

STM Home & School Association

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the HSA?

The HSA is the St. Thomas More Home and School Association. It is similar to the PTA at public schools. It exists to enrich the school environment and to provide support to the school and the children.

Who is the HSA?

You are the HSA. Membership of the HSA includes STM parents, teachers, and staff. All STM school parents are members of the HSA, not just the committee chairs or board members. There are no membership fees, but as a member of our school community every family is required to lend support in the form of time, talent, and/or treasure.

What does the HSA do?

The HSA has 3 main purposes:

1. Encourage and coordinate volunteer involvement.
2. Maintain and improve the social environment among students, parents, and teachers.
3. Raise funds to support the school, its students and enrichment and extra-curricular programs.

Examples of HSA Activities:

- The HSA's largest fundraiser is the annual School Auction usually held in March. The auction raises money to provide the "extras" at the school that cannot be covered by tuition. Examples from past years include but are not limited to: playground equipment, wireless infrastructure, tablet computers for the middle school, new shelving in classrooms, and smart boards for all classrooms
- Social activities including the Halloween Carnival, Spirit nights, Mother/Son Bowling, Pasta Night, Father/Daughter Dance, and the Spring Fling
- Coordination of the Arenal Mission project in Nicaragua
- Providing Cultural Enrichment programs to students during the school year

These examples, along with many other school community enriching activities are the basis for why the HSA exists and needs your assistance.

How Do I Get Involved?

STM Catholic School and our parish is a stewardship community and, as such, encourages all families to share their time, talent, and treasure within their homes, communities, churches and the broader world. Specifically, within our school there are many needs during the daytime hours, evening hours and on the weekends. As a result, there should be some volunteer opportunity to fit into everyone's schedule.

All families are asked to commit a total of 20 hours of their time specifically to the operation and support of our school and its activities. This number is based on an estimate of what it takes to provide the high level of service and vitality within our school community. **Over the course of the year this averages to only 2 hours per month. Active families in our school community typically volunteer anywhere from 5-10 hours a month when you consider chaperoning field trips, dances, helping stuff envelopes in the office, raking mulch during a parish pride day – your 20 hours will go by very quickly.**

Please visit the HSA website at www.stmcscnc.org/stmhsa or click on the Home & School Association tab on the school website for more information regarding the various HSA committees. If you find something that interests you, please use the "Contact Us" tab on the left to send an email to the HSA Board and someone will get back to you.

There will be many opportunities to help throughout the year as various HSA committees will communicate their needs via email and sign up genius forms. Teachers will also directly request help for their classrooms.