



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

FIRST FULL WEEK

The students have nearly completed the first full week of school. Routines are going more smoothly, learning is in full swing and the new students are comfortable and indistinguishable from the veteran students. There are a few important reminders that will maximize instructional time and success for all students. Some of these require parental support, for which the teachers would be most grateful:

- All grade K-8 students must be in the building by 8:05 to be considered on time. Prayer begins promptly at 8:05 and instruction immediately follows. Late comers disrupt the learning for everyone, and they are not ready to learn. **Beginning on Monday, parents of late children will need to come to the office to complete a late slip.**
- Dismissal is at 3:00 P.M. Any child not in a car by 3:10 is a late pick-up and subject to a fee put directly in TADS. Most importantly, teachers' faculty and team meetings begin promptly at 3:10, so a teacher must be pulled from important work to supervise the late child.
- All children need a labeled, refillable water bottle.
- All children need a **healthy** morning snack and a substantial lunch. The children are directed to put uneaten food back in their lunch boxes, so parents can see what they are eating. Children who have food that they do not like are asking for other food, which we do not have. Fast food lunches are not permitted. Families who are experiencing financial hardship and cannot provide enough food are asked to contact Mrs. Blackburn for assistance from the parish food bank.
- There are major infractions of the uniform policy. Beginning on Monday, if you are still awaiting your delivery from Flynn and O'Hara, please send an email to mblackburn@stmatthias.org. Please note that boys' and girls' pants and shorts must be identical to the uniform. Stretch jeans and leggings are not acceptable. Please review uniform information in the School Calendar/Handbook that was sent home last Thursday.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

All families are expected to provide 20 hours of service to the school. The Knights of Columbus FedEx Field concession Fundraiser is a great way to not only earn hours, but also to receive a \$500 tuition credit per adult. If you are not available to serve at football games, there are still many ways that you can help.

We are in desperate need of parents to help with lunch daily. Help is needed from 12:00-1:00 to set out lunches, and clean tables. Even if you can only serve 1 day per month that is a help and half of your service hours will be complete! If you can break free from work at lunchtime, please consider coming to school to see your child and to help!

Volunteers are needed to work on a number of HSA events that support our children and families: the Fun-d Run on October 8, Grandparents Day on November 24 and PJs and Pancakes on Dec 21. Please look for a Sign-up Genius email and sign up!



Tuesday, September 21
Don Bosco HS Visit
12:40 am

Wednesday, September 22
Archbishop Carroll HS Visit
2:00 pm

Thursday, September 23
Pallotti HS Visit
11:20 am

Friday, September 24
Principal's Coffee
8:30 - 9:30 am

Chick-fil-A Forms Due

DROP OFF AND PICK UP REMINDERS

Our drop off and pick up routines have been designed to keep all students, families, and teachers safe during these times. Doors open at 7:45 a.m. each morning. Students in grades K-8 are expected to be here and in their classroom by 8:05 a.m. If you arrive after 8:05 a.m. you must park in the front lot and bring your child to the main office to complete a late slip to give their teacher.



PK parents park in the back lot and sign their child in at the Pre-K 4 door.

DROP OFF: PLEASE stay in a single file line always. Students and teachers can be on both sides of a vehicle. Please be patient. Our younger students need help getting out of car seats and many vehicles have multiple children getting out. PK parents will receive 2 orange laminated sheets that say Pre-K. Please place one on your dashboard during drop off and pick up. This will help us recognize who is coming through the line and not dropping off until you park.

PICK UP: We require single file lines of cars beginning as close to the tree line as possible with cars pulled up close to each other. Park your car and exit your vehicle so that your child(ren) can see where you are. Once everyone is in their vehicle, we dismiss 1 row at a time. **If someone other than you is dropping off or picking up your child, please inform them of this procedure.** The safety of you, your family, and our teachers is our priority. We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

EMPLOYMENT AVAILABLE: ESP AND SUBSTITUTES



Substitute teachers are needed. If you have teaching experience or have always wanted to be in a classroom, please contact Mrs. Schratz or the school office. The St. Matthias Extended School Program (ESP) needs employees to staff the aftercare program from 3:00-6:00 PM from as few as one, but as many as five days per week. If interested, please contact the school office.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

A vibrant school community needs a core of parent leaders to plan and oversee activities that build community, support the teachers, and provide fun and exciting activities for the children. Parental involvement improves student achievement for all children! No position or task requires a lot of time. As the saying goes, many hands make light work, and for just a hour or two per month you can make a profound difference in your child's school experience. New parents, it's a great way to get to know others and feel connected! See attached Flyer



4TH ANNUAL FUN-D RUN



The Fun-d run kick off will begin on Monday! All students in PK3-grade 8 will participate. Please help your child select family members and friends to ask for support. Prizes will be awarded, and all children will benefit, as the proceeds will be used for playground and basketball renovation and replacement of iPad technology in the school. Volunteers are needed, so look for the fun-d run sign-up genius soon!

PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE

All are invited to the first Principal's Coffee of the new school year on Friday, September 24 at 8:30 am in the Hughes Center. This is an informal listening and sharing session, an opportunity for Principal Schratz to get to know parents and to meet other parents. The meeting usually last no longer than 90 minutes and people may leave early if work demands.



7TH AND 8TH GRADE PARENT MEETING



All parents are invited to attend a very important informational meeting about high school admissions. Graduation plans will be discussed with 8th grade parents. The meeting will take place virtually on Monday, October 4 at 7 PM. Please save the date and look for the link in your email on September 30.