



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

# BRIDGES



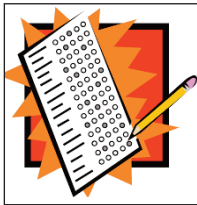
WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ OCTOBER 8, 2020

## UPDATE ON REOPENING

Whenever we see the students for their on-site visit it is apparent that both children and teachers are longing to be back in the classroom together. However, making this a reality safely and effectively is our number one priority. The Reopening Committee continues to explore the steps needed to transition to more children in school. This week and next some teachers are adding students who are already on-campus to their classrooms to ensure that they can simultaneously teach in-person and remote learners. The next step is to survey parents to determine their desire to have their children return or continue with remote learning. Finally, we will have to ensure that equipment needed to keep the classrooms clean and safe is procured. Of course, any decision will be dependent on local restrictions and developments regarding the virus statistics in our area.



## SCANTRON RESULTS



The Fall Scantron testing for grades K-8 is complete. The results are being given to parents along with progress reports. They will be distributed when parents bring their children to school for their on-site visit. Families of students who do not attend will receive their reports by email. Please note that the Scantron reports make a few suggestions of things your child can work on. Many of the skills listed are addressed in IXL. Children are encouraged to add this IXL work to their learning tasks. Teachers are now reviewing their class results and using this information to set priority goals for the class as well as learning plans for individual students. In reviewing the scores school-wide, we noted a strong positive correlation between individual student growth and time a student spent on IXL this past summer. In other words, the children who practiced reading and math skills over the summer, showed the most growth. Of course, it is important to ensure that our children are not spending too much time on screen. Independent reading and opportunities to be outdoors are also important factors in student growth and achievement.



## Mark Your Calendar

### Friday, October 9

Mass 9:45 am

Grades 1 & 2 On Campus  
11:00 – 11:45 am

Grade 8 On Campus  
10:45 - 11:45 am

Last Call for Used Uniforms

**NOON DISMISSAL**

### Monday, October 12

Columbus Day – School  
Closed

### Tuesday, October 13

Grade 7 On Campus  
8:15 - 9:30 am

### Wednesday, October 14

Grade 4 On Campus  
1:00 - 2:00 pm

### Thursday, October 15

Gonzaga/Visitation HS Visit  
11:00 am

### Friday, October 16

CommUNITY Reads 9:45 am

Grade 3 On Campus  
10:45 - 11:45 am

### Saturday, October 17

Fall Cleanup  
9:00 - 1:00 pm

## CLEAN UP, CLEAN OUT DAY

Thank you to those who have signed up to help with a variety of important projects to improve our school facility for prospective families and most importantly, for our current students. We want the school to be in tip-top shape when we welcome the children back on campus! Thanks to those who have responded to the Sign-Up Genius request. If you have not done so yet please consider helping with this important project. We are especially in need of Dads to help with gardening and repairing the fence around the tot lot. Bring your tools, weed whacker and a strong desire to beautify our property. There is also plenty to do indoors.



## EARN VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS, HAVE FUN AND ENGAGE OUR STUDENTS



Do you have a talent to share? Mrs. Gillis is sharing her talent with drama and liturgical dance (God's Rods) with students in grades 6-8. Other grades would like to have some fun after school activities. We are seeking someone to teach guitar (virtually) for now. The school has guitars for the children to borrow. The school also has many Lego League sets for grades 3-4. We need a parent to lead this group. Some students have expressed an interest in an art club, cheerleading and soccer clinic. We are seeking parents to offer virtual (for now) activities. Please contact Ms. Schratz if you have an idea or talent to share.

## IXL REMINDERS

All students have an IXL account. If you have any difficulty accessing the account, please contact Mrs. Kelly at [jkelly@stmatthias.org](mailto:jkelly@stmatthias.org). IXL is a powerful tool to help meet the individual needs of students as well as to strengthen the skills that they are acquiring through instruction from their teachers. It is recommended that in addition to any assigned IXL work, the students complete 10-15 questions per week in the Diagnostic Arena. This will help their individual learning plans to be current with their growth.



Practice in IXL will also help the students perform better on the Scantron assessments. In reviewing the children's scores, many are very close to being bumped up to a higher performance band. The teachers will be addressing this at individual parent conferences on November 11.

One of the school goals articulated in the Strategic Plan is raising the math and reading achievement as measured by Scantron. Distance learning since last March is certainly a challenge in accomplishing this goal. However, with effort on the part of teachers, parents, and students the goal can be met. The use of IXL along with faithful attendance in class, effort to study and complete all assigned work and independent reading are important steps to meet our goal. All children should be reading (or read to) for 20-30 minutes every day. If you are having difficulty finding reading material that engages your child, please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. O'Hare.

## LOOKING FOR ALUMNI

If you are a graduate or attended St. Matthias for part of your elementary education, please contact Mrs. O'Hare ([aohare@stmatthias.org](mailto:aohare@stmatthias.org)). We would like to feature our alums with children in our school in a publication. We are also planning an alumni event for late spring in honor of the schools' 60th anniversary. Likewise, if you know someone who is a graduate or attended St. Matthias, please send their contact information to Mrs. O'Hare. We are currently undertaking a project to enhance our alumni and friends of St. Matthias database.

