



BRIDGES

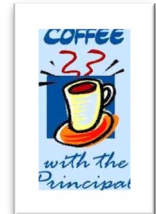


WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE

All are invited to attend the first of four informal principal chats tomorrow, September 24 at 8:30 A.M. We will gather in the Hughes Center to the right of the main entrance to the school. Coffee, tea and goodies will be available beginning at 8:10. Mrs. Schratz will arrive immediately following school prayer at approximately 8:20. Our program will begin at 8:30 and usually lasts an hour.



PARENT SERVICE HOURS PROGRAM



All families are required to provide 20 hours of volunteer service to the school throughout the year. **Half of these hours must be served by January 10.** In other words, by then every family should have served 10 hours. Those who do not will have a \$200 charge added to their TADS account, or \$20 per unserved hour up to 10 hours. It is important to note that this program was instituted many years ago to enable us to keep tuition costs from rising. Currently we are in desperate need of help to clean tables at the end of recess or the end of the day! Due to Covid we now have twice as many tables. The principal and teachers are cleaning the tables. If you can come early to pick up, you get to be at the front of the dismissal line and do a great service to our school. To help, please respond to the sign-up genius that you receive today! We also need helpers for the October 8 Fun-d Run, Grandparents Day on November 24, and Pancakes & PJs on December 21.

WELCOME, DR. HADLEY

We are pleased to announce that we now have a part time resource teacher! Dr. Emma Hadley is an experienced teacher with a broad range of expertise in linguistics and language acquisition. She will be supporting reading instruction with teachers and students with identified learning differences as well as students who are performing in the lowest band on Scantron. Next week, Dr. Hadley will begin working at St. Matthias on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Many of you may already know her as mom to third grader, Keelyn and active member of the HSA Executive Committee.



Upcoming EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, September 24

Principal's Coffee
8:30 - 9:30 am

Chick-fil-A Forms Due

Monday, September 27

Student Council Elections

Tuesday, September 28

McNamara High School Visit
11:20 am

Wednesday, September 29

Junior Drama Club
3:00 - 4:10 pm

Thursday, September 30

St. John's College HS Visit
11:20 am

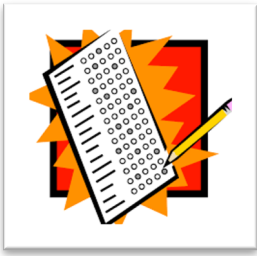
Drama Club 3:00 - 4:15 pm

HSA Back to School Meeting
7:00 - 8:00 pm

Friday, October 1

School Mass 9:45 am

SCANTRON RESULTS



Parents of children in grades 1-8 will receive their children's results today. Scantron Performance Series tests the students' knowledge of reading and math. There are three data points on the results that are very important: the performance band, the national percentile, and the scaled score. The performance band tells where you child falls within the bell curve. The bands are below average, low average, high average and above average. One of the school's annual school improvement goals is to raise student achievement. To accomplish this, we will need to significantly raise the number of children in the top two bands. The NPR pinpoints where a child is in comparison to all the children who took the test in the norming population. If a child has an NPR of 60 that means that he or she performed better than 60 per cent of the 100,000 children in the norming population. The scaled score is the starting point for the individual's growth for the year. When the children test again in the mid-year, we will be able to see to what extent they have grown and if they are on target to meet their expected growth.

The teachers are developing and implementing strategies to raise student achievement. Parents also play a very important role in helping their children achieve! Parents should be encouraging the children to complete homework, study, read and practice IXL. Parents monitor the amount of sleep children get, their nutrition and exercise, and supervise the quality of television and after school activities. One proven way that children can raise their scores is to practice math and reading skills using IXL. All children have an IXL account. In addition to honor roll awards at the end of each quarter, awards will be given to children who have excelled in IXL! This is a great opportunity for children who struggle to get all A's or b's to be recognized.

Principal Schratz will be briefly sharing school wide Scantron results at the first general HSA meeting on September 30. Parents with specific questions are encouraged to call or email her.

FUN-D RUN

Every child now has a pledge page to get sponsors and donations from family and friends to support our goal to replace aging technology and to expand and refurbish our playground equipment. Our goal is to raise \$12,000 and have 100% of the students involved with at least one pledge. Of course, we hope that the children will do better. We particularly need those families who receive tuition assistance to do their best to support this event by volunteering and sending pledge requests to as many family members and friends as possible. All parents and relatives are invited to attend the Fun-d run to cheer the children on!



As we continue in the COVID-19 pandemic, we are keeping our children safe with masks, sanitation, and distancing. But there are other reasons we need to be aware of to keep our children safe and at home. Please place the attached flyer on YOUR refrigerator as a reminder of other illnesses. Remember, if your child is sent home because of fever or have vomited, they must remind home for 24 hours before they can return to school. Also, it is important for children to get at least 6-8 hours of sleep to be able to focus the next day. Thank you for doing your best to keep everyone safe.