



## Weekly Mailer – October 2

In this week's mailer:

- A Message from Mrs. Earle
- Attendance Guidelines
- Soles Walk Information

**Faith First** – Educating children while building a Catholic foundation that instills Christian values.



# St. Matthias Parish School Mailer

October 2, 2020

## **A Message from Mrs. Earle**

Week one of hybrid is done! We hope your children were happy to be back. Their teachers were absolutely thrilled to see them. The school was certainly livelier than it's been in months and, by all accounts, your children did an outstanding job of masking and following distancing protocol. Thank you for that! We were also blessed to have virtual school Mass. As Fr. Chuck told us, the spirit of the Lord will continue to be with us and to guide us. Our faith is in Him!

I am sorry I was not able to be with you all for our first week. In full disclosure, I was exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID 19 and was not able to come to school as required by our policies for exposure and infection. It broke my heart. I share this for two reasons. First, I understand the frustration and disappointment when your children cannot come to school because of exposure. I shared those feelings and being home was the absolute last place I wanted to be this week. I thank you all for committing to sharing the responsibility of keeping our school safe both in the building and in our lives outside of school. The safest of us all (and I consider myself one of them) is susceptible to exposure and infection so I also share my absence to emphasize the extremely important call for all of us, students, staff and families, to do whatever we can to remain safe and healthy both in school and outside of our school community.

I also thank this **incredible group of educators**. Teachers and staff carried the week seamlessly, professionally, enthusiastically, lovingly and patiently. St. Matthias is truly blessed to have this caliber of individuals to care for your children. I couldn't be more proud or more thankful.

On to week two!

**Attendance Reporting:** Regular school attendance is so important both in-person and virtually. Please read the attached attendance guidelines. Absences must be reported by a parent or guardian for any student, virtual or in person, who will not be present for any or all parts of a scheduled school day.

**Parents/guardians must call 414-321-0894 to report absences or email Susan Blaha at [sblaha@stmatthiasmilw.org](mailto:sblaha@stmatthiasmilw.org). If the absence is related to COVID-19 exposure or infection, parents/guardians must contact Terri Czerwinski at 414-321-0894 or at [tczwerinski@stmatthiasmilw.org](mailto:tczwerinski@stmatthiasmilw.org). Calls can be made 24 hours a day, but must be made by 8:30 AM at the latest the day of the absence for all students.**

In today's mailer you will find information about the **Soles Walk for Catholic Education**. While we cannot walk together this year, we will walk together in spirit. Please visit the Archdiocese Soles Walk Page and donate! All proceeds come directly to St. Matthias and, new this year, we are able to receive up to \$5000 in matching funds! In today's mailer you will find more information as well as a letter from a St. Matthias parent! There will be opportunities for students to compete as individuals, classes and cohorts!

Please stay safe and healthy.

Karen Earle



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## **Saint Matthias Parish School Attendance Guidelines 2020-2021**

Attendance is the first step in ensuring academic achievement. In order for students to reach their God-given potential, they must engage in school daily either in person or virtually. St. Matthias Parish School requires regular attendance. Parents/guardians are expected to ensure that their children are in school. Please do not allow your child to miss school except for serious illness or exposure/infection related to COVID-19.

Per Wisconsin State Statute 118.15 (3)(9c), any day your child does not attend school, whether virtual or in-person, is considered an absence. A student may have ten (10) excused absences per year. These are absences that, regardless of reason, are reported to the school by a parent/guardian. \*Note: An absence without parent/guardian approval will be considered unexcused. Once a student has exceeded 10 absences, a written excuse must be provided for each additional absence to document the need for excessive absences.

**Students may not attend school in person with exposure or infection related to COVID-19 (see COVID-19 Parent Handbook for guidelines). Students who are quarantined or in isolation and are still able to participate fully in virtual learning will not be considered absent. Full participation and engagement in school will be determined by specific class expectations as set forth by classroom teachers.**

### **Appointments/Early Dismissal**

Parents/guardians are asked to schedule medical appointments outside of school time. If an appointment is necessary during the school day, students should not be absent for the entire day.

### **Guidelines for early dismissal are as follows:**

- Students are permitted to leave in-person instruction before scheduled dismissal time with written notification. Parents/guardians will send notification to school with their student. Virtual students (hybrid virtual days or all virtual students) may be absent from school for part of the school day with email notification to the school.
- Written notification must be in the office the morning of an appointment indicating the reason with time of pick up and/or return. Notification of an absence to a teacher is not acceptable.
- Written notification or email notification of in-person students should indicate who will be picking the student up.
- Parents/guardians of in-person students will be required to sign the student out on the check out in the school vestibule (Beloit Road entrance).



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- A child who is ill should recover at home in order to improve his/her health and assist the maintenance of a healthy community. (See COVID-19 guidelines in the Parent COVID-19 Handbook for symptoms related to infection or exposure.).
- All absences, excused or unexcused, must be recorded in the official school records (Archdiocese of Milwaukee POLICIES and Regulations Manual, Policy #5113).
- When possible, parents/guardians are encouraged to use no-school days for appointments.

**Reporting Absences:** If a student is absent, the parent/guardian must report the absence to the school office by 8:30 AM. This includes Wednesdays and hybrid virtual days for in person students. Parents may leave a message before or after school by calling the school office at (414) 321-0894 or emailing [sblaha@stmatthiasmilw.org](mailto:sblaha@stmatthiasmilw.org). Again, COVID-19 related absences must be directed to Terri Czerwinski, COVID-19 Coordinator at (414)321-0894 or [tczerwinski@stmatthiasmilw.org](mailto:tczerwinski@stmatthiasmilw.org).  
Reminder: Reporting to the teacher is not acceptable. Please report to the office.

The school will call the home of any unreported student absence.

## **Consequences for Excused and Unexcused Absences:**

- Eight absences in a year: Parents/guardians will receive a call from the school office.
- Ten absences in a year: Parents/guardians will be notified by letter about the seriousness of the issues.
- Twelve absences in a year: Parents/guardians will be scheduled to meet with the Principal to discuss the absences and develop an attendance plan. Meetings will be held virtually.
- Fifteen absences in a year: The student will be considered at risk for promotion to the next grade and absences may be reported to the District Attorney's Office as allowed by state statute. An attendance contract will be issued.
- Twenty absences in a year: The student will be placed on an attendance contract and absences may be reported to the District Attorney's Office as allowed by state statute.
- Any student absence in one or more virtual classes (both hybrid students and virtual students) without notification from a parent/guardian will be considered a class skip and will be handled as follows per trimester:
  - First Class Skip: Written warning via email to Parent and student
  - Second Class Skip: A demerit will be issued and recorded in the student's school record.
  - Third Class Skip: A virtual meeting will be scheduled with the student and parent and student will be placed on a written behavioral agreement.



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Hello to all families at St. Matthias!

I want to reach out to everyone and encourage your involvement during this year's Soles for Catholic Education Walk / fundraiser, which will take place on October 17, 2020. Our goal for the year is \$10,000. While this fundraiser will certainly not look like it has in the past with virtual walking in our neighborhoods instead of at Mount Mary University, we can still come together as a community to support our school and our children. You can register your child to "walk" on the site which allows a link to be created that you can include in an e-mail to send to friends and family. This only takes about 15 minutes to complete. You could also write a check and send it directly to the school identifying it is for Soles for Catholic Education. Remember, all funds raised benefit our community directly! In addition, the money raised by each school receives a proportional match from sponsorship dollars donated by sponsors of this year's walk. That means the more we raise, the more we could have matched!

I know much has changed with schedules, the additional time needed for assisting our children with virtual schooling, and possibly financial situations for families due to the current public health situation, but please do not forget about this important fundraiser that directly benefits our school and children!

Let's try to reach this year's goal together!

Thank you very much for your consideration and may your families be blessed with good health during this unusual time.

Kelly Herbst-Frailing

(Student Advisory Committee member, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parent)



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## It's Soles Walk time!

Let the competitions  
(Virtual and in person)  
BEGIN!

### **Class and Cohort prizes for:**

All school Cohort A versus Cohort B!!

Cohort A individual classes versus Cohort B individual classes (1A versus 1B, 8A versus 8B, for example)!

### **Individual prizes for:**

Highest fundraiser in either building

Highest fundraiser in a class (including all!)

Top 5 fundraisers in a cohort!

Top 5 fundraisers in the school!

Staff

*Prizes include gift baskets, out of uniform days, pizza deliveries to your door and more!*

**Remember that all funds raised come directly to St. Matthias and will have matching funds up to \$5,000!**

**Text to Give to St. Matthias. Text SOLES615 to 71777**