



BRIDGES

WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ APRIL 16, 2021



STANDARDIZED TESTING



All elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Washington participate in a standardized testing program. Scantron is the reading and math testing that students take at the beginning, mid-year, and end of year. These tests, which are adaptive to the students' answers and skill levels, measure individual growth as well as where students stand in relation to the thousands of children nationwide in the norming population. The End of the Year (EOY) Scantron tests will begin for the 8th grade on April 28 and for the rest of the grades throughout May. These tests will be administered in school for our Roomies and in Friendship Hall for our Zoomies. This protects the validity of the test. However, we do know that some children with special family health concerns took the test at home in the fall. If your child or family has concerns that make coming into school too challenging, the test can be given virtually. **Please let your child's teacher know if he or she needs to take Scantron math and reading on-line.** The Scantron testing schedule will be published in *Bridges*.

In addition to the Scantron tests, students in grades 3-8 take a standardized 25-30 question test of their knowledge of the Catholic faith. The state also mandates that schools that participate in the BOOST program test their 5th and 8th graders in science. Students learning virtually will take these tests on-line. The results of all these tests will be shared with parents and are carefully reviewed by the teachers, school administration and the archdiocese. Please encourage your child to do his or her best when testing, but do not worry or stress about the results. Getting a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast and lunch increases your child's ability to focus and persist in the testing.

READ-A-THON – EVERYONE IS A WINNER

Congratulations and many thanks to all our students and families for their great support of our first Read-a-thon. The students read for a total of 31,153 minutes and we raised \$11,330 toward the renovation of the playgrounds! Fundraising will continue in the fall with the 4th annual Fun-D Run to be held on October 8, 2021. Awards and prizes will be distributed soon. One award for all students and staff will be Pajama Day on Friday, April 23!



SCHOOL GROUNDS CLEAN-UP DAY

Thanks to those who have already volunteered to help with numerous outdoor tasks to beautify our school grounds. Volunteers are working in the back and sides of the school between 9:00-3:00. Any amount of time is appreciated. If you have rakes and shovels please bring.

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, April 17
Cleanup Day 9:00- 3:00 pm

Wednesday, April 21
Drama Club 2:30m- 3:15

Thursday, April 22
Jr. Drama Club 2:45 - 3:30 pm

HSA Exec. Committee Meeting
6:30

Friday, April 23
Chick-fil-A Forms Due

Community Reads 9:45
Pajama Day
NOON DISMISSAL

CHICK-FIL-A IS BACK



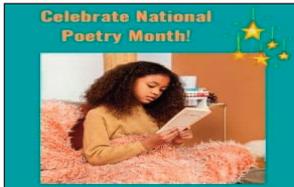
We are reinstating the St. Matthias monthly Chick-fil-A lunch days begun by our Student Council last year. Please see the attached order form. Zoomies are encouraged to order too and are most welcome to come to school to eat with their classmates. Lunch will be held, outdoors for grades 1-8 weather permitting. Please note that due to COVID safety precautions the maximum number of students we can accommodate outdoors is 100. A parent volunteer is needed to process the order forms, which are **due on April 23**. This service can be completed at home.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENT

We are sad to announce that our PE teacher, Mr. Zichelli will not be returning to work as we had hoped. Although he has been out on sick leave for quite some time, it is now certain that he will not be returning to St. Matthias. Kindly keep Mr. Zichelli in your prayers. We have a few candidates to begin in the fall, but to date, we are still searching for a PE teacher to work one day per week with our on-site students. Zoomies should use PE time to get physical activity at home. If anyone knows of someone who would like to supervise play or share instruction about a sport or sports of their interest, please have them contact the school principal immediately. This is also a great way for a vaccinated parent to earn volunteer hours and have some fun.



APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH



The students at St. Matthias are involved in many activities that increase their appreciation of poetry and strengthen their vocabulary and writing skills during this month. We share a school poem at morning prayer, teachers are reading poetry throughout the day and some grades are writing their own poetry for submission into the 25th Annual National Student Poetry Contest. Our 7th and 8th graders drew portraits of inaugural poet, Amanda Gorman. Parents and older siblings are encouraged to share their favorite poems with the children.

IXL CHALLENGE CONTINUES

Many of the students are making great strides in their reading and math skills on IXL! This is a great tool to help the children and they are excited about winning the Pizza Party celebration for their class. Please encourage your children to enter their Diagnostic Arena **every** week and complete at least 20 questions to keep their individual learning plans up to date. Students should complete each skill to a Smart Score of 80. Students who are looking for a challenge can work for mastery at a score of 100.



IMMUNIZATIONS NEEDED

Just a reminder that there are students who still need immunizations before returning to school.

THIRD QUARTER HONOR ROLL & PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Honor Roll

4th Grade

Bezankeng Khumbah
Enuma Offiah
Olivia Udebuala

5th Grade

Chijioke Akunwafor
Mario Bush
Quinton Fonge
Idara Onyewu
Mayen Onywu

6th Grade

Roosevelt Anosike
Malick Myrville
Nememma
Okpalannaka
Jordan Steele

7th Grade

Hayden Hernly
Muma Ndi
Joelene Nkeng
Ryan Philip Oben
Fehintola Ogunbiyi
Jason Sotelo

8th Grade

John Alemnji
Mia Johnson
Julianne Walters
Aaron Wilson
Amanda Wisdom

Principal's List

4th Grade

Stephanie Oben
Isabella Penado

5th Grade

Solomon Adeyemi
Malcolm Johnson

6th Grade

Yana-Neveah Achaleke
Jade Carter
Renaud Williams

7th Grade

Chinwendu Akunwafor
Elsie Anosike
Maria Bush