

DeMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars

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

March 2019

March 1

Senior Service Hours Due

March 2

ACT Practice Test (Juniors)

March 4

12:50 Early Dismissal

March 5

Senior Service Interviews

March 6

Senior Service Interviews

Ash Wednesday

March 7

Reconciliation

Tag Day Lenten Project

March 9

SAT Test

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DeMatha Matters

Volume 11, Issue 8

Grades Published March 21



Grades will be available through Veracross on March 21. Report cards will be distributed to students on Friday, March 22. Please contact Mr. Chris Keplinger (ckeplinger@dematha.org) for any Veracross questions. Questions concerning student progress should be directed to the teacher.

Schedule Update

Next school year, DeMatha will be making some alterations to its daily schedule to better meet the needs of our students. The beginning and end times of each day will remain the same, but the school's current meeting schedule is being modified to increase regular classroom contact hours with faculty members, and the study hall requirement, currently freshmen only, will be expanded to include freshmen and sophomores. It is our hope that this increase in daily teacher contact will assist all students in achieving greater success in their academic pursuits. There is no such thing as the last word in scheduling because, as new research on learning becomes available, the curriculum will change, and the process of learning what works and what doesn't work keeps evolving. DeMatha is committed to doing its best to manage all the competing, legitimate claims on the time of our students, faculty and families.

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 am looking forward to the Lenten season in part because of the discipline it asks of me. Sometimes I need the help of an outside force - and the knowledge that I have lots of company - to do things that I should just do anyway. I am well aware that in Lent we shouldn't just "give things up" but I have to tell you that giving things up can still have real benefits. I usually give up social media and almost by accident I find that my prayer life improves - quite probably because I have more time or better said, more intentional, non-distracted time. Sometimes, going without something helps us restore balance in our lives. After a day or two of missing what we give up, we find that other things are open to us. I know that when I am fasting that others are too - and I am also conscious that there are too many who are "fasting" through no choice of their own. Though every Lenten promise is undertaken individually, those single tasks become a shared experience or preparation that helps bind us together. It makes us a community. Happy Lent!

Dr. Daniel J. McMahon

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.

Support the 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.

DPO Parent Matters

- ◆ March Muffin Madness will be held on **Thursday, March 14**. We ask that all junior and senior families donate muffins and drop them off in the main lobby before school.
- ◆ Information on the DPO tuition raffle, which is a \$10,000 credit towards the 2019-2020 tuition, is coming next month.
- ◆ **Thursday, May 9**, plan to attend the DPO Social. Join us for a catered affair and the tuition raffle \$10,000 drawing. Everyone is invited to attend.

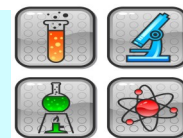
Weather DeMatha follows Prince George's County for delayed openings of one or two hours and school closings only. In case of an early dismissal for PG County, DeMatha will make an independent decision. Check the website and be attentive to parent alert emails.

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 vholsey@dematha.org.

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**, with dinner beginning at 6:30

p.m. Dinner ticket prices are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. We are honored to have as our guest speaker for the 25th Annual Science Expo Dinner Dr. Kafui Dzirasa, MD, PhD. Dr. Dzirasa is the Principal Investigator in the Laboratory for Psychiatric Neuroengineering and Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, Neurobiology and Biomedical Engineering at Duke University Medical Center.

There will be a limited number of seats available for those only attending the lecture and awards presentation which will begin at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Friday, March 15: Projects removed.

Music Matters



All are invited to attend!

March 20: PG Orchestra Festival, Sinfonia, Northwestern High School. Time TBD

March 22: PG Band Festival, Symphonic & Wind Ensemble, Northwestern High School. Time TBD

April 9 OR 10: Band & String Parents meet for music trip, Antler Room, 7:30p.m.

April 11-13: WAMTC Honor Band

April 16: Jazz Lab & Ensemble, Hyattsville Middle School, 7:30 p.m.

April 25-27: Music Department Trip

May 2: Concert Bands I, II & PEI Concert Strings Concert, Bladensburg High School, 7:30 p.m.

May 6: PEII, APE, Sinfonia & Philharmonic Concert, Bladensburg High School, 7:00p.m.

May 7: Concert Band & Symphonic Band, Bladensburg High School, 7:30 p.m.

May 8: Spring Sing, Convocation Center, 7:00 p.m.

May 11: State Solo & Ensemble String Festival

May 13: Wind Ensemble, Northwestern High School, 7:30 p.m.

May 18: Instrumental Music Awards Ceremony, Convocation Center, 6:30 p.m.

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 to your home. Order forms are found on our website under forms, in the Main Office or attached to daily parent emails.

Senior Calendar



On **Thursday, April 4**, there will be a **mandatory senior parent meeting** beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Antler Room. End of the year responsibilities and calendars will be reviewed. Graduation tickets and announcements will be distributed. The school provides 25 announcements, 12 graduation tickets, 6 Baccalaureate tickets, caps and gowns which are all included in the senior graduation fee. If you are interested in purchasing additional announcements at \$1 each or are looking for additional tickets, email mkerley@dematha.org. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you must contact Mr. Bright at 240-764-2227. A letter containing details about graduation will be sent this month.

Senior Calendar

- March 15- Reflection Paper
- 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
- May 16 - Graduation practice 10:30am
- May 17 - Faculty-Senior Dinner, 6:00
- May 20-22 - College Prep Program
- May 23 - June 4 - No classes - Seniors
- June 5 -Graduation practice, 10:00a.m.
- June 5 - Baccalaureate Mass, 4:00 p.m.
- June 7 - Graduation, Shrine, 9:00 a.m.
- June 30 - Parent Exit Interview Due

Junior/Senior Prom



The prom will be held on **Friday, May 3**, at the College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, University of Maryland, 3501 University Blvd East, Adelphi, MD, 20783, from 7:00-12:00 a.m. Formal attire is required. Check-in begins at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. **No entry after 8:30 p.m.** Students may not leave until 11:30 p.m. Tickets will be available in the Business Office in St. John DeMatha Hall, **Monday, March 11 thru Friday, April 12**, for \$80 per person. Payment by cash or check. **No refunds!**

AP Exams

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams will take place **Monday, May 6** through **Friday, May 17**. Students must be registered by submitting payment to be permitted to take his exam(s). Payment is due by **Friday, March 15**, and a Pre-Administration Session will be held during the school day on **Wednesday, April 24** during **interim**. If you have any questions concerning AP testing, please contact Mr. Garrett at 240-764-2229 or tgarrett@dematha.org.

ACT & SAT Information

Register for the SAT online www.collegeboard.org. 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.

Campus Ministry - Service

All service hours are expected to be turned in no later than 1 month after completion. Any service hours completed in February were due February 28. Senior service hours were due **Friday, March 1. This is a change from the original due date.** The required Senior Reflection Paper is due on **March 15.** Service hours for freshmen, sophomores and juniors are due **Friday, May 24.** Students must have completed and submitted the hours required for their class year using the online system. Links and information have been emailed to students and are on the DeMatha website, under Christian Service Program. A reminder that students who do not complete their required hours will be assigned additional summer school hours and will be required to complete those summer school hours before returning to DeMatha. Freshmen owe 5 hours, sophomores owe 10 hours and juniors owe 20 by **May 24.** See pp 37-38 in the student handbook or the Christian Service website for clarification. Questions concerning requirements and hours should be directed to the Campus Ministry Office at ebright@dematha.org.

Attendance

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

March 25 - March 29

April 18 - April 22
Easter Break

May 27

Lenten Project

Our Lenten Drive supports the Iraqi Christian Relief Council, an organization that supports the needs of Assyrian Christians who are often threatened and persecuted. The founder of the Iraqi Christian Relief Council, Juliana Tarmoorazy, will be talking to our students on Ash Wednesday about two ongoing projects that support Assyrian Christians and those suffering in the Middle East. We will be collecting spare change throughout Lent for these ongoing projects. We will be having a Tag Day on **Thursday, March 7** to support this organization. Please support our efforts supporting the most vulnerable.

Academic Awards Night

On **Wednesday, May 1**, beginning at 7:30 p.m., we will celebrate the academic achievements of our students. All students who have been on the Honor Roll, Academic Dean’s List, or Principal’s List for three consecutive quarters (1st quarter, 1st semester and 3rd quarter) will be awarded lapel pins. In addition, special awards will be given to seniors graduating with honors (a cumulative 3.0 average) and with highest honors (a cumulative 3.8 average). Also receiving recognition will be students who have achieved excellence in other academic pursuits. Attendance is by invitation only. If you receive an invitation, please RSVP in a timely manner to dda-vis@dematha.org.

REPORT ABSENCE DIRECTLY

240-764-2230

March 2019

Cont. from pg 1

March 13

Science Expo Projects Due

March 14

Science Expo Judging & Dinner
DPO Muffin Madness

March 15

Science Expo Projects Removed
NHS Tag Day
Senior Reflection Paper Due
End 3rd Quarter

March 19

Grades Posted

March 20

NHS Blood Drive
PG Orchestra Festival

March 21

Reconciliation
PG Band Festival
Grades Published

March 22

PG Band Festival
Report Cards Distributed

March 25-29

Spring Break
School & Offices Closed

DeMatha Play

The DeMatha Players are proud to present the iconic musical, 1776. This famous play tells the story of the development of the Declaration of Independence and the debates in the Continental Congress with an entertaining blend of comedy and gravitas. Performances are **Friday & Saturday, April 12 -13** at 7:30 p.m. and **Sunday, April 14**, at 2:00 p.m. at DeMatha. Be on the lookout for tickets next month!

