

Saint Matthew Catholic School

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www.saintmatt.org/school

Dear SMS Warriors and Families:

Your Saint Matthew teachers and I are looking forward to the beginning of another great school year and we hope that you are just as excited. Summer is winding down and after a summer of fun and relaxation, we are ready to begin again.

A sincere, special thanks goes to many student, family, parish, and staff volunteers who were able to help John Shank and John Zubak in replacing classroom ceiling lights and ceiling tiles in many classrooms. The brightness and white tiles enhance the rooms – you will be amazed at what has been completed. Thanks so much to everyone for the support, sweat, time, treasure, and talent that made these school improvements happen.

Besides the new tiles and lights, thanks, too, goes to Mark Fox and his committee for installing new technology in all the Middle School classrooms – new LCD projectors, new screens, new computers, and a new way of teacher/student presentations as well as lesson delivery. All the donations collected over the year for this technology enhancement is greatly appreciated.

School Orientation Night Thursday, August 12

Due to the limited space because of the Parish Life Building construction, Orientation will be held in the Café. We would like to invite students and parents in the following order:

Student's Last Name (A to L) register between 4 and 5:30 p.m.
Student's Last Name (M to Z) register between 5:30 and 7 p.m.

You will be able to pick up your classroom assignment, order sportswear, turn in completed necessary forms, and meet your teachers and me. The new per-family PFA membership fee is \$35 and will be collected at orientation. Enclosed are a number of items to be completed and returned at orientation. If you pre-ordered school supplies through the school, your box of supplies will NOT be available at Orientation; however, your child's supplies will be delivered to their classroom for the first day of school.

Sixth grade parents and students will meet during Orientation at 5:30 p.m. in Mrs. Marsh's classroom (Room 204), to make your transition to middle school more successful. Lockers will be assigned and schedules will be discussed.

Please welcome Miss Megan Williams as our 4th grade teacher. Also as a continuation of last year's 3rd grade math instruction, Mrs. Susan Sobieski will be team-teaching 4th grade math with Miss Williams. Mrs. Sobieski will also be instructing our 5th grade math groups with Miss Jeanna Reale. The 5th grade math students will be grouped by skill level and readiness, acceleration, and enrichment.

Grades K-8 begin on Monday, August 16 with a full-day of school. Please go directly to your classroom on opening day. Classroom doors will open at 7:30 a.m. and your teacher will be waiting to greet you. Students will be expected to begin the year in proper school uniform – shorts, pants, shirts, socks, belts, etc. Kindergarten will begin with a parent meeting (Kindergarten Round-Up) at 8 a.m. in their classroom on the 16th. Pre-Kindergarten class begins on Wednesday, September 8th at 9:15 a.m.

I sincerely look forward to seeing you and your family at orientation. Have a great remainder of the summer – I know it's going to be another Super Year at SMS.

Faithfully in Christ, *P. Martin Erlenbaugh* Principal

August and September Activities and Events

Thursday, August 12 – Student/Family Orientation – 4 to 7 p.m. (A-L – 4:00; M-Z – 5:30)

Thursday, August 12 – 6th Grade Orientation – 5:30 p.m.

Monday, August 16 – Classes begin for grades Kindergarten through 8th - 7:50 a.m.

Monday, August 16 – Kindergarten Round-Up – 8 a.m.

Friday, August 27 – North Deanery Middle School Dance

Tuesday, August 31 – Middle School Open House – 6 p.m.

Thursday, September 2 – Pre-K to 5th Grades Open House – 6 p.m.

Friday, September 3 – Non-uniform day – Catholic high school or college shirt day and jeans

Monday, September 6 – No School – Labor Day

Wednesday, September 8 – Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) class begins – 9:15 a.m.

Friday, September 10 – School Picture Day – all a.m.

Wednesday, September 15 – Progress Report Day – all emailed to parents

Tuesday, September 21 – Feast Day of Saint Matthew, School Mass

Thursday, September 23 – Father Paul's Birthday

Check www.saintmatt.org/school for the school calendar, school supply lists, middle school summer reading list, as well as, individual health plans for your student.

ORIENTATION CHECK LIST

Please make sure that the following documents are completed and returned at Thursday, August 12th

_____ **STUDENT HEALTH/EMERGENCY FORM (both sides)**

_____ **PERSONAL INFORMATION SHEET**

_____ **PFA VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT FORM**

_____ **\$35 PER FAMILY / PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION FEE**
(Checks to be made out to SMS PFA)

SPECIAL NOTES FOR 2010 – 2011

Due to construction of the Parish Life Building which connects the school to the church, we have to make special concessions in a number of areas as listed below:

CARPOOL

In the past, we have had three carpools of A, B, and C; however, due to the closure of the driveway around the church building and the closure of the former school office entrance, we will be able to have only **ONE CARPOOL for ALL STUDENTS – CARPOOL A** – West end of the building at Doors #4 and #5. This also will be the only entrance and exit of the building for students, parents, and staff until the construction is complete. The school office has been moved to just inside Door #5. This will be a transition for all of us and your patience, understanding, and consideration is greatly appreciated as we work through the first week or two of this school year and new carpool.

“FIRE WATCH” VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THROUGH SEPTEMBER

In order to begin school, volunteers are **GREATLY NEEDED** to guard two interior areas that students and staff would have been exiting in the past. The Fire Marshall is mandating that we have “Fire Watch Guards” posted in the building during all school hours. These volunteers would be posted at the former interior stairwells to direct students and staff to another exit in case of fire. Please volunteer by emailing Kathy Gray at kgray@saintmatt.org or call 251-3997 ext 3913. There will be a special meeting regarding Fire Watch Guards on Monday, August 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the church. All that are volunteering and school staff should attend. We desperately need your help in order for school to begin on time.

LIBRARY NEEDS VOLUNTEER SUPERVISOR

As Mrs. Diane Alerding (former librarian) has been assigned to teach 1st grade, we are unable to staff the library on a full-time basis but are looking for volunteers to ‘man’ the desk and supervise check-in and check-out, re-shelve books, and monitor students while they enjoy the library. We are proposing that this position would be from 7:45 a.m. until 11:30 every day except Wednesday. Wednesday’s schedule would begin at 9:30 and run until 11:30. Interested? Please call our office at 251-3997 or email Kathy Gray kgray@saintmatt.org.

Thank you for your dedication to St. Matthew. We'd be blessed by your time.