

Meeting Summary – September 25, 2025

1. Enrollment and School Updates

- Enrollment for the new school year opens October 1; tours are active, and the school community remains vibrant.
- Recent HSA meeting had strong virtual attendance after parent feedback requested online options.
- Special guest Nicole Runyon, author of "Free to Fly," will present virtually in October with a follow-up in February.
- The Franciscan Experience program kicked off, with activities being well-received and often sold out.
- Introduction of a new leadership opportunity for students in grades 6 and 7.

2. Technology, Security & AI Initiatives

- A recent review with IT partners showed significant progress since a past ransomware event. Most internal servers now support essential campus services and the network is better segmented.
- Data backup follows industry standards but lacks a third offsite copy; improvement in this area is suggested.
- The administration is largely in compliance with diocesan IT guidelines.
- Parent adoption of the Hapara monitoring platform is increasing, but more awareness is needed.

AI in Education

- Faculty are exploring the use of AI in teaching, focusing primarily on middle school educators with tools such as Brain Freeze (Aria), designed for secure and age-appropriate AI content.
- Around 80% of faculty already use some form of AI, mainly for lesson planning, creating study guides, and customizing content.
- There is a need for a formal AI policy to be incorporated into the school's acceptable use policy.
- Concerns about student cheating and plagiarism with AI tools are acknowledged; new practices are being explored to "AI-proof" assessments.
- The school is actively learning from and sharing with other schools regarding AI integration.

3. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and Faith Formation

- The Catholic Social Teaching Committee is a collaborative staff and student group organizing service and faith activities.
- Increased focus on leadership opportunities for students in CST-related initiatives.
- Parish partnerships and service activities are being revived post-COVID, with the goal of involving families and children of all ages.
- Parent faith engagement is being researched, with ideas such as parent-focused events (“Theology on Tap”), family service days, and targeted outreach to increase community involvement discussed.
- Youth faith formation programs are expanding, but ongoing challenges remain relating to competing commitments (like sports) and generational attitudes towards parish engagement.

4. Community Building and Parent Engagement

- Multiple suggestions to further integrate families into both school and parish life, such as organizing social and service events (like pancake breakfasts and volunteer opportunities).
- Efforts are underway to better connect school families with parish events and foster friendships across different age groups.
- The need for parents to model and encourage faith practices (attendance at Mass, participation in parish programs) is emphasized.
- Suggestions were made to use student interest and peer influence to increase engagement, especially in middle school.

5. Action Items and Next Steps

- Continue trial and evaluation of AI tools (Brain Freeze) among selected faculty.
- Develop and present a draft AI policy for inclusion in the acceptable use policy.
- Further outreach to integrate Catholic Social Teaching opportunities for families.
- Collaborate with parish staff to increase family/parent engagement in faith life and service.
- Explore new formats for parent faith formation and socialization (e.g., speaker nights, informal gatherings).

Closing Reflection

The meeting closed with a prayer of gratitude for the community and a reaffirmation of the school's mission centered on peace, justice, and educational excellence.