



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

# BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ APRIL 16, 2020

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I hope your Easter celebrations were enjoyable and you were able to relax a bit during our break from school time. Now that we are back, I would like to share some thoughts and observations. Although we have been operating under the guise of on-line learning or distance learning, I think it is important to recognize that what we are experiencing is pandemic learning. It is nothing that any of us have experienced before. As a result, we cannot fully plan for it or know what to expect day to day.



The teachers are trying to be consistent, while continuing to learn new and possibly better platforms. We recognize that every family situation is different. Children do not have the same access to devices, parent help, opportunities to participate in ZOOM meetings and the ability to do schoolwork during the best times of the day for them. On top of this, we are all dealing with the stress of living in a time of the unknown. Will we get back to school at all this year? Will we run out of produce, cleaning products, toilet paper? To be honest, I wrote many more foreboding "Will we" questions, but I stressed myself out! The only antidote to this stress is our faith in God and in the goodness of one another. We are a community of believers and we live in the knowledge that our lives are in God's hands. Our children, who are a great gift from God, look to us for strength and optimism. Our faith can help us see the positive side of any situation. The children are not bound by a rigid schedule. We can take breaks and go for a walk, run around the block, marvel at the beauty of the flowers, bake cookies, listen to music, sing, and be creative and resourceful in many ways. Learning occurs in all these activities. It is critical that we remain positive, and flexible. The teachers are committed to helping every child grow and succeed. I am committed to working with you throughout this uncertain time and look forward to getting back to normal whatever that may look like.

## PARENT SURVEY

Please look for a short survey in your email inbox. The information that you give will help us improve on-line instruction and learning, as well as know the best times to hold ZOOOM parent meetings. The faculty and administration is committed to serving you and your children to the very best of our ability during these very challenging times. Your input will help us serve you better.



## CONGRATULATIONS ASMA SCHOLARS

Report cards for students in grades 1-8 were mailed yesterday. Students in grades 4-8 are eligible to be recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being placed on the Honor Roll or Principal's List. Students on the Honor Roll have received As or Bs in all subjects, a Good or Excellent in all special subjects and a Good or Outstanding in behavior. Students on the Principal's List have the same criteria except they have achieved all As in core subjects. Congratulations to our third quarter outstanding scholars!



### Principal's List

- Grade 4 Solomon Adeymi, Chijoke Akunwafor, Malcolm Johnson,  
MJ Magauay, Idara Onyewu  
Grade 5 Jade Carter, Ethan Onyewu  
Grade 6 Elsie Anosike, Muma Nidi  
Grade 8 Kelvin Blake



### Honor Roll

- Grade 4 Mario Bush, CeNaiya Green, Chimele Madika,  
Chinassa Nnanna, Mayen Onyewu  
Grade 5 Yana Achaleke, Roosevelt Anosike, Saidah Barner,  
Harmonie Hawkins, Jordan Steele, Renaud Williams  
Grade 6 Chinwendu Akunwafor, Thelma Alemnji, Deron Asongfua,  
Maria Bush, Ryan Philip Oben, Jason Sotelo, Maia Zafaralla  
Grade 7 Chloe Dickens, Elaiwe Ikpi, Mia Johnson, Julianne Walters  
Grade 8 Ashley Gomez, Nnaeto Nwafor, Nehemiah Washington



### MORNING PRAYER

Beginning Monday, April 20, Mrs. Schratz will be leading morning prayer for all students at 8:05 A.M. Parents and teachers are also invited to attend. Mrs. Kelly will be sending the Zoom link the evening before.



### RE-ENROLLMENT AND TUITION ASSISTANCE



Forty-three current St. Matthias families have not yet re-enrolled their children for next year. More than half of these families have received tuition assistance from the Pastors Assistance Fund of the Archdiocese of Washington. The application deadline is April 24. The principal submits this application and indicates the names of students who are applying for aid. Only children enrolled for the coming school year are eligible. Last year we requested nearly

\$100,000 in aid and were awarded \$65,000. It would be greatly appreciated if all unenrolled families who intend to be at St. Matthias for the 2021 school enroll today! However, if your family received any tuition assistance last year and expects to need it again this year, you must re-enroll before April 24. If you have a question or problem doing so, you must contact Mrs. Schratz or Mrs. Blackburn. Please do not delay!

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Money collected for our Chick-Fil-A and Pizza lunches is still in our school safe. Please note that the checks also have not been deposited. We are hoping that we will return to school in May and the students will be able to enjoy both lunches. In the event that this does not happen, the cash and checks will be returned.

