Notes from a meeting with 7th & 8th Grade Room Representatives to discuss MCS Graduation details and expenses.

Parents from grades K, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 met to discuss graduation festivities. Pre-K and 1st grade was not represented.

The purpose of the meeting was to help parents/Room Reps understand the importance of accruing class funds. Every class should be asking for $30 contribution to the class fund every year. Typically, these funds are due at Back-to-School Night. The funds follow the class/grade from Pre-K through 8th grade. While it is true that we do lose some students/families as the years go by, the hope is that everyone will choose to participate and “give forward.” Class funds can be used to help with class parties, faculty luncheons, etc. However, Room Reps need to guard the funds wisely, and build the fund over the years. The funds are needed to pay for 7th and 8th grade activities. It should be noted that monetary donations for class funds is completely optional; however, it is essential to encourage every family to give what they can, whether it be with a monetary donation, volunteer time in organizing or being a Room Rep, or a combination of both.

7th grade traditionally organizes the Graduation Dance. They use their class funds to pay for the DJ, Photo Booth, refreshments and decorations. Those invited to the Graduation dance are: 8th graders and their families, 7th graders (not their families), current and former MCS teachers. Typical expenses for this event run in the neighborhood of $1,500.00.

8th grade traditionally has organized a Graduation Dinner. In years past, when the school had single-classes, this was held at the school between the mass and the commencement exercises. The past few years, this has been changed into an 8th Grade BBQ. 8th Grade class funds are used to purchase the main entrée, and all families bring a potluck side dish or dessert along with their beverage of choice. The BBQ has taken place on the school quad. Decorations, table/chair set-up is all up to the 8th Grade Room Reps, and class funds can be allotted to that as well. Just to give perspective: to date, the RSVP count for the BBQ is 240. Expenses can range upwards of $1,000.00

Additionally, 8th grade is not required to do a Gala auction item. Instead, the 8th grade Room Reps talk with school administration to determine a gift that the school can use. This year, the 8th grade has reserved $1,000.00 to go toward the school gift.

Graduation keepsakes include a lovely black and white 8x10 mounted portrait of each 8th grade student. While these services have been donated in the past, that is not always the case. This year, class funds will also cover the printing and mounting expenses for this cherished momento.

8th grade class funds are also used to organize a Shakespeare Reception following the Shakespeare plays that each 8th grade class performs.
8th graders have had a long-standing tradition of organizing a River Trip. Parents are the sole-organizers of this excursion. This is NOT a school function; there are no school chaperones. The expense for this is completely out-of-pocket. Arrangements are made through Moab Adventure Center. A deposit is usually due at Back-to-School Night, and updates and final payment costs are given once a final headcount is confirmed. In year’s past, 8th grade classes have arranged a Babysitting Night (close to the Christmas holidays), where they advertise to the MCS Community and arrange activities/food/movie/games/crafts for the children to do while their parents go out for a few hours. The money earned is divided evenly amongst those who participate in the activity, and is applied to their trip balance.