

MOSS NEWS

January 2022

A Message from Mrs. Szmed



Dear MOSS Families,

Happy New Year! I would like to extend best wishes to all for a happy and healthy new year. It's a pleasure to see all of the children, teachers and staff back at school after a long, well-deserved break. Just a reminder that as the snow flies and the temperatures dip, children need to be dressed appropriately to come to school and to play at recess time. Coats, hats, mittens or gloves, are good to have this time of year.

Thank you to all families who completed their reregistration for the 2022-2023 school year thus far. If you have not reregistered yet, please do so by January 28, 2022. New student registrations K-8 will be accepted beginning January 29, 2022. We are receiving new applications for all grades daily and I would not want your child to lose their place for the 2022-2023 school year. If you have any questions about reregistration, please reach out to our Business Manager, Cris Coleman.

The FACTS Financial Aid Application for the 2022-2023 school year is now available. You can begin the application process before your taxes are completed then add more information later. It is very important to file for financial aid by March 15, 2022. The St. Pope John Paul II Tuition Opportunity Partnership (TOP) will also be available to any family who needs tuition assistance for the 2022-2023 school year. More information about financial aid is in this newsletter.

Each year, the **MOSS Days of Giving** during Catholic Schools Week supports our ever growing need to provide Mother of Sorrows School students with the technology and supplies necessary to succeed. This year's MOSS Days of Giving will help MOSS continue our commitment to a one-to-one ratio that has become essential in today's learning environment (one computer or tablet for every student). This year's goal is \$30,000. Information concerning the MOSS Days of Giving was sent home in hard copy, by email, and is on our Facebook page. Please see the newsletter for more information.

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) will kick-off on Sunday, January 30th at the 9:30 am Mass at Mother of Sorrows Church. All students have an opportunity to be a part of the liturgical celebration and each student is asked to attend in their dress uniform. The Open House that follows the Mass is an opportunity for MOSS to celebrate the educational accomplishments of our students, highlight cutting-edge programs we offer, and give new families time to explore the MOSS difference. Presently, we are scheduling tours. Special CSW events are planned for the students to enjoy all week. See additional information in this newsletter.

Our school has an excellent future, thank you for your commitment to Catholic education. Please be a positive Mother of Sorrows Catholic School supporter so we can educate many children for years to come.

Faithfully yours,

Theresa A. Szmed

Principal

Important

Dates:

January 28th:

Dress Down Day

Jan. 30th:

Mass
9:30 am

Open House
10:30 am to 1:30 pm

Jan. 30th to Feb 4th:

Catholic Schools Week
Annual Days of Giving

February 9th:

Save Day Deposit

February 10th:

Middle School Dance

February 14th:

Dress Down Day
Happy Valentine's Day

February 21st:

No School
President's Day



Mother of Sorrows School: 3264 Evergreen Drive, Murrysville, PA 15668

Phone: 724-733-8840 Website: www.mossschool.org



Annual Days of Giving

MOSS ANNUAL DAYS OF GIVING

#IGIVE  TO MOSS

January 30 - February 4, 2022

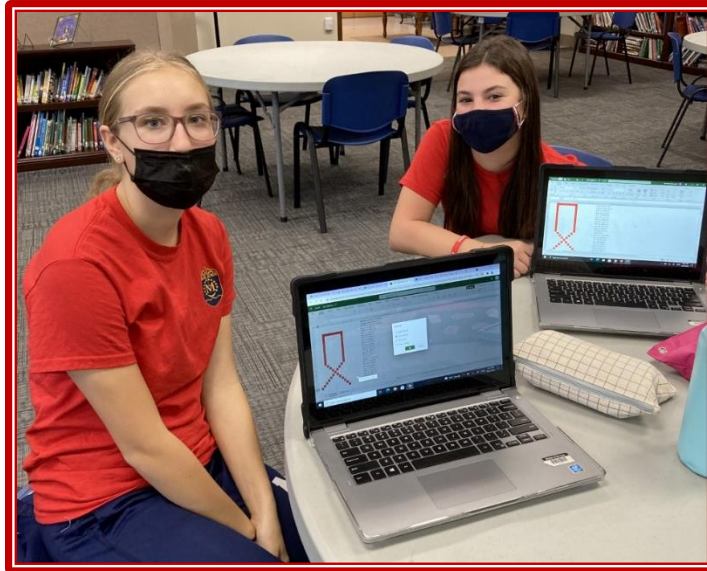


**Our Goal:
\$30,000**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL HELP OUR MOSS STUDENTS
CONTINUE TO HAVE THE LATEST AND GREATEST
TECHNOLOGY AT THEIR FINGERTIPS!**

CLICK HERE TO DONATE: www.givinggrid.com/ifmkpt/

Annual Days of Giving



What is the MOSS Annual Days of Giving?

The Annual Days of Giving helps provide Mother of Sorrows students with the latest and greatest technology. Family, friends, coworkers and businesses have an opportunity to donate money directly to Mother of Sorrows School to help this initiative.

When does the MOSS Annual Days of Giving take place?

This event will take place during Catholic Schools Week. The link to contribute opens on January 30th at 12:01 am and will remain open until February 4th.

What is our fundraising goal?

Our goal is to raise \$30,000. We understand that everyone's financial situation is different, so please contribute what you can. Donations, of any size, are greatly appreciated.

What will the funds be used for?

All money raised will continue our commitment for a one-to-one ratio that has become essential in today's learning environment. MOSS invested heavily in technology last year to overcome the academic challenges caused by the pandemic. MOSS must provide maintenance and fund a technology replacement plan. Additionally, MOSS has hired an IT Technician, from the Diocese of Greensburg, to provide technical support to our staff and students once a week. The annual cost for this support is \$42,000. Having this support person in-house is costly, but extremely necessary.

How can I make a donation?

1. Direct Donation:

- Donations can be dropped off in the school office.

2. Online Donation:

- The link will be emailed to all school families and will be available on the school's Facebook page. Please feel free to share this link with family, friends and local businesses.

Is my donation tax-deductible?

Yes! All donations are tax-deductible. Once your online or direct donation is processed, you will receive a letter acknowledging your tax-deductible contribution.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

A new club has come to Mother of Sorrows School! Future Business Leaders of America, Middle Level, known by the acronym FBLA, is offered to 6th through 8th-grade students to prepare for careers in business and leadership through academic competitions and leadership development. Forty-three students under the direction of teacher Jennifer Bayer and assistant principal Karen Kolenik are members of the inaugural MOSS chapter.

FBLA is a national organization dedicated to helping students connect, achieve, explore, discover, and inspire. FBLA connects students with similar interests with each other and with the business community. Through FBLA, students can explore new business topics, concepts, and ideas and become leaders and role models.

With mentoring from the local business community, Mother of Sorrows FBLA members are in the process of creating a school store. Joseph Kallen, CEO, and Nick DeMao, CFO and VP of Administration of Busy Beaver Building Centers, assisted the students with the parameters needed to create the store. Students belong to one of five departments: Operations, Finance, IT, Marketing, and Merchandising. Student-driven ideas for the store allow the students to collectively blend the different aspects of the curriculum in a practical manner. The store anticipates opening in March 2022.

FBLA-Middle Level holds a competitive events competition that also prepares students for successful careers in business by providing opportunities to apply classroom concepts in a workforce-simulated competitive environment.

Competing against other middle-level schools across Pennsylvania, students choose from various events to participate. They may decide to take an objective test, perform a role play, give a presentation, or deliver a speech on financial literacy, career research, social media, business etiquette, and leadership.

Finally, FBLA students compete in the Stock Market Challenge, a technology-based stock market simulation in which every 60 seconds represents a day of trading. Beginning with a hypothetical account balance of \$500,000, the Stock Market Challenge introduces students to the fundamentals of stocks.

Eighth-grade student Jordyn Acie describes her FBLA experience. "I think FBLA is fun, and I feel it really helps students prepare for business and college. I like that it helps me be creative. I can be with my friends, and we have the experience of starting the store together."



Did You Know?

Did you know that Mother of Sorrows School is recognized as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School? It is one of just 158 middle schools across the U.S. to receive this honor for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW Gateway. PLTW is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in schools across the U.S.

“We are honored to be recognized as a distinguished school again this school year. Ms. Anne-Marie Battaglia, our PLTW teacher, and the entire staff at Mother of Sorrows School are dedicated to inspiring students to be global leaders. I would like to thank our benefactors for sponsoring PLTW at MOSS,” said Mrs. Theresa A. Szmed, Principal.

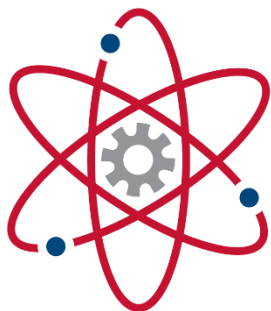
The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, Mother of Sorrows School must meet the following criteria:

- Have more than 50 percent of the student body participating during the 2020-2021 school year
- Have 25 percent of students advancing to high school participate in two or more units
- Offer at least one PLTW Gateway unit at each grade level
- Have strategies and supports in place that support reasonably proportional representation with regard to race, ethnicity, poverty, gender and can support such claims with relevant data

“It is a great honor to recognize Mother of Sorrows School for their unwavering commitment to provide students with an excellent educational experience despite the unusual circumstances and unique challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presented to the educational landscape this past year,” said Dr. Vince Bertram, President and CEO of PLTW. “They should be very proud of their achievements in unlocking their students’ potential and equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in life beyond the classroom no matter what career path they choose.”

Mother of Sorrows School is part of a community of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities. For more information about PLTW’s recognition program, visit pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition.

For more information on Mother of Sorrow School PLTW Gateway program, contact Mrs. Theresa A. Szmed at 724-733-8840.



PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

PLTW

Spotlight on Sports



MOS Cross Country

In the fall of 2021, Mother of Sorrows participated in the Diocese of Greensburg Cross Country CYO program. The team has seen a big increase in runners over the years. In fact, they had a record number of 32 runners this season. At the Championship meet, the MOS Cross Country team obtained trophies in all 3 divisions, placing 2nd in the Novice group, 1st in the Junior Varsity group and 3rd in the Varsity group. Eleven runners also obtained individual medals by placing in the top seven of their division. We would like to congratulate the following runners and coaches on a great season and we look forward to the 2022 season!

2021 Cross Country Team:

Addison Boreman
Joseph Caravello
Victoria Dos Santos
McKayla Falascino
Maris Morley
Andrew Muir
Peter Stanislaw
Asher Straley
Joseph Tropiano
Shanaya Vasudeva
Isaac Wagner
Jude Walker

Matthew Bender
Lou Conner
Sophia Dos Santos
Simon Elomba
James Jordan
Noah Kallen
Aleah Kloc
Landon Morley
Pierce Morley
Rebecca Stanislaw

Maria Stanislaw
Alex Straley
Maggie Thompson
Vincent Tropiano
John Tutera
Avni Vasudeva
Philip Bender
Liliana Lemak
Lucille Stanislaw
Finn Thompson

2021 Cross Country Coaches:

Lucas Dos Santos
Scott Morley
Kristen Thompson
Janeth Kloc



Spotlight on Sports



MOS J JV Girls Basketball

The MOS J JV Girls Basketball team was made up of first year players from both the 3rd and 4th grades. Our 4th graders, Gia Garofalo, Elle Favela and Zoey Laborda, learned how to be leaders of the group through their hard work, positive energy and upbeat personalities. Our 3rd grade girls, Arianna Perona, Cara Susko, Divya Singh and Rylee Dayton, grew tremendously as players and contributed significantly to the overall team's success. The girls had a lot of fun in a team environment that fostered the learning of basketball fundamentals while reinforcing Mother of Sorrows School values. A special thank you to coach Mike Garofalo for a great season!



MOS JV Girls Basketball

Congratulations to the Mother of Sorrows JV Girls Basketball team on their undefeated championship season! The Eagles 6th grade team members were Avni Vasudeva, Bella Salas, Carmella Testa, Isabella Dumbroski and KC Yaniga. The 5th grade team members were Krista Denslinger, Sophia Dos Santos and Zoe Konopka. The girls played excellent defense all season long and unselfishly moved the ball on offense finding the open player. The JV Eagles were 10-0 in the regular season and were victorious in two additional playoff games to earn the Diocesan Championship. In the championship game, the Eagles were shorthanded with only six players but the girls showed their mettle with great teamwork and determination. We would like to congratulate the JV Girls Basketball team and coaches Erin Salas and Matt Dumbroski for an amazing season!

Spotlight on Sports



MOS Varsity Basketball

The MOSS Girls Varsity Basketball team completed a very successful season, going undefeated in the regular season with an 8-0 record and winning the Diocesan Championship tournament at GCC on January 9th. The team's success was due to many factors most notably the girls' hard work, their dedication to improvement, playing as a team and passing the ball unselfishly to open teammates. There were two other very important characteristics of this team, their focus on making practices fun and ensuring everyone was an important part of the team. These qualities made the season extremely enjoyable, as well as successful, and speaks volumes about the character of the girls and the spirit of the MOSS school community. The girls' varsity team has thirteen 7th and 8th graders – Chloe Carr, Morgan Loughran, Emma Beacom, Madonna Koval, Alexandra Speranza, Jordyn Acie, Millie Curry, Maggie Hudock, Rylie Loughran, Deauna Hicks, Brooklyn Morgan, Kenedie Price, Scarlett Zoracki. Congratulations to the team and coaches, Ken Kolenik and Rich Young, for a remarkable season.



MOS Boys Basketball

The Mother of Sorrows Boys Basketball season started in early December. MOS has four Boys Basketball teams this year. The MOS White JJV team is coached by Adam Devett and Erin Salas and the MOS Blue JJV team is coached by Jay Acie and Patrick Palkovic. The JV team is coached by Trevor Hicks, Rachel Hicks and Garrett Hicks and the Varsity team is coached by Sean Raynak. Additional updates on the MOS Boys Basketball season will be included in the next Newsletter.

Spotlight on Sports

MOS Cheerleading

The MOS Cheerleaders have been practicing since September and have started cheering for the MOS Boys Basketball home games. The MOS Cheerleading program promotes fun, friendship and school spirit. The 2021/2022 group is composed of 34 girls ranging from kindergarten through 6th grade. The cheerleaders enthusiastically cheer for their classmates throughout the season and perform a half-time routine at each game. The cheerleaders will also be performing at the pep rally during Catholic Schools Week. The kindergarten through 2nd grade team members are: Addilyn Juba, Anna Tamburro, Avani Singh, Brooklyn Woods, Donatella Iorio, Gabriella DiBerardine, Genevieve Walker, Giuseppina Iorio, Lillianne Likar, Lucy Devett, Lucy Lysaght, Samantha Salas, Santina Russo, Shanaya Vasudeva, Siena Carr, Sofia Vigano, Vienna Zollner and Willow Tomasic. The 3rd through 6th grade team members are: Anastasia Miller, Carmella Testa, Cayla Kelly, Cecilia Lucas, Chelsea Denslinger, Emma Petrucci, Katie Bell, Krista Denslinger, Lauren Bell, Natalie Ninemire, Noel Ninemire, Riley Strittmatter, TaVera Sparrow and Zoey LaBorda. We would like to thank Mikala Testa, Kristen Bell, Angelina Swisshelm and Sophia Montgomery for coaching the cheerleaders this year!



MOS Girls Volleyball

The Mother of Sorrows Girls Volleyball season is here! Sign-ups and registrations are underway. MOS Girls Volleyball is open to all girls in grades 3rd through 8th (both new and returning participants). Team practices will start on February 1st and the CYO league season will run from March 5th to April 30th. All those interested in participating in MOS Girls Volleyball, should contact the MOS Athletic Director, (John Koury), at jkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org. Parents/guardians are also needed to help coach the girls. Those interested, in coaching 3rd – 6th grade volleyball, should contact the MOSS Athletic Director for additional information.



Save the Date

Please **“Save the Date”** for the **“Mother of Sorrows All-Sports Banquet”** which will take place on Friday, April 22, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the MOS Social Hall. We will recognize participants in the following sports: Cross Country, Girls Basketball, Cheerleading, Boys Basketball, Girls Volleyball, Track & Field and Soccer. All of our hardworking student athletes will be honored with a special recognition to our graduating 8th grade athletes. We hope to see you there!

Little Mermaid Jr Musical

Mother of Sorrows School
Drama Club
proudly presents



Performance Times:

Friday, April 8, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 9, 2022

2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 10, 2022

2:00 p.m.

Tickets for reserved seating go on sale March 2nd.
General Admission Tickets will be available at the door.

Adults: \$5.00 and Students/Seniors: \$3.00

Fat Tuesday Meat Raffle

Don't forget to turn in your 15 ticket stubs/money to the school office.
The family that sells the most tickets will win a cash prize of \$500.
Additional tickets are available in the school office. Thank you again for your support.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT MOTHER OF SORROWS SCHOOL

FAT TUESDAY Meat Raffle



Grand Prize: \$1,000
Bardine's Country Smokehouse Inc Gift Card

2nd Prize: \$500
Bardine's Country Smokehouse Inc Gift Card

3rd Prize: \$250
Bardine's Country Smokehouse Inc Gift Card

Drawing will take place on March 1, 2022
at 2:00 pm via Facebook Live!

To purchase tickets through Pay Pal, please scan the QR Code and include your name and phone number.

For more information, please call 724-733-8840.

\$10
per
ticket



Catholic Schools Week: Schedule

"Opening Liturgy & Open House Celebration" (Sunday, January 30th):

Please join MOSS as we kick off our Catholic Schools Week celebration beginning with the 9:30 am Mass at Mother of Sorrows Church. All students in attendance are asked to wear their dress uniform. Immediately following Mass, the school is hosting an Open House for current/new families. In-person tours will be given for new families who are looking to enroll their child(ren) at MOSS for the 2022-2023 school year or in the future. Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria.

"Celebrating Community" (Monday, January 31st):

- Free Community Helper Dress Down Day
 - Dress like a community helper (police, fire fighter, doctor, nurse...)
- "Thank You" Breakfast for Bus Drivers

"Celebrating Families" (Tuesday, February 1st):

- Dress in your Favorite PJ'S
 - PJ's must have long pants and tops
 - Shoulders must be covered (no sleeveless tops)
 - Tennis shoes must be worn
- "Thank You" Activity for Parents

"Celebrating The Nation" (Wednesday, February 2nd):

- Free Dress Down with Crazy Red/White/Blue Hair and Crazy Red/White/Blue Socks (All students must follow the handbook guidelines.)
- Wear a shirt that names your favorite US destination (Myrtle Beach, Penn State...)
- Fort Ligonier Assembly for grades 3rd through 8th

"Celebrating Faith and Vocations" (Thursday, February 3rd):

- Dress Uniform (School Mass is at 9:30 a.m.)
- Faith Craft (K-8)
- Teddy Bear Picnic for PreK 3
- 5th Grade Living Museum

"Celebrating Students, Faculty and Staff" (Friday, February 4th):

- MOSS Spirit Dress Down Day (Wear anything MOSS but please follow handbook guidelines).
- Book Train (All grades bring in your favorite book or two and a small pillow/stuffed animal).
- Teddy Bear Picnic for PreK 4
- Pep Rally at 1:30 pm
- 8th Grade vs 8th Grade Parents/Teachers Basketball Game at 2:00 pm.



Catholic Schools Week: Service Projects

Penny Wars:

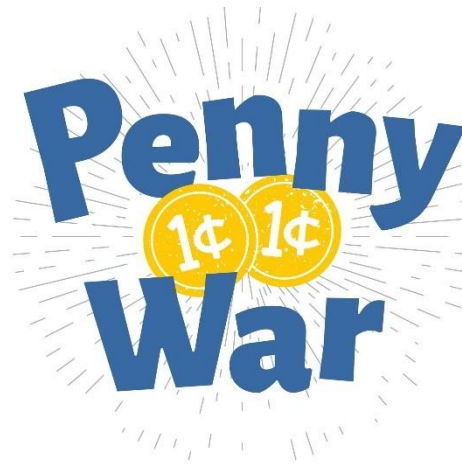
Each grade will have a water jug in the main entrance on display all week. The grade with the most PENNIES by the end of the week wins. But there's a twist... if any SILVER COINS (OR DOLLAR BILLS), are placed in your jug, you will receive negative points. So, if you want your grade to win, be sure to place silver coins or dollar bills into your opponents' jars! All proceeds will benefit Kentucky tornado victims!

Add Points:

1. Pennies = Points
2. One Point per Penny

Subtract Points:

1. Nickels: Subtract 5 Points
2. Dimes: Subtract 10 Points
3. Quarters: Subtract 25 Points
4. \$1 Bills: Subtract 100 Points
5. \$5 Bills: Subtract 500 Points



Welcome Home Shelter:

For the past several years, Mother of Sorrows School families have come together to support the Welcome Home Shelter. Now more than ever, the shelter needs our help! The Welcome Home Shelter is a temporary emergency shelter located in the heart of Greensburg, PA. They offer a clean, safe place to stay for families and single women experiencing homelessness in Westmoreland County. Annually, they provide approximately 7,000 shelter nights.

The Welcome Home Shelter needs the following NEW items:

- Coffee
- Tissues
- Dish Soap
- Paper Towels
- Bottled Water
- "ALL" Brand Laundry Soap



Reregistration

Reregistration for current MOSS families began on Friday, January 7, 2022. A link was sent to the main family email address on Friday morning. The sender's email address was "Mother of Sorrows School <<ccoleman@mosschool.org>>". Please check your junk or spam if you have not received the link in your inbox. If you do not receive the link at all, please contact our Business Manager, Cris Coleman, at ccoleman@mosschool.org. Reregistration will be open until January 28, 2022. New student enrollments will be accepted on January 29, 2022.

Important Reregistration Details:

- Each reenrolling student is charged a reenrollment fee of \$50 when you submit your reenrollment documents. This fee will be credited to your first tuition statement for the next school year. If you decide after paying the reenrollment fee not to attend MOSS, the fee will be forfeited.
- Once the reenrollment is submitted, you will receive an email confirming that the reenrollment was received.
- Any current MOSS family that wants to enroll a new student into the school, will receive a separate email to enroll the "New Student". You will not be able to add the new student using the reenrollment link. The new student enrollment fee is \$95 (non-refundable) and is NOT credited to your tuition account.

Mother of Sorrows School Advisory Council

The Mother of Sorrows School Advisory Council is made up of members (both parents and parishioners) appointed by the Bishop to serve the school along with the school Principal and Board of Trust Administrators to enhance our ability to market the school, increase the school enrollment, provide support for the School's development functions, and assist with the school's financial planning.

Mother of Sorrows Advisory Council Members

Mr. Jason Bauer (Chair)

Mrs. Jane Beacom

Mr. Christopher Clawson

Mrs. Jennifer Farberow

Mrs. Crystal Favela

Mr. Michael Garofalo

Mrs. Deanna Harman

Mr. David Jordan

Mr. Joseph Kallen

Mrs. Ashley Petrucci

Mrs. Erin Salas

Mrs. Kristen Thompson



Volunteer Opportunities

We recognize that parental involvement is key to the success of our students. We still have many volunteer opportunities this year! Please read through the list of openings below to see how you can make a difference in Mother of Sorrows School!

Why get involved?

Here are some reasons why you should volunteer:

- Get to know teachers and staff
- Meet and interact with other MOSS families
- Participate in events that benefit the MOSS community
- And finally – IT'S SO MUCH FUN!

How do I become a volunteer?

To become a volunteer, please follow the steps below:

- Read through the list of volunteer opportunities below.
- Pick which events you would like to sign up for. You can volunteer as much as you want.
- Next, determine what role you would like to have: (chairperson, committee member...)
- Email the list of events and roles to mossvolunteerparent@outlook.com.
- Mrs. Szmed or the chairperson of the event will contact you with additional details.
- Finally, thank you for being part of our MOSS family!

Volunteer Openings

1. Donuts with Dad

- February 24, 2022
- Chairperson
- Committee Member
- Event Volunteer
- Set Up/Clean Up

2. Bunny Brunch

- April 2, 2022
- Chairperson
- Committee Member
- Event Volunteer
- Set Up/Clean Up

3. Designer Purse Bingo

- May 1, 2022
- Committee Member
- Event Volunteer
- Set Up/Clean Up

4. Muffins with Mom

- May 5, 2022
- Chairperson
- Committee Member
- Event Volunteer
- Set Up/Clean Up

5. End of the Year Picnic

- To be determined
- Chairperson
- Committee Member
- Event Volunteer
- Set Up/Clean Up



How to Make Your Taxes Work for MOSS

Many MOSS families have recently received an email from FundEDU, LLC, a non-profit organization contracted by the Diocese of Greensburg, to secure Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) scholarship program donors.

Pennsylvania allows a very small number of taxpayers to pay their state income taxes locally to the school in the form of scholarships for students. EITC is a crucial funding source for education, and you can make a huge impact by using the tax dollars you pay annually.

Presently, MOSS has 11 EITC donors that contribute \$204,500 in PA tax dollars to assist qualifying MOSS families with financial aid. If you are interested in finding out more information, please reach out to Damien Falatek (damien.fundedu@gmail.com), a FundEdu PA Tax Credit Specialist or call him at (814) 322-7378.

EITC: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

State Tax Credit

- Pennsylvania allows tax payers to direct their state tax liability to the school and receive 90% tax credit.
- It's an opportunity to give a lot for a small cost.

Lower Tuition

- Lower tuition allows for heightened enrollment and helps keep tuition cost lower for all students.

Healthier School and Community

- Healthy schools grow enrollment and expand course/extra-curricular offerings while adding cutting edge technology and facilities to the community.

We Can Get YOU Started!

Jeff Wilson
Jeff.fundedu@gmail.com
(814) 283-4338

Damien Falatek
Damien.fundedu@gmail.com
(814) 322-7378



How to Make Your Taxes Work for MOSS

HOW TO MAKE YOUR TAXES WORK FOR OUR SCHOOL

It's now easier than ever!



EITC: A WIN FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY!!



Financial Aid Information



Elevating the Education Experience

Option 1: FACTS Financial Aid

The Diocese of Greensburg works with the FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment to help make quality education affordable for families by assisting in awarding financial aid. **The FACTS Financial Aid portal is open for the 2022-2023 School Year.** You can apply online using the FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment application at: online.factsmgmt.com/aid. **You may begin the Financial Aid process today.** Once your 2021 IRS 1040 tax return AND all supporting tax schedules are completed, you may submit those to FACTS for verification. Those families that complete their Financial Aid application, without the supporting documents, prior to March 15, 2022, will have the \$35 per family FACTS processing fee refunded to them on their 2022-2023 tuition statement. Those families that complete their Financial Aid application after the March 15, 2022 date will be responsible for paying the \$35 FACTS processing fee.

Financial Aid funds are provided by The Scholarship Partners Foundation (SPF) and Parish Supported Financial Aid. The Scholarship Partners Foundation utilizes EITC, OSTC and PKTC contributions for tuition assistance in grades PK-12. Families receiving SPF funds must meet financial requirements.

Important FACTS Financial Aid Information

- Financial aid applications are for the family. You can list all children enrolled on this form
- When completing the forms, enter "0" for tuition for Mother of Sorrows School. Tuition information is reported to the Diocese of Greensburg, who in turn, reports it to FACTS.
- **ATTENTION PARENTS: PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION BY MARCH 15TH AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS BY APRIL 15TH IN ORDER TO RECEIVE YOUR TUITION STATEMENT BY JUNE 30TH.**
- Preschool students only receive financial aid based on qualification through the Scholarship Partners Foundation. Parents and guardians who apply for aid for their Preschool aged child may receive statements later than K-12 students.
- Tuition statements and award notices are distributed after the FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment is filed and verifying documentation has been received by FACTS.
- **Families choosing not to complete a FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment Application for financial aid will be responsible for paying the full tuition charged by Mother of Sorrows School for each child.**

Financial Aid Information



Option 2: TOP Scholarship Information (K-8)

A groundbreaking scholarship opportunity has been established for students who wish to attend a Catholic School in the Diocese of Greensburg. The scholarship opportunity is called “The St. Pope John Paul II Tuition Opportunity Partnership (TOP)”. The family must demonstrate a financial need and express a willingness to provide some financial contribution to the cost of the education and agree to support the child’s academic progress. This will include the completion and verification of the FACTS Grant and Aid application (Option 1 above) so alternative sources of funding, such as EITC assistance, may be used for tuition assistance as well. **However, the parent/guardian does not have to qualify for low-income assistance to be eligible for participation in the partnership.**

Important TOP Scholarship Information

- The student must demonstrate evidence of academic commitment and an enthusiasm for learning as well as a willingness to participate in at least one activity at the student’s local parish or faith community.
- The family, along with the student, must demonstrate their commitment to the school as well as their parish or denominational church through the donation of time, talent, or treasure as able.
- The family must be registered members, of a parish or other local faith community.
- Interested parents or guardians should call 724-552-2565 or visit www.catholicsschoolguide.org to arrange an in-person interview with the designated outreach and admissions coordinator to begin the process. Please do not contact Mother of Sorrows School directly.
- Returning families must re-apply for the TOP Scholarship.

Mother of Sorrows Catholic School promises to continue to provide the Catholic school tradition of faith-based education so valued in the communities we serve. Our goal is to make Catholic education accessible to ALL FAMILIES. If you have any questions regarding either option, please email Cris Coleman, Business Manager, at ccoleman@mosschool.org.

Scrip



EARN \$500 OR MORE IN SCRIP TUITION CREDIT ANNUALLY, AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3

1. Sign-Up for Your Family Account Today

- Sign up at www.ShopWithScrip.com or download the Raise Right App on your mobile device.

2. Instantly Download E-Cards

- You can instantly download e-cards when you link a bank account.
- Reload physical gift cards purchased at ShopWithScrip.com or the Raise Right App.
- Ship physical gift cards anywhere (fees may apply).
- Giant Eagle now has E-CARDS on the Raise Right App. They work just like the physical gift cards and you can get them INSTANTLY on your phone (with a linked bank account).
- You can use them for groceries, gas, pharmacy, retailer gift cards and so much more.

3. Get Support from Family and Friends

- Have your family and friends create an account through ShopWithScrip.com or the Raise Right App.
- They MUST indicate the "Family name" when setting up their account.

How to purchase MOSS in-stock physical gift cards

- Call or stop by the school office Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Available gift cards: Walmart/ Sam's Club (\$25, \$100), Giant Eagle (\$25, \$50, \$100, \$200, \$500), Barnes & Noble (\$5, \$10), Bath & Body Works (\$10), Bob Evans (\$10), Dairy Queen (\$10), Eat'n Park (\$10, \$25), Kohl's (\$10), Marathon (\$25), Michaels (\$25), Rite Aid (\$25), Sheetz (\$25), Speedway (\$25), Walgreens (\$25), Wendy's (\$10)

Please note: MOSS Giant Eagle physical gift cards can be purchased at the Murrysville or Penn Twp. customer service desks (payable ONLY with Cash or Check to MOSS).

Staff Spotlight: Chef Amy



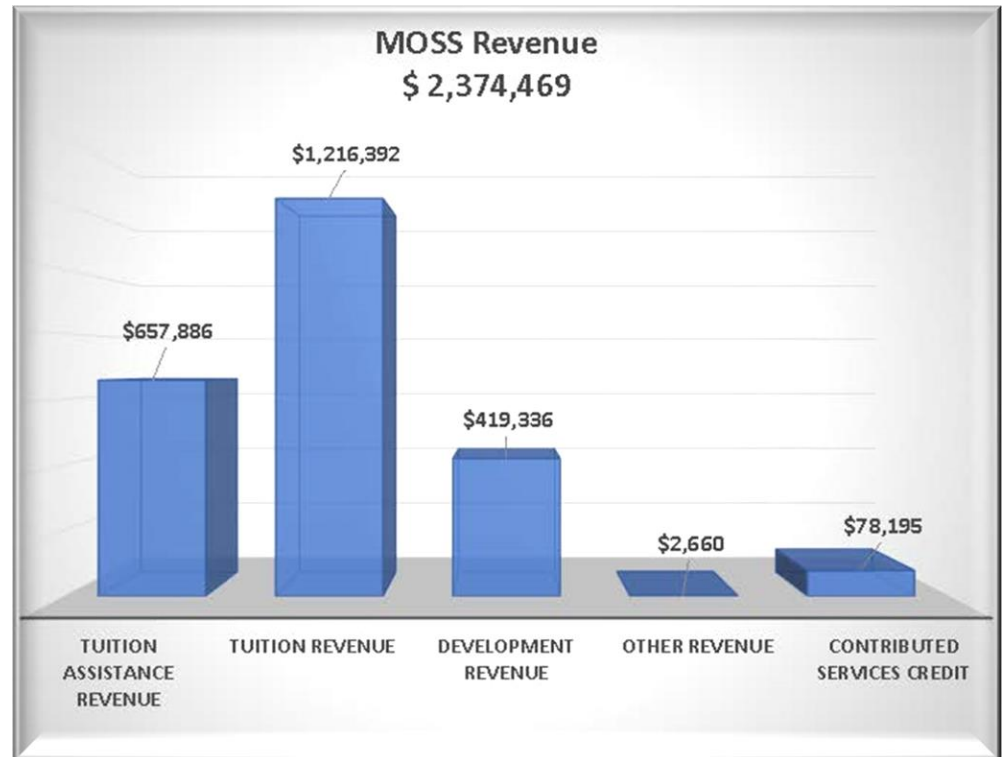
If you ever had the opportunity to visit MOSS, during lunch time, it won't take long for you to notice the smell of delicious food filling up the hallways. Thanks to Chef Amy, our students are served amazing lunches each and every day. In addition, to these healthy lunches, Chef Amy offers a variety of homemade soups and desserts that are truly out of this world. Chef Amy has worked around the country in San Diego, Cincinnati and Chattanooga. She has been married for 33 years and has two children Michael (32) and Emily (27). In October, her son and his wife, Hallie, welcomed her first grandson, Declan Phillip! Her favorite part of the day is seeing all of the kids bursting into the MOSS Café to show her a special toy or tell her something great about their day. She takes time to get to know all of the kids and customizes her lunches to meet the needs and preferences of her students. She hopes that, in some small way, her food will brighten their day. Thank you, Chef Amy, for making our students smile and serving them such wonderful meals!



Mother of Sorrows School Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Our school is in sound financial shape. At the end of the last fiscal year, we had a surplus of \$38,867. There is still a loan balance of \$28,353, which will be paid in full at the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The loan originated in June 2020, to purchase one-to-one devices for all MOSS students.



Tuition Assistance:

- Parish Supported Financial Aid, Diocesan Educational Endowment Funds, Scholarship Partners Foundation (EITC, PKTC, OSTC), TOP Scholarship, Local Financial Aid

Tuition Revenue:

- Tuition (Elementary), Tuition (Preschool)

Developmental Revenue:

- Planned Fundraisers and Events, SCRIPS Income, Gifts and Donations, Other Development, Grant/Government Revenue for Equipment, Capital, Professional Development, Books, Testing and Other

Other Revenue:

- Elementary Capital Endowment Funds, Resale Items Income, Student Services Fee, Student Registration Fees, Interest, Miscellaneous Income, Cafeteria Income

Contributed Services:

- Contributed Service Credit

Assets as of June 30, 2021:

- Operating Account - \$618,885
- Savings Account - \$87,733

Outstanding Loan Balance: \$28,353

**Administration:**

- Salaries, Taxes, Health Insurance, Pension, Materials and Supplies, Development, Telecom, Contracted Services

Instruction:

- Salaries, Taxes, Health Insurance, Pension, Unemployment Compensation, Textbooks, Supplies, In-Service Training, Software, Maintenance Fees, Consulting on Technology, Hardware

Plant Operations:

- Salaries, Taxes, Health Insurance, Pension, Materials and Supplies, Utilities, Contracted Services, Rental of School Building, Equipment Replacement, Long-Term Asset Improvements

Controlled Services:

- Centralized Services Cost through the Diocese of Greensburg

Why does MOSS have three mandatory operating budget fundraisers each year?

- MOSS requires each family to do their best to support three mandatory operating budget fundraisers each school year to avoid a \$300 per student tuition increase. Presently, when formulating an annual budget, a target fundraising profit of \$100,000 is factored into the revenue so that only small tuition increases are made if necessary. The amount of fundraising profit might increase in the future, but currently, this amount serves our needs.

How does the school decide what the mandatory fundraisers are going to be?

- The MOSS Advisory Council and Mrs. Szmed strategically plan what the mandatory fundraisers will be each year. Ultimately, we choose campaigns that will yield high profits (\$20,000 - \$25,000). Last year, we turned to raffles so that there was no social contact during the height of the pandemic to produce the profits needed. This year, we stayed with two raffles and will have one in-person fundraiser, The Designer Purse Bingo, in May. The rest of the fundraising profits come from optional fundraisers (MOSS Marathon, Sarris Candy Sales, Santa Shoppe and Breakfast with Santa) throughout the year.

Who oversees the mandatory fundraisers? Can anyone volunteer to help?

- Presently, there are chairpersons in charge of the raffle fundraisers and the Designer Purse Bingo. The raffle stubs and money are processed through the office by Cris Coleman, the MOSS Business Manager. The in-person fundraiser, The Designer Purse Bingo, will need many volunteers to help with the event. Anytime volunteers are needed, we send an email to all our families.

Covid-19 Quarantine Guidelines

Individuals Who Test Positive for COVID-19

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If the person with COVID-19 either has no symptoms or has resolved or improving symptoms (including no fever) after Day 5, the person may leave the house provided they wear a well-fitting mask when around other people for 5 additional days. Day 0 is defined as either the date of symptom onset, or the date the test specimen was collected if the person is asymptomatic.
- If someone develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, testing is recommended regardless of vaccination or prior infection status.

Individuals Exposed to Someone with COVID-19

If you have been boosted for at least 2 weeks or completed the primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months and are not yet eligible for the booster vaccination or completed the primary series of the J & J vaccine within the last 2 months. Heterologous (mix-and-match) dosing may occur for the booster dose:

- Quarantine is not required.
- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on Day 5, if possible. If positive, follow the recommendations above for individuals who test positive.

If you are unvaccinated or completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine OVER 6 months ago and are not boosted or completed the primary series of J & J OVER 2 months ago and are not boosted:

- Stay home for 5 days.
- After that, continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- Test on Day 5, if possible. If positive, follow the recommendations above for individuals who test positive.
- If you develop symptoms, get tested and stay home until the results are received. If someone in your family has symptoms and is being tested, please stay home until test results are received. This can help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

When a Household Member Tests Positive for COVID-19

If the student is not vaccinated:

- He/she will need to quarantine for the same period of time as the person who is COVID positive has to isolate.
- If they have no symptoms after that time, they must continue to quarantine for another 5 days.
- Should the student test positive at any point during the quarantine, he/she must follow the updated guidelines for testing positive.

If the student is vaccinated:

- He/she is permitted to attend school but must wear a mask for 10 days from the date of exposure.

Celebration of Catholic Schools Breakfast

A Celebration of Catholic Schools Breakfast



The Diocese of Greensburg recognizes the impact that each teacher has on the development of a child. We are excited to celebrate excellence in teaching in our Catholic schools by recognizing exceptional educators with a Golden Apple Award. Award winners will be honored during the fourth annual *A Celebration of Catholic Schools Breakfast on March 24, 2022 in North Huntington.*

Bishop Larry J. Kulick will serve as the keynote speaker and Dr. Maureen Marsteller, Superintendent of Catholic schools, will deliver a welcome and state of the schools address. Jennifer Miele, CCO, will serve as the emcee for this exciting event. Proceeds from *A Celebration of Catholic Schools* directly benefit our students, teachers and schools diocesan-wide.

Event Highlights

- Presentation of Golden Apple Awards to celebrate excellence in teaching generously provided by the Donahue Family Foundation.
- Capital Sustainability Awards will be presented to schools supporting projects ranging from heating and cooling upgrades, cafeteria and playground improvements to investments in gathering spaces and curb appeal.
- Recognition of exceptional student achievement through Student Spotlight Awards.

About the Golden Apple Award

- The Diocese of Greensburg is excited to celebrate excellence in teaching in our Catholic schools by recognizing exceptional educators with a Golden Apple Award. This award honors outstanding individuals who symbolize excellence in and out of the classroom, are committed to Catholic values and are devoted to teaching in the Catholic School system. The Diocese recognizes the impact that each teacher has on the development of a child and welcomes the opportunity to express appreciation through the Golden Apple Award program.
- The Golden Apple Award will be given to three teachers within the 12 schools of the Diocese of Greensburg. Each of the award winners receive a beautiful engraved Golden Apple and \$5,000 for their own unrestricted personal use.

If you are interested in attending A Celebration of Catholic Schools Breakfast on March 24, 2022, more information can be found at:
<https://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/schools/celebrateeducation/Pages/default.aspx?bblinkid=256508070&bbemailid=36313423&bbejrid=-2101283359>



Light Up Night

We would like to thank everyone who attended our annual Light Up Night! What an amazing turnout! We feel so blessed to share this special evening with our MOSS community. Thank you to all the families who generously donated baked goods, hot chocolate bar supplies, drinks and ornaments for our Christmas tree! We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.



Here is one of the beautiful Nativity projects our 5th graders had on display.



We would like to thank all of our families who participated in the Gingerbread House Contest. There were so many creative houses on display. We would like to congratulate Girl Scout Troup #19019 for being our contest winner, this year.



Thank you to all of the student volunteers that participated in the Living Nativity. It was a breathtaking display and a wonderful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

Around the Halls of MOSS



In August, we welcomed students back for the 2021-2022 school year!



In October, we had so much at the MOSS Marathon!



Our preschool students are learning computer coding.



In November, our 3rd grade students celebrated All Saints Day with a beautiful program.



Our 8th grade students enjoying the nice weather in September.

Around the Halls of MOSS



The FBLA students have been working hard to open the new school store. The grand opening is scheduled for March 2022.



In December, our 8th graders spent time reading with the kindergarten students.



Kindergarten students created the 3 Kings to celebrate the Epiphany.



Congratulations to our Snowman Contest Winners. Our 1st place winner was Sasha Schulte. Our 2nd place winner was Gabriella DiBerardine and our 3rd place winners were the Kallen family. We would like to thank everyone that participated in this fun event. All the entries were fantastic!