

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

MARCH 31, 2025



## SOSM Staff and SAC Partner to Achieve Goals

### Family Retention

- "Pack the Gym Night" was a HUGE success, with more than 25% of PGC and UGC students attending and showing their school spirit!
- Parents and rising 4th graders enjoyed their recent visit to the UGC to meet Ms. Franco & Mrs. Phelps and explore the UGC facilities. This was a great way to ease any nerves related to moving up to the UGC – and have a lot of fun together!
- The 3rd-4th grade Teacher Swap was a big hit with students (and teachers) who loved seeing their former teachers/classes and meeting their new ones!

### Technology

- Staff are excited about the ongoing rollout of Blackbaud, an integrated platform for SOSM digital needs that will better support teachers and parents.

### Catholic Identity

- The Hallow app is now available for teachers and staff to enhance their faith-based curriculum. The school was able to secure a discounted subscription to offer the app to 2nd-8th grade families; more details will be sent home soon!

### Student Life

- The *Heart of a Crusader Award* is launching in April to recognize PGC and UGC students who embody Crusader Values. Stay tuned for more details about how you can nominate students and celebrate when your child is honored!
- Athletics continue to enhance our community. The Basketball Banquet was a big success, bringing together families in 4th-8th grades. Plans are underway to refine the *Athlete of the Year Award*. Stay tuned!

### Teacher Retention

- As part of ongoing efforts to support staff, faculty recently completed an assessment that was discussed during their February staff meeting, to help improve collaboration and culture for our teachers and administrative staff.

### Parents Association

- Thanks to our generous community and volunteers, the PA has surpassed its Crusader Annual Fund goal of \$330,000 – including tuition raffle (\$11,000) and Annual Gala & Auction (\$300,000+) results. Stay tuned for Crusader Chase details!
- The Crusader Annual Fund bridges the gap between tuition and actual operating costs, so we can support teachers with year-end bonuses and invest in classroom resources that support a Blue-Ribbon learning experience for our children.

## Know & Share the Facts!

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

- More than **370 students are enrolled for the 2025-26 school year**, which is very strong at this point of the year. The 2025-26 budget is based on 400 students, so we're on track to achieve this goal. **Please re-enroll if you haven't done so yet, so the principals can plan staffing accordingly.**
- Recruiting efforts are underway to identify a new **5th grade Math teacher, Spanish teacher, and UGC music director.**
- The Finance Committee shared that the school continues to operate with a **balanced budget**. They worked hard with school leadership to support keeping the 2025-26 tuition increase as modest as possible. In fact, **the 2025-26 increase of 6.5% is consistent with annual increases during the past 3 years, which were 6% each year.** This will ensure the annual budget can cover teacher salary increases; new Math and Spanish teachers; higher insurance costs; new Blackbaud/IT support; and inflation-related costs – many of which are essential investments for our school's future.

### Please Join Upcoming SAC Meetings!

May 21, 7:00-9:00 pm, UGC

*Approved meeting minutes are posted on the school website.*

Questions? Please contact the SAC Executive Committee by reaching out to Michelle Kijek, 312.952.0220 or [mfricke@live.com](mailto:mfricke@live.com) with any questions. Thank you!