

DeMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars

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

August 2020

All events subject to change or become virtual. Check the website for updates.

August 14 & 15

Used Book Sale & Swap
Details to be announced

August 18, 19 & 20

Senior Pictures
by appointment only

August 26

Freshmen Experience
Opening Day 1

August 27

Freshmen Experience
Opening Day 2

August 28

Freshmen Red Team
8:15 - 12:45 pm

August 31

Freshmen Blue Team
8:15 - 12:45 pm

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DeMatha Matters

Volume 13, Issue 1

Principal Notes: Opening of school during a global pandemic!

Our latest hybrid plan, in which we hope to be in person as much as is safe, may change if the Governor or County Executive issue an executive order which render this plan obsolete. We believe this hybrid allows us to better enact our mission which begins in relationship. We are planning to open in a hybrid fashion with two sets of students (Red Team & Blue Team) which would trade off attending while the other would participate from home. The teams switch off one day per week which would be an all-8 day either in-person or online. Students may elect to take classes remotely in Phases 2 or 3. Students who are not on campus would be required to participate synchronously (at the same time) unless they receive an exemption from their teacher (and lessons will be recorded). Everyone on the Instruction and Academics Task Force have worked on making this happen smoothly. There will, clearly, be glitches and problems related to technology but the Task Force on the Safety, Buildings, and Facilities has prepped classrooms with cameras, microphones, Chromebook stations, for this scenario which has been a huge undertaking. To prepare for this hybrid opening, we have instituted a series of safety measures. The Task Force on Safety, Building, Grounds, and Facilities have been working tirelessly. The school has purchased misting bottles which will be given to the students to disinfect their place upon arrival and leaving each room. Classes will be at half capacity - desks at least 6 feet apart and masks are required of everyone in all buildings. We have purchased 3 portable electrostatic sprayers and 2 more on wheels that make disinfecting whole rooms easier. We will have gloves, hand sanitizer, paper towels and tissues in each room. Water fountains will be disabled for individual drinking - the bottle stations are enabled and students and adults MUST use their own bottle. Wall fans will assist with circulation and ventilation and windows will likely be open wherever possible. Our entire athletic training staff and Chair of Sciences have completed the Johns Hopkins course on contact tracing. EVERYONE entering the building will have to go through a temperature check. We have a COVID Response Team and we have identified a quarantine room. Students will be directed up and down the halls by tape and signage on the floor so that distance is easier to maintain. We will have an UP staircase and DOWN staircase. Students will NOT be issued lockers and must carry their materials for the day. Cafeteria will be in both the old gym and the Antler Room to allow for spacing. All of the student service or public service desks have plastic shields protecting them. Parents will be REQUIRED to make appointments with offices. Sound transmission is going to be tricky with masks and plastic barriers. Please see Reopening Phases chart found on the website. Informational updates will be posted on our website and sent via email. We appreciate your continued patience and understanding as we maneuver this new and ever changing normal.

Dr. Daniel J. McMahon, Ph.D.

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.

Course Changes



Enclosed is your son's course list for the 2020-2021 school year. Questions concerning courses or course changes should be directed to the student's counselor. Schedules can be viewed on Veracross.

Senior Counselor: Andrew Bright 240-764-2227, abright@dematha.org

Junior Counselor: Sarah Stockton 240-764-2228, sstockton@dematha.org

Sophomore Counselor: Theo Garrett 240-764-2229, tgarrett@dematha.org

Freshmen Counselor: Maureen Ritz, 240-764-2226, mrtiz@dematha.org

Freshmen Opening Days

Opening Days for the Freshmen Experience will be held on **Wednesday, August 26** and **Thursday, August 27**. The class will be broken down into 5 groups, each meeting for 3 hours on either Wednesday or Thursday. Do NOT bring books. School ID's will be taken. Wear warm weather uniform. Freshmen families will be given specific instructions in the very near future.

Freshmen are to report **Friday, August 28** and **Monday, August 31** according to the **RED** or **BLUE** team assignment. Both days will be an all 8 class day with an early dismissal from **8:15am -12:10pm**.

Friday, August 28, the RED team will attend school. **Monday, August 31**, the BLUE team will attend school. More details will follow.

Opening Schedules 10th, 11th & 12th

Sophomores: Tuesday, September 1, will be the opening day for sophomores. Students will attend from 8:30am-11:30 am. Do not bring books. Warm weather uniform required. ID pictures. No food service.

Juniors: Wednesday, September 2, will be the opening day for juniors. Students will attend from 8:30am-11:30am. Do not bring books. Warm weather uniform required. ID pictures. No food service.

Seniors: Thursday, September 3, will be the opening day for seniors. Students will attend from 8:30am-11:30am. Do not bring books. Warm weather uniform required. ID pictures. No food service.

Friday, September 4: Virtual all 8 Early Dismissal 12:10.

Monday, September 5: Labor Day Holiday. School and offices closed.

Tuesday, September 8: Hybrid classes begin for all grades. Regular dismissal 2:55. More details to follow.

Transfer Opening Day

Thursday, August 27, will be the opening day for all transfers. Time to be determined. There will be an in person and virtual option. More information to follow.

REPORT ABSENCE

240-764-2230


Wednesday Principal Updates

Look for email updates from Dr. McMahon on every Wednesday. These updates will provide new information, updates, specific details of events and activities at the school. We hope this will help keep you up to date, informed and answer any questions you might have. We appreciate your patience as we navigate this ever changing climate keeping everyone's health and safety a priority.

Parent Email & Profile Update

We use contact information from Veracross to send email updates to parents. Parents can update their information any time through the Veracross Portal by clicking on *Family Profile Update*. Only one email address is possible per parent. We will send the daily and weekly bulletins, copies of written communications, any urgent notifications, meeting information and sport/activity changes. If you receive any errors regarding account access, please click on *Can't Access Your Account* from the login screen.

Parking

All students who have applied and have paid may pick up their parking permits from Mr. Dickerson in the Attendance Office. Parking applications can be found in the Main Office or on our website under  quick links/forms. Cost is \$100 for the year. Contact Mr. Dickerson with any questions at sdickerson@dematha.org or 240-764-2233.

Senior Pictures



Senior pictures and ID's will be taken in the library on **Tuesday, August 18, Wednesday, August 19, and Thursday, August 20** from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. by **appointment only. Social distancing and masks required. Seniors should leave a cell phone number with Legacy, wait in cars and will be called in.** Seniors should be receiving information from Legacy. Please contact Legacy Studios at 800-348-4360 or customercare@legacystudios.com to schedule an appointment or for any questions.

Parent Informational Coffees

Parent Informational Coffees for each grade will take place throughout the year. Administrators will be available during the coffee to answer questions and address grade specific issues. Dates and the new process for Parent Coffees will be announced in the near future.



Uniforms

Students are required to be in full uniform with blazers by **Tuesday, October 13**. The DM polo shirt used for the warm weather uniform is only available in the DM Stag Store and can be purchased online. See the Student Handbook or admissions information for specific uniform requirements. Our school uniform company is Potomac Uniform, 301-339-8466. Uniform purchases should be made online at DeMathaUniforms.com.

Books & Book Lists



DeMatha uses MBS Direct to provide online textbooks. They also have a buy back program for used books. Visit www.mbsDirect.net. One week free shipping with \$99 minimum from 08/01/2020 to 08/07/2020

Book lists can be found at the following link.

<https://6z1je.glideapp.io/>

This link will allow you to view the books required for each course. We caution students and their parents to be fully aware of the book **and** edition being used for the coming year.

Summer Reading



Each student must read two books from his upcoming grade-level list. Incoming freshmen must complete the summer reading note-taking chart for each title found on the following link https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wUj3zjQr3Q6pAKLxKyATw3l_6Y29VjZjDYB-F_10Sf0/edit?usp=sharing

Freshmen

<i>Black Ice</i>	Andrew Lane
<i>Unbroken (young adult)</i>	Laura Hillenbrand
<i>Luka & the Fire of Life</i>	Salman Rushdie
<i>The Boy Who Challenged Hitler</i>	Phillip Hoose
<i>Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School</i>	Steve Sheinkin

Sophomores

<i>Outcasts United: Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town</i>	Warren St. John
<i>Black Like Me</i>	John Griffin
<i>March: Books Two & Three</i>	John Lewis
<i>All American Boys</i>	Brendan Kiely & Jason Reynolds
<i>Darkroom: A Memoir in Black and White</i>	Lila Quintero Weaver
<i>No Direction Home (film)</i>	Martin Scorsese

Juniors

<i>Raise the Red Lantern (film)</i>	Yimou Zhang
<i>Just Mercy</i>	Bryan Stevenson
<i>The Boys in the Boat</i>	Daniel James Brown
<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i>	Mark Haddon
<i>Defending Jacob</i>	William Landay
<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Khaled Hosseini

Seniors

<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	Charles Dickens
<i>Game of Thrones</i>	George R.R. Martin
<i>The Way Home</i>	George Pelecanos
<i>Red Rising</i>	Pierce Brown
<i>Between the World and Me</i>	Ta-Nehisi Coates
<i>Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increase Inequality and Threatens Democracy</i>	Cathy O'Neil

Information can also be found on the website under Academics/SummerPrograms.

Cafeteria Optional

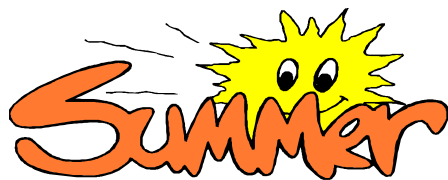
Payment Plan

See the website under quick links for weekly specials and for instructions on the optional cafeteria payment plan which **requires** use of a student ID.



DM Express

Interested in our online weekly newsletter the DeMatha Express? To subscribe email tfarrell@dematha.org.



Summer Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Christian Service Program

Service hours must be submitted online through the students' DeMatha email accounts. Instructions for the service verification system can be found on our website and at [http://bit.ly/](http://bit.ly/DMSERVICEHOURINSTRUCTIONS)

[DMSERVICEHOURINSTRUCTIONS](#). ONLY students can access the form from their DeMatha email account. No supervisor signature is necessary, but students MUST provide contact information so Mrs. Bright can verify the hours via phone or email. Christian Community Service Hours will continue to be emailed to students' DeMatha email and parents' email once a month. All hours from the 2019-2020 school year were due **July 31**. Any summer hours counting towards the 2020-2021 year are due **August 31**.

Metro Shuttle DeMatha operates a free shuttle service to and from the College Park Metro Station. The morning pick up is 7:45 a.m. and the return trip is 3:15 p.m. Shuttle service will begin on **Tuesday, September 8**, and will operate on regular school days. If your son uses the shuttle, please remind him of his responsibility for good behavior. Students misbehaving will not be allowed to ride the shuttle. Masks required.

Physicals All incoming freshmen and transfers MUST create an ATS account online and upload physicals onto their profile. All students must have this submitted by the first day of school and all athletes must have it done **before** the first practice. Paper copies of physicals and other medical forms will NOT be accepted. Students not registered on ATS will not be permitted to practice. Instructions can be found on the DM website. Any questions, please contact Jennifer Reading, jreading@dematha.org.

DPO - Parent Matters

- ◆ The DPO will sponsor a Used Book Swap/Sale on **Friday, August 14 & Saturday, August 15**. You will have the opportunity to buy, sell or trade used books and uniforms. Bring cash. Due to COVID, anyone interested in selling books must reserve spots in the back parking lot. Interested buyers will be required to park in the front parking lots and walk to the back. More details will follow. Check the website for updates.
- ◆ The Freshmen & Transfers Mother's Welcome Tea scheduled for **Sunday, August 23**, has been CANCELLED.
- ◆ The first meeting of the DeMatha Parent Organization is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, September 29**. Check the website.
- ◆ Bake sales, usually, take place throughout the year but this is to be determined due to COVID. Check website for updates.

Friday, Sept. 18 - Freshmen

Friday, Nov. 6 - Sophomores

Friday, Feb. 5 - Juniors

Friday, May 14- All Classes

Virtual Back-to-School Night

Back-to-School Night for all grades will be held VIRTUALLY on **Tuesday, September 8**. Details to be announced.

Transportation Matters

Five bus routes have been established: 1) Annapolis/Bowie, 2) Dunkirk/Upper Marlboro, 3) Charles County/Ft. Washington, 4) Montgomery County and 5) Clinton/Forestville/Eastern Market. Each of the established routes operate with predetermined pick-up and drop-off locations with adjustments made for safety. Due to COVID-19, all drivers and riders will be required to wear face masks at all times. Hand sanitizer will be provided. Buses will be cleaned at the end of each day. Glove use is suggested, but not required, for students. Interested individuals must complete a registration form found on the school website www.Dematha.org - and include a \$100 non-refundable registration fee. Routes, used this past year, may be updated and confirmation of the routes and schedules for the current year will be published on the website before **August 24**. Bus fees will be **\$2200 for both ways and \$1320 for one way (in addition to the \$100 non-refundable registration fee)**. Expect quarterly payments at the beginning of each academic quarter. Transportation is billed separately from the FACTS Tuition billing. Billing questions, please email ametz@dematha.org. Route information and questions, please refer to the website or email aeck@dematha.org. Please register as soon as possible in order for us to confirm routes. General questions regarding transportation should be directed to aeck@dematha.org. **Service begins on Tuesday, September 8.**