

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION: A SUMMARY OF INITIAL DISCUSSION



During the Home & School Meeting held Thursday, September 13, Sarah Gority presented information about the formation of and first steps for our Holy Trinity Catholic School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

The following is a summary of the Home & School Meeting discussion and includes the next steps you can take if you're a parent who is interested in the PTO, especially if you were unable to attend on 9/13.

Presenters

Sarah Gority (srg21@psu.edu) is a parent from the Altoona elementary campus. She and her husband have two students at HTCS. Shane is in 2nd grade with Mrs. Craw; Alison is in Kindergarten with Mrs. McClure.

Nicole Hite (nicolehite@gmail.com) is also an Altoona parent with two students at HTCS. Alyssa is in 4th grade with Mrs. Bagley; Vinnie is in 1st grade with Mrs. Beckel.

History

At the start of the 17-18 academic year, the Principals and some parent volunteers devised plans and implemented marketing efforts and community-building events for the school. It was because of this interaction that 3 key needs made themselves clear. Having an active PTO in place can significantly help to mitigate these needs.

The Need

Although it's not a traditional function of a PTO, decreasing the amount of work our principals put toward fundraising would afford them time to focus on the school's more strategic needs.

We, the parent body, are a vast and robust asset to the school. If we come together, in a common goal, we could be a powerhouse of energy and productivity (in fundraising and other key areas) that can help lighten the load of our administrators which will have a positive ripple-effect to our teachers, parent body, and our students.

Holy Trinity is a unique educational model. We are one school geographically disbursed across three campuses. Currently, parent volunteers are operating in small groups at our respective campuses, duplicating efforts and struggles, and communicating in silos. A PTO will

(see reverse)

PTO INTEREST SHEET

Completing the information below does not obligate you to help or volunteer. We're just trying to gauge interest!

Name _____

Email _____

Occupation/Area of Expertise _____

Grade of Oldest _____

- Altoona
Hollidaysburg
Middle School

PTO Area of Interest _____

Grade of Youngest _____

Anything else you'd like us to know about you? Suggestions? _____

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afford us a method to have a unified voice with our administrators, teachers, and board, and a vehicle to consolidate our talents and areas of expertise for the betterment of our Holy Trinity community.

Our Mission & Shared Ownership

The mission of a PTO functions as the guiding light for current and future PTO volunteers, so we're starting on the right foot by having this clearly communicated from our first moment.

The Mission Statement of Holy Trinity Catholic School PTO reads:

The purpose of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is to enhance the Holy Trinity Catholic School educational experience and develop a closer connection between school and home by encouraging parent involvement – through volunteerism and financial support – for an overall improved Holy Trinity community environment.

As it stands, the mission of the PTO is the only thing that is set in stone because the PTO is going to be the parents' organization. We will build it together.

Next Steps

For those of you who are interested in the PTO, please complete the sheet on the front of this document. (If you prefer, you can email your information to Sarah Gority at SRG21@psu.edu.)

Completing the Interest Sheet or emailing Sarah does not obligate you to do or join anything. The purpose of gathering this information is to gauge how much interest there is and from whom.

The information provided by interested parents will be used by the Principals, Sarah, and Nicole to identify a small group of initial "do-ers" to help get the ball rolling with Executive Committee nominations, elections, and some other necessary first steps.

Looking Forward

As the PTO has started to become a reality, the energy and enthusiasm from our principals and parents is truly encouraging. All of us are excited to see the positive changes for the school and for our kids that will come from this and we hope you are too!

Please continue to keep an eye on the Family Folder for more PTO information to come in October or November.