



We are **proud** to offer Agricultural Education and FFA at St. Cecilia Middle & High School and are **excited** to continue the **momentum** of these programs through the development of the HCS Ag & FFA Boosters group! We are passionate about these programs and are looking for like-minded supporters to join our group. Parishioners, current families, past parents, alumni, agri-business professionals, community members and all friends of HCS are invited help us support ag experiences for our students.

This Booster group will use their passion for agriculture and education to support Ag Ed & FFA at St. Michael Elementary and St. Cecilia Middle & High School (Hastings Catholic Schools) through fundraising, fellowship, education, mentoring and fostering community connections.

Thank you for your interest in the HCS Ag & FFA Boosters! Please return the enclosed supporter card to select your involvement or scan the QR code to sign up online.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:**

Individual Family Dues	\$25
Corporate Sponsorship: Gold	\$500
Corporate Sponsorship: Blue	\$250
Corporate Sponsorship: White	\$100



MEMBERSHIP

**INVOLVEMENT OPTIONS**

**Leadership Group**

- Organizational officers: Chair, ViceChair, Secretary/Treasurer
- Assist with Bylaws
- Endowment establishment process
- Fundraiser planning

**Committees (others TBD)**

- Blue & Gold Banquet and Booster Social (April 24, 2024)
- Endowment/Scholarship
- Elementary Outreach
- Fundraiser

INVOLVEMENT



**BOOSTERS CONTACTS**

Matt Greenquist | 402-326-9077

Ryan Weeks | 402-469-0393



HastingsCatholicSchools.org/FFA



*Fostering agricultural experiences at Hastings Catholic Schools*

**2024**

## How often will Boosters meet?

Meetings will be held quarterly, with one of them being a social held in conjunction with the Blue & Gold banquet in the spring. Leadership and committees will meet as needed. ■

## Who will the Boosters support?

The Boosters will support St. Cecilia Ag Education students, the St. Cecilia FFA chapter, outreach to St. Michaels elementary students, and Hastings Catholic Schools teachers wishing to integrate agricultural awareness and education into their classrooms. ■



## How will the Boosters raise funds for support?

Annual family membership dues and corporate sponsorships will provide the main source of funds. At this time, it is the goal of the group to establish one main fundraiser during the fall semester which will help raise money, as well as allow for fellowship and promotion of the Boosters and the STC Ag & FFA programs. A couple of non-food ideas have been proposed, and a committee will be tasked with considering these and other options and then working with the school Development Office for scheduling and approval.

## Are there plans to ensure the ongoing support for the Boosters and the Ag Education & FFA programs for Hastings Catholic Schools?

A draft set of bylaws has been created and the new leadership group will work to edit and prepare these so that the group's structure is well-delineated.

It is the intent of the Boosters to establish, within 1-2 years, an Agricultural Education endowment through the Hastings Catholic Schools Foundation. This endowment will help to support the



needs of the instructor, students, and FFA chapter. Once established, it may also provide scholarship funds for students and classroom grants for teachers. A member of the new leadership group (likely the treasurer) will serve as the Boosters' liaison to the HCS foundation and administration.

The governance and administrative support of HCS and the Unity Board for the Ag & FFA programs at St. Cecilia over the past three years has been incredible, especially in working with a new graduate instructor and then being without an instructor for the past year, and we look forward to continuing to work collaboratively.

In addition to the establishment of the Boosters, an Agricultural Education Program Advisory Committee has been formed, which is made up of professionals from the community representing each of the three areas of study within our agricultural education program (plant systems, animal systems, and agribusiness systems). This group will not be involved in any fundraising, but rather support the Ag Education instructor and



the HCS administration "in establishing, operating, and evaluating a program which is able to serve the needs of students and ensure its alignment with the community and industry" (Article II, Advisory Committee Bylaws).

Members of this newly-formed Advisory Committee include: Ag Education Teacher/FFA Sponsor, Troy & Ellen Thomas, Aspen Workman, Rob Hrnchir, Jim Wesely, Cory Jones, Bailey Hinrichs, and Mat Habrock. One member of this committee will also represent the group on the school's Academic Committee. We are grateful for their willingness to serve in this capacity.

Please contact Ellen Thomas or Fr. Rowan if you would like more information about the Advisory Committee-bylaws, membership, etc. ■