



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ DECEMBER 10, 2020

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

In the bleakness of these difficult times, it is essential that we look to the celebration of light and hope that Christmas brings. In an effort to spread Christmas cheer and joy, we are inviting our school families to come to school for a drive around celebration on December 18 at 11:00 a.m. We will have goodies for the children and a special visitor to wish them a Merry Christmas. We encourage you to decorate your cars, play Christmas music and do anything you can to make it a creative and festive event for your child. Families may make two trips around the route. An essential practice of Christmas is giving to others. We are asking families who can to bring either new "Hot Wheels" toys or socks to be given to a local homeless shelter. By the St. Matthias Ladies of Charity.



Being on campus for this event will also give parents the opportunity to pick up handbooks, raffle tickets and progress reports, as well as items teachers may have for the children. Please respond to the Evite you will receive with this communication so that we can be ready to welcome you. If you are not available to drive through on the 18th, you are welcome to stop by school by appointment on December 17. Please contact Mrs. Blackburn by December 16 to set up an appointment time. All meetings will be with one family at a time and occur outdoors. Progress reports will be emailed on December 18 to families who are not available on either day.



PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports for grades 1-8 will be completed on December 16th and distributed by appointment on December 17 or for pick up at the drive through. Progress reports not picked up will be emailed. Teachers are making every effort to ensure that progress reports reflect all current work. Missing work is a significant concern in nearly every grade. If missing work is

indicated on the progress report, it is expected to be completed over Christmas break and submitted before January 4. Teachers are not expected to grade this work until school begins after the holiday break.



Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, December 10
HSA Executive Meeting 6:30

Friday, December 11
CommUNITY Reads 9:45

Tuesday, December 15
Red & Green Day

Wednesday, December 16
Progress Reports Distributed
Ugly Sweater Day

Thursday, December 17
Pajama Day
HSA Virtual Family Event

Friday, December 18
Mass 9:45

Cocoa & Cookies Christmas
Parade 11:00 am

IXL WINTER ADVENTURE FOR ALL

Between December 14 and January 7 all students are encouraged to complete the math and language skills assigned by their teachers to a smart score of 80 or above over twenty days. Students who have worked on these skills by logging onto IXL for 20 days will be celebrated at the second quarter honor roll celebration. Classes who have 100% of the students taking the challenge will earn a week of free dress!

Since this challenge is meant to continue over the Christmas break, parents have an important role to play in encouraging and celebrating their child's efforts and success. Print the skill chart that you will receive from the teachers on Monday and check off the days as they are completed. Design incremental rewards to encourage persistence. Have a family celebration when your child completes the 20-day challenge.

IXL's comprehensive K-12 curriculum provides access to hundreds of skills in math and languages arts. By diving into each topic, answering questions, and receiving immediate feedback to correct their mistakes, students build lasting knowledge. As students practice, each skill automatically adjusts in difficulty to make sure they're being challenged at just the right level to help them grow. And because students have full access to skills in all grade levels, they can always work at the exact level that meets their current needs.

As students learn, IXL Analytics provides up-to-the-minute insights on their progress. Reports not only show what students have worked on, but also pinpoint where they are succeeding, where they are having trouble, and how prepared they are to meet learning standards. With IXL Analytics, parents and teachers have what they need to help students do their absolute best.



SNOW DAYS

With Prince George's County Public Schools currently in virtual learning the Archdiocese of Washington is instituting a procedure in the event of inclement weather. The Superintendent will make the call to declare a snow day by region. Snow days are a special treat for children, teachers, and staff. They are joy filled and a cause for celebration. Therefore, we will continue to have a day off in the event of snow. If the roads are not passable a second day, that will be a virtual learning day for all. Exceptions will be made if the weather causes power outages in our area.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Parents, if you would like library books for your children over the Christmas break please email Mrs. O'Hare by 2:00 pm on Tuesday, December 15. Students may request specific titles or let Mrs. O'Hare pick for them. Pick-up will be on Friday. If you are not coming on Friday, please email Mrs. Blackburn and the books will be placed in the bin outside the door.

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

Beginning tomorrow, summer birthdays will be announced on the students' half birthday. Please listen in on morning prayer for your child's happy half birthday message. These students may be out of uniform on their half birthday. Students whose birthdays fall on the weekend may be out of uniform on either Friday or Monday.

Home & School Association News

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SUPPORT AND SAVE MONEY!

It is not too late to order your yard sign and earn one volunteer service hour for doing so. Unserved hours are billed at \$20 per hour. **For a donation of \$12**, you not only earn an hour, but you can show support for our school! It is not too late to order. Purchase online or bring your payment to the school office during school hours. The link to purchase online is: <https://bit.ly/ASMAyardsign>