



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

MUSTANGS SERVE

Governor Hogan has, once again, called for a day of service between September 11 and October 10. Our school community can help our neighbors in need by donating food for distribution to those experiencing hardship in Lanham. The demand for food has increased dramatically since the economy shut down in March. **When students visit school for their on-site events in the next few weeks, we are asking that they bring food items.** Protein (canned meat, tuna, bean, peanut butter, and staples (cereal, rice, boxed potatoes) are especially needed. Please be as generous as you can be.

NEW LATE POLICY

We will continue to look for ways to improve on-line learning and strengthen instruction for our distance learners. Late arrivals in class continues to be a big problem. Therefore, beginning Monday we are instituting a new policy. Students will not be admitted to the class after the first 5 minutes. Occasionally, students are late because there are technical issues. In these cases, parents are asked to contact Mrs. Blackburn (301-577-9412) and she will get help from Mrs. Kelly or Mr. Loughner and inform the teacher to let the students in when they successfully log on.

IXL OUR PERSONALIZED LEARNING RESOURCE

Every student in grades PK-8 has an IXL account. Teachers are using IXL to assign specific skills. Some may also be using IXL to assess achievement of these skills. In addition, the students will receive an individualized learning plan in math and reading when they complete the diagnostic. Completing just 10-15 questions per week will keep their learning plan updated and active. Students were asked to enter the diagnostic arena and complete the diagnostic between August 26 and September 8. It takes about 45 minutes to complete enough questions for a plan to be developed. **Please encourage your children to use this tool for their growth.** Of course, we are conscious of screen time, especially during this time of distance learning. However, short periods of time are recommended. Studies have shown that the use of IXL increases student achievement!

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN REMINDERS

Please be sure to send in healthy snacks, lunch and water daily for our little ones. Because of Covid the children are not able to get water from the fountains. Extra water bottles would be helpful. Please label your child's water bottle. Please limit sweet snacks. NO candy. Sliced cucumbers, carrots, celery sticks, string cheese and fruit are just a few examples.



Mark Your Calendar

Friday, September 18
Grade 1,2,3 On-Campus
Grade 1 – 11 am Field
Grade 2 – 11 am BB Court
Grade 3 – 10:45 Playground
NOON DISMISSAL

Monday, September 21
Archbishop Carroll HS Visit
1:30 pm

Tuesday, September 22
Elizabeth Seton HS Visit
10:00 am

Grade 7 On Campus
8:15 - 9:30

School Advisory Meeting
7:00 pm

Thursday September 24
Grade 6 On Campus
8:30 – 9:30 am

Friday September 25
School Mass Virtual
9:45 am

Grade 8 On Campus
10:00 - 11:30 am

NOON DISMISSAL

USED UNIFORMS

We have an abundance of uniforms of all types and sizes. They are now on sale for \$10 per bag. Fit as much as you can in a brown paper grocery bag and outfit all your children! This sale begins tomorrow from 8-12 and all next week. Plan on "shopping" when you bring your children for their on-site visits. Parent volunteers are needed to staff the sale. If you can serve a couple of hours, please call Mrs. Blackburn.

SCANTRON

The Fall baseline testing is continuing. Our resource teacher, Mrs. Dunn will be contacting individual families to schedule this annual math and reading test. By the end of September all children in grades K-8 must be tested. Please respond to her emails and be faithful to your children's appointment times.

The results of the test will be shared with parents as soon as a class has completed testing. Teachers use the results of these tests to individualize instruction and develop priority growth targets for each child.

FAMILY INCOME SURVEY

All St. Matthias families need to complete the confidential family income survey. State and federal funding is based on the response to these surveys. Last year St. Matthias received over \$14,000 for textbooks and technology. Without these funds we would not have been able to provide laptops for the teachers to implement distance learning, the new social studies program for grades K-8, a new math program for grades K-2, and replacement books for all students. If you have not done so, please complete the survey today. We are postponing the out of uniform day for students whose families complete the survey to Wednesday, September 23. Click on the link below to complete the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VFMDD7B>

LATE ARRIVALS

Thank you so much for your patience each morning when you drop off your child. Having your covid checklist ready and just needing a temperature check makes things go so much quicker. IF you arrive after 8:30 a.m., please go to Friendship Hall doors and signal the teacher that you will need a temperature check for your child. Once the temperature is taken and your sheet is completed, you may take your child to their classroom door. Reminder, adults are not to enter the building. We are grateful for your cooperation.

REMINDERS FROM THE LIBRARY

Dear Parents and Students: Each grade from first through eighth should have received information on how to request and pick up library materials from our school library. This will be done on a two week cycle. Last week, students in grades 4-8 could request library books. These books were placed in a bag with your child's name and grade and put in a bin (marked BOOK PICK UP). That bin is to the right of the new front door to the school. It is outside from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (except Friday which is noon). These students will return books on Sept. 28th.

This week students in grades 1-3 could request books. There is a google forms menu our at home students can complete and submit by close of business today. Their books will be ready for pick up on Monday of next week. Their books will be due on Oct. 5.

IF your child had books for summer reading from our school library please return those books as soon as possible. There is a bin by the front door of the school marked BOOK RETURN. Simply place your books in the bin between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. (noon on Friday). All returned books are quarantined for 72 hours before being checked in and made available to others. If you do not remember if your child has books or what they are, please email me and I will let you know what is missing. I have already begun to notify some families of their missing items.

I am grateful to be able to help your child have materials for independent reading.

Mrs. O'Hare