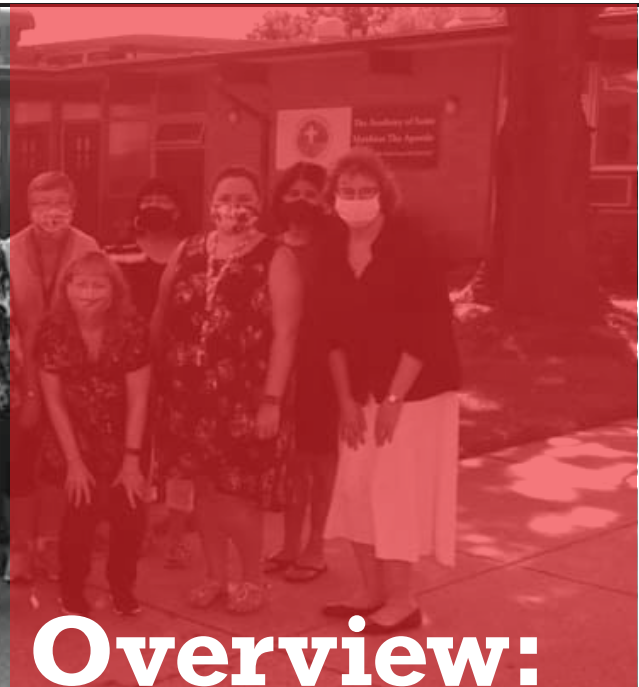


The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle

# Mustang Magazine



Volume 1 Issue 1, 2021



## Overview:

## Welcome

On behalf of the Students, Faculty, and Staff of the Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle, we would like to welcome you to our inaugural issue of The Mustang Magazine. Our goal with this publication is to highlight all the happenings at our school as well as the success of our alumni.

For 60 years we have been providing the gift of Catholic education to thousands of students in the greater Prince George's County area and a milestone like this should not be forgotten. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions by the state our plans to celebrate have been put on hold. Rest assured once we are able to gather as a community we will celebrate!

Please be on the lookout for more information on our social media pages and the alumni Facebook group.

## Go Mustangs!

- Principal's Message
- Pastor's Message
- My Time at St. Matthias
- Staff Spotlight
- After School Activities
- In Memoriam
- Missing Alumni



301-577-9412



@stmatthiasadw



St. Matthias Alum



@stmatthiasadw

# Principal's Message

By: Patricia Schratz | Principal

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to you in our first publication to the alumni of St. Matthias. I assumed the position of school principal in July of 2016, having come from serving as a principal for 15 years in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. I have been an educator for 40 years, serving all but 3 of those in Catholic schools. I am a passionate believer in the value and importance of educating the whole child. I have dedicated my life to the mission of Catholic schools which is to form followers of Christ and people of good character who use their God given talents in the service of others. Many events of the past four years and certainly those of the past few months have convinced me more than ever of the importance of an education that is based on truth, principles, and knowledge.

The mission of St. Matthias to form disciples of Christ as well as informed, decent, and service minded people is critical to the growth of our nation. The students of St. Matthias, past and present learn that all people are created and

loved by God. All people have a unique and valuable purpose. They learn that the earth is a fragile and precious gift from God that requires respect and nurturing for the good of all. They are taught that we are linked through our common kinship as children of the One God. Recent events demonstrate that our nation needs a proliferation of Catholic and faith-based schools in a time when nearly 500 Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country are in danger of closing due to the financial fallout of the pandemic. I am proud that our students learn every day that in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." With the power of the words, life, and grace of Jesus and through prayer and knowing God, our school exists to form children into adults and citizens who bring light to their world through the power of love.

I am humbled and grateful to lead and serve such a school community. Building on a strong and lasting legacy of greatness of which you are a part, I am excited to share our school's growth and achievements.

## Pastor's Message

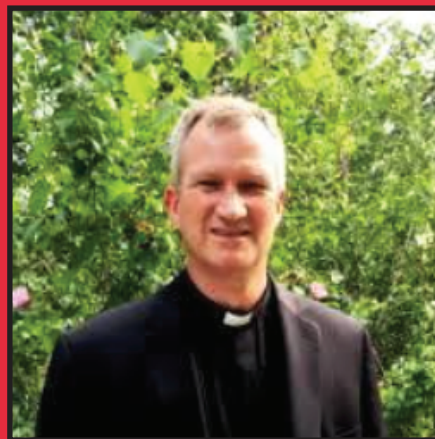
By: Rev. Jack Kennealy | Pastor

2020 was a challenging year for everyone, including Catholic schools, and St. Matthias was not immune from the effects of the pandemic. In 2019, we had a very successful year, with 186 students in the classroom and a minimal school deficit. 2020 was off to a good start but quickly turned downward when it became clear that the virus was unlike the flu that has a small window of community spread. The school principal, teachers, and staff did a great job transitioning students from in-person to virtual learning. This school year has been a hybrid of some in-person education (especially in the younger grades) and virtual learning. While the student population has declined, this is also true for most schools in the Archdiocese. We are making plans for 2021, when we can hopefully welcome students back for in-person learning.

We continue to make improvements to the school building itself. Last year, we had new exterior doors installed at the main entrance and in Friendship Hall and completed repairs to the heating system. This Spring, we will install a new roof. The school roof was last replaced when Msgr.

Scanlon was pastor in the 1990's.

Even though COVID has been a setback for the school, we still envision rays of hope. Looking ahead, opportunities for in-person learning will bring students back to campus and will attract new students to the Academy of St. Matthias. We pray that our students will be back in person soon to pray, learn, and play together.



# My Time at St. Matthias

**By: Pat Wilson (Ford) | Principal 2009 - 2011**

Thirty years ago, I had the good fortune to visit Saint Matthias School to interview for a middle school teaching position. The moment I set foot in the school, I knew there was something extraordinary taking place.

Principal Robert Love needed a math and science teacher for grades 6-8, along with a homeroom teacher for 7th grade. I eagerly accepted the offer, and for the next 21 years, Saint Matthias School felt like a second home. We were a school of creative and adventurous students and teachers who enjoyed themed tag days, Iditarod sled races (without snow), indoor winter Olympics, snow days, science fairs, activities with buddies, and presidential campaigns and elections. Students made patchwork pillows for a geometry unit, read good books, prepared monthly student Masses, rehearsed (many hours) for the Christmas performance, took field trips to museums, zoos, and attended theater and concert performances. Together, we celebrated teacher and student successes, prayed for students and parents who were ill, and collectively mourned the deaths of

two of our students.

What made our school the "hidden gem" of Prince George's County? The people! We were a group of caring teachers and staff. Our students learned to excel academically, grow spiritually, and forged friendships that continue to this day. We were blessed with supportive parents who were actively engaged in all aspects of their children's education. Parishioners, too, supported the school with generous donations and hours spent volunteering in the school.

Although much has changed over the past 30 years, much remains the same. The school continues to be a community of faith and learning in a safe and caring environment. This year, however, teachers, staff, students, and parents are faced with the challenges presented by remote teaching and learning. The Academy of St. Matthias, of course, has risen to the occasion once again to provide the best education for students despite difficult circumstances. Please keep the school in your prayers as you remember your time at St. Matthias. Go Mustangs!

## Staff Spotlight



**Beverly Rampey**  
School Counselor

I am Mrs. Rampey, the School Counselor at the Academy of St. Matthias. This is my 3rd year at St. Matthias and 17th year in school counseling. I attended Temple University in Philadelphia, PA and earned a master's degree in Counseling at Hampton University in Hampton, VA. I have worked with various grade levels including

elementary, middle and high school students. I take pride in assisting students with their academic, emotional and social development.

At St. Matthias, I work with students through classroom lessons, in small peer groups and through individual counseling sessions. Virtual learning has been challenging but it has given our students an opportunity to connect with one another through this shared experience. I offer a variety of virtual lessons including coping skills, stress management and emotional wellness. I also offer academic support by teaching effective study habits and academic planning for students that are struggling with the virtual platform.

I truly enjoy working with our students at St. Matthias. I look forward to watching them continue to grow into thoughtful and caring individuals as well as seeing them reach their full academic potential.



# Drama Club

By: Mrs. Mary Gillis | 5th Grade Teacher

Our Drama Club meetings are filled with fun, fellowship, and performance. Our goals are to learn improvisation, blocking, stage directions, character development, and re-acting. We have enhanced Mass with drama skits related to the Gospel. We also sponsor a Talent Show in the Spring. This past Spring because of COVID Restrictions, we sponsored a Virtual Talent Show on Flipgrid. In Middle School Drama Club, students learn teamwork and gain poise and confidence. Hopefully, they also develop a love of live theater.

Our Virtual Drama Club meetings have been a combination of theater games, improvising a costume with just 5 items from their closets, re-enacting a famous art masterpiece, improvising props with found objects, and, in our Christmas meeting, acting out Christmas carols using charades.

# God's Rods

By: Mrs. Mary Gillis | 5th Grade Teacher

God's Rods is an after school club in which students use modified sign language, dowel rods, and creative movement set to music for praise and worship. This is one of the many ways students can strengthen their faith at St. Matthias while enhancing our worship at Mass.

Since this is a group movement performance club, we have had to be very creative as we endeavor to continue virtually during Covid restrictions. We practice together virtually our individual movements looking forward to the time we can "put it all together" when we are back on campus .



# Junior Drama

By: Ms. Shaughn Smith | 4th Grade Teacher

The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle is now hosting Junior Drama Club meetings for grades 3-5. The young performers meet over Zoom with Ms. Smith, the 4th grade teacher, and practice various activities that help students speak confidently and with enthusiasm, read with expression, and engage in conversational skills that encourage students to think quickly. In a time where we cannot be together in person, it is more important than ever to be present to one another in creative and meaningful ways. This club was introduced during the fall semester to allow students to engage with their classmates and meet new friends in other grades. Students ranging from ages 8 to 11 mingle together and encourage each other in a way that is inviting and comfortable for all to take risks and perform. Students have enjoyed performing various improvisation activities and reenacting scenarios. One favorite activity is an improvisational game called "You're the Expert!" in which students are assigned a topic at random and have to present on it with factual or fiction material they come up with on the spot. Students also enjoy working collaboratively to

build their own stories with silly plots and engaging characters. We are looking forward to engaging with Readers Theater in our future by acting out the lines from various plays. This supports students in reading fluently and will allow for more confident performers once we are back in person and on a stage! We hope to engage with the Drama Club for the middle school students to inspire and encourage the young performers too. Once we are able to meet in person safely again, we hope to work on a play and someday even attend a play on a field trip! The art of the theater is bringing students together and providing a joyful experience here at the The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle.



# In Memoriam

*Saint Matthias, pray that we  
may become worthy witnesses  
to the resurrection of Jesus in  
the way we live the eternal life  
we have right now.*

*Amen*

## **Class of 1968**

*Mark L. Leverone  
Corinne Theresa Dominici  
Mike Cannon*

## **Class of 1969**

*Steven Gerard Shryock  
Deborah Jean Donohue  
Michael Charles Moroney*

## **Class of 1970**

*Debra Ann McElroy  
Kelly Maureen Carter  
John Michael Roman*

## **Class of 1973**

*Richard John Safreed  
Michael Decker  
Morgan Michael Mayolo  
Kenneth Joseph Levesque*

## **Class of 1974**

*Joseph Daniel Bottazzi  
John Matthias Shryock  
Annette Louise Lajoie  
Michael John Brushe*

## **Class of 1975**

*Tracey Elizabeth Robinson*

## **Class of 1976**

*Gregory Malcom Blanchard  
Mary Theresa Windon*

## **Class of 1978**

*Michael Gerard Lyons*

## **Class of 1979**

*Jeffrey William Arnheim  
Rhea Ann Mayolo*

## **Class of 1981**

*Karla Anne Sliter  
Steven William Brannock  
Cynthia Anne Riegel*

## **Class of 1982**

*Charles Barnett Wilson  
Paul Clifford Acton*

## **Class of 1983**

*Everett Kyle Lallis  
Melanie Louise McCollum  
Linda Maria Hannah*

## **Class of 1987**

*Brandi Lynn Burdette*

## **Class of 1992**

*Christine Elizabeth Amatucci*

## **Class of 1997**

*Daniel Enrique Olaya  
James Clyde Trainor*

## **Class of 1998**

*Charles O'Banion*

## **Class of 2000**

*Nicholas Alexander Carbott*

## **Class of 2003**

*John Groesch*

## **Class of 2004**

*Christopher Robert Cassidy*

## **Class of 2005**

*Shannon Marie Nuth*

# Missing Alumni

Whether they have moved out of the area or we don't have a current way of getting a hold of them. Here are just some of our missing alumni, if you know how to get a hold of them please let us know. Please visit our website to view our entire list.

[school.stmatthias.org/alumni](http://school.stmatthias.org/alumni)

## **Class of 1968**

Donna Hutchison  
Phillip Herman Lambert  
Sarah Lynne Lansdale  
Christina M. Hosler  
Patricia Eileen Leeper  
Loretta Lynn Lyon  
Catherine McDermott  
Dan McEvan  
Susanne Regina O'Brien  
Robert Paul Rawes  
Linda Suann Sol  
Gerard Paul Trudell  
Sharon Rae Vance  
Michael Allen Wyne  
Mary Frances Burian  
Deborah Anne Beall  
Mary Beth Bender  
Anne Blake  
Andrea June Chisefsky  
Mary Patricia Cryer  
David Connell Davis  
Patricicia Lee Deichelman  
John Francis Dzicuch

## **Class of 1969**

Diana Limberis  
Sandra Lois Ludka  
Michele Christine McMahon  
Thomas J. Madden  
Alice Marie Magner  
Stephen Paul Magruder  
Thomas Warren Matthews  
Annamarie Puglisi  
Michael Anthony Russo  
Mary Louise Schwartz  
Jeanette Louise Sol

Helen Louise Sullivan  
Linwood Lee Taylor  
Mary Kathryn Tracy  
Linda Jean Trudell  
Deborah Marie Valkoa  
Robert Charles Yates  
Paul Steven Bowley  
Linda Marie Brooke  
William James Beck  
Colleen Marie Carey  
Patricia Lynn Crider  
Jeffrey James Croft  
Cynthia Anne Conway  
Theresa Lynne Davis  
Stephen Decker

## **Class of 1970**

Karen Fuhrman  
Anne Gwinn  
Evelyn Marie Lashick  
Kristina Genieve Leahy  
Michael Frank Leeper  
Mark Edward Lynch  
Frances Ann Maloney  
Joseph Glenn Mank  
Frederick William Meyer  
Joanne Mooney  
John Mitchell Morris  
William Stephen Newman  
Maria Jean Seibert  
Angela Joyce Vance  
Margaret Brannigan  
Kathleen Ann Brown  
Denise Marie Barnes  
Theresa Lee Beall  
John Blake  
Christine Anne Blevins

Keith Jerome Credit  
Paul Joseph Cocchiaro  
John Gerard Daly  
Susan Helen Daniels  
Elizabeth Ann Donahoe  
Angela Dziduch  
Matthew Clement Real

## **Class of 1971**

Jim Hall  
Michele Garrahy  
Linda Elaine Lee  
Mark Christopher Lee  
Theresa Rose Leverone  
Elizabeth Marie Litkowski  
Debrah Joan Madden  
Sharon Mary Meyer  
Archie Kevin Miller  
Teresa Mitcham  
John Albert Murphy  
Edward O'Brien  
Thomas Joseph O'Brien  
Donald Paul Rich  
Juie Marie Pielmeier  
Deborah Lynn Price  
Mary Ann Puglisi  
Stephanie Helen Robertson  
Diane Marie Simpson  
Paula Jay Swete  
Vickie Darlene Brooke  
Sherry Lynn Brown  
Barbara Lee Butler  
Robert Michael Baker  
Linda Barry  
Cindy Leigh Beall

**Class of 1971**

Mark Cannon  
Mary Anne Chambers  
James Donald Connelly  
Michael Paul Daly  
Dana Louise Deichelman  
Thomas Andrew Donahoe  
Thomas John Donohue

**Class of 1972**

Anne Sweeney  
Patrick Michael Lavery  
Mark Steven Madeville  
Brian Andre Manning  
Bruce Carl Manning  
Paul Kevin Murphy  
Patrick Dennis O'Brien  
Patrick Timothy Real  
Donna Lillian Rich  
Joseph Albert Schmidt  
Mary Darlene Singo  
Kevin Joseph Smith  
John Thomas Snyder  
Deborah Stewart  
James John Sullivan  
Anne Maria Sweeney  
Duwann Sandra Adams  
Mary Denise Aquilino  
Michael Howard Brown  
Stephen Mark Brunecz  
Brandon Errytt Bailey  
Theresa Anne Baker  
David Thomas Ballenger  
Diane Elise Barnes  
Frank James Cleary  
Mary Anne Cooney  
Sharon Patricia Daley  
Patricia Anne Dudley

**Class of 1973**

Jeffrey Brodie  
Brian Joseph Madden  
Maureen Joan Matthews  
Maureen Catherine Miller  
Marck Owen Mulligan  
Clark Michael Murphy  
Theresa Ann Murphy  
George Anton Newlon  
Cecelia Maria Phillips  
Debra Ann Simpson  
William Benjamin Sol  
Denise Margaret Straub  
Maria Antoinette White  
Denna Marie Aquilino  
Christine Marie Baker  
Michele Marie Barnes  
Laurie Chisefsky  
Ruth Anne Cleary  
John Joseph Cooney  
Michael Anthony Coxen  
Mary Julia Colbert  
Teresa Marie Cocchiaro  
Deborah Anne Davis  
Martin Patrick Donahoe

**Class of 1974**

Joseph Andrew Leonard  
Steven Andrew McFarlane  
Patricia Ann Meyer  
Kathleen Marie Mitchell  
Patricia Carol Morris  
Christopher Joel Murphy  
Paul Anthony Nelson  
John Andrew Ricker  
Donna Louise Proctor  
Ruth Elizabeth Puglisi

Leslie Marie Robertson  
Phillips Clarke Rogers  
Eric Vincent Rose  
Deborah Anne Rudiman  
Brian Malcolm Smith  
Ronald Glen Taylor  
Michael Francis Tiernan  
Alfred Randolph Turner  
Maureen Veronica Boucher  
Mark Edwin Bower  
Linda Jean Brown  
Robert Lawrence Brown  
Phillip Anthony Brunucz  
Christine Ann Marcelis  
Charles Edward Cleary  
Kenneth William Coleman  
Deborah Ann Clemens  
Charles Joseph Dzikuch  
Lorie Long  
Gloria Elisa Real

**Year Unknown**

Donna Aquilino  
Annie Constantino  
Mark Pinkston  
Chip Alexander  
Dana Ates McAnney  
Kathleen Tiernan Weinstein  
Eileen Dowell-Berke  
Jerry Lee  
Bernadette Barber  
Steve Magruder  
Pat Crider Davis  
Katie Paveso Frisbie  
Lorrie Delehanty  
Patty Kessler  
Eileen Daly

## **Future Issues**

Did you recently get married? Did you make a new and exciting career change? Did someone in your family give birth? Let us know! We love hearing from our many alumni and celebrating their many successes and milestones. To be featured in a future edition, please contact Mrs. Ann

O'Hare at  
[aohare@stmatthias.org](mailto:aohare@stmatthias.org)

## Christmas Postcard



Thank You to 8th Grade student, Julianne Walters for providing us with the artwork for our very first Christmas card. We love sharing the skills and talents of our students with those in our community.

## Future Issues

To receive a digital copy of our next issue, please visit our website at [school.stmatthias.org/alumni](http://school.stmatthias.org/alumni) and update your information.



**The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle**  
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