

# St. Matthew Catholic School

*“Inspiring Minds, Nurturing Souls”*

## SMCS Core Values:

Loving God • Embracing Family • Excelling Daily • Respecting Always • Called to Serve

### Help needed in the lunchroom:

We are in special need of volunteers to help serve on Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:30-1:00. If you are available to help, please contact Ana Lewin at [lewina@saintmatthews.org](mailto:lewina@saintmatthews.org)

### Drop-off is at 7:35 a.m.

There is no supervision for students until this time. Please help us keep kids safe by respecting this guideline.

### Yearbook is underway

Debbie Otting will be assisting with the yearbook this year and would love for you to share any photos taken at school events throughout the year! You can email photos to [ottingd@saintmatthews.org](mailto:ottingd@saintmatthews.org). Thank you for your help, we hope to put out an amazing yearbook this year!

\*\*Photos used for the yearbook may not include any non-students due to privacy laws.

### Dear St. Matthew Catholic School Families:

Welcome to another year of learning, working, and playing at SMCS! We are starting the year with 185 students, representing 121 families. Our largest class is first grade with 27 students, followed closely by third grade with 26 and fourth grade with 25 students. We also welcome Ms. Samantha Kennedy (1st), Miss Alisha Ptacek (4th), Miss Ann Baldrige (5th), Mrs. Joey Lauts (6th), Mrs. Bennett Dessert (5-8 ELA), and Mrs. Rene Langer (PE) to our staff!

As part of our professional development this year, we are working to instill a “growth mindset” in our students AND ourselves. This is based on the work of Stanford professor Carol Dweck, and is essentially the belief that with hard work, perseverance, and grit, students can achieve whatever they set their minds to! This is great for kids who find school easy as well as those who find it challenging. Growth mindset can apply to not only academic settings, but athletics, music, and other extra-curricular interests. I encourage you to check out <https://www.oxford-learning.com/growth-mindset-tips-for-parents/> and <https://www.mindsetworks.com/parents/growth-mindset-parenting> for an introduction to what we’re working toward and how you can help at home! The teachers are working through a book study on The Growth Mindset Coach by Annie Brock and Heather Hundley. It’s exciting stuff!

We at SMCS wish you a safe, relaxing, and fun holiday weekend with your family. We will see you on Tuesday!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Heather Stessman, Principal



@smcslions

Be sure to “like” and follow St. Matthew Catholic Church and School to get lots of news and pics from school several times a week!

## Children's Masses:

At 10:30 a.m. mass on each of the following dates, SMCS and SOR students will provide the liturgical ministries. Look for more information to come from your kids' teachers.

October 15 - 5th grade

November 19 - 4th grade

January 21 - 3rd grade

February 18 - 1st & 8th  
grade

April 15 - 6th & 7th grade

May 13 - 2nd grade  
(May Crowning)

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## 2017-18 PTO meetings:

All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. Attendance counts toward your volunteer hours!

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Thursday, January 11, 2018

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

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## PTO Fundraiser:

Orders and money for the cookie dough and trash bags are due back to school by September 12, and delivery of items to school is scheduled for October 24. Thanks to all who are participating!

## SMCS extends a special welcome to our new families!

Jesus Alvarez-Robles, Jr. (2nd), son of Reina Robles & Jesus Alvarez; Ashlyn Broadbent (K), daughter of James & Christina Broadbent; Layla Chavira (1st), daughter of Ozkar & Lariza Chavira; Esteban Cortes (K), son of Jose Cortes & Flor Reyes; Marley Ewing (3rd), Samari Ewing (4th), and Maliyah Williams (K), children of Chari Miller; Maite Hernandez (1st), son of Grissela De LaRosa; Alayah Hopkins (K), daughter of Carolina Mateos & Eris Hopkins; Olivia Kennedy (3rd), daughter of Samantha Kennedy; Adell Kent (K) daughter of Thomas & Serena Kent; Natalie Lang (K), daughter of Daniel & Francesca Lang; Devin Llamas (3rd), son of Racheal Llamas; Pavel Rodriguez (1st), Genessis Rodriguez (5th), and Selena Rodriguez (8th), children of Idalio Rodriguez; Joshua Solis-Maldonado (K), son of Lucina Solis; Erik Soto, Jr. (K), son of Leticia Dominguez; Noemi Soto (K), daughter of Jhonatan & Alondra Soto; Liam Swiercinsky (K), son of Anna Avery & Erik Swiercinsky; Emily Valdez (K) and Genesis Valdez (2nd), children of Victor Valdez & Heidy Oliveros.

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## Weekend mass attendance

As the Source and Summit of our faith, the Eucharist is central to our celebrations as a school family, just as we hope they are in yours. Again this year, teachers will be holding students accountable for their weekend mass attendance, and, in many cases, that will be factored into a religion grade. If you are unsure of your child's teacher's policy on this, please don't hesitate to ask so that you can help your child by reviewing the readings, Gospel and homily from the mass that you attend. Daily readings can be found on the front page of <http://www.usccb.org/>. While crucial for all Catholics, we especially stress the importance of mass attendance to our students who are in sacramental preparation years.

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**Virtus<sup>®</sup> training** - If you volunteer in any capacity (including field trip drivers) at St. Matthew Catholic School, and have not been trained in the Virtus<sup>®</sup> program, please plan to do that at your earliest opportunity. There are sessions scheduled in Topeka on September 9 (at OLG in Spanish), September 18 (at MTCC) and September 23 (at MPH). To schedule, log on to [www.archkck.org](http://www.archkck.org) and click on the "VIRTUS" link on the upper right. Then click on the "Register for Virtus Training" icon. When it asks for your organization, choose Kansas City in Kansas (Archdiocese), then follow the prompts.

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**Title I Parent Resource Night** - October 3 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at Most Pure Heart of Mary. Parents with children in the Title I classes are invited to come learn more about the program and resources that can help students with math and reading skills. USD 501 is hosting this parent night one time for all parochial schools, instead of one night at each school as they have done in the past.

## Report your volunteer hours at:

[smcsvolunteer@saintmatthews.org](mailto:smcsvolunteer@saintmatthews.org). Families receive a \$250 credit on their tuition in August in good faith that 25 hours will be served. Please note that liturgical ministries (greeting, lectoring, etc.) do not count for volunteer hours.



## Hayden Catholic Connection & Alumni News

- Griffon Walker, SMCS '14, is a homecoming candidate. Good luck, Griff!
- Hayden's homecoming is Friday, September 22. There will be a parade at 12:45 p.m., followed by a pep rally.

## Enroll your Dillons Plus Card in the Community Rewards Program and earn money for your school and church while you shop!!!

Registering for this service does not affect the fuel points you earn while shopping. St. Matthew Church and School receive a quarterly reimbursement. We have received \$1,578.87 so far in 2017. Signing up is quick and painless and will help the church and school received extra money.

### HOW TO SET UP A NEW ACCOUNT AND REGISTER:

1. Go to [www.dillons.com](http://www.dillons.com)
2. Click on Register in upper Right Hand corner
3. Enter an email address, and create a password.  
Select a home store (your card will earn rewards at any store)
4. Create an Account
5. Add a Dillons Plus Shopper Card to your account
  - a. Enter the card number on the back of your Dillons Plus Card
6. Click on Community and Community Rewards
7. Click on Enroll Now
8. Enter St. Matthew Catholic Church in the search box
9. Choose St. Matthew from list and click enroll

IF YOU ALREADY HAVE AN ACCOUNT – LOG ON AND COMPLETE STEPS 6-9.

## Virtuous Behavior Formation

In alignment with our core value of "Respecting Always," our Virtuous Behavior Formation program will continue with the Lions ROAR program. ROAR is an acronym for:

**R** – Respect  
**O** – Own our behavior  
**A** – Attitude that is positive  
**R** – Responsibility to God, self and others



## 2nd grade Sacrament preparation dates:

**First Eucharist Parent Meetings:** October 8 & 11

**First Reconciliation and Retreat:**

Retreat 9:30-10:30 am

Service/Confession 10:30-11:45 am

Lunch 12:00

**First Eucharist Parent Meetings:** January 14 & 17

"Jesus Day" Tentatively scheduled for April 20

**First Eucharist Retreat and Practice:** April 28 9:00 am -

1:00 pm

**First Eucharist:** April 29 - Mass at 2:00 pm



## 8th grade dates:

**November 11 from 8:30-12:30** - High School Placement Test at Hayden

**2nd Sunday of each month,** September - March and 1st

Sunday in April from 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. in Parish Hall.

All candidates and their

sponsors must attend. If the sponsor cannot attend, a proxy may stand in.

**There will be a pro-life rally in late April or early May.**

This will replace the pro-life forum, which was typically held in September.

## Box Tops for Education Contest

We will be having our annual Box Tops for Education classroom contest from October 9-13. The class to collect the most box tops (expired box tops do not count) will get to choose a classroom reward. Please submit the box tops in a baggie with your child's name and grade. There will be containers in each classroom for your child to submit their box tops. If you have the time, please trim your box tops and indicate if you have checked the expiration dates. More information about the Box Tops for Education program will be coming home with your child in September. If you have any questions, please call/text or email Lisa Oyerly at 231-8949 or [lisaoyerly@att.net](mailto:lisaoyerly@att.net).

Parents, please note, the Campbell Soup Labels for Education is now over so you DO NOT need to save those labels any longer. That was a great program and we were very fortunate to have everyone saving those labels for the duration of that program.



**Thank you to Advisors Excel for the large donation of school supplies!**

## Upcoming dates at SMCS:

**Jeans Days:** September 21, October 19, November 16, December 7, December 14

**Changes to calendar:** Grandparents' Day will be Thursday, November 9, instead of Friday, November 10.

## SAVE THE DATES:

- Catholic Schools Week Kickoff Mass and Chili/Bingo - January 27, 2018
- Enchilada Project Prep - February 23-24
- Enchilada Rolling - March 2-4, 2018
- 6th annual SMCS golf tournament - Friday, April 27, 2018



## Little Free Library

We are excited to announce that SMCS now has a "Little Free Library" inside our school and it is located on the main floor, right outside of Mrs. O'Shea's office. SMCS was able to purchase this book sharing shelf with Scholastic Dollars from our 2016 book fair.

We will talk about how the Little Free Library works during library class but wanted to share with parents and ask you to help remind your children that it is a book sharing shelf and to remember the "take a book, leave a book" motto so we always have a nice variety of books for everyone to enjoy.

Parents and students are welcome to come in and visit the Little Free Library at the end of each school day.

# Camp Kateri



Camp Kateri participants from SMCS this summer were: Noah Haverkamp, Ethan Florence, Emma Bicknell, Bailey Bicknell, Elly Keyes, Megan Oyerly, Lexi Herrera, Liz Moore, and Reagan Huscher.

## SMCS PTO's Annual Fall Fundraiser

Orders will be taken from August 25 through September 12. Collect money as you sell the items. Delivery will be Tuesday, October 24 from 3:20-3:45 pm. Please make arrangements to pick your items up at this time. Your participation is the key to success!

### Prizes:

The top 4 sellers will win the following prizes. These are the top 4 sellers from St. Matthew Catholic School combined with the St. Matthew Early Learning Center. This is a cash prize in addition to the prizes offered for selling the Otis Spunkmeyer items.

Top Seller -- \$50

2nd Place - \$40

3rd Place - \$30

4th Place \$20

The top selling class will win muffins.

Any student that sells 10 or more items will be placed in a drawing with the possibility of winning an inflatable gummy bear chair

### Pick-A-Prize

Students will pick a prize from a specific category level. The level is determined by the number of the Otis Spunkmeyer items sold. The more items sold the higher the prize category level. Check out the prize brochure for details. *The trash bag items do not apply to the prize level.*

Please contact Lisa Oyerly with any questions: [lisaoyerly@att.net](mailto:lisaoyerly@att.net)  
785-231-8949

## Lockdowns

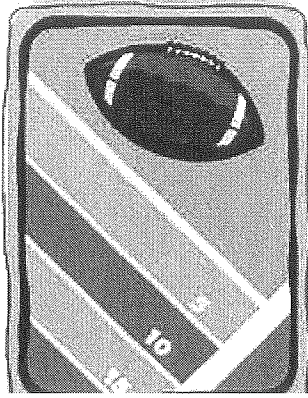
As part of our crisis management plan, we will conduct lockdown drills several times this year. We will try to simulate a real crisis situation as closely as possible so we will be prepared if, God forbid, we need to implement these procedures one day. Toward that end, please know that there will be NO MOVEMENT OF STUDENTS DURING A LOCKDOWN and that PARENTS/GUESTS WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE BUILDING DURING A LOCKDOWN. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



# SEPTEMBER 2017

| SUNDAY | MONDAY                         | TUESDAY          | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY                                 | FRIDAY                                 | SATURDAY                                 |
|--------|--------------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 27     | 28                             | 29               | 30   | 31                                       | 1                                      | 2  |
| 3      | 4                              | 5                | 6  | 7  | 8                                      | 9  |
|        | Labor Day - No School          | PTO Meeting 6:30 |  | Health Day - vision & hearing screenings | Teacher School of Faith - No School    | Virtus Training 9:00 am @ OLG in Spanish |
| 10     | 11                             | 12               | 13   | 14                                       | 15                                     | 16                                       |
| 17     | 18                             | 19               | 20   | 21                                       | 22                                     | 23                                       |
|        | Virtus Training 6:00 pm @ MTCC |                  | School Pictures (in uniform), Classroom & Sport Pictures | Feast of St. Matthew & Jeans Day         | Hayden Catholic High School Homecoming | Virtus Training 9:00 am @ MPH            |
| 24     | 25                             | 26               | 27   | 28                                       | 29                                     | 30                                       |

**NOTES**



# SMCS Accelerated Reader

## Reward and Incentive Program

Accelerated Reader (AR) is software for primary and secondary schools used for monitoring the practice of reading. It was created by Renaissance Learning, Inc. and AR will be used in grades 2-8 at SMCS this year. How does it work? A student reads an AR book (from the library, home, classroom, etc.) and then takes the AR quiz in the classroom or computer lab. Points are earned based on their quiz score.

All our library books have been labeled with the AR reading level range on the spine. On the inside cover of each book, the exact AR reading level and quiz Point Value is written. (Example: AR 4.3 PV 4.0)

In order to become excellent readers and at the same time get excited about reading, we want to reward the students who read and take AR quizzes with an incentive program. Teachers will assist students in setting their point goal for each 9 week quarter. At the end of each quarter, those students who achieve their AR goal will be rewarded. Rewards will vary each quarter with a bigger reward at the end of the school year. Last year 50 students earned a trip to watch the Royals play for "School Day at the K"! We will offer that opportunity again this year.

We are ready to kick off a new year and our "All Star Readers" will be featured on our Accelerated Reader bulletin board located near the library. Goal Achievers will be recognized as follows:

Reach 25% of goal and be a **Rising Reader**

Reach 50% of goal and be a **Steady Reader**

Reach 75% of goal and be a **Soaring Reader**

Reach 100% of goal and be a **All Star Reader** - prize will be awarded

**Criteria for becoming eligible to earn the Royals trip is as follows:**

2 Students - Most Points Earned in 2017-18

1 Student - Most Improved Reader in 2017-18

2 Students - Goal Achiever all 4 Quarters (drawing during library class to decide)

1 Student - 4th Quarter Goal Achiever (drawing during library class to decide)

**We will offer "Early Bird Readers" again this year where students can take a quiz before school from 7:30-8:00 with Mrs. Otting on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday!**



# COMMUNITY NIGHT

## FOOD, FUN, AND FUNDS.

We are having a fundraiser at Wendy's, and we need your support. Here's the best part. All you have to do is eat some delicious, Old Fashioned Hamburgers from Wendy's. Drop by, bring your friends and enjoy some good food with us.

Wendy's will donate 10% of all sales dine-in or drive-thru 5:00pm – 7:00pm on our Community Night!



**SUPPORTING**

**ST. MATTHEW  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**



**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017, 5:00 – 7:00PM**  
**WENDY'S AT 3250 SW TOPEKA BLVD**

**DON'T MISS A GREAT TIME AND DINNER- EVERYONE WILL BE THERE!  
JOIN THE FUN AND HELP OUR SCHOOL WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.**