



January 3, 2014

Re: St. Lawrence Athletics – State of our Program

Dear Parents (“Boosters”);

Happy New Year!! We hope everyone enjoyed our Fall season and we are currently well into our Winter season. We are already looking forward to our Spring sports signup, which will run from January 2-January 23, and wanted to share with you a few topics including; state of our program, athletic by-laws, status of our finances and capital investments. We hope this *State of our Program* letter helps to better inform you about St. Lawrence Athletics.

Summary

The athletic program at St. Lawrence is a parish program, not just a school program, and one of the largest in the Detroit Archdiocese. Our Fall sports season fielded; five football teams, five volleyball teams, five soccer team and cheer teams and we had 247 participants on these teams. Our winter season is quickly upon us and we are fielding ten basketball teams, bowling teams and cheer teams. We have over 160 participants this winter. Last spring we had six baseball teams, four softball teams and two Lacrosse teams with 143 participants. So, over the course of the year we had over 550 spots filled on all of our teams at St. Lawrence. This past year we had several CYO championship teams and many league champions, they are acknowledged on the championship banners now proudly shown in our gym.

Most of you are aware of our website (www.mightymustangs.com) which contains all of our team schedules, spirit wear, results, links to volunteer shifts and allows for online registration. The website provides all of our families an easy source of information and allows us to streamline our registration processes. We use this as a communication tool to all our boosters and it contains our financial information, FAQ, Committee (“Board”) member contact information, registration information and field locations.

We recently conducted our fall on-line survey and reviewed the results at our November meeting and with our athletic director. We view your comments very seriously and they are reviewed by the entire committee, including our athletic director. Over the past couple of years as a result of the survey, we have made changes to our volunteer program, addressed field and uniform matters, and take all matters regarding our coaches and administration into consideration. Our Athletic Director also meets with each of the sport coordinators and most of the coaches in a post season wrap up meeting and discusses the results of the survey.

Finances

Our finances are in good shape, thanks to all your volunteer efforts at Applefest, the Gala and supporting our program at the games. Our fundraising events allow us to continue to provide our student/athletes with quality uniforms, access to high school level practice and game fields/courts, and coaching. Our registration fees are amongst the lowest in CYO and have been half of other large parishes for most of our teams.

Based on our current financial situation, we have moved forward with several capital improvement projects. All of our projects are discussed in advance with the school (PTO and school principal) and approved and reviewed by our parish leadership; Father Bob, Father Sal, the parish finance committee and if necessary the archdiocese. During this process, all views from other parts of the parish are solicited and designs, locations and timing of projects are agreed upon before a project can be implemented. Our larger approved projects for this fiscal year (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014) include the following:

- 1) Two Scoreboards: One for the Baseball/Soccer field (with clock) and the other for the Softball field. (approved- installation currently ongoing)
- 2) Stage mat and wall mat for the gym (approved – installation delayed until January as parish contemplating a change in logo design)
- 3) Baseball/Soccer field drainage project (approved – completed fall 2013)
- 4) Uniforms: new purchases this year include: baseball/softball, football, and basketball uniforms as needed. Prior year purchases included; Football, Lacrosse, Volleyball
- 5) Significant equipment upgrades for Lacrosse and Football

Below also find a list of some of the day-to-day operating expenses the Athletic Board must budget for each year

- Yearly water bill and field maintenance for the property behind the school including the soccer/baseball field & softball field.
- Yearly refinish of the gym floor (Completed each Thanksgiving break)
- Banner updates for the gym
- CYO-fee for each athlete per season (\$10/athlete)
- CYO-fee for each team per season (\$250/team)
- Officials for each home game/each season (\$35/official)
- Tournament fees
- Home Field rental (bowling, football, lacrosse & this year soccer)
- New uniforms – when necessary
- Safety inspection and replacement of football and lacrosse equipment
- Misc uniform and equipment purchases per sport per season (game balls, socks, whistles, coaches equipment, etc...)

Finally, we are also investigating several other large capital improvement projects, including new or refurbished bleachers and locker rooms, and we are hopeful to get agreement and approval within the parish in the coming months.

Athletic Committee By-Laws and roles

Our booster club is governed by our St. Lawrence Athletic Booster club By-Laws. A significant undertaking took place to update our by-laws as they were well over fifteen years old and in numerous areas very outdated. Several years ago, members of the Committee began this process and they were recently approved and posted on the website.

Our athletic director is responsible for all matters related to our teams. This includes our coaches, tryouts, number of teams, and participants per team. The athletic director works closely with the coaches and may ask for input from the rest of the committee, but the athletic director leads our “on-field” activities and is directly responsible to parish leadership.

The remaining members of the committee are *your* representatives with responsibility to oversee; our financials are properly managed, our fundraising efforts are successful, and our volunteer program meets the needs of our program.

Expectations for boosters

Each season and sport has different requirements for our boosters. In addition to Gala and Applefest commitments, we try and arrange volunteer hours to ensure our events are properly staffed, yet balancing all of your family commitments. We have moved to a more flexible online process to meet these needs. Please adhere to our volunteer requirements as these are minimal requirements and we prefer your time and do not want to charge for lack of fulfilling your commitment made at registration. We greatly appreciate those who consistently step up and ask if there is more they can do at our events.

The final topic before we close is very simple and must be followed. We adhere to a 24 hour rule in our program. This means should any parent have an issue with a coach you are required to wait 24 hours before contacting the coach to discuss the situation. If the matter relates to what you believe to be improper conduct, we ask you to contact our athletic director immediately, but for playing time, tryout team placement, or strategy matters you must wait 24 hours from the event to contact the coach or athletic director. This is a required period of time for both you, and the coach, to reflect on the events at our games or tryouts.

Closing

We would like to close this open letter with a special thank you to two former and one current member of the Booster Committee as their terms expired this past year or will in June 2014; Sheryl Anderson-Registrar, Jessica Pawelek-Treasurer, and Lisa Elston-Volunteer Coordinator. Through their tireless efforts, we are in a strong position to move the St. Lawrence Athletic program into the future. We thank each of them for their many years of service to our program and hope you will thank them as well when you see them at various parish functions. We will have additional opening(s) on our board in the near future and they will be posted on our website. We encourage anyone interested in joining our board or assisting with our events to contact a board member or come to our monthly meetings, the second Wednesday of each month.

On behalf of the entire Booster Committee, we welcome your input regarding any of the topics discussed above. As stated above, our meetings are open to all boosters and we welcome your input. Once again, thank you for all of your time and efforts to; support our fundraising, volunteering your time, and for supporting our student/athletes during their practices and

competitions. St. Lawrence is a special place and the strength of our booster community is the primary reason our reputation is so high within our community and within CYO itself.

Yours sincerely,

St. Lawrence Athletics Booster Committee

Athletic Director:	Greg Mangold
President:	Greg Burnick
Vice President:	Dave Imrick
Treasurer:	Paula Bruni
Registrar:	Amy Berent
Volunteer Coordinator:	Lisa Elston
Fundraising:	Cindy Reese & Donna Severyn
Pastor Delegate: (non-voting)	Father Sal

Delegated roles (report to a booster member)

Website Administrator:	Roger Berent
Photo Coordinator:	Joanne Dixon
Mass Coordinator & Football Concessions:	Triglia Family
Uniform Coordinator:	Lisa Mangold