



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ OCTOBER 15, 2020

TELL ONE

St. Matthias is having a virtual open house on Monday, October 18 from 5:00-7:00 P.M. and Tuesday, October 20 from 8:30-11:30. A flier is attached to this newsletter. We will also be hosting virtual open houses monthly. Every St. Matthias family is asked to give the flier to one friend or neighbor. Our best advertising is "Word of Mouth." Current families, therefore, have a key role to play in helping us meet our enrollment goal for the coming school year. Families who refer a family that enrolls and completes a full year, receive a \$500 tuition credit. Increasing enrollment helps to keep tuition costs from rising. Unlike some parochial and many Prince Georges County public schools, we will keep class sizes within an optimal range.



TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY



We are celebrating Teacher Appreciation Day on Tuesday, November 3. Teachers and staff will have the day off. This was a date school was scheduled to be closed when St. Matthias was designated a polling place. Due to the pandemic, we informed the County Board of Elections that we could not be available. The teachers were originally scheduled for their retreat on November 3. We hope that a retreat in person will be possible in the Spring. Our Superintendent, Kelly Branaman is asking all schools to declare a holiday in honor of teachers. I encourage you to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of your child's teacher.

SURVEY COMING

Two of our faculty members are teaching students in the classroom and on-line simultaneously. We will be adding to that number next week. The Re-opening Committee is meeting again this evening. Please look for further information and an important survey very soon. Your prompt response to the survey will be greatly appreciated.



Mark Your Calendar

Friday, October 16
CommUNITY Reads 9:45 am

NOON DISMISSAL

Saturday, October 17
Fall Cleanup
9:00 - 1:00 pm

Wednesday, October 21
Grade 5 On Campus
9:30 am - 10:30 am

Thursday, October 22
Grade 6 On Campus
8:30 am - 9:30 am

Friday, October 23
Mass 9:45 am

Grade 1 & 2 On Campus
11:00 - 11:45 pm

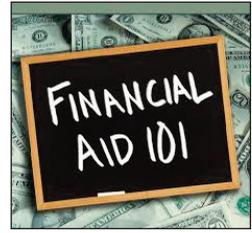
Friday, October 23
Grade 8 On Campus
10:45 - 11:45 am

NOON DISMISSAL



FINANCIAL AID

Funds for tuition assistance come from a few different sources. There are two programs of the Archdiocese of Washington. The first is the Tuition Assistance Program and the second is Pastor's Assistance (PAP). One fund is supported by an endowment and the second is funded from contributions of parishes to the Archdiocese for educating elementary and high school students. To be awarded assistance from either of these sources for the 2021-2022 school year, families must submit a financial aid application in TADS. The deadline to apply is December 4. Your tax information from 2019 must be uploaded. The Shepherd Foundation also supports about 15 of our students with awards no greater than \$600 each. Families may apply for the Father Hughes Scholarship each spring. This is funded by the parish "Every Penny Counts" Collection. These awards range between \$250 and \$500 per child. **To qualify for funding from any of these sources, you MUST have a financial aid application submitted in TADS by December 4.**



There are two additional funding sources, one is state funding from the BOOST program. It is designed to give new students an opportunity for school choice. Income requirements to receive BOOST funding are very strict as are deadlines. BOOST applications are made in April and funding decisions are made in the summer. Families who received BOOST are not guaranteed money the second year, though some of our families receive an award annually. The only other funding source is from a foundation that was set up over 5 years ago. A few individual students were sponsored by this foundation. However, no new students have been added in the past 4 years.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

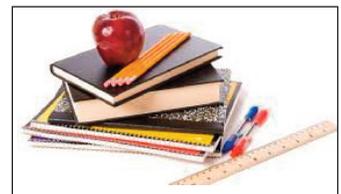
All families are members of the Home and School Association (HSA) by virtue of enrollment and payment of the annual dues of \$25 per family. In the past, these dues have supported assembly programs for the children, celebrations at Christmas, Catholic Schools Week festivities for students and teachers and Field Day lunch.

Thanks to those who are continuing to serve on the Home and School Executive Committee and to our new members. **Others are welcome to join this parent leadership team.** If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Mrs. Schratz at pschratz@stmatthias.org. The Executive Committee will meet on Thursday, October 22 at 6:30 P.M. via ZOOM. Topics on the agenda include fundraising, planning for a general HSA meeting and teacher appreciation.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The 8th graders have attended their final virtual visit with the high school admissions directors. They have had the opportunity to learn about the following high schools Don Bosco, Archbishop Carroll, DeMatha, Elizabeth Seton, Bishop McNamara, St. John's, St. Vincent Pallotti, Academy of the Holy Cross, Gonzaga and Visitation. 7th and 8th grade families are encouraged to attend the virtual open houses of high schools that they are considering. Dates for these important events can be found in the high school admissions packet that was distributed electronically. The next important step for our 8th grade students is registering on-line to take the high school placement test. Registration opens on October 26 and closes on November 20. Our 8th grade students should be practicing for the placement test by taking practice tests found in published HSPT practice books or by frequently doing math and reading skills in IXL.



NOTICE

SCHEDULE CHANGE

SCHEDULE CHANGE

The onsite time for next week Thursday, October 22nd for 4th grade changes to 8:30-9:30 am. rather than 1:00-2:00 pm.

REMINDER

Don't forget our clean up, clean out is this Saturday from 9:00 to 1:00 pm. Hope to see you there!