



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



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AUGUST 31, 2023

BRIDGES

Bridges is the weekly communication between the school administration and school families. It contains useful and important information. Please read it promptly. It will be sent electronically every Thursday afternoon. This first issue is also being sent in hard copy. If you wish to have future issues in hard copy, please email Mrs. Blackburn. We hope to eventually send it through Seesaw so that our families who prefer to read it in Spanish can do so. Until then, it will be sent a little later in Spanish. Families who prefer to receive the newsletter in Spanish are asked to inform Mrs. Blackburn.

OPENING MASS

All are welcome to our school's opening Mass tomorrow, September 1 at 10:30. The 8th grade will be serving as liturgical leaders. Students in grade K-8 will be in attendance and sitting with their younger buddies. For those new to St. Matthias, each class is paired with another for special community events and to encourage the younger students to look up to their older buddies. This practice helps create a strong family atmosphere, which is the hallmark of Catholic schools. Parents attending Mass must park in the car line at the side of the school.

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

What a great week! All students are getting to know their teachers and new routines. They are thinking about their hopes and dreams for this school year and collaborating with their teachers to create class rules and goals that make their hopes and dreams possible. They are practicing many routines so that the school day goes smoothly and learning time is maximized. Our middle school teachers and students have been working all week to get to know each other and lay the ground work to create a positive learning environment. Yesterday, they spent a day away from school team building and working together to forge a partnership with their teachers and each other. The students were welcoming and open to new ideas and experiences. Students and their teachers stretched themselves and grew closer in the process. What a blessing! The year is off to a great start!



Monday, September 4

Labor Day Holiday — School Closed

Tuesday, September 5

Parent Handbooks Distributed, Hot Lunch Begins

Friday, September 8

8th Grade Parent Meeting 3-4 P.M.

TITLE 1

Title 1 is a federally funded and state administered program that provides tutoring to students who are academically underachieving and who live in neighborhoods that have a high percentage of families living at the poverty level. In order to be eligible your child must have a need for additional academic support as determined by low standardized test scores in reading and/or math and live in a neighborhood where his/her public elementary school is identified as a Title 1 school. Letters from Prince George's County Title 1 have been emailed to students that we know meet both of these criteria. If you receive such an email, please give your child permission to attend Title 1 tutoring. **Title 1 classes this year will be taught by our teachers and will take place right after school (3:00-3:45 PM).** Students who are new to St. Matthias will learn about their eligibility in late September.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

There will be four HSA meetings this school year. All families are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm in Friendship Hall please be prompt. After the general meeting, parents will visit their children's teachers to hear about curricular highlights, special events, classroom expectations, homework, grading policies and how to support their children's academic, spiritual and social-emotional growth. Parents will also learn about school initiatives, goals for the year, and HSA plans and events. Most importantly, it is an opportunity to strengthen the family-school partnership.

8TH GRADE MEETING

8th grade is an important milestone in the lives of St. Matthias students. High school choice and admission, graduation, and confirmation as well as assuming school leadership make this a busy and important year. All parents of students in 8th grade are invited to a meeting with the principal, Mrs. Schratz and 8th grade homeroom teacher, Mrs. Bunuan on Friday, September 8 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Students must be accompanied by their parent/guardian. Please RSVP to the meeting evite. Parents who attend earn 2 hours of service.

UNIFORMS A SOURCE OF SCHOOL PRIDE

The students are dressed for the important work that they do and looking very sharp in their new uniforms. Parents, please be sure that your child is in compliance with the uniform code. Beginning on Monday, September 11, teachers will be sending uniform infraction notices to you. Please review the uniform code in the Parent Student Handbook that will be distributed on September 5 along with other important school information. Please note that the last day to purchase used uniforms will be Tuesday, September 12 at the Back to School meeting. New uniform donations have been received, so be sure to stop by the used uniform table in Friendship Hall.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who attended the first school event, the Back to School Cookout. We are grateful to those who volunteered to cook, set up, clean up and to all who donated water, water-melon and chips. We also wish to thank the families who worked during the summer painting, landscaping, and organizing. Some of these awesome parents have already met their service hours!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

All families are required to serve 20 hours in support of the school. There are many ways to serve. If you like to come early to reserve a prime spot at dismissal, why not earn some service hours by helping to wash the lunchroom tables and sweep the floor? This would be a tremendous help to the staff! Are you available at lunchtime? We could use additional help to monitor recess for our preschoolers. Do you have a talent to share? We need assistant soccer coaches for our boys' team. Love to run? Some of our students are interested in cross-country, but we need a coach.