

DEMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars

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

September 2020

September 3

Senior Opening Day

September 4

All 8 Virtual Dismissal 12:10

September 7

School & Offices Closed

September 14

Virtual Back-to-School Night

September 15

Virtual Instrumental Music
Parent Meeting

September 16

Virtual Chorus Parent
Meeting

September 18

Grades Updated

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DeMatha Matters

Volume 13, Issue 2

Principal Notes

In T. S. Eliot's *Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock*, a timid man walks the streets and debates with himself his every course of action. "And time yet for a hundred indecisions, /And for a hundred visions and revisions." Later he observes that "In a minute there is time, /For decisions and revisions which a minute will reverse." I have had those feelings for most of the spring and summer. If I have a mental picture of myself, it is one where I sit at a table in a room overflowing with plans and discarded papers and charts and graphs. As an administrative team, we ourselves had a couple of tasks at the end of the spring: 1) revise and rethink the way we offer online learning so that our transition to having kids on campus will be as smooth as possible; 2) try to get kids on campus as soon as possible. In our online environment, we are asking students to be considerably more "synchronous" on time while the class is being taught and we have made campus modifications everywhere to prepare for the students. From additional fans and required face masks to cashless cafeteria and one-way stairwells; from touchless faucets and bottle fill stations to air purifiers and hand sanitizers for everyone - we are ready.

A particular note of gratitude to the parents who wrote in throughout the Spring and Summer and who participated in surveys - and for our freshmen parents who have modified schedules of all sorts to get their sons here at odd times. I am grateful for a wonderful mission and a terrific community. Happy 2020-2021 school year!

Pax, Dr. Daniel J. McMahon



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Attendance

With virtual learning, we still expect parents to report their son's absence due to illness, doctor appointments, etc., to the Attendance Office directly, **240-764-2230**.

Virtual Back-to-School Night

Monday, September 14, will be a virtual Back-to-School Night for all parents. Instructions will be sent via parent alert email.

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.

Academic Awards Night

Academic Awards Night is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 28**. 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 a variety of other academic pursuits. Attendance is by invitation only.

REPORT ABSENCE

240-764-2230

Music Updates

The Instrumental Music parent meeting originally scheduled for September 15, has been cancelled.

The Chorus parent meeting will be held via zoom on **Wednesday, September 16**. Details for the meeting will be forthcoming from Mr. Turk.

Sadly, due to covid, the annual Kaleidoscope Concert, scheduled for October 10, has been cancelled.



Class Technology Issues

Students having technical issues with their class should first contact their teacher.

Parent Matters

- ◆ Due to covid restrictions, the first meeting of the year for the DeMatha Parent Organization (DPO), normally held in September, will be postponed. For additional information, please visit the DPO webpage at www.dematha.org.
- ◆ In lieu of Parent Coffees, we have planned virtual parent meetings for each grade, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Details will be forthcoming.

Freshmen-Monday, September 21

Sophomores-Tuesday, September 22

Juniors-Wednesday, September 23

Seniors-Thursday, September 24 **

**Please Note:

The senior parent meeting is mandatory.

MD State Nonpublic Textbook & Technology Program

In 2019-2020, \$52,845 in state funds was used to obtain additional chrome-books, software licenses, new Biology books with digital access, and various texts for English courses. For several years, Maryland's Nonpublic Student Textbook Program has provided tremendous support in allowing DeMatha to update and improve technology in the school without any additional student fees. Please thank your state officials for this funding, and encourage them to continue their support for nonpublic education.

Course Expectations & Veracross

Faculty have been asked to post course expectation sheets on their class website under the **Resources** tab in Veracross. Please notify the Principal's office if there is no course expectation sheet posted. If you are having trouble accessing Veracross, please click **Parents** on the DeMatha website, and then select **Veracross Information** on the left.

Cafeteria

Payment Plan

See the website under quick links for instructions on the cafeteria payment plan. **Due to covid and safety regulations, there will be NO cash transactions in the cafeteria.** All purchases must be made through the cafeteria plan, using the student ID. See the website under Student Life/Cafeteria for detailed instructions.



Student Progress

Student progress will be updated through Veracross. Every student has a Veracross account. Questions concerning student progress should be directed to the teacher first. See the website for contact information. The first date for updated grades for parents to view on Veracross is **Friday, September 18**. Seniors with more than 3 failing grades at the end of the first semester will be required to withdraw from DeMatha at the conclusion of the semester. Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to Andrew Bright, abright@dematha.org.

Workplace Giving

DeMatha participates 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 mmccart@dematha.org or 240-764-2221 for questions.

Parking Spaces have been assigned. **Please do not park in numbered or reserved spaces when you visit the school.** Please DO NOT park in the faculty parking lot. Visitor spots are located in front of the school, closest to Route 1.

Bus Transportation

We will have our usual bus routes with social distancing requirements when we return. Please refer to route information posted on the Transportation page of the website to determine the route that you will use. When registration opens, stops from the previous school year will be available. We will let you know when registration for the 2020-2021 school year opens up again. Please contact Andrew Eck at aeck@dematha.org for route information, and Anne Metz at ametz@dematha.org for billing information. For technology issues contact ckeplinger@dematha.org.

Uniforms

Students may wear the warm weather uniform through **Friday, October 23**. The DM polo shirt is only available in the DM bookstore. See the Student Handbook for specific uniform requirements. Blazers will not be required until January 4, 2021. Our school uniform company is Potomac Clothing, 301-339-8466 or www.DeMathaUniforms.com.

Shuttle - College Park Metro

Free shuttle service, when students return, to the College Park Metro station, Rt. 1 side of Calvert St. Pick up daily at 7:45 a.m. and depart DM 3:10 p.m. on regular school days. Details will be announced when the service returns.

Discipline Matters

Remember, growing into the man you want to be is a choice. As we are DeMatha men, there are certain rules we have chosen to abide by.

Although DM will be virtual for the first quarter of the school year, students are expected to carry themselves as DM men. DM expectations still apply during our virtual sessions which includes wearing their DM uniform. Every student should have their DM polo when they present themselves on camera for class. Students are expected to be clean shaven and earrings free. No dyed or highlighted hair. **Full uniform** will be required on **Monday, October 26**. All students are expected to wear a solid color dress shirts, dress gray or khaki DM pants, belt, socks, tie and specific dress shoes. Blazers will not be required until **January 4, 2021**. **Students are also required to be clean shaven. Facial hair is NOT permitted except neatly groomed mustaches.**

Make sure to arrive to virtual class on time, ready, camera on, dressed and prepared for the day's growth. Maintain a respectful manner and remember we are all working towards your greater good.

Students coming to school for any scheduled appointment should be in DM uniform. Students may not wait for rides on the front steps of the school or in the rear parking lot. Students may not leave school grounds and return to meet their rides.

When on campus, all parties are to wear a face mask and keep the necessary precautions. Every individual that walks on to campus must first walk through the temperature scanner housed in the lobby of the main entrance.

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)

Sept. 26, 2020	Aug. 26, 2020
Oct. 3, 2020	Sept. 4, 2020
Nov. 7, 2020	Oct. 7, 2020
Dec. 5, 2020	Nov. 5, 2020
March 13, 2021	Feb. 12, 2021
May 8, 2021	Apr. 8, 2021
June 5, 2021	May 6, 2021

Please Note: We have had reports of test centers not reporting when they are closed due to the pandemic.

Christian Service

Students are required to complete Christian service hours each year at DeMatha. All students who had re-registered by the end of April were sent a letter with information from Campus Ministry on the service hour requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. Christian service hours can only be submitted by students via their DM email accounts. Instructions, service opportunities and suggestions, and links to submit hours can be found on the Christian Service page on the DM website: <http://bit.ly/DMChristianService>

Students need to work with organizations that fulfill their specific yearly requirement. Pre-approved service locations for each grade are listed on the Campus Ministry website for your reference. **Please do not complete projects without checking to see if they fulfill the requirement first!!!** For community service concerns, your son should visit the Campus Ministry Office or see pages 38 - 40 in the Student Handbook. Please email all questions about deadlines and opportunities to Mrs. Bright at ebright@dematha.org. Be sure to identify your son's graduation year in the email.

Please note: The September Urban Plunge has been cancelled.

Future Daily Mass

The celebration of daily mass will take place, once we return to campus, at 7:45 a.m. in the chapel. All are welcome to attend to spend some time in prayer every day. We do suggest, if you are not a student and interested in attending mass, please call to verify that we have not had a change in the schedule.

Attendance

- ◆ **Lost and Found:** Lost and Found is located in the Attendance Office.
- ◆ Every student should have a Student Handbook. Please review the handbook with your son.
- ◆ We have incorporated "strategic long weekends" along with the holiday breaks. We hope you will use these weekends for college visits, medical appointments, etc.

October 5 & October 12
October 30

November 11

November 25 - November 29
Thanksgiving Holiday

December 21 - January 1
Christmas Holiday

January 15 & January 18
January 29

February 15

March 29 - April 6
Easter Break

May 31

Physicals All players, freshmen and transfers MUST register online, Atsdematha2.atusers.com for their ATS account and upload physicals onto their profile. **This is the only way physicals will be accepted.** Physical forms will NOT be accepted on the first day of practice. Students not completely registered on ATS will not be permitted to be in school or practice. Instructions for the ATS system are found on the DM website under athletics/forms. Any questions, please contact Adrienne Faircloth 240-764-2253 or afaircloth@dematha.org.

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September 21

Freshmen Parent Virtual Meeting

September 22

Sophomore Parent Virtual Meeting

September 23

Junior Parent Virtual Meeting

September 24

Senior Parent Virtual Meeting

September 30

September Service Hours Due

Virtual Senior Parent Meeting

Mandatory virtual senior parent meeting **Thursday, September 24, 7:00 p.m.** Graduation, college applications, and more will be discussed. A parent or guardian from each family is expected to attend. Further information will follow.

Asbestos Management Plan & Lead Monitoring

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. Additionally, as mandated by MD state law, all drinking water supplies have been inspected for lead and found to be in compliance with state regulations.