

DeMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars

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

February 2019

February 1

School & Offices Closed

February 4

Cyber School

February 5

Junior Parent Coffee

Grades Updated

February 6

Sophomore Parent Coffee

February 8

Bake Sale - Juniors

February 11

SAT Prep Class Begins

February 12

Course Selection

February 14

DMLI Tag Day

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DeMatha Matters

Volume 11, Issue 7

Grade Updates



Grades will be updated on **February 5** 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. Seniors failing more than three subjects at the end of the first semester will be required to withdraw from DeMatha.

Cyber School Monday, February 4

Cyber school or remote learning will take place on **Monday, February 4**. This counts as a regular school day though no one is required to be on campus. Teachers have instructed students on the cyberschool procedure for their particular class. Every class a student has will 'meet' for 30 minutes. We are prepared to loan out Chrome books for the weekend for those who do not have access to a tablet, laptop, or desktop. See the librarian for loans.

Weather DeMatha follows

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



Principal Notes

At the National Honor Society induction a couple of weeks ago, the group honored Mr. Ptomey with the Fr. James Day, O.S.S.T. Award for teaching. This award is well-deserved and Mr. Ptomey gave a terrific talk to the group. In his usual conversational style he used a startling observation to make an important point. He told students that they will often feel unprepared (as he did when he first started teaching) and that having this "imposter syndrome" should be addressed in two ways: 1) seek out people to help you; and 2) "fake it until you make it." I like both of these strategies. We should always be on the lookout to strengthen the fabric of community and when we are less experienced, we should draw on the deep wells of experience and knowledge of those around us. This truth sometimes gets lost in an endless quest to excuse the shiny, new toy of the moment - and that attitude degrades respect for legitimate authority. The second strategy is actually Aristotelian-it suggests that you should practice the thing you aspire to be and, lo-an-behold, you will eventually become that. Let's practice being Faith-filled people and scholars.

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 listed on the student's Veracross account.

Summer Session



School regulations stipulate that any failing grade must be made up in summer school. Students are also required to attend summer school if they meet one of the following criteria: A final grade of F in any class. A grade of D in Algebra I, Part I, regular Algebra I or Algebra 2. A grade of D in Honors Algebra I or Honors Algebra 2 does not result in required summer school. Instead, the student will move out of the honors math program. A grade of D in the first two levels of a world language. If a student achieves an extremely low final grade, he may be required to repeat the course the following year depending on individual academic department regulations. DeMatha makes every attempt to remediate failed classes. Please check the website for summer session offerings beginning April 1. Please take the summer school dates into consideration when making vacation plans.

Summer school: Monday, June 24 - Friday, July 26. Failure to make up a class in summer school will result in a \$400 fee being assessed in the fall for administrative and scheduling purposes.

Parent Coffees



The Junior/Principal Parent Coffee will

take place on **Tuesday, February 5**, from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria.

The Sophomore Parent Coffee will take place on **Wednesday, February 6**, from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria.

DPO Parent Matters

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Plan to attend the DPO Parent Meeting & Social on **Thursday, March 7**, to network and meet others in a relaxing setting with refreshments and music. Please join us in the Kilby Lounge from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for an evening of fun! For further information contact the DPO at 240-764-2180.
- ◆ Mark your calendars now for the 16th Annual Mother/Son Luncheon to be held on **Sunday, April 7**, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the Antler Room.



Art Show

All are invited to attend the 13th Annual Student, Staff, Alumni and Parents Art & Photography Show and Reception, **Sunday, April 7**, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Parents are invited to participate. Artists must submit their work - paintings, drawings, photography, printmaking, sculpture, mixed media and digital works framed and ready for hanging. Artwork must be delivered to the Art Center no later than **Friday, March 22**. Please contact Mr. Holsey to set up a drop off time, 240-764-2261 or vholsley@dematha.org.

Re-Registration Due February 15

Thank you for sending your son to DeMatha. We are looking ahead to the 2019-2020 school year and that begins with re-enrollment. In late January, you will receive an email invitation to begin the re-enrollment process at the primary email address listed on Veracross The message header is DeMatha Online Re-Enrollment. Online re-enrollment will begin **February 1, 2019**. At that time you may login to Veracross and click on the banner in the top-left corner of the screen reading "SIGN-UP-Online Re-Enrollment." **The re-enrollment process and payment must be made by mid-night Friday, February 15. A late fee of \$100 will be assessed after February 15.** If you have not setup Veracross, please see go to the help page <http://www.dematha.org/parents/veracross/index.aspx>. For billing/enrollment questions please contact the Business Office. If you continue to have trouble with Veracross, please contact Mr. Keplinger via email at ckeplinger@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.

Graduation Video



The 2019 Commencement Video will be available to purchase for \$50 if ordered prior to April 1. This professional DVD typically runs 2 hours, 15 minutes and contains graduation from start to finish and more. 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.

Senior Calendar

March 15- Senior Reflection Papers due
 April 4 - Senior Parent meeting
 May 2 - Senior Exit Interview due
 May 3 - Prom - optional
 May 3 - No classes - seniors
 May 6-17 - AP Exams
 May 15-17 - Senior exams

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

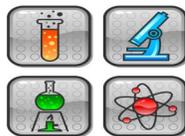
Test Date & Registration Deadline

(Late registration is available)

Mar. 9, 2019	Feb. 8, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 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.

Science Expo



On **Thursday, March 14**, the annual Science Expo & Dinner will take place. The Expo project is required for chemistry students. Forms and information have been handed to students. To increase the degree of scientific skills, the process of completing a science project has been divided into several stages. Information and due dates for forms, research plans, the abstract and backboards have been given to the students. Information on forms and requirements for students will be on the school website in January. Backboards and lettering for projects are available afterschool in February, Monday-Thursday in Rm106. Backboards-\$5 Labels-\$2 Lettering-\$2.

Wednesday, March 13: Projects set up.

Thursday, March 14: Judging and interviews with (optional) dinner and guest lecture program. Viewing 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

The Science Dinner (optional) & Lecture Program will take place on **Thursday, March 14**, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Dinner ticket prices are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. A guest speaker and awards presentation will follow dinner.

Friday, March 15: Projects removed.

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.



DeMatha Fund

The DeMatha Fund provides for ongoing yearly costs, including student programs and scholarships. Donations, as well as gifts of stocks, real estate and planned giving, allow us to continue educating all of our young men in the DM tradition. Designations to scholarship funds or specific programs are welcome. For more information or to donate online, please see "Support DeMatha" on the website, under the Alumni tab or contact Mr. Thomas Ponton at 240-764-2222 or tponton@dematha.org.

Campus Ministry - CMO

Service Reminders

All service hours are expected to be turned in no later than 1 month after completion. Any service hours completed in January were due January 31. Senior service hours are due **Friday, March 1. This is a change from the original due date.** The required Senior Reflection Paper is due on **March 15.** Questions concerning requirements and hours should be directed to the Campus Ministry Office at [240-764-2260](tel:240-764-2260).

Service Trips The Urban Plunge and the Appalachia Summer Service Trip are both full.

Winter Service Trip

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

Coat Drive

Our Annual Winter Coat Drive began on **Monday, January 28th.** We are looking for gently used or new coats, scarves, hats and gloves for all ages. This is a House competition and will earn points for the House that brings in the most donations. The drive will run from **January 28th-February 8th.**



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.

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

DeMatha Leadership Institute

DeMatha Leadership Institute is (DMLI) a four day leadership program for rising juniors held in June for the Class of 2021. Young men develop leadership skills while gaining exposure to different leadership styles by listening to guest speakers, participating in challenging group activities, and planning and working on Christian Service projects. For more information email Mrs. Stockton at sstockton@dematha.org.

DMLI Tag Day will take place on **Thursday, February 14. You must wear something red or pink.** The cost is \$2. The usual tag day requirements apply.

February 2019

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February 14-17

Winter Service Trip

February 15

Re-Enrollment Due

February 18

School & Office Closed

February 20

Spring Sports Begin

February 26 - 27

Senior Service Hour Interviews

February 27

Grades Updated

February 28

Service Hours Due

Senior Information Graduation gowns, announcements and name cards will be purchased by the school as this is included as part of your graduation fee. Graduation tickets and announcements will be distributed at the MANDATORY Senior Parent-Meeting on **Thursday, April 4,** beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Antler Room. An informational letter will be sent home in March with more details.

DeMatha Play

The DeMatha Players are looking for talented actors (and a single actress, if you know one) who would be interested in appearing in our first ever spring musical, **1776.** Come be a part of history! **1776** is the story of the development of the Declaration of Independence and the debates in the Continental Congress. It is a fun musical. Contact Keith Rafferty (krafferty@dematha.org) if you are interested.

