



September 16, 2025 - 6:30 p.m. - School Commons

- **School board meeting began at 6:32**
with the Opening Prayer led by Fr. William Meininger

- **Introductions of new members and Attendance: Mike Dabler**

Evan Speicher, President
Kathryn Vidrine, Vice President
Mike Dabler, Secretary
Tiffany Yates, HASA Vice President
Anastasia Glassburn, At Large Member
Nicole Serge Nemes, At Large Member
Kimberly Obringer, School Principal
Kari and Joe Curylo, Co-Athletic Directors

- **Pastoral Council Update - Fr. William Meininger**

- No Pastoral Council meeting yet so we will update when available.
- The bishop officially kicked off the diocesan synod, which will take place in the fall of 2026.
- Each parish will have a prayerful opening and discussion scheduled.
- Reflection materials will be given out based on the five themes Bishop Rhodes wants to focus on.
- People will have the opportunity to share their reflections, which will be compiled and given to the bishop.
- We met our goal to replace the flat part of the gym roof.
- Barb Gropp, the former religion teacher and DRE for the parish, chose to spend more time with her family.
- We are moving forward with a family faith formation model where families come together once a month.

- We will have a family meal, breakout sessions for the children, and material review for the parents.
- The scripture study is primarily focused on scripture.
- The group is using the Great Adventure Bible and the kids' version, GPS (God's Plan in Scripture) by Ascension Press.
- A participant suggested doing something similar for school families to reinforce faith information, especially for those who don't attend Queen of Peace.
- Another participant mentioned wanting adult religious education (RE) because they felt they didn't gain much from Catholic school or religious education classes.

● **Athletics Update - Kari/Joe Curylo**

- The varsity and JV football teams with two boys from Queen of Peace are playing on the varsity team.
- The girls' soccer team that was formed quickly after another school couldn't find a coach.
- The girls' soccer team is playing with St. Jude's and Our Lady of Hungry.
- New uniforms were acquired for the soccer team this year.
- The team is doing well and having a fun season

Volleyball and Softball

- We are working on volleyball and need a couple more JV girls to have a team.
- We are working on grooming a girls' softball team and revamping the softball field.
- The softball field was built in 2013 but hasn't been used to its full potential.
- The plan is to have practices at the field, but ICCL might not allow games there.

Junior Saints

- There are no sports clubs for K-4 students.
- Junior Saints started in Mishawaka through Mishawaka Catholic.

Club Sports

- Club sports require someone to drive them hard to get started.
- The goal is to grow the Junior Saints group and increase enrollment by including St. Thomas and other nearby schools.
 - Surplus funds from increased enrollment would go back into athletics and potentially help the school with other needs.
- A new basketball hoop was recently purchased and installed using funds raised through athletics.

Basketball Clinic

- There have been discussions about a winter basketball clinic, but scheduling is difficult due to limited gym space and the busy sports schedule.

- The athletic group has considered recruiting high school basketball players to help run the clinic for younger kids.
- Marian does not offer clinics during the school year, but they do offer them in the summer.

Fundraising

- Hosting events is a primary source of income for the athletic program, but it requires volunteers.
- The goal is to host 96 games, which could generate a significant amount of revenue.
- There is a possibility of involving local priests who play basketball in a clinic.
- The school board can add volunteer opportunities to the school calendar and email list.
 - Volunteers are needed for gate fees, concessions, and running the books.
 - There is a need for someone to run the clock, and a 17-year-old could potentially fill that role.

Concessions

- Donations, especially of specific soda brands (Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, Powerade, and Gatorade in 20-ounce bottles), are crucial for maximizing profits in the concession stand.
- The Knights of Columbus may be able to donate hot dogs again this year.
- We are considering getting a cheese dispensing machine to regulate cheese usage.
- Popcorn is sourced from Gordon Food Service, with pre-prepared bags costing about 13 cents each and selling for a dollar.
- Cans of soda are sold for \$1, while water is also sold for \$1 (aiming to have 500-600 bottles of water at the start of the year).
- Once the game schedule is available, a sign-up genius will be created, and a QR code will be placed in the bulletin.
- The sign-up genius will include dates and times for door and concession duties, with shifts typically lasting a maximum of four hours.
- There will be a donation list for food items, particularly candies like peanut M&M's, chocolate M&M's, and Skittles, as well as ring pops.
 - Ring pops are profitable, costing 5 cents each and selling for a dollar.

Junior Saints Concession Stand

- Junior Saints is offering service hours for those who help out at the concession stand.
- The concession stand sells Gatorade, water, and popcorn for \$1 each.
 - There are three different hour time slots from 8:30 to 10:30.
- The sign-up genius link will be shared on the school's Facebook page and website.

● **HASA Update - Tiffany Yates**

Give Back Night

- The Hacienda give back night is next Tuesday.

- Carry out orders are accepted all day.
- When ordering online, a specific code must be used.

Other Updates

- The HASA meeting had a great turnout, possibly the biggest in a long time.
- A free dress down day was offered to the children.
- The school has a HASA Facebook page for updates and sign-up geniuses.
- It is a controlled page where posts require approval.

Book Fair

- The book fair will be November 1st through the 6th.
- It will be the St. Ignatius Book Fair.
- Teachers will have wish lists for the book fair.
- The book fair will take place during a weekend, including a Sunday for Mass, and during parent-teacher conferences.
- There is discussion of a spring Grandparents 2.0 day, possibly coinciding with a spring book fair.

Playground

- There is an ongoing discussion about the playground.

• **Principal Update - Kim Obringer**

Principal's Smart Goals

- Principals are required to create smart goals in marketing, enrollment, leadership, and faith.
- The principal's focus is on marketing.
- Goals include managerial, spiritual, and educational aspects.
- Targeted support for teachers through classroom observations is a key goal.
- Two full observations and one short observation are required by the end of the year.
- Post-observation conferences are also part of the support system.

Observations and Scheduling

- We will have schedules for the entire year to accommodate observations.

Spiritual Goals

- The goal is to foster a more vibrant and intentional prayer life among students.
- This involves diving into the "Virtues Equals Strength" program, exploring both virtues and vices.
- Students who demonstrate the virtue of the week receive a "role model certificate" and free cheese curds from Culver's.
- We would like students to be more involved in school masses, including serving, reading, and bringing up gifts.

Family Mass

- We are also working towards having students participate in the monthly family Mass, wearing their school uniforms to be more visible.
- The children's choir will sing at the Mass.

Professional Development

- We are hoping to provide professional development for teachers on using data in the classroom to improve standardized test scores (grades 3-8 or 2-8).
- A consultant provides year-long instruction, with quarterly half-day PD sessions.
- The PD focuses on how teachers can use student data to help struggling students.

Enrollment Focus

- The principal report focuses on enrollment, particularly preschool enrollment.
- Many preschool families are not staying for the duration through 8th grade, often being public school families.
- We need a marketing team/chair to help market toward Catholic families and convince current families to stay.
- A common misconception is that people can't afford Catholic school, and they are unaware of available resources and scholarships.

Financial Aid Suggestions

- One suggestion is to limit financial aid to registered parishioners who attend Mass or families who already have older students in the school.
- The current approach of offering aid to preschool families is not necessarily leading to long-term enrollment.
- "The reason why we have such good preschool enrollment with so many...families who have no intention of staying is because we offer financial aid, whereas no other preschools in the areas do."

Marketing Queen of Peace

- Queen of Peace has a "beautiful family atmosphere" where kids are happy to be there.
 - Beautiful art on the wall.
 - Beautiful grounds.
 - Kids spend two hours a day outside.
- Need to find out the compelling reasons why people send their kids to Queen of Peace.
- Biggest competition is Trinity Lutheran, which just expanded.

Other Schools

- St. Thomas More and St. Pius are known for academics.
- St. Mark's offers half days.

Faith Formation

- Faith formation is a top priority for devout Catholic parents.
- Hone in on faith formation and do it really well compared to other parochial schools.
- Mass every Sunday, adoration, and confession are important.

Communication

- The ability to listen and have parents feel heard is a positive.
- Word of mouth is important.

Marketing Ideas

- Market faith development, academics, communication, and family development.
- Focus on marketing now because January will be here quickly.
- Get a quote from U93 for Catholic Schools Week.
- Look at billboards.
- Set up a booth at the Potawatomi Zoo during Boo or Zoo Lights.
- Set up a booth at Mishawaka Parks and Rec events.

Parade and Trunk or Treat

- The Osceola and Mishawaka Memorial Day Parade were big things they used to do.
- They used to have a banner for the parade.
- Kids can wear spirit wear.
- Trunk or treat: There is a plan with the father for the trunk or treat.
- It will be mostly in-house.

Enrollment

- The school's cap is 246, and they are currently at 149.
- Enrollment is the exact same as last year.
- At one point, enrollment was up to 160.
- People emailed to say they were moving or couldn't afford it.
- Need to inform prospective parents of School Choice vouchers.

Father Bill's Impact

- Father Bill is one of the favorite priests we have had.
- He is the face of the school in terms of bringing in faith formation.
- Suggestions for Father Bill:
- "Wednesdays with William"
- Have lunches with the priest and the bishop.

Relatable Priests

- Father Yates at St. Joseph:
- Enrollment went up when he came.
- He was very approachable with the kids.

- He would come into the cafeteria and eat lunch with them.
- He would talk about sports and show up at sporting events.
- He would provide comic relief for the kids.
- He would show up with donuts.

Closing Remarks

- The next meeting is on October 20th at Marian.
- It's a diocesan in-service.
- All of the school boards on the South Bend side will meet at the high school.
- There will be a guest speaker and two different speakers.

- **Closing Prayer**

The meeting concluded at 7:41 with the prayer.

Respectfully Submitted
Mike Dabler, Secretary

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday October 20th, 2025 - TBD - Marian High School