Saint Matthias Parish School is one of the largest and most vibrant schools in the Diocese of Metuchen. In its 55 year history it has educated over 27,000 students.

In 2017, Eileen Brett was hired as our interim principal and tasked with beginning a revitalization and reorganization of the school. Her passion for and commitment to Saint Matthias School soon became a three year stay earning the respect and gratitude of the school family. During her tenure, Eileen has focused on many areas of school life and curriculum development. The following are some of the highlights of Saint Matthias School in its movement forward to maintain its legacy of excellence.

- A professional development plan to align curriculum standards and methods of instruction with best practices. Staff members are actively involved in professional book studies to include Ellin Keane and Jo Boaler.
- Daily instruction in all areas of the curriculum to include grade level standards instruction for all students with a balance of small group instruction to ensure growth for all students.
- Increased use of technology on a one-on-one basis which will be realized in 2020-2021 for all grades one through eight.
- The development of the workshop model of instruction in the areas of literacy and math.
- Increased volume of classroom libraries and math manipulatives.
- Research and development of a middle school.
- Extended after-school opportunities for students.
- Research and development of a Makerspace mindset

Father Abraham Orapankal arrived in 2018 and joined in that revitalization with a rejuvenation of the Parish Finance Committee and the School Advisory Council. He emphasized the need for better communication, accountability and transparency within the school community especially with the parents. He firmly believes that spiritual formation of our students and teachers will have positive impact on the character and discipline of students. The presence of Msgr. Joe Curry has been a great blessing. His presence in the school and interaction with the students has made a positive impact on the choices students make. His open dialogue with the students and encouragement to make good choices has established a trusting relationship.

These steps outlined above have all moved in the direction of strengthening the learning process and preparing the Saint Matthias Parish School to best serve the students of today and tomorrow in a challenging and responsible manner.

With the announced retirement of Miss Brett in June of 2020, a Search Committee has been formed to find a new principal to continue this work of planning and revitalization. The Search Committee members with representation from the parents, staff, SAC, HSA and the parish are Msgr. Joe Curry, Jackie Schneider, Eileen Brett, Joe Gidaro, Laura Albanese, Mary Lynch and Nick Grippo. This committee will be responsible for interviewing candidates and recommending candidates to Father Abraham and the Superintendent, Dr. Lockwood, for their approval.
As we move forward to this time of transition, there will be continued dialogue to clearly articulate the vision for Saint Matthias School moving into a fruitful future. These conversations will include the school administration and staff, students, parent, SAC and the parish community. We will continue to work together to embrace an action plan for the future of the school to include but not be limited to a Strategic Plan, a Marketing and Development Plan and a Technology Plan.

We have a great adventure ahead of us, but we will move forward together with “Eyes Open” and a commitment to work for the continued legacy of faith, service and excellence at Saint Matthias School.

Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Eileen Brett