

Tri-Parish Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
2/28/22 @ 6pm, Holy Rosary School Library

Committee Members Present: Mary Lansing, Erik Reuter, Nancy Bechel, Father Emmanuel, Benjamin Mitchell, Diane Weiss, Brittnie McMahon, Sarah Weber

Meeting called to order by Erik at approximately 6:05pm

Opening Prayer by Erik

Previous meeting minutes reviewed and approved

- Mary Lansing / ACS Updates
  - Mrs. Lansing requested feedback regarding the Advent and Christmas School Programs. Discussed pros and cons of consolidating programs, keeping as is, etc. Father Emmanuel really enjoys the Live Nativity and wants to keep it for the future.
  - Book Fairs
    - Using Usborne and Good News, as Scholastic becoming too secular in nature.
    - Online and in person
  - Curriculum (see handout)
    - Discussion of current curriculum, potential curriculum, pros and cons.
    - Nancy discussed Word of Life religion curriculum (need to find out if textbooks are consumable/reusable).
      - Focus on evangelization, innovative relationship building, tools for engaging parents.
    - Discussion about need for new Algebra textbooks and Social Studies textbooks.
      - Discussion about changing Social Studies to mirror what public school is doing or taking more a more civics and Church history based approach, etc.
    - Discussion about gradually changing curriculum to be more classical based vs “teaching to the test.”
      - Would require teacher training, changing mindset of how kids learn and parent expectation.
      - Mrs. Lansing will reach out to McDonell as they are in the beginning stages of implementing classical education. Will request info about how they got to this point, what it involved, etc.
    - Mrs. Lansing reached out to Providence in La Crosse about their approach to classical education. Their literature program is books based (reading guides, worksheets, memory quizzes, book test, etc.)
    - As of now, ranking for need for new curriculum / textbooks is Literature, Algebra, Social Studies.

- ACS Open House
  - Brittne will put together cards to send out for Open House on 3/24.
    - Will include info about the Art Fair and a free ticket to JJ BBQ dine in or take out on 3/31 (Night of 8th grade play and Science Fair).
  - Erik will get mailing list to Mrs. Lansing, Sarah will address envelopes.
  - Angie Tulip suggested using a room for a family art project night of open house. To be discussed at the next staff meeting.
  
- Benjamin Mitchell/Faith Formation (FF) Updates
  - Mondovi campus experienced a fire, everyone safe. Class is now in the church basement and rectory. There are no Safe Environment concerns with regard to this.
  - March for Life: no one attended due to questions about covid; Diocese did not go either.
  - Ash Wednesday: 1st-5th grade CCD kids will take on mass roles at Durand; 6th-10th grade CCD kids at Mondovi.
    - Erik asked about CCD kids participating in church activities such as mass. Benjamin stated it is a Confirmation requirement to participate in such things as mass, fish fry, PCCW, KOC, etc.
      - Difficult as lack of parental involvement leads to apathy in students.
      - Considering family faith nights being required as a way to involve parents more. Also considering bringing back the Dead Theologians Society (DTS); Nancy offered to help with this.
  
- Father Emmanuel/Pastors' Updates
  - Father Timothy wanted Father Emmanuel to confirm that Latin Masses will begin the 1st Saturday of each month beginning 3/5 @ 8am.
    - There will be a handout explaining what is being said and done.
    - Based on Vatican I mass; Fr. Timothy needed approval from Diocese to hold these masses.
  - Lent
    - Confessions are lined up.
    - RCIA candidates are in the process of preparing for Easter Vigil; they will go to La Crosse on 3/6 for the Rite of Election.
  - Father liked the example of the Lenten calendar Erik sent out prior to the meeting. Discussion about doing something like that next year.
  - Father commented he wishes the Diocese would provide curriculum guidance for Catholic schools, as without a Catholic publisher, we are not in control of the content.

- Nancy suggested going to the Relevant Radio website to listen to Father Rocky's 1-3 minute videos each day of Lent (Pray 40). Suggested using the videos as a prayer prompt for students.

Next meeting scheduled for ??

Closing Prayer by Father Emmanuel

Meeting adjourned [by Erik] at approximately 815pm