

Sacred Heart Academy

PARENTS' CLUB GUIDELINES

MISSION

The SHA Parents' Club collaborates with the SHA Advancement Office to foster a strong sense of school community amongst all parents and provide meaningful opportunities to strengthen parent connections with each other and the School, build pride and continue to honor longstanding traditions of Sacred Heart Academy.

MEMBERSHIP

Each parent is automatically a member of the Parents' Club when the student is enrolled in the school. No registration is required. Parents are our most valued ambassadors throughout the greater community and an invaluable part of our school. Their volunteer efforts and support of the school enhance the educational experience of Sacred Heart Academy students.

All parents are welcome to be active and explore the many volunteer opportunities through the various committees organized by the Parents' Club.

PARENT VOLUNTEER STRUCTURE

The efforts of the Parents' Club focus on four main areas:

1. Parent Engagement and Volunteer Opportunities
2. School Traditions and Events
3. Parent Fundraising
4. Parent Ambassadors

THE MOTHER'S CLUB is always seeking volunteers to help with various student and parent events throughout the year, including but not limited to: Freshman Commissioning Ceremony, Sophomore Grandparents Day, Junior Ring Ceremony, Baccalaureate Mass, Mother Daughter Liturgy and Brunch, Auction, Admissions Events, School Store.

THE FATHER'S CLUB seeks volunteers to help with various student and parent engagement events throughout the year, including but not limited to: Father-Daughter event, parking assistance for Open Houses and Graduation, student events, grounds upkeep and gardening projects.

The Executive Committee: The Presidents of the Mother's Club and the Father's Club will be the Co-Chairs and lead the efforts of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee consists of the following leadership volunteers:

- Parents' Club Co-Presidents, Co-Vice-Presidents, and Communications Coordinator
- Auction Chair
- Annual Fund Chair
- Golf Event Chair
- School Store Chair

The Executive committee will help identify and recruit volunteers for all other committees and oversee their work. This leadership group will also organize parent meetings to provide updates on the work of the Executive Committee, seek parent feedback and encourage parent involvement in the life of the school.

Annual Fund Committee: The Annual Fund is the School's most important fundraising initiative every year in support of teaching and learning at SHA. Annual Fund Ambassadors (we seek 3-4 representatives for each class) work closely with the Advancement Office in helping foster a culture of philanthropy and giving back. All parents are expected to participate in the SHA Annual Fund as high parent participation levels speak volumes about the strength of the community and show an appreciation for the work of our faculty and staff.

Auction Committee: The Annual Auction is a critical fundraiser for the School including dinner and silent and live auction items. This is a parent volunteer effort, led by the Auction committee in collaboration with the Advancement Office. Parent volunteers help the Advancement Office with identifying a theme for the auction, generating excitement about the event, as well as with soliciting auction items. Hundreds of items are donated every year by generous families, alumnae, friends and businesses.

Golf Committee: The Sacred heart Academy Annual Golf Scholarship Tournament is a fun day on the links.

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Parents, alumnae and friends enjoy 18 holes of golf, followed by dinner and raffles. Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund. Parent volunteers help with generating excitement about the event, encouraging parents to attend as well as soliciting sponsors. This year's event is scheduled for May 16, 2022.

School Store Committee: The School Store committee helps with coordinating the efforts of parent volunteer who operate the School store during open hours. Parents are also encouraged to help with ideas and suggestions regarding inventory.

SCHOOL TRADITIONS

Freshman Commissioning (September) - a special ceremony in the Chapel during which the Freshman class is fully inducted into the Sacred Heart Community. All freshman girls will receive a Sacred Heart pin. Parent volunteers help organize a special reception following the ceremony – refreshments (punch) and baked goods are served.

Grandparents and Special Friends Day (TBD)
- Sophomore girls share a special morning with their grandparents on Grandparents and Friends Day. Activities

may include speakers, pictures and refreshments, as well as a special prayer service in the Chapel. Parent volunteers assist with set up, registration and clean up.

Mother-Daughter Liturgy and Brunch (February) - a longstanding tradition at Sacred Heart Academy. Students and their mothers start the day with a beautiful liturgy in the Chapel at 9:00am. Mothers and daughters are asked to participate in the Mass. Following Mass, all head to Cascade in Hamden for a delicious buffet brunch. A photographer will be on hand to take pictures of mothers and daughters.

Father-Daughter Liturgy and Brunch (October) - a longstanding tradition at Sacred Heart Academy. Students and their fathers start the day with a beautiful liturgy in the Chapel at 9:00am.

Junior Ring (April) - an honored tradition at Sacred Heart Academy as members of the Junior class are presented with their class rings. The entire Junior class (students and parents) gathers for a liturgy in the Chapel where the girls receive their class ring. Following the ceremony, Juniors and their parents celebrate with refreshments and snacks in the café.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE AND HELP

- Volunteer to help out at the various events
- Offer to participate or co-chair a committee
- Donate items needed for any of the events (especially for the auction)
- Support the Annual Fund by participating in the effort with a gift of any size to help increase our overall parent participation numbers – an important factor when schools are being ranked against peer schools.
- Attend parent engagement events
- Reach out to other parents and get them involved
- Bring another mom with you to a parent meeting or event and make new friends along the way.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE SHA PARENT COMMUNITY