



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

4TH ANNUAL FUN-D RUN

We are pleased to announce that parents, Emma Hadley (Keelyn Gr 3) and Hilary Van Wagenen (Peter Gr 7) will be co-chairing this important school fundraiser. More volunteers are needed! Please respond to the event needs on the Sign-Up Genius sent from the school office in the next few days. The number one goal is that all children will participate by getting at least one sponsor. Prizes are offered for the child in each class that raises the most money and/or has the greatest number of pledges. Students who run the most laps are also celebrated. The whole school will have a very special treat when the 100% participation goal is achieved. On Friday, October 8, all children will participate in this fun and healthy event. Even our threes and fours join in the fun in their own obstacle course. This is a simple and fun way to raise money toward our playground and basketball court renovation. Every child will benefit! Please look for the sign-up email and help your child reach out to family members, neighbors, and friends.

PILLAR OF THE MONTH: RESPECT

St. Matthias teachers work hard to ensure that all children feel emotionally and physically safe at school. We want the children to be in an environment where they can learn, grow, and have fun. The values and virtues of people of good moral character are explicitly taught and modeled. St. Matthias adheres to a character education framework known as, Character Counts! (CC!). It teaches the importance of being trustworthy, respectful, responsible, caring, fair and good citizens. These virtues are the six pillars of good character. Each month a different pillar is highlighted for instruction and practice. This month we will focus on respect. Respect dictates what one thinks of others and how one treats others. Families are urged to think about how they and the children show respect in their homes and elsewhere. Reinforcing respect through modeling and direct instruction at home supports the modeling and instruction that the children receive in school. As the African proverb reminds us, it takes a village to raise a child. Parents and teachers working together are a powerful force in developing the children into people of good character. Together we are forming saints and scholars!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CONCESSIONS

St. Matthias families have a unique opportunity to earn money towards their child's tuition. Our Knights of Columbus Council operates 2 concession stands at Fed Ex Field for the Washington Professional Football Team home games only. They are offering families who are willing to volunteer for 6 events a portion of the proceeds towards their child's tuition. This money goes directly to the school and not to individual families. If more than one adult over the age of 18 in a family volunteers for 6 events, the money earned towards tuition is doubled.

For more information, please contact Mr. Sony Ajayi at 202-413-1066 or by email at sonyajayi@yahoo.com. There is a game this coming Sunday and one next Thursday evening. You will need to complete an agreement to work and an online alcohol training.



Friday, September 10

Rachael's Friends
New Student Welcome
Breakfast

Tuesday, September 14

Elizabeth Seton HS Visit
11:20 am

Wednesday, September 15

Hispanic Heritage Begins

Hot Lunch Deadline for
Main and Market

Thursday, September 16

Archbishop Carroll HS Visit
1:30 pm

God's Rods 3:00 - 4:15 pm

DISMISSAL IMPROVING

Once the children are in their cars it takes 7 minutes to empty the school lot. We know that everyone's time is precious, so we greatly appreciate parents' being on time, getting out of their cars, and patiently waiting for the signal to move. All are reminded to pull up as close to the car as possible. The teachers meet regularly after school at 3:10, so supervising children waiting for a late arriving parent delays these important teacher meetings. Your consideration of our teachers' time, which is also precious is greatly appreciated. Children who are not picked up by 3:10 will be charged a late pick up fee beginning on Monday, September 9.

Parents who have messages about pick-up changes for their child are urged to contact Mrs. Blackburn, preferably by email before Noon on the day in question. Emergencies do occur, but most often this can be taken care of by noon. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

TITLE 1 TUTORING SERVICES

Title 1 is a federally funded program that supports children in grades 1-8 with additional instructional time for reading and math. Children are selected for these services based on low classroom performance and low achievement as measured by standardized tests. Families of children enrolled at St. Matthias last year should have received a permission form from the Title 1 provider. Newly enrolled children whose Scantron scores are in the below average range will be recommended for Title 1. However, it is important to note that in order to qualify the students must live in a neighborhood serviced by a Title 1 public school.

SCANTRON BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Children in grades 1-8 have completed the baseline Scantron tests. The teachers are reviewing this data, which will be sent to you next week. The children will be retested in late January/early February to determine if they are on track to meet their annual growth target. Please note that the parent report provides very valuable information about each child's achievement. Parents with questions are encouraged to contact the school principal.

LUNCH REMINDERS

Some of the children are eating their lunch at snack time because they are hungry. At lunch they are sitting and watching other children eat. Please ensure that your child eats a substantial breakfast before school, has a healthy snack and an adequate lunch. Growing children need protein. In addition to bringing lunch, St. Matthias families can order hot lunch through our caterer, Main and Market. Orders are placed online by the 15th of the previous month. Finally, once each month the school and the HSA offer a Chick-fil-A and pizza lunch. Order forms are included in Bridges. Deadlines are firm, so do not delay in sending the orders in!

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORM

Every child in the school needs to have an emergency information form on file in the school. All persons authorized to pick up your child **must** be on the form. This includes relatives who are also enrolled in the school. Although many families have completed this information in TADS, we ask for a paper copy in the event that the school does not have access to the internet in an emergency. These forms were included with last week's Bridges. Just in case you missed, one is attached.

FAMILY INCOME SURVEYS

Every family has received the annual Family Survey. These are anonymous. Please complete the survey and send it to school via your child or drop it off at drop-off or pick up. The higher percentage of return results in a higher per pupil rate for various state funding opportunities. Compared to some other states, Maryland's financial support of nonpublic schools is small. Please help us get every state penny that is available to us by completing and returning the Family Survey.

PARENT/STUDENT CALENDAR AND HANDBOOK

The oldest or only child of the St. Matthias families received the annual school calendar and handbook today. Please review this information and keep it for a reference. The acknowledgment form on page 27 must be signed and returned to school by September 23. Questions about school policy or other handbook contents should be addressed to the school principal.