

DeMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars

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

January 2019

January 6

Photography Exhibit

January 8-11

Exams for classes opting

January 11

End 2nd Quarter

January 16

Grades Posted

NHS Induction

January 17

Junior Parent College Night

January 18

March for Life

Grades Published

January 21

School & Offices Closed

January 22

Report Cards Distributed

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DeMatha Matters

Volume 11, Issue 6

Report Cards



2nd quarter grades will be published on **January 18**. Report cards will be distributed and mailed home on **Tuesday, January 22**. 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 the conclusion of this semester. Questions concerning report cards should be directed to the teacher and/or the student's counselor. **Exam schedule on page 3.**

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. If DeMatha is delayed one or two hours, buses will run 1 hour or 2 hours later accordingly. Please check the website for any updates. We follow Prince George's County for closings and delays. If Prince George's dismisses early, we will make an independent decision and it will be posted on our website and sent via email.



Principal Notes

Happy New Year! The end of the first semester is closing in and we'll be starting the second semester shortly with a few changes to our campus security. We have installed a gate on the North side of the Convocation Center to encourage pedestrian traffic to come up Madison Street and, as mentioned in December Notes, we are adopting an app, CrisisGo, that will be our emergency notification system. You will be receiving an email through Veracross, instructions on this 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 is scheduled to 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 listed on the student's Veracross account.

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. Orders placed 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.

Academic Matters-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 18 -Friday, July 20. 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.

DPO Parent Matters

- ◆ Senior Parents: Class of 2019 Graduation DVD order forms are available on the website and in the Main Office. Turn your order into the Main Office.
- ◆ The next bake sale will be held on **Friday, February 8**, sponsored by the junior class. All junior families are asked to contribute baked goods. Please bring items to the cafeteria in the morning prior to classes.
- ◆ 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 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Antler Room.

Photography Exhibit Opening



All are invited to attend the 13th Annual Student, Staff, Alumni and Parents Photography Exhibit and Reception, **Sunday, January 6**, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the LT (SEAL) Brendan Looney '99 Convocation Center, 3rd Floor. Lite refreshments will be served in the Kilby Lounge. Come out and enjoy the exhibit featuring the work of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of DeMatha.

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 Rm 106. 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.

School & Offices Closed

Monday, January 21

Friday, January 25

Friday, February 1

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 3 = 9:00-10:45

Block 7 = 1:15-3:00

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

Block 8 = 1:15-3:00

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

Block 1 = 1:15-3:00

Friday, Jan. 11 Block 6 = 9:00-10:45

Block 2 = 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.

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)

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

Re-Registration Due Feb. 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 ReEnrollment. 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 midnight 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.

Support the Annual Fund!

DeMatha's Annual Fund provides for ongoing yearly costs, including student programs and scholarship funds. 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, or contact Mr. Thomas Ponton at 240-764-2222 or tponton@dematha.org.

Pictures - Last Call

Students who have not had the required picture taken for the yearbook or need a make-up should plan on having their picture taken on **Wednesday, January 30**. All students must have one picture taken for the yearbook. Order forms are available in the Main Office for those interested in purchasing pictures. This is the last opportunity to have pictures taken at school!




Report Card Conferences

Conferences will be held on **Thursday, January 24, from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the old gym and cafeteria**. No appointment necessary. One of the purposes of the conference is to establish a working partnership with the teacher. We ask that you limit your meeting to no more than 5 minutes. Parents are encouraged to bring their son along as it is worthwhile for both parents and students to hear teacher comments.



Parent Informational Coffees

- ◆ The Freshmen/Principal Parent Coffee will take place on **Tuesday, January 29**, from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m., in the Convocation Center. 
- ◆ The Sophomore/Principal Parent Coffee will take place on **Thursday, January 31**, from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. in the Convocation Center.
- ◆ The Junior/Principal Parent Coffee will take place on **Tuesday, February 5**, from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. in the Convocation Center.
- ◆ The Senior Parent Coffee will take place on **Wednesday, February 6**, from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. in the Convocation Center.

Campus Ministry - CMO

Service Hours Reminder

All completed January service hours are expected to be turned by **Thursday, January 31**. Senior service hours are due **February 15**. 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).

Service Trip

Our second summer service trip for juniors and seniors will be an inaugural mission to Tijuana, Mexico with Esperanza International, an organization that addresses substandard housing and deep poverty by having volunteers build new concrete homes for families. The trip will also concentrate on the challenge of migration and other issues facing immigrants. We will partner with an individual family and work with them to build a new, more stable home. We will be staying in a secure, safe area and partnering with a translator and guide. All safety measures and precautions are high priority so that we can better understand the challenges of poverty on an international level. This trip takes place **June 16 - June 22**; applications available beginning Monday, January 7.

Toy Drive

Thanks to everyone who donated to our annual Toy Drive. We collected nearly 200 new toys for the Sonny Frazier Toy Drive and St. Augustine's Toy Drive. Both charities distribute the gifts to families in need.



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.

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

Appalachia Summer Service

Sign-ups for the summer service trip to Appalachia start on **Wednesday, January 9** and are open to sophomores and juniors. We will again stay at Nazareth Farm, a Catholic community in rural West Virginia to provide support and help with substandard housing and repair. The service trip will take place from **June 23-29** and will cover all junior/senior hours. Interested sophomores and juniors who are in good standing may pick up an application from the Campus Ministry Office beginning **January 17**. Questions contact Mrs. Bright at ebright@dematha.org.



January 2019

Cont. from pg 1

January 24

Last Day to Drop/Add
Parent-Teacher Conferences

January 25

School & Offices Closed

January 29

Freshmen Parent Informational Coffee

January 30

FINAL Pictures All Grades

January 31

Sophomore Parent Informational Coffee
Service Hours Due

February 1

School & Offices Closed

February 4

Cyber School

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.



Junior Urban Plunge

The Junior Urban Plunge, a two day service immersion experience, will take place **April 12-13**. This service trip is open to current juniors and will cover all 20 contact hours. Interested juniors who are in good standing may pick up an application from the CMO **Wednesday, January 16**.

HAPPY NEW YEAR