

DeMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars

4313 Madison St. Hyattsville, Maryland 20781 Main: 240.764.2200 Fax: 240.764.2275

November 2018

November 1

All Saints Day Mass
Winter Sports Physicals Due

November 2

Feast of All Souls

November 3

SAT Test

November 4

Open House

November 6

Food Drive Tag Day

November 8

Parent-Teacher Conferences
Winter Sports Begin

November 9

12:50 Dismissal
DM Play

Cont...pg 4

Inside this issue:

DPO Parent Matters, Mu-	2
Homecoming, Music	2
Transportation, Uniforms	3
Senior Parents, SAT	
Service, Physicals, Asbestos	4

DeMatha Matters

Volume 11, Issue 4

Report Cards and Grades



The first quarter report card was directly handed to your son on Tuesday, October 30. As stated on Page 48 of the Parent-Student Handbook, seniors failing more than three subjects at the end of the first semester will be required to withdraw from DeMatha at that time. Questions concerning the report card should be directed to the teacher and/or the student's counselor. See the website for contact information.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday, November 8, Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place 4:00-7:00 p.m.

No appointment necessary. Parents meet with teachers in the old gym or cafeteria, on a first come, first served basis. We ask that you limit meetings to 5 minutes and encourage you to bring your son.

Weather Related

Information



DeMatha follows Prince George's County for delayed openings of one or two hours and school closings. In case of an early dismissal for PG County, DeMatha will make an independent decision. Check the website and be attentive to Veracross emails.

Parent Alert Emails: Communications on closings, weather, activity and sports updates from DeMatha will automatically be sent via e-mail to the primary email listed on the student's Veracross account.

Principal Notes

I have been talking with colleagues here and at other schools about the descriptive nature of technology and I have been reading quite a bit, too. I think we all understand the ways that "likes," "hearts," and "going viral" are changing attention spans and if they are opening the culture they are also coarsening it. What is less well understood is the permanent record it is making of the mistakes, offensive opinions, bad ideas that mark EVERY adolescent. We are engaged in a series of conversations with students about their digital footprints and the possibility that things will be excavated years from now. Our current students live in a less forgiving time because the digital world never forgets. This is not a problem we can 'punish' our way out of - it's one we have to teach our way out of. I am happy to be doing that at DeMatha.

Dr. Daniel J. McMahon

Happy Thanksgiving

Academic Matters

Grading Scale

DeMatha's grading system is based on letter grades that have certain numerical and quality point equivalents. The grading scale is as follows:

A	94-100	C	74-79
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B	84-89	D	65-69
B-	80-83	F	Below 65

Academic Probation

Sophomores, juniors and seniors who are on Academic Probation lose a free period and are placed in proctored study halls. Freshmen automatically attend a proctored study hall during free periods. See page 49 of the Parent-Student Handbook for details.


Yearbook Pictures & Re-Takes

Yearbook pictures will be taken in the old gym on **Thursday, November 15**, for all students who need a re-take or did not have a picture taken on October 11. This is for ALL grades. All students must be photographed for the yearbook and be in full uniform.



Seniors - All seniors are REQUIRED to have a **free picture taken for the yearbook**. Photographers will supply the tux, cap and gown. Any senior who has not had a picture taken MUST have his picture taken this day. Contact Legacy Studios **customer-care@legacystudios.com** or **800-348-4360**, with any picture questions.

Parent Matters

- ◆ The next bake sale will be held on **Friday, November 16**, sponsored by the sophomore class. Sophomore families are asked to donate baked goods, homemade or store bought. Please have your son deliver the baked goods to the cafeteria in the morning before classes. 
- ◆ DPO Pie Day will be held on **Tuesday, November 20**. All freshmen and sophomore families are asked to donate homemade or store bought pies. Please deliver your pies to the lobby of the main building in the morning before classes. Pie Day is an event to celebrate and show our appreciation for our teachers and staff.

State Nonpublic Textbook & Technology Program

In 2017-2018, \$56,225 in state funds was used to obtain new servers for computer labs, new network switches, and new projectors for classrooms. For several years, Maryland's Nonpublic Student Textbook Program has provided tremendous support in allowing DeMatha to update and improve technology in the school without any additional student fees. Please thank your state officials for this funding, and encourage them to continue their support for nonpublic education in the coming years.

Cafeteria Optional Payment Plan



See the website under quick links for instructions on the optional cafeteria payment plan and weekly specials.

Course Expectations & Veracross

Faculty have been asked to post course expectation sheets on their class website under the **Resources** tab in Veracross. Please notify the Principal's office if there is no course expectation sheet posted. If you are having trouble accessing Veracross, please click **Parents** on the DeMatha website, and then select **Veracross Information** on the left.

DM Play

The DM Players are proud to present Jonathan Rand's, *Crazytown*, a fun farce of a local news team and the inhabitants of their crazy town. Join us **Friday, November 9** and **Saturday November 10**, at 7:30 p.m. in the old gym. **Sunday, November 11**, performance at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available online and at the door for \$5.

Music Matters - All Invited!



- ◆ Concert Bands & Percussion I, **Thursday, November 15**, Bladensburg High School, 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ WAMTC Band Festival, Saturday, **December 1**, Concert Band, Concert Band II, Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble, Good Counsel High School, Olney, 11:00 a.m. thru the evening.
- ◆ Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Lab, Percussion Ensemble & Adv Percussion, **Wednesday, December 5**, Bladensburg High School, 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Symphonic Band, concert Strings, Sinfonia & Philharmonic, **Tuesday, December 11**, Bladensburg High School, 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Choral Concert, **Wednesday, December 12**, Convocation Center, 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Wind Ensemble, **Thursday, December 13**, Bladensburg H.S., 7:30 p.m.



Workplace Giving

DeMatha will participate in the following campaigns: the United Way (#8392), Combined Federal Campaign (#89951), Maryland Charity Campaign, DC Government's One Fund, America's Charities, and others. Contributions are tax deductible and donors are recognized in the DeMatha Annual Report. Call Mrs. McCart in the Development Office at 240-764-2221 for questions.

Lead Mandates

In order to comply with Maryland state law, DeMatha has completed lead testing in all water access points. Results of the lead testing can be found on the DeMatha website, www.dematha.org.

82

Pb
Lead
207.2

ACT & SAT Information

Register for the SAT online www.collegeboard.org. The SAT Test dates and registration deadlines for the year are as follows:

CEEB# 210660

Test Date & Registration Deadline

(Late registration is available)

Nov. 3, 2018	Oct. 5, 2018
Dec. 1, 2018	Nov. 2, 2018
Mar. 9, 2019	Feb. 8, 2019

DeMatha offers after-school **SAT Prep** courses throughout the year for \$50 for the verbal course, \$50 for the math course or \$90 for both. Classes are limited to 25 students and seniors will be given preference. Registration forms are located in the Counseling Center and online. SAT Prep class dates will be announced and posted in the Daily Bulletin.

Bus Transportation DeMatha operates bus routes servicing the following areas: 1) Annapolis-Bowie, 2) Dunkirk-Upper Marlboro, 3) Charles County - Ft. Washington, 4) Montgomery County, 5) Eastern Market, - AM only, 6) Eastern Market - PM only, 7) Howard County/Laurel, and 8) St. Peter's/Waldorf. **For updates, information regarding times, routes and costs, check our website under DeMatha Quicklinks/**

Bus Transportation. Call Mr. Tony DeStefano at 301-327-5390 or email transportation@dematha.org for more information. Please respect the bus drivers as you would respect school staff. If a student is disciplined for an infraction, the parents shall still be responsible for payment of all fees for transportation services. **No refunds will be given.** Thank you for your cooperation. For billing questions: 240-764-2216 or ametz@dematha.org. For general questions and weather-related messages: 240-764-2200. For technology issues: ckeplinger@dematha.org. All routing/general information questions: Tony DeStefano – 301-327-5390 or transportation@dematha.org



Shuttle - College Park Metro

Free shuttle service to the College Park Metro station, Rt. 1 side of Calvert St. Pick up daily at 7:45 a.m. and depart DM 3:10 p.m. on regular school days. Delayed Opening days of two hours, pick up time will be 9:45 a.m. For early dismissal days, depart DM at 1:05 p.m.

Financial Aid Matters

Deadlines Approaching

Financial aid applications are now available online. The application deadline for financial aid from the Archdiocese of Washington is **Saturday, December 1**. Applications are available online only at <http://www.adw.org/tuition-assistance/>. The application deadline for financial aid from DeMatha is **Saturday, December 15**. Applications are available online only at <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/3FSBN>. Decisions on DeMatha financial aid will be mailed in late January 2019. For more details please see the financial aid letter that was mailed to all families and sent out on Veracross email. If you have any questions, please call the Business Office at 240-764-2216.



Discipline Matters

◆ After-School Waiting Room

Open from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Rm. 202 on regular school days and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on early dismissal days, except holiday week ends. There is no charge.

◆ After-School Study Hall

Study Hall is in the library from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Thursday on regular school days. No books can be checked out at this time.

◆ Detention

Saturday Detention runs from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon and costs \$20, payable at detention for those who accumulate 6 or more demerits or commit an infraction. See page 61 in the Student Handbook for details.

Campus Ministry - Food Drive

The CMO Annual Winter Food Drive began on **Monday, October 29th**, and will continue until **Friday, November 16**. We ask that students bring in non-perishable food items to support St. Augustine's Social Concerns Outreach Program, St. Jerome's Café, Holy Redeemer Church in D.C., and the Little Sisters of the Poor. Our goal this year is to gather 11,000 food items, which works out to about 13 items per student. Last year we donated over 14,000 items! We will kick off the Food Drive with a Thanksgiving liturgy and a presentation about food scarcity and hunger in our area. On Tuesday, **November 6**, we will host a Food Drive Tag Day - cost is \$3 or 3 cans. Thank you for assisting your son in contributing to this event. Cash donations are also accepted- each dollar is equivalent to one food item. Your generosity is always appreciated.

DC Urban Plunge

16 students and 4 faculty members spent September 14-15, volunteering at the following establishments: Martha's Table, Friendship Arms, Bread for the City and with the Seabury Resources for the Aging. Students worked earning their community service hours while making a difference in their local communities.

All November service hours are due on **Friday, November 30**.

Attendance

- ◆ We have incorporated "strategic long weekends" along with the holiday breaks. We hope you will use weekends for college visits, medical appointments, etc.

November 12

November 21 - November 23
Thanksgiving Holiday

December 24 - January 4
Christmas Holiday

January 21 & January 25

February 1 & 4

February 18

March 25 - March 29

April 18 - April 22
Easter Break

May 27

REPORT ABSENCE DIRECTLY

240-764-2230

Walk-a-Thon Thanks

The Walk-a-Thon took place during the school day on Friday, October 5. Thanks to all who supported our walkers and the contributions from the Walk-a-Thon. More than \$2500 was raised for Covenant House DC. Thank you for your generosity!

Coat Drive

Our Annual Winter Coat Drive will be **POSTPONED** until January when organizations are most in need of coats and winter accessories. More information will be sent after Christmas break.



November 2018

Cont. from pg 1

November 10 & 11

DM Play

November 12

School & Offices Closed

November 13

Grades Updated

November 15

Yearbook Pictures All Grades

Concert Bands & Percussion I Concert

November 16

Bake Sale - Sophomores Contribute

Food Drive Ends

November 17

Music 5K Run

November 19 & 20

Senior Overnight Retreat

November 20

DPO Pie Day

November 21- 23

School & Offices Closed

November 28

Toy Drive Begins

Ring Ceremony

November 30

Service Hours Due

Asbestos Management Plan

Several times a year, the facilities of DeMatha are inspected to ensure that our buildings meet all requirements with respect to the containment and abatement of asbestos covered surfaces (pipes, floor tiles, etc.). DeMatha fully complies with all environmental laws and regulations mandated by state and federal regulations with regard to AHERA. Copies of inspection reports and AHERA compliance documents are available in the Main Office.

