



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ JUNE 4, 2021

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

Tomorrow afternoon 18 students from the 8th grade class will celebrate their graduation from elementary school. They have demonstrated grit and persistence through the most unusual school year in the 60-year history of The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle. Half of the graduates will be attending Catholic high school in the Archdioceses of Washington and Baltimore. They earned \$48,000 in merit scholarships. We are very proud of all our graduates and wish them great success in high school and beyond. Go, Mustangs!



SOCIAL MEDIA CONCERNS



Although the school year is nearly over, it is important for parents to be aware that children as young as 4th grade are on social media sites that are potentially dangerous. Discord and Tik-Tok may be fun, but for children who are naive, immature, and unsupervised they can be extremely dangerous. We know that adult predators posing as children and teens use these and other sites to lure and exploit our children. Students are also using Google meets and other chat sites to connect with one another. This is all well and good until they engage in name-calling, slander, and meanness, causing emotional damage to their classmates and opening them up to cyber-bullying allegations that can sometimes involve law-enforcement. Some children are using their devices very late at night or without much, if any parental oversight. Lack of sleep and emotional duress impede learning. All parents are urged to remove devices from their children at bedtime and carefully monitor their use at other times. The school will begin the school year with thorough training on the safe use of technology for both parents and students. In the meantime, parental vigilance is urged. A good resource for other suggestions on how to help you children stay safe on-line is www.common sense.com

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, June 4
NOON DISMISSAL

GRADUATION @ 2:00 pm

Grade 6, 7 Wear PE uniforms

Tuesday, June 8
Grade PK-7 Moving Up
8:30

Tuesday, June 8
FIELD DAY
Grades 3-5 – 10:00 - 12:00
Grades 6-7 – 12:30 - 2:30

Wednesday, June 9
Textbooks & Desks are due

PK-3rd grade – Dance
Celebration 1:00 - 2:00

Thursday, June 10
PK and Kindergarten
Ceremony 10:30
Noon Dismissal

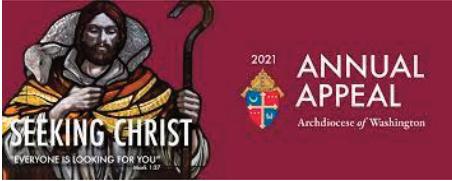
Friday, June 11
School Closing Mass 9:45
11:00 am Dismissal
Annual Appeal Deadline

FATHER HUGHES SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE EXTENDED

June 7 is the deadline for school families who are registered parishioners of St. Matthias Parish to apply for the Fr. Hughes Scholarship that is applied to tuition for the coming school year. Awards are made per child and all active parishioners are encouraged to apply. The funding for this scholarship comes from donations of parishioners to the "Every Penny Counts Collection." Applications are available in the school office or on the school website.



ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE



In honor of the 60th Anniversary of the founding of St. Matthias School, our pastor, Fr. Jack is asking parishioners to help reach a parish goal of \$6000 for our third annual appeal. For the first time, we have a robust alumni list and thus, expect to significantly exceed that amount from them. Teachers and parents are the third group of donors whose help we greatly need. Unlike our alumni and parishioners, the goal for parent donations is not monetary, but one of participation. **Every** family is asked to donate. Even the smallest donation will enable the school to meet its goal for stakeholder participation. Of course, we ask families to be as generous as they can be. It is important to note that the school has lost a great deal of funding since Friendship Hall rentals ceased in March of 2020. We hope to make up some of this loss through foundation grants that expect full participation from school families in the annual appeal. The deadline for parent donations is June 11, the last day of school. Donations can be mailed, sent in with students or given to staff on the car line. Credit Card and Paypal donations can be made on the school website. Please note that although the donation page indicates that the donation is made to the church, every penny donated there is given to the school. Finally, please note that donations made by the 98 current school families will be used for classroom resources for the children.

Families who donate will earn one volunteer service hour. Finally, donations made by the 98 current school families will be used for classroom resources for the children. Currently only 5% of our families have donated to the school's Annual Appeal. Please help that number grow **today!** On the other hand, we are happy to announce that 65 % of our teachers have already donated. Thank you, teachers for leading the way!

WE NEED ALTAR SERVERS

Due to Covid and attrition from the graduation of the 8th grade, our school now has one trained altar server. We are asking families of Catholic children to please consider encouraging their children to volunteer for this important service to the church and school community. The parish just announced that St. Matthias will be reinstating the Ministry of Altar Servers this summer! They are recruiting both former servers and NEW youth servers from 4th through 12th grades for duty at weekend and school Masses. Training will commence in June. Please contact us with your interest and availability. E-mail is preferred: Martin Kwapinski at martinkwapinski@aol.com or Cindy Faust at cfaust@atelierarchitects.com or 301-464-1799.



HOME AND SCHOOL NEWS



Volunteers are needed for many of the activities that we would like to bring back for the coming school year. We would also like to add new activities and opportunities to make 2022 **the best school year ever!!** All parents are invited to attend the Home and School planning meeting for the 2022 school year on June 17 at 6:30 via Zoom. Please visit the school website at <https://school.stmatthias.org> for positions that need to be filled.

EXTENDED SCHOOL PROGRAM (ESP)



We are expecting to open school for everyone in the fall with normal school hours (8:00-3:00) Monday through Fridays. We are also planning on providing before and after school services for those families who require an extended day. Before school care is from 7:00-8:00 A.M. while after school care is from 3:00-4:00 P.M. or 3:00-6:00 P.M. Because our program is licensed by the Maryland State Child Care Administration, there are several staffing and program requirements that require long range planning. If you anticipate needing before and/or after-care for your child(ren), kindly send in the attached registration form or contact Mrs. Blackburn in the school office via email (mblackburn@stmatthias.org) or by phone at 301-577-9412.

Please note that new families will continue to enroll throughout the summer and often enroll for ESP at the same time. Early registration by our current families is needed to ensure that all children can be accommodated.

USED UNIFORM SALE



Our current inventory of uniforms is quite extensive. Please note that as we return to "normal" next year, the students will be expected to be in the complete and proper school uniform. New uniforms can be ordered at or purchased at Flynn O'Hara located at 8807 Annapolis Road, Lanham. Please note the store is extremely busy the last two weeks of August, so purchase ahead to avoid a long wait. Used uniforms can be purchased at a huge discount this Wednesday, June 9 from 8:00-3:00 and during the summer when the school office is open. Volunteers are needed to help with the preparation and sale of used uniforms.

LAST DAYS OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND TASKS

New students and current students will be meeting with their new teachers on Tuesday, June 8 at 8:30 am. Zoomies may attend via Zoom. The teachers will be sharing expectations for summer work and activities as well as sharing some of the highlights of the coming year.



On June 8 during the afternoon, the teachers are planning outdoor team building and fun activities for the children to celebrate the end of the school year and to look forward to the coming school year.

June 9 is a Noon dismissal day. The children will be assisting the teachers in cleaning out the classroom and removing all their personal belongings. **All textbooks and borrowed technology and student desks and chairs, must be returned on or before June 9.**



We hope that all students will be able to attend. Our closing Mass which will take place on Friday at 9:30. Awards will be given after Mass. All children are invited to come into school for the closing mass. Those in attendance will be socially distant and wearing masks. To plan for appropriate seating. Zoomies are asked to RSVP to their homeroom teachers. Attire for the closing mass is Sunday dress. Dismissal will occur after Mass, which is around 11 A.M.