Saint Matthias School Mission Statement

Saint Matthias School, in partnership with the Catholic Community of Saint Matthias and our school families, provides an educational foundation that celebrates diversity, and nurtures students to develop moral values and life skills. We strive to engage each student spiritually and academically in a Christ-centered environment, to prepare them to live as disciples and citizens.

Grace and peace, dear parents,

In the name of our entire Saint Matthias School staff, I wish you blessings in this New Year filled with good times and good health.

Happy New Year!
I pray this year will bring you much happiness and joy.
Congratulations to our students who entered the Young Writers Tales from New Jersey competition last Spring. Here is a copy of their published stories. How proud we are of these young writers.

Contributing writers include Vivian S, Jacqueline T, Jordan N, Chloe C, Chloe Y, Zoe B, Lila A, Zsofia K, Emilia W, Skyler L, Abigail J, Bianca B, Isabel M, Elizabeth L, Connor L, Maxwell P and Juliet A. Students were involved in this project under the leadership and coaching of Ms. Crimmel. Great Job!

The school community sends best wishes, congratulations and lot of hugs to grade 5 teacher, Mrs. Erhart, who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy on New Year’s Eve. Both Lukas Nicholas and mom Erhart are doing well.

There are so many opportunities for us to help one another in the coming months. And, don’t forget to get your reservations secured for the Night of Winners. It is always such a fabulous, fun evening and a great way to support the school. You can donate to the baskets by sharing your Kohl’s dollars with us or purchasing an item on the Amazon Wish List. So many ways to help.

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated the week of January 26 and definitely mark your calendars for the following awesome events.
Sunday, January 26 – Celebration of Mass, Reception following, Open House for Pre-K and K

The St. Matthias School Family will open the week with the celebration of the Eucharist at the 12 Noon Mass. All staff, students and families are invited to worship together. Students in attendance are asked to wear their school uniforms. There will be a thank-you dress down day on Wednesday. After the Mass, all are invited to a reception in the school cafeteria. Take time to meet new families and re-unite with those families who have already been on this amazing journey with you.

The office staff will be available to register new students and welcome new families to SMS. Teachers of Pre-K and Kindergarten will be in their classrooms from 1-2 PM to showcase their beautifully rich learning environments and answer any questions new families may have about our Early Childhood Program.

Monday, January 27 – A Day of Service

Students will gather in church for a 9AM Prayer Service focused on the theme of “service to others”. During the service a representative of the St. Matthias St. Vincent dePaul Society will address the students. Younger students will work with their older “buddies” to write a cheerful note to the parishioners who presently need some assistance. Students will be donating food items during the week to be collected by the St. Vincent dePaul Society on Friday. Students in the Transition Grade Talent Show will perform for their parents and friends at 7PM in the church.

Tuesday, January 28 – A Day to Share Talents

Our first grade students will entertain us with their knowledge of vocabulary as they strut their word for the day. All students will be invited to cheer on our Transition Grade Talent Show students at an assembly at 1:00 PM in the church.

Wednesday, January 29 – Diversity Day

The HSA will begin the day with a generous Breakfast for the staff of SMS as an appreciation for their service to our students. How lovely. There will be a Free Dress Down Day offered by the Student Council and a delicious cookie at lunch hour courtesy of the amazing Kitchen Staff. There will be an Assembly to celebrate diverse authors of poetry. It will be an interactive, entertaining assembly for the students. At 6:30 PM the Forensic’s Team will present their work to their parents and friends in church.

Thursday, January 30 – Literacy Alive at SMS

At 9 AM, the 26 students of our Kindergarten invite their parents and friends to their First Annual Kindergarten Fashion Show. Each of the 26 students will represent a letter of the alphabet and display words beginning with that letter.
**Friday, January 31 – Academic and Athletic Bowls**

Continuing our tradition from past celebrations of Catholic Schools Week, we will have our Academic and Athletic Bowls. We are so pleased that Mr. Johnson will be joining us for the event.

The students will be divided into teams of green and white proudly wearing a shirt of the color of their team. “A” classes will be the green team, while “B” classes will be the white team. Teachers of kindergarten and grade six will communicate with the students of those single grades specifically what team they are on. The schedule will be as follows:

- **9AM**  
  Athletic Bowl for Grades K-5 in the cafeteria  
  Academic Bowl for Grades 6-8 in the church

- **1-2PM**  
  Athletic Bowl for Grades 6-8 in the cafeteria  
  Academic Bowl for Grades K-2 in St. John XXIII room  
  Academic Bowl for Grades 3,4 and 5 in the church

Thank you in advance so very much for joining us in as many activities as you can. We have reason to celebrate St. Matthias School. Please encourage your relatives and friends to attend Mass with the reception following on Sunday, January 26 at noon. We want our SMS family to grow.

You will be receiving a request to inform our office staff if your child has a sibling ready for Pre-K or Kindergarten. We want to start preparing space for our future students.

We are very proud to announce that Chloe Young in grade four had a very successful run on *Off Broadway*. Congratulations, Chloe, we are so proud of you. Her work in *Over the Rainbow* performed to sold-out crowds.
Night of Winners (NOW), our major Annual School Fundraiser is just around the corner. Let’s have a great representation of school parents in attendance. The evening is filled with so much fun and the benefit to the school makes a huge difference. Please make plans to join the school family on February 8. We need everyone’s support for this fundraiser.

As always, thanks so much for your continued support and partnership.

Eileen Brett
Principal
Saint Matthias School