



# NOTRE DAME

Preparatory High School

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## PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ORGANIZATION

### General Meeting

January 21, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. Twenty-two people were in attendance. Copies of the agenda and mission statement were distributed.

#### I. Opening Prayer and Mission Statement – Betty Fritcke

- Betty Fritcke, president, opened the meeting with a prayer and invited all present to read the mission statement with her.

#### II. President's Report – Betty Fritcke

- Betty gave a brief introduction about the purpose of the P.T.S.O. and the topics on this evening's agenda.

#### III. Student Organizations

- Ashley Montag reported that the Student Government Association is having a blood drive on February 4, 2009. Parents and staff who want to donate will have first priority on the schedule. This is the first year that 16-year-olds can donate if they have parental permission. SGA's goal is to have 75 units of blood donated.

#### IV. Academic Departments

- Social Studies – Tanya Bartlett, Department Chair, reported that the department is working with the Diocese of Phoenix to better align the curriculum with Arizona state standards as well as the added Catholic identity component. In the mapping of the curriculum care is being taken to make sure the Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs) are not only part of the curriculum but being measured as well. They are more than halfway finished with their work on the revised standards. Different textbooks may be introduced next year. Six hundred and twenty-five NDP students voted in the national Kids Voting event held during the presidential election in November, an important aspect of citizenship. Peer Trainers went into classrooms and talked about respecting others from different social and economic backgrounds. Online interactive websites allow students to work from home on collaborative assignments. Freshmen students are shown how to use their daily planner by counselors from the Guidance Office. Many students take Social Studies as electives. They seem to enjoy the electives that are offered.

- Technology – Don Sterkowitz, Instructor, said there are currently two teachers in the department, himself and Ms. Helen Lamoure. Deacon Carbone teaches Honors/AP Java. The Technology Department meets the Diocesan, state and national standards, with the faith component at the top. Teachers work to implement the Catholic identity and ESLRs into their curriculum on a daily basis. While learning how to edit and lay soundtrack, technology students are incorporating their Catholic identity into their assignments. Technology students recently completed a video to help with book donations for the “Invisible Children” service project on the NDP campus. Classes are many and varied. Computer Basics, Microsoft Office Suite, Computer Graphics, Digital Video and Web Design I and II are some of the classes offered. Mr. Sterkowitz also manages the NDP website and will be redesigning it with input from a committee of staff and parents. Eventually alumni activities and Varsity Shop ordering will be online.
  
- World Language Department – Andi Miller, Department Chair, reported that there are 7 full-time Spanish teachers, 1 full-time French teacher and 1 part-time Latin teacher. Seven of them have masters degrees. The French teacher has her doctorate. Two teachers are currently working on their Masters and one is working on a doctorate degree. There is a combined 110 teaching years of experience in the department. Students are encouraged to work into advanced or honors classes; they are not stuck in a particular track. Three years of one language is required with many students taking four years. There is a 5<sup>th</sup> year Spanish class, Conversation and Culture, geared towards students who completed their language requirements earlier than their senior year. ESLRs are addressed by daily prayer (reverence) in the target language and by studying various cultures and the immigration issue (respect).

#### V. Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLR) update

- David Gonsalves and Tanya Bartlett reported for Preston Colao who could not attend the meeting. The ESLRs (Reverence, Respect, Responsibility) were created prior to accreditation. Students, parents, faculty and staff worked together to create standards that students should achieve upon graduation from Notre Dame Preparatory. These Expected Schoolwide Learning Results appear in all buildings on campus. They are implemented in the curriculum of the school and carried into all aspects of student life. State standards are more easily measured than NDP’s ESLRs. NDP’s goal is to prepare students for life not just a job. The whole person is important not just the grades. NDP was fully accredited last year, and the accreditation team will return to campus in three years to see what progress has been made.

## VI. The Significance of Spirituality Panel

- Brenda Beers, Student Activities Director gave a brief introduction about the essential ingredient of faith in Notre Dame Preparatory. The panel, made up of students, will be sharing how the students have moved beyond the questioning, searching stage of faith and are now “walking the talk.” They have fully embraced an active participation in their faith.

### Panel members:

1. Zari Panosian - Marian Committee. The committee was founded by students who wanted to find ways to honor Mary on campus. They asked for donations from students and parents and bought artificial poinsettias to place around the statue of Mary at 98<sup>th</sup> Street and Bell Rd. They lead a rosary at the chapel once a month after school. Activities in the future will be a May Crowning on at the statue of Mary in the courtyard near the cafeteria and praying the rosary at the statue on 98<sup>th</sup> Street and Bell. All are welcome to join in the rosary. Carolyn Rock, Development Department, said that perhaps a NDP Christmas card could be developed for next year using the students’ ideas.
2. Jessica Pruett – Liturgy Committee and Life Teen. Jessica gave a perspective of how the students at NDP influenced her life with their faith. She was not a religious person before coming to NDP and wasn’t raised in any faith. Students have helped her believe. Seeing students living out their faith is the reason she is active in religious activities on campus. Even though she is not Catholic she is very affected by the faith of students on campus.
3. Becca Wraith – Religious Coordinators and Peer Ministers. Becca said that the Peer Ministers help with class retreats. She said you learn more about your faith by teaching younger students at the retreats. Community grows as an outcome of the retreats. Religious coordinators are elected by their classes and help plan masses and coordinate two school-wide service projects each year during Advent and Lent.
4. Sam Regonini- Bring It is a group of young men, who, with Fr Michael Goodyear, meet to try to become better men in Christ by reading scripture and reflecting on Christian teachings. Many of the thirty young men are athletes.
5. Eric Hopkins – Senior Legacy Club. The club is made up of seniors who want to work on a service project to help build simple homes in Agua Prieta, Mexico. They are made out of mortar, brick and sheet metal. The club has made about four trips already this year. When they are

- not building they are distributing food and clothing for the people. The service project has been life changing for Eric. People there are so poor but their faith is so abundant. Our life styles are so different. “We believe that all our service is for the glory of God, and we pray before everything we do. Our goal is to pick out good leaders in next year’s senior class to help lead this project and keep it going at NDP.”
6. Megan Kelly – Friends of the Orphans. Each Spring Break, Notre Dame Preparatory students go to a sugar plantation near Cuernavaca, Mexico to minister to over 400 children in an orphanage. It is a nonprofit organization started in Mexico by a priest, and it now supports multiple houses in Latin America. Megan and her family “adopted” an orphan and all the money they send goes into a communal fund divided evenly for all the orphans. Megan expressed what an incredible experience it was to go and be changed by these young children who have nothing but are so happy to have someone to play with them for a week. She encourages parents to send their students during Spring Break for this activity. Last year there were almost 50 students.
  7. Sean Morrow – Hands Across the Border. Sister Yolanda Mendoza and Mrs. Barbara Stanley take about 15 students each year to Tijuana, Mexico during Spring Break and stay in a convent to do whatever is needed in the community. Last year they helped refurbish church pews and built a canal for another church. Sean shared that he had no idea how different life is in Mexico until he saw it; he found it difficult to come home and watch television when he had seen so many children in Mexico who didn’t even have running water. He invites students to get involved if they really want to help. The young children they play with become like little brothers and sisters. It’s not about the service hours; it’s about helping others and witnessing how they live. Sean said he definitely came back from his trip changed by the experience.
  8. Andrea Guajardo - Pure Fashion and Daily Mass. Andrea is an exchange student from Mexico. Pure Fashion is an organization that encourages and teaches girls ages 14 - 18 to dress modestly and act purely and to live life as a good Christian. It was begun in 1999 by moms in Chicago and Seattle. There are different activities at each meeting and there is a spiritual aspect to it. She enjoys getting to know girls who have the same values and virtues as she does. Because there are only three girls from NDP involved in Pure Fashion, the meetings are held off campus with girls from other schools. Pure Fashion will be encouraged in next year’s theology classes. Andrea also encourages more students to attend daily mass to become close to God.

VII. “All About Notre Dame” – Principal David Gonsalves

David Gonsalves reported that the tough economy is affecting enrollment at Catholic schools. NDP is doing okay as it relates to donations to the CTODP. We have lost 14 families since the beginning of the year. NDP has 928 students, and the budget is based on 900 students. We try everything we can to keep the students. If you know of any family that needs help, please let the administration know, because there are friends of NDP willing to help families with financial needs.

The panel of students speaking about the spiritual aspect of NDP is to be applauded. We want to produce students who will influence other students to be involved in the spiritual life of their community. We wish all parents could hear the remarkable comments shared tonight. Perhaps we can have a similar panel at orientation in the fall. It would be a good idea to videotape the panel.

Betty thanked all for coming and announced that the next meeting will be March 25, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ellen Murphy  
Secretary