



“Repent for the past and prepare for life everlasting.”

February 17, 2021

Dear St. Matthias Community,

How startling to look at the calendar to see that Lent has begun! Today, we received ashes to remind us that we were made from dust and to dust we will return. What awaits after that dust is the glory of heaven with God Almighty! Lent is a time for reflection, prayer, sacrifice, and almsgiving. It is a time where we reflect on how we can improve ourselves to be ready to join God in heaven. We reflect on Christ’s life and his message, and commit to travel the path he showed us. This is the message we will be sharing and encouraging with the students of St. Matthias School.

On a more secular note we are also faced with preparation for more snow! With this new world, since COVID, the idea of eliminating snow days in school districts moving forward has already occurred and will continue to occur. The Diocese of Metuchen has made the decision that moving forward two snow days will be built into the school calendar next year, and any subsequent days will be managed through virtual learning. Virtual learning snuck in during COVID and it is apparent that it will not be going anywhere!

As we move forward with this new normal, you may want to consider a Google Chromebook to have on hand in the event of an emergency closing. I was able to find a new Chromebook for my own daughter for under \$200 that serves her quite well for virtual learning. Our school Chromebooks are not owned by St. Matthias, but in fact by the local school district. We need to account for all of them and return them to the local school district upon their request. We also do not currently have a large surplus available. After much discussion, we have concluded that we cannot send Chromebooks back and forth on a daily basis. If we make plans to go virtual, we will work with families in dire need of technology they do not have. In the case of sudden emergency closings, we will also work with families who do not have technology at home. ***With that said, based on weather reports for tomorrow into Friday, St. Matthias School will be learning remotely for the remainder of the week.***

On Monday, February 22, 2021, we will make up the HSA paid Dress Down Day that we had to cancel last Thursday. Thank you for your continued flexibility during COVID and what has proven to be an unusually snowy winter.

In His Peace,

Elena Malinconico
Principal, St. Matthias School