



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ MAY 20, 2021

ANNUAL APPEAL

St. Matthias is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Due to the pandemic the celebration event will not occur until this fall. However, we have made significant progress contacting our alumni and strengthening our relationship with them. Next week, the annual appeal letters will go out to them and parishioners soliciting financial support for the growth and development of our school. The current St. Matthias families support the school financially, first and foremost, by faithfully paying tuition, volunteering when possible, communicating with teachers, speaking well of the school, and ensuring that their children are ready to learn. The St. Matthias parents are awesome and especially so, during this most challenging year. In addition, parents have supported the annual tuition raffle and our first Read-a-thon. The school community is grateful for your support. However, before the school year ends, we must ask for one additional effort to help us secure outside funding through grants. Granting foundations expect that the stakeholders of any organization that requests funding are fully committed to the organization. A critical way that this commitment is demonstrated is through their donations to the annual appeal. This will be the third year that St. Matthias has launched a giving appeal, though this is the first time that we are doing it in the spring. Parent participation in the past has been far below the level of support needed to apply for outside grants. **Please make this year different! When you receive the appeal letter, please respond.** Although we hope that you will be as generous as your means allow, small donations are very valuable because it is participation from parents that is most important. **We would like every family to participate.** Because we are celebrating our 60th anniversary, we are suggesting donations of six or sixty dollars. Of course, more or less is welcome. Again, the goal is that every St. Matthias family participates! Please note that any money that is donated by the parents will be given to the teachers to use for resources for the children!



CHICK-FIL-A



Order forms are due **tomorrow, May 21** for our next chick-fil-A lunch which will be on Thursday, May 27. Zoomies are welcome to order and join us for lunch and recess on that day. We do need to know in advance if Zoomies will be attending to ensure that we have ample room in the classrooms to maintain physical distancing requirements.

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, May 21

CommUNITY Reads 9:45

Scantron Math K

NOON DISMISSAL

Tuesday, May 25

God's Rods 2_30 -3:30

Wednesday, May 26

School Mass 9:45

NOON DISMISSAL

Thursday, May 27

Chick-fil-A Luncheon

8th Grade Last Day of School

Friday, May 28

SCHOOL CLOSED

CALENDAR CHANGE REMINDERS

This Wednesday, May 26 is an early dismissal day. All children should be picked up at noon. The teachers will be in STEM training. They are creating integrated STEAM lessons for the coming school year. The faculty and staff appreciate how difficult early dismissal days and changes in the schedule are for parents. However, the benefit to the children will make it very worthwhile.



There is **no school on Friday, May 28**. Our school superintendent, Ms. Kelly Branaman gave teachers an additional holiday in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the children during this pandemic. St. Matthias opted to extend the Memorial Day holiday. Thank you for your support and understanding.

CELEBRATING MARY OUR BLESSED MOTHER



The Catholic Church honors Mary in a special way by dedicating the month of May to her. The school will celebrate Mary's unique role in salvation history as the mother of Jesus and our spiritual mother at our school mass on May 26. All children are invited to bring flowers to adorn the altar and to be placed in front of her statue. Also, at this mass we will celebrate those students who have received their First Holy Communion. These children will wear their first communion clothes to mass.

STUDENT PROGRESS

The Scantron testing is nearly complete. A preliminary review of the results shows that only about half of the students have met their growth targets for the year in math and reading. This is very disappointing, and we attribute it to less instructional time, virtual learning (in many cases unsupervised), concurrent teaching and multiple distractions and poor work habits due to Covid. Parents will receive individual student reports as soon as possible. The teachers will also be meeting to discuss individual student needs. The teachers are also planning summer activities for the children. Your encouragement and support of these will be extremely helpful in ensuring that all children are ready to learn in the fall.



HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



All parents are members of the HSA and are invited to attend the HSA meeting this evening via Zoom.

The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83000040515?pwd=UG1kcXkySWFjTkZ4ZmV-moyRmVoUT09> Meeting ID: 830 0004 0515 Passcode: ASMA2020

End of the year activities and progress on the playground project will be discussed. The final HSA meeting of this school year will take place on Thursday, June 17 at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom. This is an important meeting to plan for the coming school year and to welcome new members to the Executive Board. Speaking of the Executive Board, additional members are needed in key leadership positions. Being an active board member satisfies the volunteer service hour requirement and more importantly, enables you to make a powerful contribution to your child's school and education. Exec Committee members can be new to the school and can represent any grade. Please consider serving in this way. A list of vacancies for the Executive Committee as well as numerous subcommittees is now on the school website. Please prayerfully consider taking on one or more of these roles for the 2021-2022 school year.

SAVE THE DATES

June 17	HSA Planning Meeting
August 26	Teacher Meet and Greet
August 28	Back to School Cookout
August 31	First Day of School

