



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES

WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG

FEBRUARY 22, 2024



ENROLL NOW

We are happy to report that 50% of the St. Matthias families are re-enrolled for the 2025 school year. Enrollment is now open for new families. There are already 12 new students enrolled for grade P3-grade 6. There are just a couple of openings in some grades. To ensure that your child has a space for the coming school year, please enroll today. If you are uncertain about returning and need further information, contact Principal Schratz who will be happy to address your concerns. If you need help with the mechanics of re-enrolling in TADS, contact Mrs. Blackburn.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ASSEMBLY

All are welcome to attend the culminating event of the St. Matthias celebration of Black History Month, "Lift Every Voice & Sing," on Thursday, February 29, at 1:45 in Friendship Hall. If you can attend, RSVP to the E-vite sent from the school office so that we can have enough seating available. Students from grades K - 8 will be performing dramatic readings, songs, and dances that celebrate the contributions of African Americans in history.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Lent is a call from the Church to all Christians to grow closer to Jesus through prayer, fasting and giving to others in need. In school the children are praying more, being encouraged to work especially hard at being kind and thoughtful every day and reminded to make sacrifices to support Operation Rice Bowl. Every family will receive a Catholic Relief Services Rice bowl for their dinner table. Included in the rice bowl is a calendar of prayers and suggestions to observe the forty days of Lent.

MUSEUM WALK

On February 28, all students will be viewing the learning and BHM projects of their fellow schoolmates on a Museum Walk throughout the school. Parents are invited to do so at 2:30 pm on the 28th or after the assembly on February 29th.



Friday, February 23

African American Read-In
Stations of the Cross

Monday, February 26

Mini Dance Ministry
Title I Tutoring - Reading
God's Rods (Tentative)

Tuesday, February 27

Dance Ministry
Title I Tutoring - Math

Wednesday, February 28

Black History Month Museum Walk
Title I Tutoring - Reading

Thursday, February 29

Black History Assembly
1:45 pm
Title I Tutoring - Math
Grade 6 Parent Meeting
6:30 pm

Friday, March 1

Stations of the Cross

INTRODUCING MUSTANG MEMOS

Thank you for your support of the asynchronous learning day. We understand the sacrifice it entails to modify your work schedules. The teachers made very good use of the day. A new initiative that we are adopting is a positive affirmation system, called Mustang Memos. Teachers will identify students who are demonstrating outstanding behavior in the areas of readiness for class, **punctuality**, respect, attentiveness, participation, and kindness. Their names will be posted and announced each morning. The memos can be accumulated and turned into Mustang Money to be used to purchase goodie appropriate to the various ages of the children.

VIRTUS REQUIREMENTS

It is the policy of the Archdiocese of Washington that all volunteers (parents, grandparents, guardians, relatives, etc) that have contact with children must:

1. Complete a volunteer application.
2. Get fingerprinted (RENOX is right across the street from school)
3. Complete the on-line VIRTUS training.

Classes are being held on:

Wed., February 22 at 6:30 pm

Wed., March 6 at 10:00 am

Spanish Classes will be held on:

Sat., February 24 at 9:00 am

Thurs., February 29 at 10:00 am

Contact with children includes field trips, volunteering at events and/or being in the classroom. For further information, please contact Mrs. Blackburn.

MAP MATH NEWS

Students in grades K-8 have taken the mid-year MAP test in math. Family reports will be sent home soon. The purpose of this midyear check-in was to identify students who may not be on target to meet their growth target in math by the end of the school year. Teachers are using this data to design interventions and instruction to help all students meet their achievement goals in math. In addition to classroom interventions, IXL is a very powerful and effective tool to increase math achievement. IXL utilizes data from the MAP test to design individualized skill plans for every student. The math teachers are updating their students' MAP skill plans on IXL. Once these are complete, they will be assigning work on these skill plans for homework and monitoring student usage. Please encourage your child to use IXL, preferably under your supervision.

GLOW/GROW/GO

Parent Input gathered at the CSW HSA meeting on January 30 has been reviewed by the administration, teachers, and HSA Executive Committee. Data was collected on these four topics: academic achievement, student engagement, parent connection and finances. In this weekly column one item will be shared. In the area of academic achievement, a **glow** is the use of IXL and our strong reading program. A corresponding **grow** is the need for more homework. Teachers are happy to respond to individual parent requests. An additional **go** is all are adding reading time to the homework. Please check out this link for further information on the importance of developing independent readers: https://substack.com/redirect/5b843d83-dbab-48d0-a6af-d7fb94af0e68?j=eyJ1ljojMnFndTJvIn0.dQDH-q_O5-axOY5Lc37Mqrqpb9-ABGL54eHY3kjs1pM