



MATER DEI

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2018 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

Mary, May We Be A Reflection Of Your Hope And Peace

February 10, 2021

Dear Parents,

Good afternoon! Thanks for taking the time to read this important information about our school.

Polar Bear Plunge – Email Address Update

In last week's President's Pen, the email address to send your "Choose Your Own Polar Plunge Adventure" video was linked incorrectly. The email to send your video after registering for the Polar Bear Plunge is plunge21@materdeicatholic.com. We are looking forward to seeing all of your creative Plunge Adventures.

Due to the weather conditions predicted in the beginning of the week, we postponed the students' Polar Bear Plunge ~Frozen Frenzy activities planned for this Friday to Friday, February 19th. The day promises to be filled with great fun for our students. Now, there are snowflakes predicted for next Friday so stay tuned!!!!

EARLY DISMISSAL

As you know, this Friday, February 10, 2021, Mater Dei has an early dismissal. Please see the schedule below:

Lansdale: Pre-K 3 Dismissal Time - 11:00 AM
Pre-K 4 Dismissal Time – 11:15 AM
Kindergarten to Grade 8 Dismissal Time – 11:30 AM

Hatfield: Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 Dismissal Time – 11:30 AM

DELAYED START PROCEDURES

The current weather pattern appears to be very unsettled. Since North Penn School

District buses the majority of our students, Mater Dei follows the North Penn schedule for weather-related school closings and/or late openings. If North Penn School District is closed due to inclement weather, Mater Dei Catholic School is closed. If North Penn School District opens two hours late, Mater Dei opens two hours late. North Penn buses will pick up students two hours after their regularly scheduled pick-up time.

If school opens two hours late, the children are welcome to arrive from 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM. PreK and Kindergarten will be open for AM and PM sessions; however, there will be no half-day busing. Kindergarten parents will need to pick up the students at noon. Kindergarten pick-up on these days will be on Third Street.

Manna on Main Street Collections

We are grateful to the many families who have supported our donation drive for Manna on Main Street that we ran during Catholic Schools Week to celebrate our hallmark of Service. Because we lost a few days last week due to the snow, we decided to extend the drive to Friday, February 19th. If you would like to participate, please send in the following items from your child's grade level. Thank you for any contribution you can make at this time.

- PreKindergarten - Granola Bars
- Kindergarten - Spices
- 1st Grade - Coffee or Tea
- 2nd Grade - Paper Towels (wrapped)
- 3rd Grade - Toothpaste
- 4th Grade - Shampoo and Conditioner
- 5th Grade - Lotion and Lip Balm
- 6th Grade - Tissues
- 7th Grade - Baby Wipes
- 8th Grade - Shower Gel

Terra Nova Standardized Testing

We have been informed by the Archdiocese Office of Catholic Education that our students in Grades 3 through 7 will be taking the Terra Nova Standardized Testing this year. As you may remember, last year, we were unable to take the tests in March due to the mandated school closure. The results from these tests give us the information needed to make curriculum and instructional decisions to ensure that our students are mastering grade-level material. For students in 7th grade, these tests are important as we are asked by high schools to forward that information to them.

At this time, the testing company is unable to provide an online option for our eLearners. Therefore, all students will need to be in-person to take the Terra Nova tests. eLearners would be welcomed to report to school for the morning of all Terra Nova tests to take these tests alongside their classmates in their classrooms. However, parents may choose to keep their eLearning children home during Terra Nova testing with the understanding that no instruction will be provided as well as no testing results. Parents of eLearners, you will be receiving an email with a link to a form where you will be able to let the office know if your child will be in-person for the Terra Nova tests or if you want to keep your child home.

Terra Nova Schedule

Thursday, March 11th – Terra Nova Practice Activities
Friday, March 12th – Terra Nova InView
Monday, March 15th – Reading Tests
Tuesday, March 16th – Language Tests
Wednesday, March 17th – Mathematics Tests
Thursday, March 18th – Science Tests
Friday, March 19th – Social Studies Tests

Mater Dei Yearbook – Individual Student Pictures

Because we are limiting outside visitors for health and safety reasons, we have been unable to gather yearbook portraits of each student as we have in past years. Mater Dei Catholic School Yearbook would not be complete without a portrait photo of each student. So, we have enlisted the aid of software called EXPix. This program affords us a simple way to gather and organize student headshots from the entire school community for both in-person students and eLearners. The software provides a simple way for parents to upload, crop, and submit a picture of their child via a secure and unique link to the yearbook staff. Your child's portrait will appear on the classroom pages of the 2021 yearbook.

We are looking for a simple headshot image of your child, and we would be most grateful for your help.

Please keep the following helpful hints in mind when taking your child's:

One student per picture

A vertical manner shot

A neutral background

Space above head and shoulders for ample cropping

Student in Mater Dei official uniform

All the pictures taken so far this year have been with the students wearing masks and shields or eLearning students attending class on the SMARTBoards. Since your pictures will be taken in the privacy of your home, a safe environment, it will be so nice to see all their smiling faces mask-free and in the company of all their classmates.

You will be receiving an email shortly that will contain your special link with the tools and guidance to help you submit your photo. Since the yearbook has a deadline for when all pages must be turned into the printer, we ask that all portrait photos be submitted by February 28th.

Thank you for your cooperation in advance. We cannot wait to see all those smiling faces. If you have any questions, please contact our Yearbook Advisor, Mrs. Maureen Kerr mkerr@materdeicatholic.com

Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday, February 17th, is Ash Wednesday. The Mater Dei Catholic School Community will participate in the 9:00 AM Mass at Saint Stanislaus via live-streaming. Father Sean and Father Manny will come to school after Mass to distribute ashes.

Thank you for your commitment to Mater Dei Catholic School. We are grateful to you for entrusting your beautiful children to our care!

Most sincerely,

Miss McCaughan and Miss Waltrich