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August 11, 2023

Back to School - Part #1

Dear Mater Dei Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2023 – 2024 school year. It is our pleasure to present to you the Mater Dei Back to School Part 1 Issue of the President and Principal's Pen! We have exciting and important information to share with you. We pray this new year is filled with many happy memories for you and your beautiful children!



Seek Jesus in Others

As begin anew, “Seek Jesus in Other” is our focus for the new year. The creation story teaches us that God did not intend for us to live in isolation, but more importantly, we are made for each other. “Seeking Jesus in Others” reminds us to find the good in one another and to validate each person’s dignity. By focusing on our relationships with one another, we will continue to create a sense of belongingness for all community members to mirror our hallmarks of Faith, Excellence, Service, and Community. We look forward to welcoming 400 families and the 575 children they have entrusted to our care and the many opportunities we will find this year to “Seek Jesus in Others.”

In preparation for our new year, we welcome you to take a moment or two to research Blessed Carlo Acutis, who inspired this year's focus on "Seek Jesus in Others". This young man’s story and life are a great example and a wonderful reminder that there are future saints among us each and every day.



Welcome Faculty



We are happy to announce and welcome the new Mater Dei Catholic School Faculty and share some grade changes for the 2023 – 2024 school year.

Mrs. Sally Lister

It is with great joy that we announce that Mrs. Sally Lister will rejoin the MD faculty for the 2023-2024 school year. Sally is excited to return to Mater Dei as an eighth grade homeroom teacher. Mrs. Lister will be working with Mrs. Chrissy Kehan and the new seventh and eighth grade team to share the mission and traditions of Mater Dei Catholic School. We are grateful to Sally for returning to Mater Dei to see us through this transition.

Mr. Nicholas Simon

Mr. Nick Simon is coming on board as our seventh-grade homeroom teacher. Mr. Simon is a graduate of Gwynedd Mercy University. He is an enthusiastic young man who will be a great role model to our students.

Mrs. Emily Nicolo

We welcome Emily Nicolo to Mater Dei. Mrs. Nicolo will be a seventh-grade homeroom teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Education in Reading. Emily is a seasoned educator with much experience to bring to Mater Dei.

Miss Madison Pierson

Madison Pierson is our new art teacher. Miss Pierson is a graduate of Penn State University. Madison is committed to sharing her love of art. Madison comes with several years of experience as an elementary school teacher.

Mrs. Michelle Malcolm

Welcome back to Michelle Malcolm. Michelle is a graduate of La Salle University. After years in the classroom as a Pre-K Assistant, Mrs. Malcolm will be our new Pre-K 4 teacher. We are so happy Michelle will return as a Mater Dei faculty member. Michelle is excited about her new venture as a full-time classroom teacher.

Mrs. Andrea Hertlein

Andrea Hertlein will join the Pre-K Team. Andrea will teach Pre-K 3. Mrs. Hertlein is a graduate of Temple University. She has years of experience in various teaching capacities, including nine years as a Pre-K teacher. Andrea has a great love of learning and watching the growth of her young students.

We extend a warm and gracious welcome to all our new faculty members!

With Sincere Gratitude

Thank you to the faculty members who are graciously moving to different grade levels to meet the needs of Mater Dei Catholic School.

Mrs. Chrissy Kehan ~ Grade 8

Mrs. Jenn Martin ~ Grade 6

Miss Julia Giorgio ~ Grade 5

Mrs. Amanda Sitoski ~ Grade 2

Miss Emily Benincasa ~ Pre-K 4

Welcome Back

Welcome back to Patti Mooney, who will be with us while Katie Vaccarelli cares for her baby girl, Johanna.

What's New

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Here's a list of new educational equipment and other upgrades to Mater Dei Catholic School!

Junior High 7th and 8th Grade:

- New flooring in the area outside Grade 7 and Grade 8
- Flooring on the stairs
- New doors leading into Little Flower
- Water Bottle Filler Station
- New chairs and furniture for Grade 7 and Grade 8

Library and Honors Math Classroom

- A new wall separating the Library and the new Honors Math Classroom
- New shelving, flexible seating options, and additional furniture to enhance the Library
- Grand Opening of the Library Space ~ October 2023

New PreK 4 Classroom

- Due to the expansion of the MD PreK Program, the PREP Office moved to the Parish Center.
- The PREP Office is renovated to accommodate a new PreK classroom.

Laminate Flooring in 6A

New chairs for Grade 5 and Grade 6

New iPads for Grade 4

New Activity Tables for PreK 3

Cafeteria and Gym

Due to the generosity of our students' fundraising efforts through dress-down days, bake sales and a gift from the class of 2023, we were able to purchase a beautiful crucifix with Jesus and Mary by His side for the gym. In addition, we purchased a new warming table for the cafeteria.



Summer Reading and Stationary Lists



The [Summer Reading Assignments](#) for Kindergarten through Grade 8 students can be found on our website. If you would like to share any pictures of your child completing Summer Reading, please email sharenews@materdeicatholic.com

All [Stationery Lists for PreK through Grade 8](#) can be found on the website. Families are encouraged to bring supplies to the Open House on September 6th to drop off in classrooms.

Welcome Postcards



The Mater Dei Catholic Faculty will mail a postcard to all students with their room assignments on **Wednesday, August 30th**. Be sure to check your mailboxes!



Schedule



Wednesday, September 6th

Open House Pre-K 3 through Grade 8

Families and students are welcome to visit classrooms, meet your child/children's new teachers, and bring all school supplies during either session of our Open House. Please park in the Church parking lot and walk over to the school. Please enter the building using Doors C10, C11, the Main Entrance (Front of School), or the ramp door off the gym C8. Special teachers will greet families at the doors and direct families to the classrooms.

- **9:00 AM – 10:30 AM** **Open House ~ First Session**
- **1:00 PM – 2:30 PM** **Open House ~ Second Session**

Wednesday, September 6th

- Pre-K and Kindergarten Back to School Night @ 6:30 PM
- Please enter the building through the ramp door C8 off the gym
- This event is for parents only, and babysitting will not be available.

Thursday, September 7th

- Opening Day for Students in K to 8 Full Day
- Pre-K will not have classes.

Friday, September 8th

- Pre-K Classes begin.
- Kindergarten through Grade 8 will have a Full Day of school.
- Birthday of the Blessed Mother 11:00 Mass for Grades 1 through 8

Monday, September 11th

- AM and PM CARES begins
- School Pictures for all PreK through Grade 8 Students
- All students in grades 1 through 8 should be in summer uniform (*no gym uniforms*)

Tuesday, September 12th

- Back to School Night Grades 1 to 8 (Parents only)
- Please enter the building using Doors C10, C11, the Main Entrance (Front of the School), or the C8 ramp door off the gym. Special teachers will greet families at the doors and direct families to the classrooms.

[The full Tentative 2023 -2024 Mater Dei Catholic School calendar is posted on the website HERE.](#)



School Hours

Morning Schedule for Arrival

Arrival: 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Homeroom: 8:00 AM – 8:40 AM

Morning Prayer: 8:40 AM

Classes Begin: 8:45 AM

Afternoon Schedule for Dismissal

PreK 3 and 4: 3:00 PM

Car Riders and Walkers: 3:15 PM

Bus Riders: 3:20 PM

PreK Arrival and Dismissal Procedures



NEW FOR 2023-2024

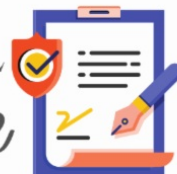
Please Note: New PreK 3 and 4 Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Due to the addition of two PreK classes, the arrival and dismissal procedures for PreK students will be as follows:

Arrival and Dismissal:

- PreK 3 students will use the front driveway. Parents will enter the property off Lansdale Avenue and circle around to the Main Entrance. Faculty and staff will escort the children to their classrooms.
- PreK 4 students will enter the property off Third Street. Parents will drive through the schoolyard in single file and follow the direction of Mater Dei staff. Faculty and staff will escort the children to their classrooms.

MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL Parent and Student Handbook



Matters will be posted on the MD website and emailed to families on **August 21, 2023**. The ***Mater Dei Handbook*** contains information on the academic life of the school as well as policies and procedures. ***Mater Dei Matters*** provides information regarding the most frequently asked questions about all that "matters" at Mater Dei so families can quickly access day-to-day information about our school. After reading the Mater Dei Handbook, all families are asked to sign the **Handbook and Authorizations Agreement Form on the Mater Dei website** by Thursday, **August 31, 2023**.



MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL *Family Emergency Form*

You will find the 2023-2024 [*Family Emergency Form*](#) on the MD website. We ask each family to complete the *Family Emergency Form* by **August 31, 2023**.

Please note: Students will not be able to begin the school year unless the Family Emergency Form is on file in the office for safety purposes.

MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL *Dress Code*



Uniform Code for 2023-2024 School Year (Grades PreK – 8)

(The dress code is outlined in detail in Mater Dei Matters and the Mater Dei Handbook on the school website.)

FlynnO'Hara is the uniform supplier for Grades K to 8. You may order them online, by phone, or by visiting the store. The closest store is:

FlynnO'Hara
Springhouse Plaza
901 North Bethlehem Pike
Springhouse, PA 19477 (215)-793-9436
www.flynnohara.com

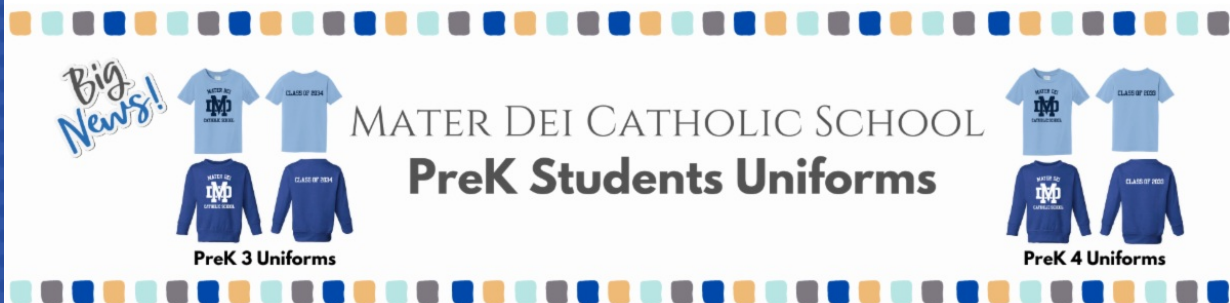
Personal appearance is important, and the students and their parents share this responsibility. Mater Dei Catholic School's dress code is established, so

students take pride in themselves and their school.

All Students

Hair Regulations for all students in Pre-K through Grade 8:

- Hair should be neat, clean, and trimmed.
- Boys' hair needs to be in a traditional cut, kept to the top of the neck, above the collar, off the ears, and from mid-forehead to above the eyebrows. Fad or extreme hairstyles, including ponytails and buns, are not permitted.
- Girls' hair must be off their faces. A simple bow or headband is acceptable.
- All hair should be a natural color.



PreK 3 and PreK 4 Uniform – New for 2023-2024

The Mater Dei Class of 2033 and Class of 2034 will wear a light blue t-shirt and a navy blue sweatshirt with either navy blue shorts, navy blue skorts, navy blue sweatpants, or navy blue leggings. Mater Dei Catholic School will provide two t-shirts for all students registered in Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4. Parents are welcome to purchase navy blue shorts, skorts, leggings, and sweatpants wherever you shop. Families will have the option to purchase the sweatshirt and additional t-shirts through school in September. Please be sure to look for the details for ordering the sweatshirt and additional t-shirts in the very near future. We are looking forward to this new look for our youngest MD students.



Mater Dei Catholic sponsors a before and after-school program. The CARES program hours are listed below:

AM CARES: 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM

PM CARES: 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM

The CARES information is located on the Mater Dei website. Consult the website for registration information, the monthly calendar, and the CARES Handbook.

CARES calendar and registration will be available **Monday, August 21, 2023.**

CARES will begin on **Monday, September 11, 2023.**



North Penn Non-Public School Families

North Penn School District will provide bussing information through the Infinite Campus portal for the 2023-2024 School Year and beyond. https://www.npenn.org/for_families/infinite_campus. All bussing information will be available **by August 21, 2023**, to view on Infinite Campus. If you have any questions regarding accessing the Infinite Campus portal, please contact npfamilytech@npenn.org.



MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL ***Summer Vibes Camp***

Many thanks to the Camp Directors, Senior Counselors, Junior Counselors, Counselors-In-Training, and Campers who participated in our third annual ***Summer Vibes***. We have received rave reviews from parents and campers alike. Once we gather information from a ***Summer Vibes*** survey, we will share the result with the school community. We are looking forward to ***Summer Vibes Camp 2024!***



MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Job Opportunities

The following job opportunities are available at Mater Dei:

- One Aide position for Pre-K on Tuesday and Thursday
- Substitute teacher positions for PreK and Kindergarten through Grade

If you would like more information please contact Diane E. McCaughan at dmccaughan@materdeicatholic.com



Thank you for your commitment to Mater Dei Catholic School! We are grateful to you for partnering with us in the faith formation of your children. We look forward to greeting your beautiful children in a few short weeks. May God bless you and your family as you enjoy the last days of summer.

With sincere gratitude,

Miss Diane E. McCaughan
President

Miss Elizabeth A. Waltrich
Principal

Sent by info@materdeicatholic.com powered by



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