail.com with any questions about the Vendor Fair.
- **Double Good Popcorn** – we are introducing this new fundraiser, and it’s delicious! It will run from November 18th through November 22nd and further details will be available soon. This can be a very successful fundraiser for our school and we are excited to start it. Please contact Jen Venetucci with any questions!
- **Bake Sales** – we have a few bake sales scheduled for this year, beginning with one after the Sunday Masses on Sunday, October 6th. We will also host one during the November Parent-Teacher conferences and again at the Texas Roadhouse Dine-Out as well. They are a lot of fun and have been very successful in the past! If you are interested, please reach out to Tabitha Chaviano – thanks to Tabitha for coordinating the bake sales!
- **Appreciation Days** – we have listed the appreciation days on our Save the Date for this school year. Thanks to Romita DiMarco for handling the hospitality for each of these dates. Although they don’t do anything for the recognition, we have an amazing maintenance crew, lunch staff, nurse, officer, and administrators and we like to recognize them on their special days!
- This year’s **Gift Auction** is scheduled for February 28, 2025!! Thanks to Beata Zatorska and Alicia Brandt, this event is sure to be an amazing success!! At this time, we are asking for assistance in soliciting donations from local businesses, etc. If you would like a copy of the solicitation letter, please contact Beata at beata78@aol.com or Alicia at alicia.brandt11@gmail.com. Any donations you receive can be sent in to the school attn: Gift Auction. Please reach out to Beata or Alicia with any questions!

- **Spirit Wear** – our new Spirit Wear site is up and running! As discussed in the meeting, you will see new items added to the site over the next few weeks, including baseball hats, polo shirts, backpacks, zip-up sweatshirt designs, scarves, and more. Personalization on the items is free and if you choose “ship to school”, you will also enjoy free shipping. The items look great and we are excited to see our SAS families in their new gear! St. Ambrose receives a percentage back for all sales, so this is a great way to raise money for the school while wearing your SAS pride!
- **School Masses and Outdoor Rosary** – the dates throughout the school year are listed on the Save the Date. We invite our school families to come join us in prayer. If you have any questions about the Masses, or about your child training to be an altar server or lector, please reach out to Lisa O’Keefe. We have such pride in which the way our students of all ages worship so beautifully together!

Open Discussions

- The HSA page of our school’s website is updated with contact information, meeting notes, and more. Please take a look and let us know if we can help you in any way.
- Mr. Keach proposed the idea of possibly hosting a dad’s basketball league at St. Ambrose. We will get back to everyone with updates at the next meeting!
- There are many fun activities during the school day that are being planned for the students, including pumpkin patches, Advent Wreaths, Christmas shows, and more. It is going to be a beautiful holiday season!
- **Our next HSA General Meeting is scheduled for December 11th at 6:00pm.** As always, there will be a virtual option provided. Just for attending the meeting, your student(s) will receive a special treat!

Closing Comments

**Thank you for your support of St. Ambrose School!
May God bless you and your families always.
Enjoy a healthy and wonderful autumn season!**