



SMS Home School Association (HSA)

Dear St. Matthias School Parents:

Welcome Back to School! We are so excited to begin the 2018-2019 school year. We have many exciting events planned for this school year. Make sure to check out our webpage and our bi-monthly newsletter. September's issue will be coming home during the first week of school. Please make sure to mark your calendars for **Friday, September 7th** which is our back to school coffee at 8 AM in the parking lot followed by 9 AM Mass, and also **Saturday, September 8th** for our 1st SMS Back to School get together at the Somerset Patriots Stadium. Tickets are on sale now, so don't delay! It's going to be a great gathering with fireworks to end the night! Contact Kate McCallum @ Katerado712@gmail.com if you need an order form.

SMS HSA Information:

One responsibility of the HSA is to help subsidize the school operating budget and its programs through fundraising. The projected HSA subsidy for the 2018-2019 school year is \$190,000. In order to meet this subsidy each family is asked to participate through the fundraising commitment and required to volunteer their time to make St. Matthias School the best it can be!

1. **All SMS families are considered members of the HSA; \$45.00 dues** were required at the time of registration and are **mandatory** and **non-refundable**. The dues cover our diocesan HSA dues and our assessment of \$3 per child for the New Jersey Alliance, our voice in Congress.
2. **Each family is required to meet a minimum fundraising commitment of \$500 to be pre-paid for the 2018-2019 school year.** All or part of this fundraising commitment can be earned back over the course of the school year and applied to the following year's \$500 fundraising commitment via participation in the **"Pay Yourself Back"** program "commitment credit." KidStuff (Fall), Gertrude Hawk (Fall & Spring), Kitchen and Home by Charleston Wrap (Fall & Spring), SCRIP (Year-Round), and 19Kilo Coffee (Year-Round) are the programs to earn your commitment back.
3. **All SMS families are also required to volunteer a minimum of 2 hours for SMS HSA-related fundraisers and/or special events during the school year.** Hours began May 18th, 2018 and can be acquired by May 16th, 2019. Any volunteer hours after May 16th, 2019 will be applied to the 2019-2020 school year. Instated this school year, there will be a **\$50.00 fine** for each volunteer hour **NOT** worked. The St. Matthias Carnival and the Athletic Association hours **DO NOT** count towards your HSA commitment hours. There are many HSA opportunities available throughout the school year. Check out the SMS HSA webpage under Committee Information. As each event approaches, a Sign-Up Genius link will be in the weekly Wednesday Online Envelope where you



can sign up to volunteer for various events. You will also have an opportunity to meet the committee chairs and sign up to help with the various events at the back to school social on August 29th.

4. Given the school is an integral part of the overall St. Matthias Faith Community, **all SMS families are required to volunteer a minimum of 2 hours at the St. Matthias Parish Carnival in May** of each year. The carnival sign up will be posted sometime in April. * Please note this is separate from your HSA 2-hour commitment.

We thank all our families for generously accepting this responsibility and working to carry out the St. Matthias School mission. We look forward to working with you and seeing you all at the social and at our Patriots game! Enjoy the rest of your summer.

-The SMS HSA Executive Board <https://www.stmatthias.info/Page/60>

Mary Lynch & Melissa Miller-Rizzo: Co-Presidents

Melissa Garlatti: Vice President

Yoly McGuire: Corresponding Secretary

Rajiv Agarwal & Robert Quinn: Co-Treasurers

Nicole Lewinski: Recording Secretary

***Don't forget to check out the SMS Spiritwear on the school webpage. A percentage of the sales gets donated back to our school!**