



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

SCANTRON ASSESSMENTS

Unlike stated in last week's Bridges, the parent reports will not be distributed until next week. The 6th and 8th grade students have not taken the math assessment due to their being at Blackrock Outdoor Education and Retreat Center. The reports will be sent home on September 28. However, the teachers have begun using the data available thus far to set goals for individual students as well as to plan for instruction for their classes. Last year our school experienced a 35% increase in our reading scores and a 16% increase in math achievement. However, it is important to note that we are determined to increase achievement even further in both reading and math. This will take great effort, not only on the part of the teachers, but also from the students. Parents also have a role to play. Supporting your children's learning by ensuring they get enough rest, eat nutritious meals, do their homework, read nightly and practice math facts is critical. It is also important to encourage your children to set high goals, build up their confidence and believe in them.

ICE POP FRIDAYS

The HSA will be selling ice pops beginning this Friday during lunch. If you would like to have your child purchase one, please put a dollar in his or her lunch box. The proceeds from the ice pop and pizza sales along with the HSA dues is used to fund events and treats for the children throughout the year.

GIRLS BASKETBALL UPDATE

St. Matthias is registering a girls' basketball team with the Archdiocese of Washington CYO! We are very excited about this news. Any girl 10 years old and under are eligible to join the team. If your daughter(s) is interested please complete the interest survey attached to this newsletter.

SOCCER SHOOTOUT

All students are invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus Annual Soccer Shoot Out on Saturday, September 30 at 9 AM on our soccer field.

INSTRUMENTAL BAND PROGRAM

The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle is proud to offer our students in grades 4-8 the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument and participate in the school band. Band lessons occur on Friday mornings beginning on September 29. The schedule rotates so that students do not miss instruction in the same subject. The advanced band practices at recess on Fridays. There are a limited number of scholarships for new band members. Please see our principal, Mrs. Schratz for further information.



Thursday, September 21

HSA Executive Committee at 6:15 pm
All are welcome

Friday, September 22

Soccer Practice 3-5 pm
McNamara High School Visit
Grades 3,4,5 Field Trip
Kennedy Center Opera

Saturday, September 23

Soccer Match at St. Jerome Academy

Thursday, September 28 NOON DISMISSAL NO ESP

Friday, September 29

Band
School Mass at 9:15 am
Parents are welcome to attend

Saturday, September 30

Soccer Shootout at 9:00 am
Fall Festival 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The first Principal's Coffee of the year will be held on Friday, October 6 at 8:30 in the Hughes Center. This is an informal chat with Mrs. Schratz. Topics are set by the participants. All are welcome!

LOOKING AHEAD

Believe it or not the half way point of the first quarter of school is fast approaching. Progress reports will be sent home on Wednesday, October 4. Parents are reminded to visit the Parent Portal in Rediker and to review their children's homework, classwork, quizzes and tests.

LAST CHANCE!

Next Thursday, September 28 is a Noon dismissal. At this point there will be **no aftercare (ESP)** that afternoon. The fee for this service is an additional \$350 per student for the year and dismissal is at 3:30 pm. Only a few families have indicated a desire to have this service. If you need aftercare on early dismissal days and have not contacted Mrs. Blackburn or Mrs. Schratz, you must do so by tomorrow.

SERVICE PROJECT FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS

Thanks to all who made a TAG day donation for our brothers and sisters in Texas, Florida, and the Caribbean. The school raised \$438 to date. We will be accepting donations for one more week. We have also adopted Braeburn Elementary School in Texas and are asking for donations of construction paper, markers, glue sticks, colored pencils, black Sharpies, and dry erase markers.

RESPECT

We have been focusing on Respect this month. Parents are reminded to support our efforts by modeling and reinforcing respectful behaviors at home. Good manners, the Golden rule and honoring the dignity of all people are components of being a person of good character. We will culminate our focus on respect (though teaching respect is never finished) at our school mass on September 30. The students may wear yellow shirts and accessories with their uniform shorts, trousers, skirts, or jumpers.

REMINDERS

- ▶ **Hot Lunches** — Parents, this is a reminder that the courtesy lunches that we receive is for the purpose of replacing an item or a lunch of a student who has a missing item or missing lunch who has already placed an order for the day. They are not intended for students who have forgotten to bring a lunch. Once the lunch times have passed for all students, the lunches are then available. We only receive 2 lunches per day, we do not always have lunches available to give the students. Please be sure your student has a lunch and a snack each day. We do allow students to make a phone call in the morning once they realize that do not have a lunch.
- ▶ **Late pickup** — A late pickup fee of \$1.00 a minute per child is charged for late pickup at dismissal time, beginning at 3:15 pm on full days, and at 12:15 pm on half days. The grace period for this is over, we will be adding the fee to your TADS account. See page 6, 3.8 of the Handbook.
- ▶ **Unsigned Tuition Agreements** — We have a couple of families who have not signed their tuition agreement. By not signing your agreement you are increasing your monthly payment because all tuition must be paid in full by June 2018. If you have an 8th grader all tuition and fees must be paid by May 15.

Don't forget to purchase your
Fall Festival Wristbands
before the price
increase on 9/30!

