

Scotus Mother Meeting, October 2017  
State of the School Address

For the first annual State of the School Address, 29 people attended. Scotus Mothers plans to continue to host this annually. Mr. Ohnoutka's shared visions for going forward and they included:

Academics: Scotus students do very well on standardized tests, but that's not all the school wants to trumpet. Being 3 points above the state average is great, but what's also important and will continue to be a focus is what our students can do when they leave - be examples of faith, helpful, problem solvers, strong community members and more.

Curriculum: Should expectations be increased? Currently, 81% of seniors have two study halls. Could they be taking more challenging courses? On-line courses during study hall? Are we best utilizing our teachers? It is recognized that with "low pay", teachers are given the "gift of time" by having two planning periods. Plan to add a YouTube channel next year for students to experience videography.

STEAM Lab: The Chuck Hagel dinner raised \$281,000. The lab will be in double classrooms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Walls will have white boards for students to "think" through ideas, i.e. maker space. Starting in 2018/19, students will start with STEAM 1 (an elective course). For example, electrical kits provided. In STEAM 1, students show they can follow step by step instructions. In next course, STEAM 2, students would take it a step further and create the electrical kit. Students could work on projects in class, also come in during study hall and after school until 4:30. Students will need to take Introduction to Computer Science, i.e. learn coding, before they could take STEAM Lab. We currently do not have this course. One goal is for students to have 'hands-on' opportunities, taking it beyond book smarts. Once in college, they can say "I've done this. I understand this". For example, using a 3-D printer, virtual reality glasses, working in a greenhouse.....

Catholic Identity: It's important for our school to have a Catholic identity. When people walk into the school, it should be clear we are a Catholic school. Hence the reason for starting the charism banners (last year it was gratitude), having Stations of the Cross, the 10 Commandments were added to the north stairs and more.

Student Community Service: Our students are in the community doing service for their required hours. A greater focus could be placed on more "meaningful" service. An idea would be for students to do a 20 hour service project for their community. Students will learn that service to community can go beyond helping to move chairs to something more impactful.

Facilities:

- Annual appeal this year is for air conditioning of Dowd Activity Center. The current unit is huge and only 30% to 40% of it is now being utilized. Adding more load will make it more efficient. It may possibly be in by graduation or at least for summer.
- New parking lot is complete.
- Renovation of practice football/soccer field is being completed. Raising the field, adding new irrigation, etc.
- Future projects: Would like to refurbish media center and maybe create one area where students can gather. Had envisioned enclosing the student courtyard to create a commons area but this is not feasible at this time. If done, the school would also have to install a sprinkler system and elevator. These two projects will need to be done eventually. Memorial Hall needs improved audio system.

Building Community and Volunteerism: There is a need to increase volunteerism at our school. Please share your ideas. For example, at Hastings St. Cecelia, families have requirements that have to be met.

### Tuition:

- Parents pay about 1/3 of what it costs to education their student. 65% is paid by the Parish and fund raising. Support your church!
- We currently have three different tuitions, depending on grade level, although it costs the same to education a 7<sup>th</sup> grader as it does to education a senior. Would like to look at one tuition across the board, or one for Jr. High and one for Sr. High. Good grades translate to scholarships and college savings down the road.
- Support Dash for Cash. It is used for scholarships for tuition assistance. Of 364 students at Scotus, 180 receive tuition assistance.