



“There are hidden blessings in every struggle.”

October 14, 2020

Dear St. Matthias School Community:

This entire year has been full of struggles for all of us. From COVID, to the economy, to race relations, to the constraints that we have returned to work and school under. We are all being tested. However, we must look for the blessings in each of these struggles. As hidden as they may be, I assure you they are there.

Our students have begun the struggle of MAP testing this week. MAP is certainly a test of knowledge and growth. Additionally, it is a test of patience, as well as students’ and teachers’ frustration levels. What should be stressed is that this is a snap shot of our students learning. This test will allow us to get our bearings after the months of virtual learning we went through last school year. We have made it clear to all our students that productive struggling and doing their best is the goal here, nothing else.

It is hard to imagine we are half way through October. It is also wonderful to see our St. Matthias’ students thriving. We will end this week with parent/teacher conferences on Thursday and Friday. Please be reminded that Thursday is also an early dismissal day to accommodate these conferences. These conferences, like everything else during the school year, will be done via Zoom. I ask for your patience as we go through these conferences. I know you are well aware that technology can have a mind of its own and things do not always work smoothly. Be assured we are all doing the best we can.

In this envelope you will find material about:

- StopIt, which is our harassment, intimidation and bullying reporting app. We will be sharing this information with students this week. The most important thing for our students to remember is that whether using StopIt or going to a trusted adult, bullying is never acceptable and should always be reported.

- Yesterday, information about our school counselor was sent to all parents. I encourage you to review the information and complete the permission slip that was sent home and return it ASAP. This is a service that we are so excited to be offering our students in these unusual times.
- You will see that the HSA is sponsoring a series of “out of uniform” days to benefit our school during these trying times. October 22nd is the first one of the school year. Please join us with a little donation to be super comfortable at school.
- A very big thank you to Ms. Treena Rowan, a friend of Mrs. Chabra, who graciously donated 250 sets of oil pastels to be used by our budding artists in Art class. This is so exciting because it will allow our students to work in a medium that they may not have been able to due to COVID restrictions. Please keep Ms. Rowan in your prayers.
- Finally, we are hoping to begin the random COVID testing next week. Please return the paperwork to either “opt in” or “opt out” of this program.

In His Peace,

Elena Malinconico
Principal
St. Matthias School