

Greetings from the Principal—

Thank you to those that participated in our Coffee with the Principal event on October 11 held in our LaSallian lounge! A special thank you goes out to Patti Fabrizio for helping to promote and coordinate the event.

The forum presented an opportunity for parents of the Saint Patrick community to learn more about current and future doings from the principal's prospective. In addition, families were given an opportunity to ask questions and further discuss other issues that needed clarification or additional explanation.

Below is a brief summary of the agenda items:

- Introduction:

I had the opportunity to discuss my 17 year career as an educator which has included time as a catholic school educator, coach, and public school administrator. In addition, I spoke about my family and my children's enrollment in catholic grammar school.

- Communication---newsletter, webpage, Twitter (@jonbaffico74):

I relayed the fact that I would be publishing a monthly newsletter which was available on our website (located under the "Principal's Page"). Patti would also include it as part of the monthly newsletter that went out via the Parent's Club. I invited families to follow me on Twitter (my handle is located on the Principal's Page). The purpose of being on Twitter is to promote and recognize students and the doings at Saint Patrick High School. It will provide instant feedback and information for our families and students.

- Visibility—classroom, outside activities, etc:

I discussed how the students should be comfortable seeing me in various settings—whether that is in the classroom or at school activities, I take great pride in being as involved as possible. I continue to encourage them to come and say hello and invite me to the various activities they are involved with at school.

- Recruitment for the school

We discussed the important role that both the parents and students play in helping to promote Saint Patrick as an exceptional educational offering. We discussed the importance of how the names of interested families should be communicated to our school—specifically toward our administrative team which consists of Dr. Schmidt, myself, and Mr. O'Brien.

- iPads & other accessories

We discussed the role of the iPad in the classroom and how the implementation was going from a holistic perspective. In turn, the vision was shared that the iPad will ultimately represent a tool that students can access all their classes at any given time—from previewing material to reviewing material, the courses should be transparent from the start of the semester to the end. I encouraged families to invest in a keyboard/case for their child's iPad for ease of use when taking notes or anything that involves the production of a document.

- Strategic planning:

Our administrative team, in partnership with our board, parents, and teachers will be working on a strategic plan to outline the mission and vision of St. Patrick High School over the next five years. The goal will be to produce a plan that aligns with the school's mission and provides a tool for our community to better understand the future of the high school. The areas of the strategic plan will be the following:

Finance, Catholic Identity/LaSallian Mission, Facilities/Operations, Curricular Development

The hope is to finish the plan prior to the 2014-15 school year; and to be published for our community by the fall of 2014.

- Parent involvement:

I discussed that we are looking at putting together a pool of parents that were or are certified teachers or substitutes to volunteer with substitution duties during the school day. This would help to utilize our faculty and staff in different educational capacities during the day. In addition, we discussed that myself and our athletic director would be exploring the idea of creating an athletic boosters club.

Our next coffee with the principal will be January 10, 2014 at 7 AM in the LaSallian Lounge. We would love to see more of our families participate!

We were fortunate enough to participate in a radio show on 950 AM on Monday, October 14, to help promote our open houses, shadow days, and what attracts families to Saint Patrick High School. You may hear the interview in its entirety by clicking on the link below:

<http://files.archchicago.org/podcastfiles/podcastschools/20131014-Schools.mp3>

When opening the podcast, scroll to approximately minute 22 to hear the interview from the beginning. The complete interview lasts for about 20 minutes.

It is hard to believe the first quarter is coming to a close and Halloween and Thanksgiving will soon be

upon us. Enjoy all that is fall with family and friends.

God Bless,

Mr. Jon Baffico

