



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

# BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ JUNE 10, 2021

## A MILLION THANKS

What a year this has been! I would like to express my deepest thanks to the St. Mathias parents, teachers, and students for their amazing persistence, patience and support throughout the 2021 school year. We have truly made it through the year together. I am so proud and humbled by the way we have stuck together and muddled through together. The St. Matthias community is stronger than ever. All but two families are returning. We have new families in every grade and kindergarten is nearly full. We are making progress on many initiatives and most importantly, the children are looking forward to all being together after the summer break. The teachers, too, though exhausted, have begun planning for the coming year. Many are taking courses and look forward to implementing their new learning in the fall. I am grateful to all those who volunteered in any way and to every member of the amazing St. Matthias family! May God bless us all with a summer of peace, rest, fun, joy and good health.



## ST. MATTHIAS WINS TWO GRANTS



Mr. Loughner has been awarded a Teacher Innovation Grant from the Archdiocese of Washington for equipment that will be used to support our new media production club for our middle schoolers and to broadcast Morning Prayer and announcements. This equipment will be purchased over the summer and ready to go at the start of the new school year. Mrs. O'Hare's "Beginning Bikers" proposal was also selected and our preschoolers and kindergarteners will now have the opportunity to practice their balance and coordination in PE and recess. We can't wait to see our mini Mustangs scooting around. Congratulations and many thanks to these two innovative and creative teachers!

## USED UNIFORMS ARE NOW ON SALE

The current stock of used uniforms is now on display in the hallway beside the upper school library. Parents may stop by to shop for uniforms for the coming school year anytime that the school office is open. Temperature checks and masks are required. Donations of clean uniforms in good condition that your children can no longer wear are always welcome.

## Mark Your Calendar

### Friday, June 11

School Closing Mass 9:45

11:00 am Dismissal

Annual Appeal Deadline

### Thursday, June 17

HSA Planning Meeting

6:30 pm

### Thursday, August 26

Teacher Meet and Greet

### Saturday, August 28

Back to School Cookout

Time TBD

### Tuesday, August 31

First Day of School

Noon Dismissal



## GREAT NEWS!



Carlos Sotelo, parent of rising 8th grader, Jason Sotelo has volunteered to coach our boys' 7th and 8th grade soccer team this fall. Boys who would like to participate must complete and return the interest form attached to this edition of *Bridges*.

## PLEASE SHARE YOUR TIME AND TALENTS WITH OUR STUDENTS

Parent volunteers are needed to provide extra-curricular activities for our students. The boys and girls have expressed an interest in basketball, soccer, track and field, and cross country. We know that coaching is a big commitment, but if a couple of parents do it together, it is more manageable and enjoyable.

We are also looking for parents from the engineering fields to sponsor a robotics club for our students. We already have the equipment needed to get our budding engineers engaged. **All we need is parent volunteers.**



## SCANTRON REPORTS

Parents of children in grades 1-7 will receive their children's end of year Scantron reports along with the fourth quarter report cards on Friday, June 11. Parents whose children are not coming to school for the closing Mass, can pick the report cards up at the school office during office hours. The Scantron reports contain each child's Lexile score. This number can be used by parents to ensure that the books their child selects to read are not too challenging or not challenging enough. You can easily get the Lexile of any book by going to <https://lexile.com>. Questions about the Scantron results can be directed to Mrs. Schratz.

## CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELL

On June 26, our first grade teacher, Ms. Kim Bay will be married. We wish her and her new husband,



Mr. Vince Bruce much happiness and abundant blessings! Unfortunately,

Ms. Bay will be moving to the Eastern shore and cannot make the commute to St. Matthias. We are grateful for her two years of service and know that the children and her St. Matthias family will miss her.

## TUITION CONTRACTS

Now that TADS has finally opened the St. Matthias 2022 contract site, and graduation and report cards are behind us, tuition contracts will begin going out. All families will be receiving their 2022 tuition contract in the next week or so. As soon as the email from TADS is received, please sign the contract, so that it can be processed. The first tuition payment is made in July. No child will be admitted to school on August 31 unless the office has a signed contract and the July and August payments are made.

## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The school office will be open on Monday-Thursday from 8:30-12:30 beginning on June 14. Regular office hours will resume on August 23. The school will be closed the week of July 5. Mrs. Schratz, Mrs. O'Hare and Mrs. Blackburn monitor email throughout the summer. However, teachers' school e-mail is inactive from June 14-August 23.



## COVID-19 VACCINE FOR 12 YEAR OLDS

Parents of students entering grades 7 and 8 are strongly urged to get their children vaccinated when they are eligible. Let us all do our part to continue to keep our school community health and safe!

### **PREVENT SUMMER SLIDE**



The reduction of instructional hours, the constraints of virtual learning and the disruption of school routines since March of 2020 have impacted student learning and progress. It is more critical than ever that the children spend time in the 11 week break from school reading and practicing math skills. All students are encouraged to participate in the St. Matthias Book BINGO as well as the IXL Summer Challenge. Students are encouraged to begin the IXL challenge next week in case there are any log on or other technical issues. Mr. Loughner is available over the summer to assist. We look forward to celebrating our students who complete their summer work!

### **ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE**

100% of the teachers and staff have donated to our 3rd Annual Appeal! To date, 30% of the St. Matthias parents have made a donation. It is still not too late! Donation can be brought in to school tomorrow or mailed anytime. Donations can also be made on-line at <https://school.stmatthias.org>. Please help us reach our goal of 100% ASMA family participation. Parent donations will be used for classroom resources for every grade.

### **SUMMER PROGRAMS**

PG County Parks & Recreation is offering a variety of in-person summer program for students. This year's offerings include day camps, playtime activities, and a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) program. The start date for each program is June 28 at 9:00am. Due to the pandemic, space is limited. Thus, if you are interested, registration should be completed immediately. The cost is very reasonable and tuition assistance is offered. To find out more, please click the link below:

<http://pgparks.com/629/Day-Camps-Summer-Playgrounds>



### **SAVE THE DATE**

On October 30 we will be celebrating the school's 60th anniversary! All alumni and parents are invited.

### **HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PLANNING MEETING**

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.

