



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

# BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Although yesterday's early dismissal for weather that prompted an emergency email/text communication from the school was unexpected, it was advantageous to test our system so early in the year. We received communication from PGCPs and the ADW and within a minute, Mrs. Blackburn notified parents. Remarkably, the majority of parents arrived to pick up their children for the Noon dismissal! However, some parents did not get the message. Those parents are asked to contact Mrs. Blackburn via email to ensure that the primary contact information that is on file in TADS, is correct. If your home phone number is listed and it is not a cell you should update in TADS with a cell number. We need cell phone numbers to send text messages and emails that you check periodically throughout the day. Some parents are far from school or are unable to leave work immediately. For this reason every student must have additional family or friends that can come to school in an emergency, whether it is a whole school evacuation or an individual medical emergency. All parents are urged to complete the Emergency Contact Form included in this communication and return it by Tuesday, September 7.



## SCANTRON



Elementary students in the Archdiocese of Washington participate in an on-line standardized testing series known as Scantron. Grade 1-8 students will test in the beginning of the year, at the mid-year and at the end of the year. These tests measure each child's growth in reading and math over the course of the school year. The teachers use the data to set priorities and differentiation in instruction.

These tests are not factored into the students' report card grades, nor can a child fail these tests. We do not want children to be stressed about the tests, but we do want them to take them seriously and try to do their very best. Parents can help by ensuring that their children have a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast before their Scantron tests. Results of the tests will be shared with parents when the testing is complete.



### Friday, September 3

School Mass 1:00 pm  
No ESP Today

### Monday, September 6

Labor Day School Closed

### Tuesday, September 7

Survey and Emergency  
Forms Due

### Wednesday, September 8

Reading Scantron  
Grades 6-8 8:30 am  
Grades 3-5 10:00 am

### Thursday, September 9

Reading Scantron  
Grades 1-2 10:00 am

### Friday, September 10

Rachel's Friends  
New Student Welcome  
Breakfast Grades 1-8

## ROOM PARENTS



Thank you to the following parents who have stepped up to be room parents. This is the first time that all grades have a parent volunteer to assist the teacher and the Home and School Association (HSA) with communication and projects throughout the year. They play a key role in making St. Matthias a family centered community. We hope that all parents will respond to requests and communication from our outstanding 2022 Room Parents: Conchetta Wright (PreK-3), Ingrid Johnson (PreK-4), Ugochi Ibetoh (Kindergarten), Tanisha Morton (1st Grade), Cidonne Njinkeng & Milagros Paredes (2nd Grade), Kenique Freeman (3rd Grade), Emem Udofa-D'Abreau (4th Grade), Darlenys Pujols (5th Grade), Leslie Riley (6th Grade), Pamela Allen (7th Grade), Jaqueline Sotelo (8th Grade).

## LUNCH VOLUNTEERS

Parents are needed to help out every day at lunch and recess. If you can commit to one or two days per month, this is a great way to earn your volunteer service hours and more importantly, have the opportunity to be with your child at school. If you can serve in this way, please contact the school office and be sure to select your day(s) on the sign-up genius that Mrs. Blackburn sends out at the beginning of the month. Lunch volunteers need to report at 11:30 to set up for lunch and conclude at 1:00. Lunch and recess volunteers must be fully vaccinated and VIRTUS trained. For further information about VIRTUS, call Mrs. Blackburn.



## ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME SURVEY

The State of Maryland funnels federal dollars to our school through a few Title programs. In addition, the state has its own limited programs that provide funding to its non-public schools, such as the Non-Public Textbook Program, and the Aging Schools and School Safety grants. This funding is extremely important to our school! The amount of funding that we receive in all of these grants and entitlements is based on the income of the families in our community and the percentage of families who complete the annual income survey. Please complete and return the survey immediately. Please note that your anonymity is protected, as no names are required on the survey. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Blackburn or Mrs. Schratz.

## TUITION REMINDERS



We appreciate all those who fulfill their responsibility to make tuition payments regularly through TADS. At St. Matthias the administration and staff work very hard to keep tuition costs as low as possible, and to ensure that the children receive the quality services they and their families expect. Tuition is the primary source of the school's income to operate the school. All parents are expected to make regular tuition payments in a timely manner. Please note that for those who opt for monthly payments which are offered as a convenience, fees are assessed by TADS when these payments are late. The school does not receive this additional money. If those fees are not paid by parents, the school, must pay them. Please note that outstanding balances, including late fees, must be paid within two months to prevent an interruption in children's attendance at school.

## SCHOOL MASS

On Friday, September 3, our pastor Father Jack Kennealy, will celebrate Mass with our grades 1-8 students to invoke God's blessing on our new school year. Communal prayer, particularly the mass, brings us together and strengthens our unity as a people of faith. Normally, we would encourage and welcome parents to attend. However, to insure physical distancing due to COVID-19, space is limited. If you plan to attend, please call or email the office in advance.



## SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Our students look so sharp in their school uniforms! We regret the difficulty that many parents experienced in getting uniforms this year. Due to the delay in supply chain, we are giving families extra time to ensure that their children are in the correct school uniform.

Flynn and O'Hara supplies the St. Matthias uniform. We know that some components of the uniform can be purchased at other retail stores. However, these items must be very close to identical to the Flynn and O'Hara uniforms. Used uniforms will be available during school hours until September 17.



## CLARIFICATION OF DROP OFF/PICK UP PROCEDURES

### CAR LINE PROCEDURES



Morning drop off is going well for the most part. There are two changes that would make it even better. First, if you are waiting to turn into our lot and the cars are backed up so that you cannot do so, come into the lot and go to the right. Loop around so that the car line is parallel to the church. If you arrive and see that the line is going in front of the church, go to the right and join that line. Do not cut in front of those cars that arrived before you. Secondly, please note that all children in grades K-8 should arrive a minute or two before 8:05 to ensure that they are not marked tardy. Class begins at 8:05.

We hope that today will be our first normal dismissal. Although the lines look foreboding, it rarely takes more than ten minutes to dismiss everyone. All parents are to pick up on the car line. Please do not ask your child to violate the school rules by meeting you in the front of the school. If you have some circumstances that make an earlier exit necessary, your child can be a special rider. For this to occur, you must contact Mrs. Schratz. Please note that making the left on 450 is easy because we have a dedicated lane. If you need to make the U-turn to go west on 450 and there is east bound traffic preventing you from crossing to the left turn lane, please continue a little way and make the U-turn near Forbes Ave. Thanks to the many parents who are getting out of their cars. It helps the children to find you. Kindergarten parents are asked to come closer to where the children are gathered. Thank you for your cooperation.

