

**McDonogh Parents Association
Upper School Meeting Minutes
September 12th, 2017
8:30 am; 33 attendees**

Welcome and Introductions: Jill Eisner, Chair
Kristin Henry, Assistant Chair

Upper School Update:

Charlie Britton- pleased to be coming back for next year; really appreciates the relationship with MPA; door is always open, please come into office to bring up ideas/concerns/suggestion; 38 teacher townhomes going up in next few weeks for faculty and staff (\$6 million donor); Fader Innovation Center for engineering, robotics, automotive by January 2018; New Middle School fundraising \$25-28 million- largest in MD; History House is going to be built up Shell Road from Bowman, raised \$1m; deeper learning starting in classrooms

Merritt Livermore, Head of Upper School- SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats) brainstorming meeting relayed that faculty really appreciate the MPA /US relationships; Sage decided nut/peanut butter free school now because of serious health concerns of students - PB replaced by Sunflower butter and "wow- soy" butter; revamped parking concern will be re-evaluated in 6 weeks ; Each Class had a retreat being re-evaluated; students watched video about 9-11 student hockey player volunteer firefighter "red bandana", very moving; club fair starts soon; Donations for Harvey/Irma became the "red white and blue day" today for all three divisions participating with culminating donation to American Red Cross on Friday; her door is always open, please come visit to see how they can better support students

Speakers:

Alex Gardner, Freshman Dean- last year class was 164; this year class is 154, which is "better number and easier to get to know students"; Alex's office is now in basement and new Freshman lounge is now across from school store; Alex is proctoring all study halls with lounge chairs and two round tables which is helping with students' schedules; He is visiting all classes which Freshman can take and observes students in classroom setting; Today's newsletter has "Parenting your Freshman" facilitated by Michelle Kriebel on Wed, Oct 11th; PSAT Oct.11th for Soph/Junior ½ day-Freshman activities maybe ½ day field trip to BMA team work and ½ day service project tied to English book "Salvage the Bones"; Alex is first point person for tutoring, student issues, ect.

Argie O'Shea, Librarian and eTechCampus Coordinator-etech is vendor, but you can "shop" anywhere; please let Argie know if there are problems or they can't be fixed; Students can go to library anytime on first come first serve and can check out any textbook; library has EVERY hardback book which McDonogh uses, yet not all ebooks are in the Library; Argie is starting to address all concerns and will check with teachers about continuity; textbook donations of past years accepted anytime in the library; Molly Hanes brought up idea about "used textbook sale could be started Fall 2018; aoshea@mcdonogh.org

All School Committees:

After Prom: Debbie Thacker -June 6th evening; Junior/Senior Prom, then safe haven Dave and Busters afterprom; never too early to help out if you are interested; thank you to all those who donated amazing gifts and for generosity; please contact Debbie at vmi86@aol.com

Charleston Wrap: Stacey Mannes- entire school fundraiser, upper schoolers do not get a packet sent home; please pick up packets in Mullan Room; sale Sept 11-Oct 9 online; credit card orders of more than \$85 are shipped free

MPA Parent Ambassador: Maureen Roden- welcome new students to school; involved in "meeting teachers and other parents"; gives tours; In August are the "one on one" buddy system which is encouraged to be in year long contact with new families

Parenting Education: Judy Yu - Amazing line up for whole year; The mailing of all Parent Events was sent to entire school; flyer is posted; first event is McDonogh community only and is Tuesday, September 26th 7pm "Concussions 101: What Students and Parents need to know now and for the Future"; other events are for all schools; other schools will post their education topics and the information will be posted on our MPA website

NYC Trip: Shanae Walker-Nov 15th; Bus leaves at 6:30 am (arrive at 6am) and returns at 10pm; No cash, write check to McDonogh Parent's Association \$55

Upper School Committees:

College Rep Bags: Jen Kirol- college reps come visit seniors throughout the fall will get "water and snacks" provided by MPA

Junior Pin: Randi Hertzberg and Sari Alperstein- Sunday, Oct 1st; dinner at 5:30pm, organized by advisory; Pin Ceremony at Horn Theater with decorations

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (Fall): Dana DiCarlo - Friday , Nov 17th in Mullan Room; used caterer (last year Mission BBQ), will need drinks and desserts and assistance one day event; Jill Bers has three bins to give to Dana

Used Uniform: Pam Foresman; few sales already, can donate clothes outside Ms. Waskey's room; next event is Thursday, Sept 14th for Back to School Night; located in Kelty basement

Parent Get Togethers: Krissie Verbic- All are set up, see below dates; Sophomore event happened with great turnout 75 attendees hosted by Henry's/Middelton's

Teacher Coffee Bar: Jill Bloom-Feb 8th 7-9:30am, need 1-2 volunteers

Student Treat (Snowballs): Jill Bloom-May 3rd 9:30-10am need 1-2 volunteers

Teacher Appreciation Spring Luncheon: Kristin Henry- April 19th ; will need volunteers for drinks and desserts; may have food truck; Kristin to confirm with Ann about reserving 1898 room as back up space in case of rain

For Discussion:

Upcoming Speaker/Topic Ideas- please email Jill Eisner or Kristin Henry if you have ideas, possible for next meeting

Refreshment list set around (Molly Hanes, Chao Deng, ErinCoudon for next meeting)

Sign up sheets for all events sent around- Jill has these

Upcoming Events and Save the Dates:

Picture Day: September 11 and 14th

Back to School Night: Sept 14, 6:30 pm

Parent Get Togethers

Freshman: October 6: Charlie and Jen Britton

Sophomore - September 9: Kristin and Todd Henry and Courtney and Dan Middleton

Junior - October 14: Eileen and Andy Mutch

Senior - Spring Date TBA: Arthur Adler

Honey of a Jam Fest: Friday, September 22, 3:30-9:00 at Roots Garden, including Jam Fest at

Campus Green--- please sign up for event from link on Merritt's Upper School News email

Junior Pin: Sunday, October 1, 5:00-8:00 pm

Next US meeting

October 10, 8:30 am Mullan Board Room