



**END-OF-YEAR UPDATES
FROM THE COMMITTEES OF
THE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD
(SAB)**



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE (AE) COMMITTEE OF THE SAB

This year the Academic Excellence Committee focused on the key goal of deepening and strengthening mathematics understanding in our students through innovative instruction and updated curriculum materials. All teachers at St. Patrick’s read professional books about Number Talks and Math Discourse over the summer of 2021. These books helped to deepen their understanding of strategies for teaching math in preparation for our new math textbooks. During the summer of 2022 we will continue our work on math with focused professional development on math instruction. This professional development will be advanced using information gathered from the teachers on where students are struggling and what strategies and skills sets they want to focus on with our students. The training will be paid for by a grant that the Academic Excellence Committee of the SAB secured in collaboration with Miss Short through the Montgomery County Public School System.

Next year we will continue to focus on mathematics instruction and are excited about the professional development opportunities planned at the beginning of the school year. We have also started to gather data to plan our parent math night and hope to initiate our afterschool Math Club/Math League. The current needs of the students led to the emphasis on mathematics instruction. As a result, goals related to critical thinking skills are on hold and tentatively slated to become emphasis areas during the 2023-24 school year.



CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND SERVICE (CIS) COMMITTEE OF THE SAB

The Catholic identity of St Patrick's School is as vibrant as ever and easing covid restrictions throughout the 2021-2022 school year produced a renewed enthusiasm for worship, prayer, generosity and service to others for everyone in our community. As students returned to weekly mass with their buddies and morning assemblies in person with classmates, the CIS Committee advocated for incremental opportunities to gather as a community in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Stations of the Cross during Lent and increased interaction with our priests at assembly, in the classroom, on the playground and in the carpool line.

Our school has always had a strong sense of service and community involvement and our committee's impact was most visible expanding upon this spirit of service. Through the initiation of a "Faith in Action" spotlight within the SAB newsletter, the CIS Committee was able to highlight some of the service initiatives taking place within St. Patrick's. Members of the committee led the Little Disciples in Action (LDIA) group at the Parish level and by advertising LDIA service opportunities via the SAB newsletter and Tuesday Notes, our students had increased opportunities to be involved in hands-on service projects while also fostering a greater sense of School-Parish collaboration. Through the Treats for Troops drive our school and parish children donated 170 pounds of candy & over the holidays, local nursing and group homes were gifted wreaths, treat mugs and cards prepared by our St. Patrick's community. In May, some of our 1st-8th grade students were able to gather for the inaugural after-school service project packing backpacks for children being served through the Catholic Charities Refugee Services.

For the 2022-2023 School Year, the CIS Committee will continue to plan and promote age-appropriate service initiatives and provide additional opportunities for our students to grow in their faith. Specifically, we will focus on the possibility of offering a vocations panel and explore an additional retreat opportunity for our 2nd and 8th grade students. We will also be working to establish a more official liaison position within the CIS Committee to work with parents as issues arise regarding religious matters affecting both the Parish and School communities and explore the feasibility of a reoccurring Children's mass in which our school community may participate.



SCHOOL CULTURE AND CLIMATE (SCC) COMMITTEE OF THE SAB

This school year presented us with many Covid obstacles. Our committee, in conjunction with the Home and School Association, were able to hold events, with some creativity to ensure the health and safety of our students and families, while still creating the community feel that St. Patrick's prides itself on. While the past two years have been a challenge for all of us, the spirit and culture of our school has continued to be at the forefront of our events for our students, families, and parents. We have grown our HSA to enable us to have more volunteers helping plan and execute our events. We have also expanded our Alumni program through events, email correspondence, and through a database allowing us to remain in contact with our former students and families. Overall, this school year has been busy and successful for our community and the School Culture and Climate Committee is blessed and thankful to have so many parents who want to continue our traditions of volunteerism and leadership that makes our school stand out amongst the rest.

As we move into the 2022-2023 school year, we would like to bring back our wonderful Grandparents Club to be more of a presence in our school as we have seen prior to Covid. Having grandparent support and encouragement is a gift to St. Patrick's and we look forward to welcoming them back for Grandparents Day in the Fall. We also want to look at other event opportunities over the next year or two to provide a greater cultural experience for our students.



RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION COMMITTEE OF THE SAB

The Recruitment and Retention Committee worked hard this year to achieve our goal of developing effective strategies to attract, engage and retain school families, as well as highly qualified staff, that reflect a unified commitment to academic excellence, community service and social justice rooted in the Catholic faith. We are thrilled to report that we exceeded our enrollment and retention targets for the 2021-2022 School Year. The School achieved a 100% acceptance rate for students into Catholic high school and St. Patrick's School was able to offer financial aid and scholarships to all those families who have demonstrated a need.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee also worked with Miss Short to identify additional staffing needs that will support school leadership, current faculty and meet the identified needs of the St. Patrick's School Community. We worked hard to identify some great professional development opportunities that we hope can be offered to our teachers in the upcoming school year.

Last, but not least, the Marketing Committee (a subgroup of the Recruitment & Retention Committee) produced a monthly newsletter that hopefully offers a transparent and informative look at the work of the entire School Advisory Board. The Marketing Committee is also in the process of developing and implementing a comprehensive 5-year marketing plan to enhance the visibility of St. Patrick's School. This committee is currently working to refresh and enhance the website to provide current and prospective members to the school community with a website that is useful, timely and informative.

Next school year, the Committee will focus on work to help strengthen the recruitment process by identifying additional sources to recruit diverse and highly qualified teachers, and by assisting to help formalize the interview process. We will also continue our efforts to identify and provide opportunities for team building events, staff development and collaborative planning for St. Patrick's faculty and staff. The Committee plans to identify additional after school programming to increase the number of extracurricular activities available to students and ensure the aftercare needs of St. Patrick's families get addressed.



FACILITIES AND CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS (FCI) COMMITTEE OF THE SAB

The Facilities and Campus Improvements (FCI) Committee has been active throughout the 2021-2022 school in support of our primary mission to continuously evaluate and ensure the longevity, safety, security, sustainability, and aesthetics of the building and surrounding grounds. The campus was busy with ongoing maintenance throughout the year. Some notable items from the 2021-2022 school year are below.

Campus improvements for 2021-2022 started with a splash as we improved drainage near the cafeteria entrance to help keep our building dry during heavy rains. (We can also thank our local Boy Scouts for their handiwork updating our walking bridge to the field.) The children were delighted to receive a new and expanded playground with additional swings last fall to provide more outdoor fun for our students during downtime. Over winter break multiple indoor water fountains were upgraded to provide bottle filling stations to ensure that reusable water bottles can be easily refilled with filtered and chilled water.

Work will continue some larger projects through the summer break as we tackle larger projects that are more easily and safely accomplished while students and staff are out of the building. One of our larger investments will be for our roof maintenance. Based on the age of the facility, it is time to invest in our roof to keep the building envelope dry. The existing roof will be refurbished over the summer applying a new roof layer on top of our existing roof and ensuring that all areas are properly inspected and sealed for the coming years. The project provides St Patrick's with an extended warranty for materials and labor to ensure that our investment remains protected for years to come. Inside the building we will be making additional upgrades to the student bathrooms to improve privacy and replace aging stalls while across Kane Lane painters will be putting a fresh coat of paint on the Pre-K classroom to welcome our next generation of Badgers to campus in the Fall.

Campus security remains a focus for our school administration. Entering the school year the internal intercom and PA system was replaced with a modern system that supports traditional overhead communications as well as 1:1 communication between the front office and each classroom. While our students seemed to be puzzled by the new sounds coming from the internal bell system, the improved communication is critical during emergencies. This summer the security camera system will be upgraded with new cameras throughout campus and additional views of the inside and outside the building. The upgraded cameras are paired with better monitors and improved software to provide the front office with comprehensive oversight of our students and school visitors as they move around campus. The FCI performed research into the feasibility of expanding use of our campus for CYO sports. Based on the initial findings, the potential for expanded use of the soccer field is very limited. We will place future work on hold at this time.

The FCI team will continue to evaluate the needs of the facility and campus on an ongoing basis. Entering the 2022-2023 school year we will also be evaluating the stage and accompanying technology for areas of improvement and revisiting the potential for expanding our school facility. Special thanks to Bill Burgess of our Grandparents Club for his contributions to the FCI throughout the strategic planning process and the school year!



FINANCIAL PLANNING AND AFFORDABILITY (FPA) COMMITTEE OF THE SAB

This year the FPA Committee took several steps to ensure greater involvement throughout the School's Budget Cycle. We drafted a procedure, endorsed by the full SAB, that details the many ways we will provide advice to the School and Parish in the financial administration of School affairs: from initial formation of an upcoming school-year's operating budget, to distribution of any end-of-the year funds, either to needed capital projects or to Designated or Restricted Funds held by the Parish on behalf of the School. We met with the Parish Finance Council to ensure the Strategic Goals of the SAB were aligned with those of the Parish.

To further promote transparency, we worked with the Parish and School Principal to identify, for each fund held by the Parish on behalf of the School: a full description of the fund and its purpose, how the fund is seeded, the criteria for fund distribution, and the authorization process for any distribution. In this regard, we drafted a specific procedure, again endorsed by the full SAB, to govern administration of the School's Annual Fund. Among the goals of that procedure, is to assure collected funds are expended consistent with donor intent and in furtherance of a measurable outcome in the SAB Strategic Plan.

The FPA Committee will have renewed focus on further coordinating financial matters among the SAB, School Principal and the Parish Finance Council. Priorities moving into the 2022-2023 School Year include: continued involvement in formation of the operating budget for the next School-Year, administration of the Annual Fund, consideration of consolidating the several scholarship restricted funds into a single endowed scholarship fund, and conducting a review of salaries and benefits.