

DeMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars

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

December 2018

December 1

WAMTC Band Festival

SAT Test

December 2

Advent Begins

December 4

Tree Lighting Ceremony

December 5

Jazz & Percussion Concert

December 6

Reconciliation

December 10

Grades Updated

December 11

Symphonic Band, Concert

Strings, Sinfonia &

Philharmonic Concert

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DeMatha Matters

Volume 11, Issue 5

Progress Reports & Grades



Grades will be updated on **December 10** and are available through Veracross. Please contact Mr. Chris Keplinger (ckeplinger@dematha.org) for any Veracross questions. Questions concerning student progress should be directed to the teacher and/or the student's counselor. Seniors failing more than three subjects at the end of the first semester will be required to withdraw from DeMatha.

Christmas Holiday

The school and offices will be closed **Monday, December 24**, through **Friday, January 4**, for the Christmas holiday. Classes will resume on **Monday, January 7, 2019**.



Weather 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.

Merry Christmas

Principal Notes

Happy Advent! The school is decorating and preparing for Christmas. We are thinking of others as we shift to our toy drive and we appreciate all of the support we received for our food drive.

DeMatha is implementing two new safety measures that I want to call to your attention. During this month, we will be emailing to you step-by-step instructions on how to download and use CrisisGo which will be our emergency notification system. We will be teaching the students during early January and we will have a **PRACTICE DRILL** tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, to test the system. Please watch for news on this project. Our second safe-school initiative is that we will have the external doors to our buildings locked except during the change of class (and a few minutes grace on either side of that). Entry instructions will also be emailed and posted. Visitors to campus will buzz the office and then be let him. This will help us control access to the campus. This system will go into full effect on Monday, January 14.

Dr. Daniel J. McMahon

Parent Alert Emails: Communications on closings, weather, activity and sports updates from DeMatha will automatically be sent via e-mail to the primary email

Graduation Video



The 2019 Commencement Video will be available to purchase for \$45 if ordered prior to Dec. 31. This professional DVD typically runs 2 hours, 15 minutes and contains graduation from start to finish and more. Orders placed Jan. 1-April 1, will be \$50. After April 1, cost is \$55. DVD's will be shipped directly to your home. Order forms can be found on our website under forms, in the Main Office or attached to parent alert emails.



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Transportation

Tuesday, Nov 27 to Friday, Nov. 30: Buses run at the regular time.

Monday, Dec. 3 to Friday, Dec. 7: Buses run at the regular time.

Monday, Dec. 10 to Friday, Dec. 14: Buses run at the regular time.

Monday, Dec. 17 to Thursday, Dec. 20: DeMatha Regular Classes - Buses run at the regular times – Seton – Mid-term Exams Buses run at the regular times.

Friday, Dec. 21: Buses run at the regular time AM. DeMatha and Seton early dismissal - Buses depart DM at 1:10pm and continue to Seton.

Monday, Dec. 24 to Sunday, January 6: No School for DeMatha & Seton - Christmas Break

Monday, Jan 7, 2019: Classes resume.

Monday, Jan. 7 to Friday, Jan. 11 - Buses run at the regular time.

Transportation Questions: Contact transportation@dematha.org or call 301-327-5390.

DPO Parent Matters



- ◆ Pie Day - Thanks to everyone who participated to make our teacher appreciation a major success. The faculty and staff are truly grateful for your kindness and generosity.
- ◆ The next bake sale will be held on **Friday, February 8**, sponsored by the junior class. All junior families are asked to contribute homemade or store bought baked goods. Thanks to all the sophomore families who contributed to our bake sale on November 16.
- ◆ Mark your calendars for the DPO Parent Meeting & Social on Thursday, March 7. Details to follow.

Music Matters - All Invited!



- ◆ 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.

Financial Aid Matters - Deadlines

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 <https://adwcatholicsschools.org/tuition-assistance/archdiocesan-tuition-assistance-program/>

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.



Stag Store

DeMatha apparel and other Stag items are available online (<https://store.dematha.org>) and in The Stag Store. If you are placing an order to be shipped for Christmas, please do so by **Monday, December 17**. Stag Store hours are 7:30 am-3:00 pm on regularly scheduled school days (closed 10:15am-12noon). The Stag Store is open the regular school schedule in December as well as the following times:

Tuesday, 12/4 5:00pm-7:00pm *

***10% discount on order**

Friday, 12/21 8:00am-1:00pm

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Semester Exams

The week of **Tuesday, January 8**, through **Friday, January 11**, we will follow a special schedule with a regular rotation to accommodate those classes who are opting to have semester exams. Please note the following exam times.

Tuesday, Jan. 8: Block 4 = 9:00-10:45

Block 8 = 1:15-3:00

Wednesday, Jan. 9 Block 5 = 9:00-10:45

Block 1 = 1:15-3:00

Thursday, Jan. 10 Block 6 = 9:00-10:45

Block 2 = 1:15-3:00

Friday, Jan. 11 Block 7 = 9:00-10:45

Block 3 = 1:15-3:00

All classes will meet as usual based on what letter day it is, with some classes opting for semester exams during their extended scheduled testing time (see above). All students are expected to be present and have full attendance

January 8 - January 11.

Tree Lighting

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Dinner will take place on **Tuesday, December 4**, at 6:00 p.m. in front of St. John DeMatha Hall. Everyone is invited to attend. RSVP to Mrs. Farrell at tfarrell@dematha.org.



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 during normal business hours.

Fair Trade Christmas Sale

The Campus Ministry Office will be hosting a Fair Trade Christmas Sale on **Wednesday, December 19** and **Thursday, December 20**, in the cafeteria during interim and lunch periods. All proceeds go back to the artists and all items are certified fair trade meaning the artists were paid fairly and ensured good working conditions. We believe that shopping fair trade creates a culture of respect for others' God-given human dignity and work. Items include jewelry, ornaments, nativities, chocolate and more! Cash or check accepted.

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.



Reconciliation

Reconciliation will be available to students during lunch periods on the first and second Thursday of December: **December 6** and **December 20**.

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.

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)

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. Seniors will be given preference. Registration forms are located in the Counseling Center and online. SAT Prep class dates will be announced and in the Daily Bulletin.

Campus Ministry - CMO

Food Drive Results

The Thanksgiving Food Drive to support the Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Augustine's, St. Jerome's Café, Holy Redeemer, DC, St. Mark's and Mary House was a huge success. We collected over 12,000 food items and numerous cash donations! Thank you for assisting your son in contributing to this event. You have made a difference in many peoples' lives. Thank you for your generosity.

Service Hours Reminder

December service hours are due on **Monday, December 31**. Any hours that were completed in December should be turned in by **December 31**. Senior service hours are due **February 15** and the required Senior Reflection Paper is due on **March 15**. Questions concerning requirements and hours should be directed to the Campus Ministry Office, [240-764-2260](tel:240-764-2260).

Toy Drive The Toy Drive began **Wednesday, November 28**, and runs through **Wednesday, December 12**, and assists the Social Concerns Ministry of St. Augustine Parish and the Sonny Frazier Toy Drive for the City of Hyattsville. New, unwrapped toys may be dropped off in the Campus Ministry Office or the box in the main lobby. Please do not include toys that promote violence. Infant and school age toys, educational toys and books are greatly appreciated. Thank you!



Attendance

We encourage frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizers located throughout the school. If students are sick or not feeling well, please keep them home.

We have incorporated "strategic long weekends" along with the holiday breaks. We hope you will use weekends for college visits, medical appointments, etc. **December 24 - January 4**

Christmas Holiday

January 21 & January 25

February 1 & 4 (Cyber School)

February 18

March 25 - March 29

April 18 - April 22
Easter Break

May 27

REPORT ABSENCE DIRECTLY

240-764-2230

Found Items to be Donated

The Attendance Office has a large number of books, clothing, electronic items, etc., that will be donated to charity prior to the Christmas break. If you are missing any items, please have your son stop by the Attendance Office before **Friday, December 14**.



Service Trip

The Winter Service Trip will take place **February 14 - February 17**.

December 2018

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December 12

Toy Drive Ends

Chorus Concert

December 13

Wind Ensemble Concert

December 15

Financial Aid Applications Due

December 17

St. John deMatha Day

December 19

Fair Trade Christmas Sale

December 20

Fair Trade Christmas Sale

Reconciliation

December 21

12:50 Early Dismissal

December 24 - January 4

School & Offices Closed

December 31

Service Hours Due

January 7

Classes Resume

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.



HAPPY NEW YEAR