



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

# BRIDGES

WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ MARCH 11, 2021



## COMING BACK TO SCHOOL

We are proud of our school community for their valiant efforts to engage and educate the students during this pandemic. Faced with many obstacles and challenges teachers, parents and students have persisted. With the state metrics looking so good, all teachers and staff fully vaccinated, and many parents also vaccinated, we hope that more children will return beginning March 29.

We realize that the week of March 29 is a three day week, but think the 3 days will be a good opportunity to acclimate the students to school with masking, social distancing, and sanitation procedures. We are looking forward to then beginning instruction in full on April 12. Please note that families who opt to return and travel over Easter, however, must follow the state and county quarantine regulations in place. Those with family members who have health concerns that require extra caution, may, of course continue with learning from home. If you are not in this situation, however, you are strongly encouraged to send your child into school

## VIRTUAL LEARNING REMINDERS

We want all St. Matthias students to be successful. Making sure that your child arrives to every class on time, has his or her screen on throughout the class, and is not distracted by other things is critical. Please make sure that when your child submits work in Seesaw or Google classroom that it is attached properly. Finally, please encourage your child to submit work on the due date. If there is a technical difficulty, parents are requested to notify the teacher to ask for an extension

## NEW DISMISSAL PROCEDURE BEGINS MARCH 16

Beginning this Tuesday, parents who are picking up children in grades K-8 are asked to line up in a car line in the large parking lot in front of the priests' residence. This is where parents parked for pick-up prior to school closure on March 16, 2020. There will not be as many cars as usual, so please leave spaces between cars to allow for social distancing. The children will be brought to the lot by their teachers and will line up socially distant from one another. When the whistle blows the children will walk to their cars. Once all are safely in cars, a staff member will direct cars out of the parking lot. Once cars begin to move, a staff member will lead children remaining back alongside Friendship Hall. PK parents are to continue to park along side the primary classrooms and pick up their child from the classroom after signing out. All drivers must be aware that they are to drive very slowly at all times, not pass one another and be off cell phones. Children should be safely buckled in seatbelts as the law directs.

## Mark Your Calendar

### Friday, March 12

No on-site 1st Grade & Middle School

CommUNITY Reads 9:45

### NOON DISMISSAL

### Monday, March 15

School Closed  
Teacher Professional Development

### Tuesday, March 16

Re-enrollment fee increases to \$350

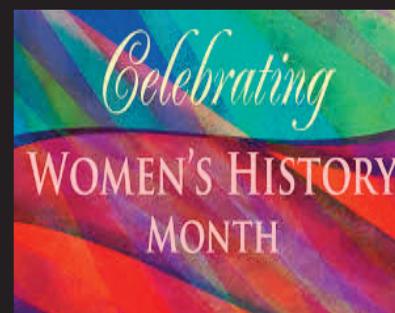
### Thursday, March 18

HSA Executive Committee Meeting

### Friday, March 19

School Mass 9:45

### NOON DISMISSAL



## **PLEASE RSVP**

All families received an electronic invitation to indicate their desire to send their children back to campus on March 29 or to keep them at home for the remainder of the school year. All families, even those whose children are already attending school are asked to respond. To plan for safe social distancing, we need to have responses by Wednesday, March 17. Our principal, Mrs. Schratz, is happy to discuss your concerns with you.

## **THANK YOU**

This has been a very challenging week for St. Matthias because so many teachers and staff have received their second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. Many of the teachers have become ill after this second dose, requiring them to stay home and provide asynchronous instruction. Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to having all teachers in their classrooms on Tuesday, March 16.

## **BOOST**

Our school is eligible to participate in the 2021-2022 Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program that provides scholarships to income-eligible students to attend nonpublic schools. Families who have received BOOST awards in the past are urged to apply now provided they meet the income requirements attached. Other families who are now income eligible are also encouraged to apply. Applications are available at <http://marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/boost/index.aspx> and are due by April 30, 2021. Finally, if you know families who are interested in private school, but feel they cannot afford it, kindly share this information with them.

## **RE-ENROLL NOW!**

There are only 5 days left to re-enroll in TADS at the reduced enrollment fee rate. If you have any questions or need help, please contact Mrs. Blackburn. Having accurate enrollment figures helps with staffing, budgeting, ordering materials and making plans for the coming school year. After the challenges with the most unique year in the history of education, we are EXTREMELY excited to look ahead to a great school year in 2022!

## **OPEN HOUSE**

If you know of anyone with children ages 3 to 8th grade that may be looking for a new school for 2022, please refer them to Ann O'Hare or the school office. Spread the word that we are having a virtual open house on Friday, March 19 from 9-10 A.M. and in Spanish from 10-11 A.M. People may also make individual appointments by calling 301-577-9412. Families who refer receive a \$500 tuition credit for the year following the new student's completion of one year.

## **GREAT NEWS!**

We are indebted to Katie Aaron, Elizabeth Johnson, and Ana Moran for offering to help with the St. Matthias Easter Egg hunt. Look for more details very soon.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

There are still many ways to serve our school before the end of the school year. Volunteers are still needed to help with the Easter Egg hunt. There will be a spring clean-up day in early April. Room parents are still needed in grades 6 and 7. We are searching for parents to serve on a number of committees. We need parents with construction, landscaping, marketing and development experience. The playground project is in great need of additional helpers. Hours can be earned by volunteering to prepare and tend the school garden. Attendance at Home and School meetings earns an hour and it is a great place to hear about other volunteer opportunities.

At this time we are accepting donations for bottled water. With the warmer weather the children are drinking more water and they cannot fill their water bottles from the water fountains. For every 2 cases of water we will give you 1 hour of service. This is very generous in that a service hour is equal to \$20.

## **READ-A-THON**

The Read-A-Thon is well underway. Our 157 readers have raised a total of **\$5,194.78**. Parents keep encouraging your students. Go Readers!