



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ MAY 07, 2020

CLOSING

It is with a very heavy heart that I share the news that I am sure you have already heard: St. Matthias will not reopen until the start of the 2021 school year. Distance learning will continue as it is until the end of the school year. Our last day of school will be June 12. Report cards will be mailed at that time. Plans will be made for families to return school items and pick up their children's belongings. The Exchange Day plans will be developed with the personal safety of everyone in mind.



MASSES



Tomorrow at 2:30 Fr. Jack will celebrate Mass for our school community live via ZOOM. The link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88060299439?pwd=QytyTXFhR3J5OXdlUFVudmVpdjhWdz09>

Meeting ID: 880 6029 9439

Password: 8†2ESn

During the month of May the Catholic Church honors Mary, the Mother of God. Our Mass will have a Marian focus as well as prayers for our teachers as we conclude Teacher Appreciation Week. We are hoping all students will attend and ask that they wear their school uniforms or St. Matthias spirit wear. Next Friday, May 16 Archbishop Wilton Gregory will be live streaming Mass for all students PK-12 in the Archdiocese of Washington. Please see the attached letter.

THANKS TO PARENTS

Thanks to the sixty families who participated in the Zoom parent meetings this week. The final meeting is this evening at 6:30 for parents of students in grades PK-3. Use this link to join:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85189714483?pwd=Y1BXaHRhaVNPn3JyU1hPLzVDDlQ1UT09>

Meeting ID: 851 8971 4483

Password: 040618

It was great to see one another and to strengthen the school home connection. Of course, everyone agrees that getting the children back to school is the first priority. However, since this is now impossible, continuing what we are doing with understanding, empathy and a great deal of flexibility is the key to helping the students and families stay strong

GRADUATION



Our school will certainly honor our graduates in a graduation ceremony of some sort when the Stay at Home order is lifted. The parents of our 8th graders will be contacted via email in the coming days for their input on what this looks like.

STAFFING NEWS

It is the time of year when changes in faculty and staff are often announced. We are sad to inform you that Mrs. Courtney Smith will not be returning to her position as the preschool teacher at St. Matthias next year. Mrs. Smith has served our community with great enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication for the past seven years. She has decided to pursue her career goals as a first grade teacher at St. Mary of the Assumption in Upper Marlboro. We wish Mrs. Smith the best of luck and much success in this new endeavor. It is an understatement to say that she will be greatly missed!



SHOUT OUTS TO STUDENTS!



There is a broad range of participation and quality of work amongst our students. This is in part due to variation in family circumstances and resources. However, the faculty and administration would like to commend those students who are going above and beyond during this time of pandemic learning. This will be a weekly feature in Bridges and we hope to see other students honored each week.

Congratulations to *Kelvin Blake* (8), *Jayden Thomas* (6) *Tori Robinson* (3), *Keelyn Hadley* (1) and *Ariana Calderon Ramos* (PK) for creating amazing videos for this week's PE assignment for Mrs. Wright, as well as *Nnaeto Nwafor* (8) for completing all work in PE. Mr. Saverino is proud of these 7th graders for total completion and participation since distance learning began: *Mia Johnson*, *Dakarta Jenkins*, *Julianne Walters*, *John Ted Alemnji*, *Franklin Morfaw*, *Jakobi Ingram* and *Amia Hayling*. Mrs. Gillis reports that her entire 5th grade is awesome and working very hard. Likewise, Dr. Tyler is thrilled that her third graders are living up to their name, "Terrific Threes." The superstar of 6th grade is *Maia Zafaralla*, though a number of students are close on her heels for completing all work.

Many of our students are "knocking it out of the park" on IXL. Some by putting in exemplary time and answering many questions and others by showing great growth. These students are commended for outstanding effort and achievement on IXL: *Chris Umana-Cruz* (8), *Juliann Walters* (7), *Malia Fominyam* and *Ryan Philip Oben*, *Elijah Wiseman* (6), *Malick Myrville* (5), *Chijoke Akunwafor* and *Chimelie Madika* (4), *Ayami Notice*, *Austin Cruz* and *Luke Nguyen* (3), *Mark Sarmiento* and *Amare Wisdom* (2), *Yahir Carino*, *Dylan Diaz*, *David Enrique-Diaz* and *Keelyn Hadley* (1), *Chelsea Esene* and *Ashley Lara* (K) and *Ariana Calderon Ramos* in PK. Congratulations to Ms. Campbell's second grade for the highest number of questions answered at 29,922!

CALENDAR

Included with this email is the calendar for the coming school year. It includes the dates when school begins and ends as well as vacation days and half days. Although the calendar guidelines from the Archdiocese of Washington allow 15 early dismissal days, St. Matthias has only 10 scheduled. The monthly calendar that contains scheduled events will be sent out in mid-July. Needless to say, we never expected to be in the situation we are in now, but we will plan events for the coming school year and then modify them as needed.



To All the Amazing and Awesome Women of St. Matthias

Happy Mother's Day

