



# St. Augustine Academy

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***In Memoriam***  
**Mr. Roy S. Rohter, S.F.O.**  
**† 2018**  
**Co-founder**  
**St. Augustine Academy**

September 11, 2026

*Sts. Protus and Hyacinth*

Dear Families,

I was recently reading an article by Faustin Weber, a nationally recognized Catholic school leader and speaker. In it he digs up a study from the 1980s by a Dr. Coleman, who found that Catholic schools outperformed public, even when you took out socioeconomic differences. Dr. Coleman was insistent that it was the communities in Catholic schools that made a difference. “[Dr. Coleman] argued that Catholic schools were often embedded in ‘functional communities’—communities in which parents, students, teachers, clergy, and other adults were connected through overlapping relationships and shared institutions. Those connections generated what Coleman later called social capital: trust, common expectations, information-sharing, and the ability of adults collectively to reinforce norms and support students. That additional ‘social capital’ is what made the difference.”

We are a small school that is centered around community. The temptation is sometimes to move away from the small community model and to move toward a more institutional model. We want to hire someone instead of relying on a volunteer or we want policy to replace personal relationships, and soon the school moves away from a community-driven place for our children and becomes just a place to drop off your kids. We as a school need to fight hard against that. We need to really lean into the community. All parents should get to know the other parents here, swing by before and after school and get to know the teachers, come to the school events, and have the kids from your classes over. Unless we are actively working as a community, we are not fulfilling our duty as members of this school.

This past Sunday’s gospel is the school’s grievance policy. “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone... If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. ” There’s a good reason why we have this grievance policy. We are a small school driven by the community that is here. When there is a grievance between two families, or a student and another student, or a student and teacher, it is better to deal with the grievance personally between the immediate parties in order to try and preserve the community here.

I want to give you a small example of this. Back when the school was just beginning, my mother-in-law, Maria, sent several of her children here. My wife is from a naturally athletic family, but a few of her siblings have learning disabilities. Maria received a phone call early on from another parent saying that my mother-in-law’s boys were teasing/bullying her son over his lack of natural athleticism. Maria listened patiently to the complaint, and then let the other parent know that the other parent’s son was teasing/bullying her boys because of their learning disabilities. Both parents got off the phone that day and spoke with their own kids and resolved the issue.

Think about this for a moment. The parent that called assumed charity on the part of my mother-in-law. She assumed Maria was reasonable, wanting what was best for her sons, and would take care of the issue. Because she called, she also learned that her own son was contributing to the issue. The issue was resolved between the families and both families could coexist at the school quickly and without any awkwardness. This was the best possible outcome.

If the parent had originally called the headmaster at the time and had he taken care of it, there likely would have been a lot of he said/she said, a lot of resentment between the families thinking they were not being listened to or believed, and while the issue may have stopped for a week or two,

the resentment between the families would eventually prevail and the boys would have gone back to being mean very quickly. This could even have led to an expulsion or a family leaving. However, this was prevented because a mother assumed the best about my mother-in-law and took the words of the Gospel seriously.

Small, personal communities require parents to really communicate with one another in order to preserve the peace and order of the community. This can be awkward or difficult to do at times, but we are not here at the school to do what is easiest for our children, but what is best for our children. That said, if there is ever an issue you are uncomfortable speaking to another parent about, please rest assured you can approach me and I will help you through it. However, time and time again, it has proven that families assuming charity about others in the community and approaching each other works best. And really, if we can't approach other parents/families/teachers who agree with us on 90% of all issues, who can we approach?

God Bless, Timothy Moore

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FRANKENSTEIN SEMINAR-** Saturday, September 12 is the seminar and dinner night for the High Schoolers at the Van Hecke residence! This is a mandatory event for high school. If for some reason, your high schooler cannot make it due to a prior obligation, please let Mr. Moore ASAP. See the flyer for more details.

**HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT DRESS CODE-** As a reminder, High School Freshmen boys need a white button-down shirt and black dress pants. High School Freshmen girls will need to purchase a choir dress for the performance concerts. They will use this all four years at the school. The dress is a Denise (Style #103)- **Black** Sweetheart Neck, Short Sleeve from Concert Attire:

<https://www.concertattire.com/products/denise-sweetheart-neckline?variant=42365828432041>

**PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB-** Mr. Schmutzer is restarting his photography club for any interested High School students. The club will meet Wednesdays from 3:00-3:45 in St. Augustine Hall starting on Wednesday, September 16. Come to the first meeting if you'd like to participate.

### **UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER-**

Sep 11- Late Start

Sep 11- Family Dance @ the Upper Campus! See the flyer for more details.

Sep 12- *Frankenstein* Seminar Night for High School at the Van Hecke residence!

Sep 25- Progress Reports

***ORA PRO NOBIS*** – *We continue to keep all our friends and family in our prayers! For the repose of the soul of John Summe, Jr. For a successful and joy-filled school year at St. Augustine Academy. For the health of Fr. Paul Donlan. For the health of Kevin Kolbeck. For the repose of the soul of Paul Scamperle, former SAA parent. We pray for our Pope, our Archbishop, all of our priests and religious, and we pray especially for each other!*

