



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

# BRIDGES

WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ♦ FEBRUARY 11, 2021



## RE-OPENING REVISION

In addition to PK and Kindergarten which have all their students on -site, there are now 21 students coming to school in grades 1-4. The teachers are working hard to transition to concurrent teaching. Most grades will have specials classes in Friendship Hall. This results in the need to modify the schedule somewhat to allow for time to thoroughly clean tables, chairs, and restrooms between classes. The teachers will be notifying their classes regarding changes and any new Zoom links if necessary. A revised schedule is also included with this edition of Bridges.



**We will be opening grades 5-8 for those parents who are comfortable with the decision to send the children into the building. Grades 5-8 are invited to have their classes on-site beginning Monday, February 22.** Drop-off is between 7:50 and 8:00 and pick up is at 2:30 (Mondays-Thursdays) and at noon on Fridays. This last phase of the reopening was delayed a week due to a change in the teachers' vaccination appointments. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes. Families who have responded "Yes" to the question about returning to school on the most recent survey will receive an email with specific instructions related to sending their children to school. **If you do not receive this notification and would like to have your child(ren) here, please contact the school office immediately.** We must have firm numbers to plan appropriately for the safety of the students and staff.

## SCANTRON MATH TESTING CONTINUES

The students in grade 2 will be taking the mid-year math Scantron test this coming week. This modified test is 25 questions, and it will be taken via Zoom. Please note the weekly calendar for testing times and help your child do his or her best by supplying a nutritious and ample breakfast as well as a quiet workspace.



## Mark Your Calendar

### Friday, February 12

CommUNITY Reads 9:45 am

### NOON DISMISSAL

### Monday, February 15

President's Day

### SCHOOL CLOSED

### Tuesday, February 16

Re-enrollment Drawing for Uniform Gift Card

### Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday Mass 9:45

Drama Club 2:15 - 3:00 pm

### Thursday, February 18

2nd Grade Math Scantron  
9:30 am

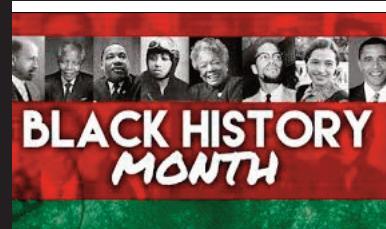
HSA Executive Committee  
Meeting

### Friday, February 19

ADW Tuition Assistance  
Closes for New Families

CommUNITY Reads 9:45 am

### NOON DISMISSAL



**Re-Enroll Today!**

## ROOM PARENTS NEEDED

As more children come into the building and as we begin to reinstate events and celebrations that occur in a "normal" school year, the teachers would benefit from having a parent or two who is willing to reach out to the rest of the class and help with planning and supporting class and school activities. This is a great way to earn volunteer service hours! If you are interested, please contact your child's teacher. If we have no volunteers, the teachers will be reaching out to you. Please carefully consider saying 'Yes' to their request.



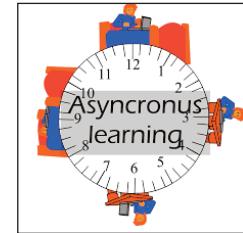
## INCLEMENT WEATHER

### Inclement Weather Policy

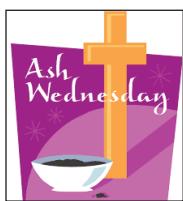
A "snow day" is a time-honored treat and tradition for students and teachers alike. If we have a day of snow, we will take the snow holiday. However, we will allow no more than three snow holidays this year. While Prince George's County public schools are still not in session, the decision to close or delay is made by our ADW Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Kelly Branaman. Our principal is informed of this decision at 5:30 a.m. on the day of the inclement weather. **An email and text message announcement will then go out to all school families.** Whenever there is other inclement weather (ice, freezing rain) that makes travel hazardous or consecutive snow closures, we will revert to virtual learning for all students in grades PK-8. Whenever there is all virtual learning, it will be on the regular school schedule for everyone. This means that if a two-hour delay is called, all classes will be taught virtually. **If you do not receive a text or email message, that means school is operating under normal condition.**

## ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING OR REVERTING TO VIRTUAL LEARNING

Some of our teachers and staff are getting ready to receive their second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. A large number will be receiving the first dose on Wednesday, February 17. Due to safety concerns, it is impossible to have substitutes in the building to cover for teachers who are getting the vaccine or who may have negative reactions to the vaccine. All teachers are preparing asynchronous lessons for the day after their shots. Of course, if they feel fine, teaching will occur as planned. However, it is hard to know how everyone will react. Therefore, we are recommending that students who come into the building stay home for virtual learning on those dates. Parents who **must** send their children into school may do so. Their child will be learning virtually at school. However, we ask that these parents email the school office if they plan to send their child to school. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work hard to keep our teachers and students safe.



## LENT



This Wednesday, February 17 marks the beginning of the church season of repentance and spiritual growth known as Lent. Lent prepares us to celebrate the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Our Savior. For forty days, reminiscent of the 40 days that Jesus fasted in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry, Christians are called to fast, pray and share with those less fortunate than themselves. The teachers will be providing opportunities and encouragement for their students to engage in these spiritual disciplines of lent.

The school community will celebrate Mass on Ash Wednesday at 9:45. Those on-site will go to the Church, while those at home attend virtually. As a school we will be asking the children to design or select a special bowl to put on their dinner tables to remind them that many are hungry. We ask that the children and parents, too, make sacrifices to put money in the bowl throughout Lent. This money will be collected after the Easter break and sent to Catholic Relief Services, which sends it to 150 countries in need worldwide. 75% of the funds they collect from across the country go to third world countries and the other 25% is used to help those in need in our own Arch-diocese of Washington. The children will be learning about the work of CRS and the people it serves in class during Lent. Please be as generous as you can be and encourage your child to do likewise. Since most children do not have their own money, they are encouraged to do extra chores and donate their earnings to the "Rice Bowl."

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY