**Friends of Syracuse Latin General Board Meeting**

**March 20, 2018**

Welcome and Introductions of Board Members and Attendees

-Welcome! Thank you for coming!

Presentation of the Upcoming NYS Assessments - Mrs. Manard

-We are going to review information for the New York State Assessments for grades 3-5

-The test will be completed on the computer for grades 3 and 4 this year, students will take the test on computer instead of paper and pencil, and 5th grade will continue to take the test on paper and pencil

-By 2020 all schools will administer the NY state testing on computers so we are getting a jump start!

-Only testing two days this year instead of 3 days like in years past

-Combination of multiple choice and written responses

-No time limit, students get as much time as they need

-Students with IEP or 504 will get their accommodations

-The test is not used to evaluate teachers or to determine student placement/grading

-The focus of the test is on the NY state standards, ensuring we are working toward those standards

-The test is measuring real word skills, problem solving, and writing. We are practicing typing as well so kids can show what they know more easily

- The test requires students to explain their thinking/reasoning in some questions

-The ELA test: 1st day is all multiple choice, 2nd day short answer (about 3 sentences) and an extended response

-Students have had a lot of practice with ANET testing this year, which mimics the NY State test

-The student written responses are not graded on grammar or spelling, only on the content of the response

- The Math test: 1st day is only multiple choice and the 2nd day is solving math problems and writing sentences to explain their thinking

-When finished the students are encouraged to check their work and then students are allowed to read at their seat/computer

-There may be continuation rooms set up for students still working

-Tests may not be extended beyond the school day unless student becomes ill

-Last year’s test questions are available at the engage NY website if anyone is interested in viewing those questions

-Please make sure students are here on time on testing days, have a good night sleep and remind them to grab a breakfast if they haven’t eaten at home

-Please avoid making appointments during testing days

-We don’t put a lot of stress on the day and keep the atmosphere as low stress as possible

-Schedules may be rearranged so students are able to get their special area classes as well

-4th grade parents may have received a score report in the fall from last year’s test, testing scores are mailed home in the fall

-The test is one measure of information, we use a lot of measures to determine how our students are learning

-Parent Question: What can the students do to practice their typing so they feel more comfortable? Mrs. Christy suggests possibly typing their responses to their reading log questions for extra practice

-At school we’ve practiced on the ANET typing their responses and they looked pretty good. We encourage the students to write down their thoughts on paper first and type it in when finished thinking it through. They can highlight and make notes on the reading sections of tests as well.

-This PowerPoint for the testing information will be posted on the PTO website and the school website

If any other questions, please email Mrs. Manard

Middle School Climate Report President’s Report - Middle School Parent Reps: Sheriah Dixion and Ben Goodman

-Met on March 7th

-We received feedback from the parent surveys, reviewed the info and talked about the concerns and how we could address the concerns

-We discussed what is required by state law for middle school, we are working backward based on what we *have* to offer and then filling in other offerings based on what we *want it* to look like

-We discussed making sure we are in constant communications with the high schools as well, so the high schools are ready for our students: meeting them at their levels and providing the same or advanced curriculums they may need

-Meetings prior to PTO meetings has not been well attended to discuss the meetings minutes and offer feedback or opinions, maybe we should remind people this is happening?

-Next PTO meeting is April 17th, middle school committee will meet prior at 5:30 if people would like to come to engage in discussions

-Parent Questions: Can the requirements be stacked so the curriculums could overlap? Are we following anything in terms of curriculum from other Latin schools? Maybe we can speak to the universities or colleges to bring in more enrichment opportunities from community partnerships to give more resources to the schools that we could explore? Is there a re-evaluation built in after a certain period of time so we could make changes if necessary?

-Questions will be brought back to the committee at their next meeting

-Minutes from the meetings are always posted on the Latin school website

Open Roundtable Discussion​

-Comment box has been put out and people can place comments or questions or feedback

-1st & 2nd Grade social events- Are parents willing to get together to do grade level social events? It’s hard to get to know the families in our grade levels and the students our children are interacting with on a daily basis. More information to come

-Luberta Crouch from our Parent Partnership program is here every Wednesday. She works with parents and schools to build positive relationships. Please reach out to her if you have questions or concerns.

-Some parents discussed concerns about the Friday movie (G and PG rated) days at lunch. Some parents feel lunch is one of the only social times and movies should not be played during this time. Luberta will look into the protocol and report this concern.

-Don’t forget our Fundraiser at Dave and Busters for our 4th grade student who lost his father suddenly last year. He was a manager at Dave and Busters and loves to watch his son play sports. All proceeds will be donated to Syracuse Latin for sports equipment. It will be on Thursday, March 22nd from 5-7pm. Pay at the door and remember to mention you are there for the Syracuse Latin Fundraising event.

Meeting Adjourn at 7pm