

NovaPTO Upper School Parent Advisory “Strengthening the Nova Community”

Agenda – September 19 -2016, 5:00 pm to 6pm in Music room 131

NovaPTO Mission - Nova Classical Academy PTO is an organization of volunteers engaging families, teachers, and staff in fostering a school community that actively supports Nova’s mission and enriches the students and the school. Any and all current Nova parents and staff are considered members. There are no dues.

USPA Mission - Interaction between Parents and Administration in an informal setting to discuss particular events and issues, thoughts and perspectives in a positive and proactive manner.

6th Grade	Jennifer	Bateman Grover		
7th Grade	Charlene	Hess	hesscharlene@yahoo.com	
8th Grade	Jane	Lagerquist	jglager@gmail.com	
9th Grade	Maura Bridget	Hackenmueller Borrell	danhack@juno.com	
9th Grade	Kimberly	Adelsman	kimberlyadelsman@hotmail.com	
9th Grade	Sara	Waters	sara@saras-stories.com	
9th Grade	Jim	Boyle		
10th Grade	Katherine	Scheil	kscheil@comcast.net	
10th Grade	Mary Jo	Wiatrak		
11th Grade	Barb	Demlow		
11th Grade	Naomi	Kritzer		
Nova	Angela	Whited	awhited@novaclassical.org	
U.S. Principal	Mari	Bergerson	mbergerson@novaclassical.org	

1. Welcome and Roll Call (Jane)

- a. USPA Mission - Interaction between Parents and Administration in an informal setting to discuss particular events and issues, thoughts and perspectives in a positive and proactive manner
- b. Represent not only our family but other families. Be respectful. Provide time for all parents in the group to respond.
- c. Our meeting is limited to 1 hour.
- d. Need someone to Write minutes.
- e. Agenda Additions

2. Upcoming events

- a. boat trip for the 8th graders
- b. 8th grade trip to Washington DC - when info will be out.
- c. 9th Grade Retreat to Camp St. Croix!
- d. Great Gatherings & Grapes of Math
- e. Bookfair
- f. Masquerade dance
- g. Upper School conferences

3. Topics

- a. **Science** curriculum update (FYI - I've heard multiple comments on disappointed parents thinking their students are getting a simpler, less engaging science program with less labs.)
- b. Announcing USPA members to the rest of the school .
- c. Upcoming Parent Ed nights

4. Past Events - Only if there’s time.

- a. Past events -
- b. homecoming & dress up days
- c. Open house/meet the teacher night

For reference below- not needing to be re-discussed. Suggestions for next year events school calendar (recommendations of previous meetings)

AUTUMN SUGGESTIONS

- d. **St. Croix weekend** – request for coffee at the St. Croix weekend drop off for parents.
- e. **Homecoming** – 6-8 grade parents, Teachers and Administration felt it was too many dress up days for the middle school group. Suggestion for just 1 spiritwear day. Homecoming suggestions to have tailgating by families, or concession event...
- f. **Comedy Sportz** – Feedback was very positive. There was some feeling that the younger kids enjoyed it more than those on the older end of things. Suggestion next year, show for upper school, but only gr 6-7 workshops.
- g. **Teacher Conference Meals** – Big success. The food was great and teachers appreciated the vegan and gluten free options.
- h. **Senior Fall Breakfast**– Next year Donuts and coffee might be enough, since the students didn't eat the full on Breakfast. Donuts from Cub were suggested. Cost around \$300 for 35 kids.
- i. **Motivation Parent/student ed night** in September/October. Large session in Great room, since more than 115 attended.
- j. **SoR overview** during early enrollment season
- k. **Reading SoR/SoL Parent Ed night** – suggested for October.
- l. **Parent ed night attendance recommendations** - No Homework Nights help! Promise of breakout sessions for parents/kids to talk to each other more, Reminders sent by email day of event.

WINTER SUGGESTIONS

- m. Winter Treats – Make signs alerting to special allergy food. Less volunteers needed. Discount quantity of food needed, due to lunch period service time.
- n. Candy Grams – make sure rest of administration is notified of event, so smooth delivery.
- o. Grands Slam – 6th Grade Event. The kids loved it, and we'd like it for next year.
- p. Black and White dance – 6th to 8th grade. Water available for drinks too. Other activities like open gym and game room. More Chaperones with better directions. Maybe name it something else, since the age group is not conducive to dances only.
- q. Snow Daze – 9th-12th. No RedNeck, no PJ day

SPRING SUGGESTIONS

Spring fling dance and open gym –

MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS

- r. **Binders** – for volunteer needs to plan future events.
- s. **Open gym** – for grades on weekend to get back the school community feel.
- t. **Monthly Friday** coffee with Ms. Morton.
- u. **College fair** – Discussion regarding less faculty pushing of certain colleges.
- v. **Uniforms** – Parents and Administration were in agreement in frustration on Uniform violations. Request of donations of SoR uniforms to be kept on hand, sweaters etc
- w. **Health and safety protocol** for when a student is hurt or ill during school. There have been instances when students were asked to call home themselves, which has been problematic. A request was made to look in to the procedures in place.

5. **Our Meetings for the year are as follows,**

6. **Approximate NPTO Budget for 2014-2015 and Student count (as reference) – no action needed.**

S of L:

8th grade rec: 300

Comedy improv: 2250

S of R:

College tour bus: 500

Graduation: 500

House service project bus: 500

Prom: 800

Sr breakfast: 500

Sr Party: 850

6 th grade	80
7 th Grade	81
8 th Grade	79
9 th grade	61
10 th Grade	49
11 th Grade	37
12 th Grade	27