



Our mission at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School is to educate, model, and inspire faith, academic excellence, integrity, respect and service within ourselves and the global community.

### **School Commission Agenda: November 2025**

Date: November 18, 2025

Location: Library 5pm-6:30pm

Attending – Bernie, Ashley, Melissa, Mike, Houston, Brett, Christian, Rochelle, Dan, Nicole, Jen

#### **I. Opening**

- Prayer - Dan
- Opening Remarks
- Bernie – Staff Retreat - Catholic – Fr. Olson held mass, focus on how would the community know we are Catholic, productive ideas – class will write to a seminarian for the year, promoting our Catholic faith
- Approval of Last Month's Minutes - Ashley

#### **II. New Business – 5:15**

- Fun Development
  - Where the money went – Outdoor timer – time themselves running, for a game
  - Draft for the school's news post
  - Survey - Open ended questions for the first survey, launching Dec. 1
  - Activities that can happen for families
  - Have a money goal.
- Family Financial Aid

- The amount has been the same for the last 5 years.
- Fiscally prudent and responsible, fiscally sound
- Allowed in-parish tuition in the past
- Tuition assistance is budgeted for every year – complete the hardship form
- School needs to budget without the parish subsidy. The parish doesn't have enough money.
- Create a three year budget to be stable
- Restricted, curriculum adoption, staff increases, enrollment is flattening out

### **III. Updates – 6:00**

- Budget – Melissa
  - Updates with restricted accounts
- Teachers
- General Climate
  - Prep/Participate for Thanksgiving Food Drive in collaboration with SVDP; they are very grateful and appreciative
  - 4th Grade Prayer Service in correlation with Food Drive
  - 4th - changing from student led conferences to teacher led
  - Preparing for conferences, data focused (MAP, Dibels, classroom assessments)
  - Data tracking for individual students of concern- behavior/recovery, etc.
  - Teachers helping out at recesses and lunch coverage duties in Mrs.V's absence
  - Teachers loved the Taco Tuesday luncheon, thank you to Parents Club!
  - Trunk or Treat although it was very wet was great!- inflatables were great in the gym, food choices were great, booths were fun and kids had a blast
  - CIC retreat day was prayerful, reflective, and a bountiful gift in spending time together as a staff/parish staff community. Father Olson's presence at our in-service was well-received as we attempt to focus on supporting vocations. Several ideas were generated, and we enjoyed a Mass together with the parish staff
- Highlights Happening!
- Successful 4th grade Corn Maze Field Trip (Lot of volunteers but was hard to get them signed up early on)
- Kindergarten field trip to Pumpkin Patch- lots of parent helpers

- Veterans Day Assembly/Prayer service, led by 6th grade
- Veterans Day Cards (1st-4th) sent to the VA Hospital on Beacon Hill
- Kindergarten sent Veterans Day Cards to the veterans in the parish.
- All Saints Day projects, lots of participation of students in saints costumes
- First grade is learning how to retell a story with a beginning, middle and end
- First grade offered intentions for our first grade families past and present Veterans
- Library: The Waligora family generously donated *The Story of All Stories: A Story Bible for Young Catholics*. Mrs. Buennagel has been searching for a publisher that offers engaging stories for young Catholic readers, and this book is a wonderful find. Another family also shared a brochure featuring this title along with several others from the same publisher. Mrs. Buennagel plans to use a portion of our Book Fair proceeds to purchase additional books for the library from this collection.
- **STEM Update:**  
Our 4th grade balloon cars were a huge success! Students demonstrated perseverance and problem-solving skills while learning about Newton's Laws of Motion. Fifth graders kicked off their work with **SAM Labs**, exploring how stoplights function and learning the science behind them.
- Fourth grade also enjoyed the story *Roxaboxen* and is now designing **Santa Village** shops for our upcoming Book Fair. First graders are creating trees, second graders are making reindeer, and third graders are crafting elves—each activity is paired with a related book to bring learning to life.
- 2nd grade is working on persuasive writing through a "Turkey in Disguise" project.
- Literacy coach continues to promote vocabulary development and strategies for teaching new vocabulary to all learners.
- 8<sup>th</sup> – career focus – graphic designs applied to flyer, tackled real world problems
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Spanish has a new great curriculum, learning a lot with the book, writing, and speaking
- Parent Club

- Trunk or Treat – Read by Bernie (from Andrew)
  - A success for the families
  - Did well fiscally
  - Needed more volunteers
  - Bouncy house was busy – lots of rain outside
- Turkey Bingo tomorrow, 11-19
- Legal – Brett
  - Federal tax program – Allow a tax credit, educational program, doubtful that is going to benefit a religious program
- Marketing – Ashley
  - Alumni to-dos
- Facilities – Rochelle
  - New manager – Jared Palmer
  - Welcome Circles
  - What do groups need for the lower parking lot, storage, security – controlled gate
- Security – Bernie
  - Film for the windows
  - Ring cameras – 5<sup>th</sup> grade and front door
- It – Christian
  - Phone system – savings
  - MSP – service provider
  - Ziply
  - Network
  - Printers – Be able for students to print
- Advent Concert – Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>
  - 6,7,8<sup>th</sup> graders are asked to volunteer to participate
  - Money is towards the organ