

SCHOOL OF ST. MARY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) NEWSLETTER

APRIL/MAY 2025



SOSM Staff and SAC Plan for 2025-26 School Year

Technology

Staff continue to manage the transfer of all digital platforms to Blackbaud (an industry-leading software system for schools and non-profits), which will offer much more efficient and integrated support for teachers and parents to communicate and receive updates next school year. Watch for details about how to access your account!

Teacher Retention & Recruitment

SOSM leadership continues to work with teachers to finalize 2025-26 contracts, with more than 90% signed. Kathy and Clare are interviewing teachers for current openings, including 5th grade, Spanish, and Music, and two new teachers have been hired. More details will be coming soon, as plans are finalized with the candidates.

We'll recap 2024-2025 workplans and prioritize 2025-26 goals at the next meetings. Please join us!

May 21, 7:00-9:00 p.m., UGC

June 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m., UGC

Know and Share Facts!

Please share facts about SOSM as we work together to enhance our community so our staff and students can thrive.

- **380 students are enrolled for the 2025-26 school year.** The 2025-26 budget is based on 400 students, so we're on track to achieve this goal.
- The **2025-26 tuition increase of 6.5% is consistent with previous increases. During the past three years, the tuition increase was 6% each year.** This year's increase covers essential investments for our school's future, such as new Math curriculum, Blackbaud technology, and an in-house Spanish instructor.
- The **annual per-student comprehensive fee** that parents recently paid covers classroom materials such as books and supplies, as well as the cost of most field trips, classroom parties, and similar activities.

PA and Crusader Annual Fund

Thanks to our very generous families and community, the PA has raised more than \$315,000 so far this school year! In addition to supporting school operating costs, the Crusader Annual Fund provides end-of-year bonuses to teachers, including **\$130,000 that was given to teachers this week to cap off Teacher Appreciation Week!**

Thank you for your support!

Student Life

Congrats to the 5 students who received the first *Heart of a Crusader Award* in April! **Anyone can nominate a student for embodying the Crusader Creed and SOSM values at school, in the community, or at home!**

Learn more on the school website!

Ideas and questions? Please contact the SAC Executive Committee by reaching out to Michelle Kijek, 312.952.0220 or mfricke@live.com.

Approved meeting minutes are posted on the school website.

We appreciate your suggestions!