



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

# BRIDGES

WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG      JANUARY 6, 2022



## COVID UPDATE

The plan to bring all students back to school on Tuesday, January 18 is still in effect. For students to be admitted to school then, documentation of a negative Covid test is preferred, unless they are tested at school. Students who have traveled out of the country are not permitted back into school without proof of a negative covid test result. All students can be tested at school on **Wednesday, January 12**. All families are encouraged to grant their children permission to be tested at school by going to this link: <https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent>



Due to predicted very cold weather, the testing will take place in Friendship Hall **by appointment**. Please sign-up for a time on the sign-up genius email that you will receive on Monday, January 10. Instruction will occur virtually on the screening day with the understanding that students may miss all or part of a class that day. Students returning to school must wear a surgical mask that fits them and have an additional two in their backpack. All parents of children ages 5 and older are urged to get their children vaccinated and once a child is fully vaccinated their vaccination information **must** be uploaded in TADS. Fully vaccinated students ages 12 and up who are eligible are urged to get the covid booster shot. Although some vaccinated people are getting covid, the symptoms are rarely severe.

Once back in school, all families must be prepared to have their children in quarantine if a case develops in a particular grade. As of today, the Maryland State Health Departments has adopted the new CDC 5- day quarantine period. This is a very fluid situation. The St. Matthias school administration is committed to providing accurate and up-to-date information to the greatest extent possible. When a whole class is in quarantine, instruction will continue virtually.

Although our teachers and all staff are fully vaccinated and most have received the booster shot, we have had 5 positive cases since December 16. Teachers who are positive with mild or no symptoms will teach from their homes. However, staff may be too sick to teach. In this case, if the class is in person, a substitute teacher will be providing instruction. If we are in virtual learning, there will be work posted by the teacher for the students to learn asynchronously.

**Upcoming EVENTS**  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Friday, January 7**  
Virtual Learning  
Teachers teach from home

**Monday, January 10**  
Teachers Report  
Virtual Learning Continues this week  
Sign-up for Covid Screening Appt.

**Wednesday, January 12**  
Covid Screening

**Thursday, January 13**  
Bridges sent out

## RE-ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

All families with children in grades PK3 – grade 7 can now enroll for the 2023 school year by going to their TADS account and re-enroll for 2022-2023. The enrollment fee of \$375 goes into effect on March 1. Families who enroll prior to that date pay \$225 per family. Please note that the enrollment fee is non-refundable. Last year over 95% of our returning families were enrolled on or before the enrollment fee increase deadline. Having accurate numbers is extremely helpful to confirm the budget, hire staff, order materials and most importantly, to admit new students. Interest in our school is increasing significantly. Open houses are scheduled for Catholic Schools Week at the end of the month. Current students are not guaranteed their spots after March 1.



RE-ENROLL  
NOW!

Our students often enjoy incentives and friendly competitions. Students who are re-enrolled by February 1 will earn a free dress pass. The class with the highest percentage of re-enrolled students (per capita) will have an ice cream treat! If you are aware that your family is moving or not intending to return next year for any reason, please inform Mrs. Blackburn or Mrs. Schratz as soon as possible. These children will be considered as responding for the class and free dress incentives.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP



WE NEED  
YOUR HELP

Having accurate vaccine, booster and covid positivity information is extremely important. All positive cases are reported to the health department and the ADW Catholic Schools Office. Please upload vaccine information into TADS and e-mail Mrs. Schratz or Mrs. Blackburn if your child has tested positive for Covid 19. This information is protected by confidentiality regulations.

## PILLAR OF THE MONTH: FAIRNESS

One of the strategies St. Matthias uses to form the students into people of good character is the Character Counts program. Through modeling and direct instruction, the children learn the meaning and importance of the six pillars of good character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. This month we will focus on the pillar of fairness. Fairness implies adherence to a standard of rightness or lawfulness without reference to one's own feelings or inclinations. It also implies freedom from prejudice or impartiality for or against any side. Fairness is concerned with actions, processes, and consequences that are morally right, honorable, and equitable. It is not an accident that the school's focus on fairness occurs in the month that the nation honors the work and sacrifice of our great champion of fairness, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



got fairness?



## UNIFORM REMINDERS

All children in grades PK3-8 are expected to be in the correct school uniform when they return to in-person learning on January 18. This includes natural hair color, so plan accordingly.!

## FAREWELL TO FATHER JACK AND WELCOME TO FATHER AVELINO

Stay tuned for plans to honor these two very important men who serve our school community. Your prayers for them as they transition to new ministries are greatly appreciated.



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

The dangers of the highly transmissible Omicron variant of Covid-19 will undoubtedly impact some of our plans for the annual celebration of Catholic schools. However, teachers are working on a plan to make it a fun celebration.