



Prep Family Association September 14, 2021 Minutes

- I. Opening Prayer – Rev. Matthew Spotts, S.J.
- II. Introductions
 - Catherine Mahoney, President
 - Shannon Dombrowski, President elect
- III. Principal's Report – Mr. Jim Bopp
 - Covid update – 2/3 of students are vaccinated and over 90% of faculty and staff are vaccinated. Prep Pulse provides the most up to date information on Covid, but right now the average is 1.5 new cases/week. Each case is a lot of work to touch base with close contacts. No cases are known to be transmissions within school. If cases tick up to 2-3 average/week, then the Douglas County Health department will want to start having connections mask up, quarantine, etc. Currently operating close to normal with dances, football games, etc. As long as no transmissions are connected to these activities they will continue to go on as normal. School nurse, Katie Corrigan, can test kids via rapid or PCR test as requested by parents/students.
 - Record rate of full ride scholarships offered to the 2021 graduating class. 1 in 4 students were offered full ride scholarships. 80% of students received scholarships of some kind.

- The school is seeing a higher percentage of AP and dual enrollment participation. Students can knock out almost a full year of college credits this way. Please work with counselor if looking for more information.
- 9 National Merit semi-finalists this year.
- School is focusing on culture of belonging and brotherhood. Jay Squad is an evolution of Big Brother program. Jay Squad consists of a couple of freshman and sophomores grouped together with a junior or senior leader. Big Brother was front end of welcoming the student, but that relationship would die off after homecoming. Jay Squad will be active all year with 8 get-togethers during Community Period throughout the year.
- Ignite Retreat for freshman is new and will focus on who the students are and their community of faith. The retreat will service as a precursor to the freshman retreat later in the year.
- Bus programming is up and running. There are still opportunities to sign up. Contact the school office if interested. 70 students currently taking advantage of the program.
- Prep's theme this year is "To See All Things New in Christ"
- Parents informed Mr. Bopp that the new format for the Prep Pulse is tough. The aesthetic is good, but the function is not. There is too much to "click" to get back and forth between the items.
- Vaping has dropped off significantly.
- September is Suicide Awareness Month and students are having discussions during Community Period.
- Activity Fair – students should have heard from club leaders regarding schedules by now unless the club is seasonal. If students haven't heard back regarding clubs or activities they signed up for, please let the club moderator or Sara Smith know to facilitate connection.

IV. Guest Speaker – Father Matthew Spotts, S.J.

- Father Spotts has been physically on the job as President since July 1, 2021.
- He was born at Bitburg AFB, Germany. He moved to Atlanta GA at the age of four, but ultimately grew up in Cincinnati, OH.
- Attended St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati. Xavier had the same feel as Prep. It was an all boys school. He loved the sense

of mission, teachers, coaches and mentors. He learned that God had a purpose for him.

- Attended college at Fordham University in Bronx, NY where his call to service was deepened.
- Taught at Brebeuf Jesuit in Indianapolis, IN. He saw here how much what happens in secondary school matters. Jesuit high schools are four critical years for both competence and conscience. He feels he has been called to secondary education.
- He also was a prison chaplain at San Quentin State Prison and has served as an Associate Pastor in Wilmette, IL.
- His shared vision for Prep is characterized by:
 - o Every student is unique and a treasure.
 - o Students glorify God by the act of discovering and cultivating the fullness of their God-given abilities
 - o Faculty and staff glorify God by providing educational and formative opportunities second to none.

V. Recent PFA Events and Updates – Catherine Mahoney

- All three events in August (New Family Mass and Orientation, Welcome Dance, and Curriculum Night) were well attended with around 1,000 people at each event.
- Catherine also noted that all parents and guardians are automatically members of PFA. There are no dues or fees associated with PFA.
- PFA page on CP's website has a list of all events. When you click on an event, it gives a summary of the event, chairs, etc.
- Prep Pulse always has info on PFA events also.
- PFA has a Facebook page.
- PFA has four regular meetings throughout the year.
- PFA's two big events are "Mom Prom" and Post Prom/"Last Dance."
- Homecoming is becoming the more formal dance, and Prom is becoming more casual since they already attend formal Proms at Marian, Duchesne, and Mercy. Kids really like the "Last Dance" and they don't need a date to attend. It is over by 11:30 p.m. which is much easier on parent volunteers.

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- VI. Upcoming Events – Catherine Mahoney
- Preptoberfest 9-25-21– This is not a PFA event, we just provide volunteers. May need some more volunteers, check the SignUpGenius on the PFA link on CP website.
 - Freshman Homecoming Dance 10-2-21 – Volunteer spots are full
 - Homecoming Dance 10-9-21 – Will need volunteers and the SignUpGenius will be coming.
 - PFA Fall Social 10-13-21 –No more volunteers needed.
 - Ignatian Breakfast 10-15-21. There are four of these each year. Great opportunity to volunteer and meet some of the teachers and staff.

VII. Closing Prayer – Catherine Mahoney