

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

FEBRUARY 4, 2025



## School Advisory Council (SAC) Provides Strategic Counsel and Support

On November 20, your new SAC convened for the first time to outline an updated approach that aligns with both Archdiocese expectations and Committee goals. The SAC is established to:

- Provide counsel and advice to Father Mike, Kathy Thompson and Clare Giannelli, on a variety of topics such as:
  - Financial management
  - Technology and other operating resources
  - School advancement, including curriculum, marketing, Catholic identity, and teacher/family recruitment & retention
  - Long-range planning

The SAC is not a governing body and is not responsible for implementing school policies or procedures.

**The Executive Committee is committed to enhanced transparency and communication, so we plan to post approved meeting minutes on the school website and send this newsletter to all parents each month.**

## SAC Aligns on Goals to Support School Priorities

The SAC is comprised of 10 committees reflecting the SOSM mission and priorities outlined by administration.

Ongoing committee project highlights include:

- **Technology:** Launch of a new Learning Management System (Blackbaud) to replace current digital platforms to improve efficiency, integration, and communication for faculty and parents; the system will be installed this year so it's ready for 2025-26.
- **Student Life:** Continued efforts to enhance our growing athletics program, as well as a new student recognition program to celebrate Crusader values.
- **Curriculum:** Research to identify optimal programming for foreign language instruction and evaluate new math textbooks for adoption by SOSM in grades K-5.
- **Retention:** Community-building and student experiences (e.g., "shadow day") to help engage and retain families, particularly as they move to the UGC.

*We'll feature different committees each month. You can read meeting minutes at [www.schoolofstmary.org/community/sac-meetings.cfm](http://www.schoolofstmary.org/community/sac-meetings.cfm)*

## SAC Members Reflect Both Campuses and All Grades

SAC members are appointed by Father Mike and Kathy Thompson. The 25 SAC members include:

- 3 SOSM faculty/staff members
- 14 members with children at the UGC
- 18 members with children at the PGC
- 11 members with children at both campuses
- 8 SOSM alums
- Representation from every grade, except 7th

*All members are listed on the school website.*

## Guests Are Welcome at SAC Meetings!

Parents are invited to join SAC meetings, which are held every two months. Dates for the rest of the school year are posted on the school calendar. Each meeting agenda includes time for guests to share constructive thoughts on agenda and non-agenda items. Approved minutes, including guest comments, are posted on the school website.

**Please Join Upcoming SAC Meetings!**  
**February 6, 6:30-7:30 pm: Meet & Greet, UGC**  
**March 19, 7:00-9:00 pm: SAC Meeting, UGC**

*Questions? Please contact the SAC Executive Committee  
by reaching out to Michelle Kijek, 312.952.0220*