March 2017

Dear Senior Parent,

Thank you for sending your son to DeMatha. Your support and generosity have been integral to our success. A short four years will accelerate to the blink of an eye for the last three months.

Here are some reminders as we head into spring. Mr. Bright and I went over most of this with your son in a class meeting on February 23. There will be a mandatory Senior Parent meeting on **Thursday, April 6,** beginning at **7:00 p.m.** in the cafeteria. One parent/guardian (or a proxy) from each family is expected to attend. I repeatedly tell the seniors that ***the measure of one’s character is in how you finish anything***. When we are tired, bored, think we’ve heard it all, etc. we are likely to make a mistake. I think that this is why, as a society, we study the end of games looking for who can continue to go on despite all of these distractions; it’s why we listen to a musical group as they get to the end of a long, intricate piece, to see if they can stay together and finish strong. The seniors are in the same spot. They are tired, more distracted (college information, nicer weather, prom and other festivities, etc), think they’ve heard it all from you and all of us and they need to demonstrate their character by doing what needs to be done in these last 90 days. Enclosed with this letter you will find a calendar of events.

For a presentation at Baccalaureate Mass, we would like you to email a picture of your son from youth or infancy to Mr. Pat Smith (psmith@dematha.org) or bring it with you with the student’s name on the back of the picture, to the Mandatory Senior Parent meeting on **Thursday, April 6**. All physical pictures will be returned. Deadline to turn in your son’s picture is **Friday, April 28**.

Graduation announcements and senior name cards are ordered by the school for each student. The graduation fee of $250 found on your tuition bill covers the cost of announcements, tickets, name cards, caps, gowns, Shrine fees, etc. Announcements, tickets and name cards will be distributed at the Mandatory Senior Parent meeting on **Thursday, April 6,** at **7:00** **p.m.** in the cafeteria. Caps and gowns are also ordered by the school. Your son will receive his cap and gown at the mandatory graduation practice at DeMatha on **Friday, May 12, at 10:45 a.m.** in the Convocation Center.

Mandatory graduation practice at the Shrine will be held on **Wednesday, May 31, at 10:00 a.m**. Baccalaureate Mass will be held on **Wednesday, May 31 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Morgan and Kathy Wootten Gym in the Convocation Center and seating is limited. Students will receive **6 tickets** for the Baccalaureate Mass. Tickets will be distributed for Baccalaureate Mass at the Mandatory Senior Parent meeting.

Graduation will take place on **Friday, June 2, at 9:00 a.m**. at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Shrine has limited seating capacity. We will hand out 12 tickets (**2 reserved tickets** **and 10 regular admission tickets per student**), 25 announcements with 50 senior name cards and additional information at the Mandatory Senior Parent meeting on **Thursday, April 6**. A limited number of additional announcements may also be available at the meeting for $1.00 each. We will keep a list of those interested in additional tickets and announcements; however, there is no guarantee. Email mkerley@dematha.org and specify the additional items you are interested in and the quantity desired. We rarely have any extra graduation tickets. It is best to spread the word among friends and other graduates if you are in need of additional tickets. A reminder and any additional details including dress requirements and regarding graduation will be mailed later in the spring.

All the best to you at this joyous (and stress-filled) time. Go Stags!

Daniel J. McMahon, Ph.D.

Principal

**DeMatha Catholic High School**

## Class of 2017

## Senior Calendar of Events

 Here are several deadlines and events at which attendance is **mandatory** and some at

 which attendance is optional. Please mark your calendar for all of the events listed.

March 17 Senior Service Papers due - **mandatory** to graduate.

April 6 Senior Parent meeting – **mandatory**, 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. NO STUDENTS. At least one senior parent must attend. We expect to hand out announcements (25), name cards (50), Baccalaureate (6) and graduation tickets (12 total - 2 reserved seating, 10 general seating) at this time. Senior baby pictures collected if not emailed to psmith@dematha.org.

April 28 Senior Baby Pictures for Baccalaureate due to psmith@dematha.org

May 1 College decisions and financial award information due to the Counseling Center.

May 1-12 AP Exams

May 4 Senior Exit Interview due. Posted on the website March 15. **Mandatory** to graduate.

May 5 Prom - optional. This is the senior privilege day - seniors do not have to come to school. No classes for Seniors only. There is NO OTHER “SENIOR SKIP” Day.

May 10-12 Senior exams - **mandatory**. No one gets a “social promotion” at DeMatha.

 DeMatha students work all the way to the end.

May 12 Graduation and Baccalaureate Mass practice 10:45 a.m. in the Convocation Center - **mandatory**. Hand out caps and gowns.

May 12 Faculty-Senior Dinner, 6:00 p.m. - optional. A great night where students and faculty get to be together one last time.

May 17 Veracross grades updated for seniors.

May 22-25 College Prep Program - **mandatory**. Your son is required to attend the college prep program on the day he is assigned.

May 26- No classes for seniors.

 June 1

May 31 Graduation practice, **10:00 a.m.** (at the Shrine in the Crypt) - **mandatory**. We have limited time in the Shrine - everyone needs to be present by 10:00 a.m.

May 31 Baccalaureate Mass, 4:00 p.m. (at DeMatha) - **mandatory**. Arrive 3:30 p.m.

June 2 Graduation at the Shrine, 9:00 a.m. – **mandatory**. Arrive 8:30 a.m. Go Stags!

June 30 Parent Exit Interview Due – Posted on website March 15 under parents.