

August 1, 2018



## Re: St. Lawrence Athletics – State of our Program

Dear Parents (“Boosters”),

We hope you are having a great summer and getting ready for another school year!! We are already looking forward to our Fall sports season and another Applefest to kick off the new year. We wanted to share with you a few topics including the state of our program, athletic bylaws, status of our finances and capital investments. We hope this letter helps to better inform you about St. Lawrence Athletics.

### Summary

The athletic program at St. Lawrence is a parish program, and one of the largest in the Archdiocese of Detroit. During the 2017/18 school year, our athletics program continued to be one of the strongest and largest in CYO. More importantly, we continued to have high levels of participation across all seasons and sports. Last fall, we had 198 participants between Football, Volleyball, Soccer and Cheer, with 85 on our Football teams alone. In the Winter season, we fielded 10 basketball teams, including 133 participants! Instructional basketball added another 63 players. In total for the winter season, we had 231 student athletes registered on St. Lawrence teams, including Basketball, Cheer and Bowling. In the Spring, we had another solid turnout for Baseball, Softball and Lacrosse, fielding a total of 7 teams comprised of 112 participants. So, over the course of the year we had over 478 spots filled on our teams at St. Lawrence, with 541 including instructional programs. We continued to have winning programs, adding to the championship banners that proudly hang in our gym. During the 2017/18 school year, we had 8 division champions, including 4 basketball teams (Boys Varsity #3 and JV #2, Girls JV #1 and JV #2), Girls Softball (JV #1), Boys Baseball (JV #1), Football (JV #2), Volleyball (Varsity #1) and our JV Cheer finished as runner-up in the winter competition.

Most of you are aware of our website ([www.mightymustangs.com](http://www.mightymustangs.com)) which contains our team schedules, spirit wear, team results, links to volunteer shifts and allows for online registration. The website provides 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 bylaws, FAQ, Committee (“Board”) member contact information, registration information and field locations.

## Finances

Our finances are in good shape, thanks to all your volunteer efforts at Applefest, the Gala, and your support 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 among the lowest in CYO and have been half that of other large parishes for most of our teams.

Based on our current financial situation, we have moved forward with several capital improvement projects over the past year, and committed more for the coming year. All projects are discussed in advance with the school and approved and reviewed by our parish leadership: Fr. Roman Pasieczny, Fr. Matt Ellis, 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 or completed projects for this fiscal year (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018) include the following:

- Upgraded gym lighting to LED
- New basketball uniforms
- New football uniforms and equipment
- Contributed to the school roof and HVAC project (Summer 2018)
- Installed new lockers in the gym locker rooms
- Approved funding for locker room upgrades and repairs for 2018/19 (details to be announced soon)

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 fields & 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 and lacrosse)
- Safety inspection and replacement of football and lacrosse equipment
- Miscellaneous uniform and equipment purchases per sport, per season (game balls, socks, whistles, coach's equipment, etc.)

Finally, we are also investigating several other large capital improvement projects, including field improvements and drainage, and fence-skirting.

## **Athletic Committee By-Laws and Roles**

Our booster club is governed by our St. Lawrence Athletic Booster Club Bylaws. A significant undertaking took place to update our bylaws last year as numerous areas were very outdated, in addition to expanding the board and its responsibilities. This included the addition of an assistant athletic director position and a new voting board position to manage communications, website and social media.

Our athletic director is responsible for all matters related to our teams, and is supported by the assistant athletic director. This includes hiring coaches, scheduling tryouts, determining the 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 athletic director is also the St. Lawrence representative to CYO and attends all CYO meetings.

The remaining members of the committee are your representatives with responsibility for general oversight; financial management, ensuring our fundraising efforts are successful; and making sure that our volunteer program meets the needs of our athletic program. These members also support Athletics involvement with Applefest and Gala activities. We are all quite visible on game days, as at least one board member is typically required at every home game, and oftentimes many are present to assist with game day activities by announcing games, running the scoreboard, or managing volunteers.

## **Expectations for Boosters**

Each season and sport have 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, while balancing 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 that you 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 time for both you, and the coach, to reflect on the events at games or tryouts.

For more information on expectations of student athletes and parents, please refer to the Athletic Booster Club Bylaws, under Articles X and XI, Student Athlete and Parents Codes and Policies.

## **Closing**

During this past year, we said farewell to our longtime Athletic Director Greg Mangold. Greg contributed tireless hours to our programs over his 23 years associated with St. Lawrence Athletics. We cannot thank him enough for everything he has done for our Athletics programs and for St. Lawrence School and Parish. Greg was succeeded by his son Matthew, who was appointed after an extensive search and took the helm as athletic director in January of this year.

We would like to close this open letter with a special thank you to four former members of the Booster Committee as their terms expired or they have stepped down this past year: R.J. Koss – President; Maria Meli – Fundraising and Spirit Wear Coordinator; Dan Wysocki – Treasurer; and Sarah Tague – Registrar. 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 service to our program and hope you will thank them as well when you see them at various parish functions. These positions have been filled, but each year we have openings on our board which are posted and sent out through 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, which are held the second Wednesday of each month.

On behalf of the entire Booster Committee, we welcome your input regarding any of the topics above. Our meetings are open to all boosters and we welcome your input. Once again, thank you for your time and efforts to support our fundraising, volunteer 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**

<b>Athletic Director:</b>	<b>Matt Mangold</b>
<b>Assistant Athletic Director:</b>	<b>Matt Bultinck</b>
<b>President:</b>	<b>Jim Ayer</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Paul Barbieri</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Nayda Mason</b>
<b>Registrar:</b>	<b>Jill Tocco</b>
<b>Communications and Website Coordinator:</b>	<b>Michelle Samartino</b>
<b>Volunteer Coordinator:</b>	<b>Keith Jablonski</b>
<b>Fundraising and Spirit Wear:</b>	<b>Phil Giuliani</b>
<b>Pastor Delegate (non-voting):</b>	<b>Steve Ranger</b>