



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ MAY 6, 2021

2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The attached calendar for the coming school year has been approved by the Archdiocese of Washington. School will begin for all students on August 31, 2021. It is a noon dismissal day. Before and after care service will begin on September 1. Please review the calendar to note break times, other holidays and early dismissal days. Although the archdiocese authorizes up to 15 early dismissal days, St. Matthias is only using 10 of these to mitigate inconvenience to parents.



BOOST



The state of Maryland enacted the BOOST (Broadening Options & Opportunities for Students Today) Scholarship Program in 2016 to give K-12 students from lower-income Maryland families an opportunity to find the best educational fit for their needs by providing scholarships for their children to attend a nonpublic school. This year the state legislature has approved a record 10 million dollars for BOOST! The program aims to support families who are new to private education. However, smaller awards are available for children currently in private schools, if their income levels make them eligible. If you have had employment disruptions or changes in the past year, please visit this website www.marylandboost.org to see if you qualify for this scholarship for your children. **The deadline to complete an application is May 17.** If you are applying for a BOOST grant from the state, please let Mrs. Blackburn know, so that your tuition contract can be put on hold.

THE FATHER EDWARD ALBERT HUGHES SCHOLARSHIP

The Father Hughes Scholarship is funded by parishioners of St. Matthias Catholic Church to help meet the needs of parish students who attend our school or an ADW Catholic high school. Applications will be available on the school website beginning on Monday, May 10. If you would like a paper copy please contact Mrs. Blackburn. To qualify for one of these scholarships, families must have a financial aid application on file in TADS and be active and supporting parishioners of St. Matthias Church.



Mark Your Calendar

Monday, May 10

Progress Reports Emailed

Scantron Math
Grade 1

Tuesday, May 11

Scantron Math
Grade 3

Tuesday, May 11

Scantron Reading
Kindergarten

God's Rods 2:30-3:30

Wednesday, May 12

Free Dress Day

Thursday, May 13

Scantron Reading
Grade 2

Scantron Math
Grade 6

Friday, May 14

Mass 9:45

Scantron Math
Kindergarten

NOON DISMISSAL

LOOKING AHEAD

We are looking forward with great joy and anticipation to a school year where, once again, all the children will be in their classrooms. Although we will always make plans based on what is safe for the children, at this time we are anticipating a return not only to the classroom, but to field trips, assemblies and after school activities. This Wednesday, the teachers are meeting after school to envision the coming school year and begin to make plans to launch the best school year ever! Because the children have been isolated and unable to participate in many of the activities that are important to them, we would like to offer a broad range of extracurricular activities for them. We will only be able to do this if we have parent volunteers to share their time, talents and take leadership of these teams and clubs. In the past, St. Matthias has offered CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) soccer, basketball, and track and field. CYO also offers cross country, baseball and cheerleading. These teams are available for many age groups and for boys and girls. The only thing that is needed is parent coaches and assistants. Please consider providing your child and others with this great opportunity!



If sports is not your thing, there are many other ways to supplement the children's learning with after school activities. Do you have musical talents or an interest in drama, cooking, chess, robotics, visual or graphic arts, or dance? If you are too busy to commit for a school year or season, perhaps a 4-6 week offering would enable our students to develop interests and talents that build their confidence and engage them in meaningful and fun activities. Children of all ages would benefit from such extracurricular learning, but it is particularly beneficial to our older students who are building resumes for high school admissions and preparing to be involved in extracurricular activities in high school.

We are also looking forward to gathering in person for Home and School community building events. As we anticipate a return to a more "normal" opening of the school year and beyond, it is critical to have an active group of parents to initiate and lead important school events.

BE A ST. MATTHIAS AMBASSADOR FAMILY

New families will continue to join our school community from now until the start of the school year. We want new parents and students to feel welcome and to quickly feel a part of our school community. Currently, there are eleven new families, most with children entering kindergarten and sixth grade. We are looking for parent volunteers to "adopt" a new family to personally welcome them, be available to answer their questions, and encourage them to get involved. If you would like to serve in this capacity, please contact the school office. If you are contacted for this service, please say "yes!"



TEACHER FEATURE



In this month when we focus on Asian American and Pacific Islander culture, we are proud to feature our first grade teacher, Ms. Kim Bay. Ms. Bay was born and raised in Rizal, Philippines. She is in her fifth year of teaching young children and has been with St. Matthias for two years. Ms. Bay comes from a family of teachers. Her grandmother, mother, two aunts and one of two sisters are all teachers! Ms. Bay is looking forward to returning to St. Matthias as the first grade teacher in the fall. We are happy to share that when she returns she will be Mrs. Bruce. On June 26, she will be married to her fiancé, Vince Bruce. The St. Matthias community wishes her a beautiful wedding day and lots of happiness in her married life!

STEAM NEWS AND IMPORTANT CALENDAR CHANGE

Over the summer our current computer lab will be transformed into a STEAM lab. In addition, we are adding a mobile STEM lab to the primary wing. The teachers will be working in teams to develop integrated STEM units to be implemented quarterly. We will be reaching out to parents to host a Career Day at school. The teachers have the opportunity to work with the University of Notre Dame's STEM faculty to incorporate engineering design and technology into their plans. The only time this professional development is available is Wednesday May 26 in the afternoon. Therefore, **dismissal on May 26 will be at noon.**

