



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES

WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023



HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING AND BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

All are urged to attend the first general HSA meeting on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Friendship Hall. There will be a brief welcome by our HSA president, Michelle Moreno-Ali (Ethan Grade 1) and remarks by Principal Schratz followed by a visit to your child(ren)'s teacher(s). Some topics to be discussed in classroom meetings are: curricular highlights, assessment and grading, communication, and parent/teacher partnership. Parents are strongly encouraged to have a family member or babysitter so that children can remain at home. Parents who attend earn one volunteer service hour. Parents/guardians who attend all four home and school meetings are entered to win a 2025 tuition credit of \$400.

READY TO LEARN

Children are best able to engage in their learning and thus, acquire important knowledge and skills, if they arrive at school ready to learn. Many of our students are coming to school without the rest and nutrition needed to make the day productive for them. Please see that your children get enough sleep. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following sleep durations for optimal health: ages 3-5 need 10-13 hours, ages 6-12 need 9-12 hours, and 13-18 need 8-10 hours. No children should have access to electronic devices in their bedrooms during sleep time. In addition to rest, a good breakfast is important for being ready to learn. For many of our children morning snack is the first food they are eating. Therefore, some students consume their entire lunch at snack time and then have nothing to eat until dismissal! Families who are in need of food support are asked to inform the principal. Requests for food will be kept confidential.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORM

Every child in the school needs to have an emergency information form on file in the school. All persons authorized to pick up your child must be on the form. This includes relatives who are also enrolled in the school. Although many families have completed this information in TADS, we ask for a paper copy in the event that the school does not have access to the internet in an emergency. These forms are once again included.



Friday, September 8

Tuesday, September 12

Wednesday, September 13

Thursday, September 14

Friday, September 15

8th Grade Parent Meeting 3:00—4:00 PM (See Evite to RSVP)

HSA General Meeting — Back to School 6:30—8:15 PM

Bishop McNamara High School Visit 12:30 PM

Palloti High School Visit 1:00 PM

School Mass 10:45 AM

ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME SURVEY

The State of Maryland funnels federal dollars to our school through four Title programs. In addition, the state has its own limited programs that provide funding to its non-public schools, such as the Non-Public Textbook Program, and the Aging Schools and School Safety grants. **This funding is extremely important to our school!** The amount of funding that we receive in all of these grants and entitlements is based on the income of the families in our community and the percentage of families who complete the annual income survey. Please complete and return the survey by Monday, September 11. Please note that your anonymity is protected, as no names are required on the survey. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Blackburn or Mrs. Schratz.

ROOM PARENTS

Thank you to the following parents who have stepped up to be room parents. They play a key role in making St. Matthias a family centered community. We hope that all parents will respond to requests and communications from our outstanding 2023 room parents. The HSA room parent liason is Ms. Megan Chigua, she will keep the room parents informed of important HSA events and school needs who will in turn reach out to their class parents and guardians.

PK3 -- Liliana Zometa
PK4 -- Kiana Campbell
Kindergarten -- George Freeman
1st Grade -- Eva Petty
2nd Grade -- Michelle Moreno-Ali

2nd Grade -- Marquetia Thompson
3rd Grade -- Erika Vivar
4th Grade -- Milagros Paredes
5th Grade -- Angel Thompson
6th Grade -- Yolandra Hancock

6th Grade -- Camille Curvan
7th Grade -- Darlenys Pujols
8th Grade -- Nikita Campbell
8th Grade -- Marquetia Thompson

STANDARDIZED TESTING BEGINS NEXT WEEK

All elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Washington participate in testing math, reading and language in the fall and spring of the school year. It is mandatory for students in grades 2-8 and optional for kindergarten and grade 1. St. Matthias kindergarteners and first graders will be tested in reading and math. These tests are not factored into report cards, but rather the data is used to measure growth over the school year. Most importantly, the data helps the teacher design instruction to meet individual needs of the students. Our goal is that every child demonstrates growth over the year. Although it is important that all children do their best, they should not be stressed about the tests. Parents can support testing by ensuring that their children are rested and have a good breakfast on testing days. The testing schedule is included in the *Bridges* calendar.

READY TO EXERCISE YOUR CREATIVITY

Join Mrs. Wright for Art Club beginning Monday, September 18. Meetings take place during lunch/recess from 11:40 to 12:30 PM. See attached flyer to sign up.

If dance is your thing, join Mrs. Wright on Tuesday, September 12, for dance ministry. This year we have a class for K to 3rd grade. They will meet 2 times a month on Mondays from 3:00 to 4:15 PM. See attached flyers.

DO YOU SHOP AT WEIS?

Please see the attached flier if you or family members shop at Weis. Please register on-line and help earn money for our school! Not a Weis shopper, please find out if your grocery store has a program to support schools and let us know.

STUDENT NEEDING A RIDE

We have a student who lives near Texas Roadhouse in Bowie that needs a ride home in the afternoon. If you can help out with getting the student to and from school send an email to Mrs. Blackburn.