



The Principal's Pen

Mater Dei Catholic School

August 21, 2018



**"Mary, Guide Our Hearts"
Back to School Edition
August 21, 2018**

Dear Parents,

Welcome Mater Dei Catholic School families to the 2018-2019 school year. Mater Dei Catholic School's doors will open **Wednesday, September 5** for students in Pre-K through Grade 8. It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all the families who will be joining the Mater Dei community for the first time. I pray that this new year will be filled with many blessings for all of our wonderful families.

As I write to you today, Mater Dei Catholic School is bustling with activity. The bathroom renovation project is almost complete. There will be two family restrooms outside my office and brand new boys' and girls' restrooms in the fourth grade hallway. It is such an amazing improvement. In several classrooms, and doorways, new flooring/carpeting is being installed. Beginning today, the cafeteria floor is being replaced with a beautiful new flooring which will truly enhance this area of the building. The teachers are busy setting-up and decorating their classrooms, as they prepare for the arrival of our children. We are grateful to you, our teachers and staff, and benefactors of Mater Dei who generously contributed to these major improvements. We are grateful to the skilled workers who continue to labor to bring these projects to completion. In the name of our school community I would like to thank Mrs. Suzanne Verzilli for coordinating and overseeing all these projects. We cannot wait to show you all the work that has been done over the summer!

Opening Day

We cordially invite all parents, grandparents, and friends of Mater Dei to join us to celebrate the first day of the new school year at an Opening Prayer Service at 9:30 AM on Wednesday in Saint Stanislaus Church. Children in first grade through grade eight will attend the Prayer Service.

All students are welcome to enter the building beginning at 8:10 AM on the first day of school. Parents, you may accompany your children to their new classrooms. Please park in the Church parking lot. There is a cross walk with a crossing guard on Lansdale Avenue. If you want your children to ride the bus, you are welcome to come, park in the Church lot, and meet your children in the school yard to walk them to their classrooms. Once your child/children are settled, you are invited to the school cafeteria to enjoy some light refreshments. The children will begin to process to Church at 9:05 AM.

Our Pre-K and Kindergarten students will not attend the Prayer Service.

Postcards

All students will receive a postcard from their new teacher. The postcards will be mailed at **noon on Monday, August 27th**. Check your mail! There will be teachers in the school yard and hallways to help all students find their way to their new classroom on the first day of school.

New School Arrival Time

The school day will begin at 8:30 AM and end at 3:30 PM. We are adding minutes to the school day by starting at 8:30 AM. The purpose of this change is to accommodate a morning outdoor recess for the students in kindergarten through grade five. The new schedule will give us additional minutes in the school day in case of inclement weather. We communicated this information to the bus companies at the end of the school year. I am sure we will need to be patient in the beginning of the year until the bus runs are finalized. The car riders are free to arrive from 8:10 AM to 8:30 AM.

Welcome to New Faculty and Families

As we begin this new year, we welcome new faculty and staff members to the Mater Dei Catholic School Community.

Mrs. Kelly Mazerowski ~ Imagination Playhouse
Mrs. Heather Campbell ~ K2
Mrs. Ellie Brackman ~ Grade 2
Mrs. Coleen Klepesky ~ Academic Resource Room Aide

Pre-School Aides

Mrs. Michelle Malcolm
Mrs. Jessica Miles
Mrs. Amy Mongelluzzo

Mrs. Eileen Moore
Mrs. Allison Steele

Mrs. Nancy Sharp ~ Imagination Playhouse Aide

Lunch Program

Mrs. Lisa Gendek and Mrs. Amy Mongelluzzo will be our new lunch room coordinators. I am grateful to them for their willingness to accept this responsibility and I look forward to working with them. Many thanks to Lori O'Donnell and Carlee Ward for their years of service to Mater Dei Catholic School.

Our newest members come to us with experience and great enthusiasm for the gift of Catholic education. I ask you to join me in extending them a warm Mater Dei welcome.

New Families

It is with great pleasure that we welcome 73 new families and their 103 children to the Mater Dei Catholic School community. We welcome you with open arms and we are so happy you have chosen Mater Dei for your family. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me by phone or email. We will do our best to assist you during this time of transition and always.

Uniform Exchange

There will be an opportunity for a "Uniform Exchange" **tomorrow Thursday, August 23** from 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM. The clothes will be displayed on tables outside the Kindergarten classrooms. Enter using the gym ramp door.

Mater Dei Catholic School Website

www.materdeicatholic.com

I would like to thank Mrs. Judy Kraft for all she does to maintain the Mater Dei Catholic School website. The website is filled with valuable information for all families. All beginning of the year documents, stationery lists, summer reading, school calendar, SMART Tuition information, and much more can be found by accessing the site. Please check in on a regular basis to find out about what is happening at Mater Dei.

The School Handbook has been updated and posted on the website. Please look on-line for a document called **Mater Dei Matters**. It will give you an overview of important information and you will find the answers to many frequently asked questions about the day to day operation of Mater Dei Catholic School.

Clearances and Volunteer Information

The safety of our children is of the utmost importance to us. We practice and document regular monthly safety drills with all students from Pre-K 3 to Grade 8. The Crisis Management Plan is on file in the office.

If you intend to volunteer during the school day, attend classroom celebrations, school activities and events, or to chaperone field trips, I suggest you begin to obtain all the clearances you need as outlined by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This is not an option, if you intend to engage in any of the events I mentioned.

I ask you to search "Clearances and Volunteer Information" on the website. You will find a detailed list of the clearances needed and website information. Mater Dei will be hosting Protecting God's Children class in the near future.

Date: Sunday, September 23 at 7:00 PM

Location: St. Stanislaus Parish Center - Lobby Meeting Room.

Link to sign up/Register: www.virtus.org

Back to School Night for Early Childhood Pre-School Open House for Pre-K

The Pre-school classrooms will be open **Tuesday, September 4** for parents to bring their children to show them the classroom. This invitation is totally optional. The Pre-school aides will be in classrooms to show you around anytime from 10:30 AM to 11:15 AM. Parents usually spend five to ten minutes in the classroom with their children. The Pre-school aides will greet the children since the teachers will be attending a workshop.

The Pre-school and Kindergarten teachers will meet with parents for Back to School Night on **Tuesday evening, September 4 at 6:30 PM**. Please park in the school yard and enter using the gym door. We look forward to seeing you the night before school starts. This meeting is not for children. We look forward to seeing your little ones beginning **Wednesday, September 5, 2018**.

Any families interested in using the **CARES Program** for the first time this year, there will be a meeting at 6:00 in the CARES room prior to the Open House meeting. CARES is located in the small building off the school yard.

1:1 iPad Parent Meeting

Mater Dei has a one to one iPad Initiative for students in grades 4 to 8. There is a parents only meeting on **Tuesday, September 11 at 6:30 PM** in the gym for parents of the fourth grade students and for the parents of new students in grades five through eight.

Transportation Tags for First Grade

First grade parents will receive a "Transportation Tag" in the mail next week. Please fill out the necessary information for your child on the tag and be sure to send it to school with them on **Wednesday, September 5th**.

The Kindergarten teachers will handle transportation information on **Tuesday, September 4** at Back to School Night.

Save the Date

**Back to School Night for Grades 1 through Grade 8
Tuesday, September 18, 2018 @ 6:30 PM**

Friend Mater Dei on Facebook

I invite you to follow us on Facebook. Throughout the year, the happenings and events of Mater Dei are posted regularly on Facebook. Beginning August 26th, watch for the "**Ten Day Countdown**" to the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our back to school information. There are many new and exciting changes here at Mater Dei and we are looking forward to a fabulous new year. I am so grateful to the faculty and staff for all they are doing to prepare for the return of our children. I know you are working hard at home to gather school supplies and uniforms to be sure the children are ready for the first day of a new year. Thank you for all of your efforts and for your commitment to the Mater Dei Catholic School community!

Let us pray together to our patroness Mater Dei that this year may be filled with many blessings on our Mater Dei family.

Most sincerely,

Miss McCaughan

Miss Diane E. McCaughan
Principal

Mater Dei Catholic School, 493 East Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

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