



# Mater Dei Catholic School

## 2018 National Blue Ribbon School

The President and Principal's Pen

June 3, 2020

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Dear Mater Dei Friends,

Good evening! It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. What a year it has been for parents, teachers, and our dear students! We have so many wonderful memories to look back on as we come to the close of the year and we overcome some interesting challenges! We had the opportunity to preview the 2019-2020 Yearbook and it is filled with beautiful pictures of the Mission of Mater Dei in full color, **Faith ~ Excellence ~ Service ~ Community.**

### *Congratulations to the Class of 2020*

We would like to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2020! They are truly an amazing class who embraced the Mission of Mater Dei Catholic School since they were "little first graders". We will miss their enthusiastic spirit and the many contributions they have made to our community! The faculty and staff had the opportunity to greet each eighth grader at his/her home last week during "a car parade" with honking horns and our heartfelt appreciation for the many gifts they have shared with Mater Dei! It was a priceless moment seeing all their happy, smiling faces as we presented them with gifts filled with MD memories. The Class of 2020 will be celebrated again at their traditional 8th grade retreat, picnic, and a Graduation Mass on September 12th and 13th. We are looking forward to this Homecoming Weekend and being with the Class of 2020 again!

***Last Day of School - Friday, June 5th***

***Mass 10:30 AM***

***Followed by a Farewell Parade***

Our last day of school is Friday, June 5th. We will end the 2019 - 2020 school year with Mass at 10:30 AM celebrated by Father Chung in the Chapel at Saint Maria Goretti. We invite all families and friends of Mater Dei to join us for the celebration of the Eucharist. In order to access this livestream of our Closing Liturgy, a link will be emailed to our families and

friends on Friday morning at 10:00 AM.

At the conclusion of Mass, we invite any families who are able to join us at Saint Maria Goretti for a ***Drive-By Farewell Parade***. The faculty and staff want to have the opportunity to see the children on this last day of school. We will be outside Saint Maria Goretti Church from the end of Mass until 12:45 PM. Please follow the directions below:

**1. Enter the Saint Maria Goretti Property off Cowpath Road.**

**2. Proceed to the front of Church.**

**3. Follow the circle around the front of Church.**

**4. Depart the parish grounds onto Derstine Avenue.**

We really hope to see you on Friday any time from the end of Mass until 12:45 PM at the Farewell Parade!

***Final Instructions for the 2019 - 2020 School Year***

**Thursday, June 4**

Last Day for eLearning postings

**Tuesday, June 16 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

**or**

**Wednesday, June 17 9:00 AM to Noon**

Parents are welcome to come to the school gym to pick up students' personal items and to return all textbooks, iPads, and iPad chargers. Please place each iPad charger in a sealed ziploc bag labeled with student's name. If you ordered a yearbook, it will be with your child's belongings. Please wear masks and observe all social distancing practices.

**Class of 2020 (Only)**

In order to give the Class of 2020 a chance to walk through school again, they are welcome to come on Tuesday, June 16 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM or Wednesday, June 17 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon to pick-up personal belongings and to drop off textbooks, iPads, and iPad charger. Please place each iPad charger in a sealed Ziploc bag labeled with student's name. We ask the Class of 2020 students to enter the building using the Main Entrance. We will welcome each student in the building using appropriate social distancing guidelines. Please wear masks.

***Plans for the 2020-2021 School Year  
Mater Dei Catholic School Task Force***

We have established a Task Force to examine policies and procedures needed

to prepare Mater Dei Catholic School for the fall of 2020. The committee will review the guidelines published by the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Throughout the summer, we will provide you with information on new policies and procedures that will be in place for the health and safety of our children. This communication will be available through the President/Principal's Pen and a variety of Zoom meetings. The goal of the Task Force is to develop a comprehensive ***Health and Safety Plan for the Mater Dei Catholic School Community*** in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***Summer Reading Lists and Stationery Supplies***

Summer Reading Lists and Stationery Supply Lists for the fall will be emailed and available on our website on July 1, 2020.

### ***Virtual Trivia Night***

The Board of Limited Jurisdiction and the Board of the Home and School Association are sponsoring a ***Virtual Trivia Night on Saturday, June 6 at 9:00 PM***. We are hoping you will join the Mater Dei community once you put the children to bed for this exciting virtual event. Please visit our Mater Dei website for all the details and directions for signing up to participate in this fun evening with MD. It is our goal to support our Mater Dei families in need of tuition assistance. There is no charge to participate in Trivia Night. We invite you to make a free will donation to Mater Dei Tuition Assistance Fund! Thanks for supporting this new twist on one of Mater Dei's best events. We are looking forward to seeing you!

We would like to thank our parents, teachers, and students for all you have done to make the 2019-2020 school year a grand success even in the face of a global pandemic. You have given the children of Mater Dei Catholic School such amazing support throughout this year, but especially over these past three and a half months. You and your families will continue to be in our prayers over the summer months. You are welcome to reach out to us at any time and expect to hear from us throughout the summer with updates and plans for the reopening of Mater Dei Catholic School.

In conclusion, we ask the Mater Dei Community to join together in prayer for our world and our country. At this time, of such unrest and pain let us pray together for peace, understanding, and the return of good health for all. May God bless you and your beautiful families as this school year comes to a close!

Most sincerely,

Miss Diane E. McCaughan

*President*

Miss Elizabeth A. Waltrich

*Principal*