



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG

JANUARY 18, 2024

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATION

The Catholic Schools Week (CSW) theme is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." The goal of many of our CSW activities is to strengthen the bond between the school and our families and amongst our school families. All students and their families are invited to attend Mass at St. Matthias on **January 27 or 28**. All students who attend are encouraged to wear their school uniforms. Students will serve as lectors and gift bearers. Donuts, coffee, and juice will be served after the 9:30 Sunday, Mass. We are looking for parents or students to speak briefly at all masses about what their education at St. Matthias means to them. We are also in need of a few family volunteers to share their experience of St. Matthias with prospective families during the open house that takes place in Friendship Hall from 12:00 to 1:30 pm. Students who attend services at other churches are also encouraged to do so in uniform. Take a selfie with your priest or minister in the school uniform to earn a free dress pass.

All parents/guardians are invited to attend the HSA general meeting on **Tuesday, January 30** from 6:30-8:00 pm. In honor of CSW, dinner will be served. This is a great opportunity to meet other school families, learn what is going on at school, share your ideas, and get involved. Please RSVP to the meeting Evite.

Wednesday, January 31 the focus is on service to our community. The students are writing Valentine cards to the residents of Arbor Terrace Senior Living community, in Greenbelt, MD. We will also honor those St. Matthias family members who have served in the armed forces. The students may wear red, white and blue with a donation (\$1 minimum) for Wounded Warriors. On **Thursday, February 1st**, we will celebrate our students with lunch provided for them by our HSA and an afternoon of fun activities planned by the teachers. Volunteers are needed to help serve lunch and clean-up to prepare for the afternoon activities. Students will have no homework and may come to school out of uniform. Please follow the out of uniform guideline found in the handbook. The week wraps up on **Friday, February 2**, with breakfast for the teachers, CSW closing Mass and Awards ceremony at 11:30 am. Parent volunteers are needed to serve breakfast and cover classrooms for one hour. Dismissal is at Noon.



Monday, January 22

Mini Dance Ministry
Title I Tutoring - Reading

Tuesday, January 23

Dance Ministry
3:00 - 4:30 pm
Title I Tutoring - Math

Wednesday, January 24

Drama Club 3:00 - 4:00 pm
Title I Tutoring - Reading

Thursday, January 25

Title I Tutoring - Math

Friday, January 26

School Mass
End of Q2

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Catholic Schools Week is a time for us to celebrate who we are and what we do! We will have two Open House events for prospective families in January.

We have 10 yard signs that we are looking to have placed in various neighborhoods. These areas include Glenn Dale, Bowie (near Holy Trinity School), Greenbelt, Mitchellville, Cheverly, New Carrollton, Upper Marlboro, Landover and of course, Lanham.

These signs will be ready to go early next week. If you are willing to take a sign (and return it when done), please email Mrs. O'Hare at aohare@stmatthias.org and say which area you are in. Families will receive two service hours for this project. The signs are on a first come first receive basis.

LOOKING AHEAD

All students in grades K-8 will be taking the MAP standardized assessments in math during the week of February 5 - 9. Selected students will also take the MAP reading test. To maximize student growth please encourage your child to work on his or her MAP skill plan in IXL to prepare.

SAFETY CONCERN

Please remember that the safety of our students and the St. Matthias community is important. Please be patient when dropping off and picking up your student(s). Follow the directions of the faculty and staff to ensure that we all stay safe. When you pull in, please pull in about 2 feet behind the car in front and align your bumpers with the car in front of you as well. By doing so we can fit all of the families in the parking lot at dismissal. Also, remember that you should be driving no more than 15 mph on the school premises.

RE-ENROLLMENT REMINDER

Re-enrollment for our current families will be opening soon. All tuition accounts must be current in order to enroll. If you missed the first payment your account is now posted as a past due balance. Mrs. Blackburn will be reaching out to those families this week to resolve this issue. Also, parents of 8th grade students please note that all tuition and fees must be paid by May 25 in order for their children to participate in graduation week activities.

RAFFLE DRAWING BEGINS

The first drawing for the \$500 prize will take place on February 1. Your TADS account has already been billed with funds being withdrawn on February 1. Please send your ticket stubs and money to the office by noon on February 1, if you have not already done so. Families who return their 30 tickets and proceeds on time will receive two volunteer service hours and the chance to win a Risse Uniform gift card. The winner will be announced in the parish bulletin and in *Bridges*. Your support of this significant fundraiser is greatly appreciated. Please note that **all families are required** to participate in this fundraiser. You may have noticed a \$300 charge in your TADS account. This charge will be credited to all families who send in their ticket stubs and money as well as to those who opt to make a donation and receive a tax deduction letter.

THANK YOU TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The school community is grateful for the leadership, generosity and service of our parish K of C. Participating families were awarded a total of \$10,700 toward their child(ren)'s tuition. These families served many hours at the FedEx concession to earn this award for their children. This opportunity is open to all school families for the coming school year. If interested, please contact Mrs. O'Hare at aohare@stmatthias.org.

END OF SECOND QUARTER

Due to the loss of significant learning time this past week, the end of the second quarter has been extended until Wednesday, January 24. Report cards will be distributed the following Wednesday, January 31st. Please check your child's progress on the Parent Portal in Rediker and remind your child to submit any missing work. Honor roll awards will be given after Mass on Friday, February 2.