

THE MAGAZINE OF SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL

Volume 6, Issue 1

CORDE LEONIS

—Proverbs 30:30

Fall 2023



For the Love of Our Kids

SMS Donors Make the Difference

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CLASS UPDATES

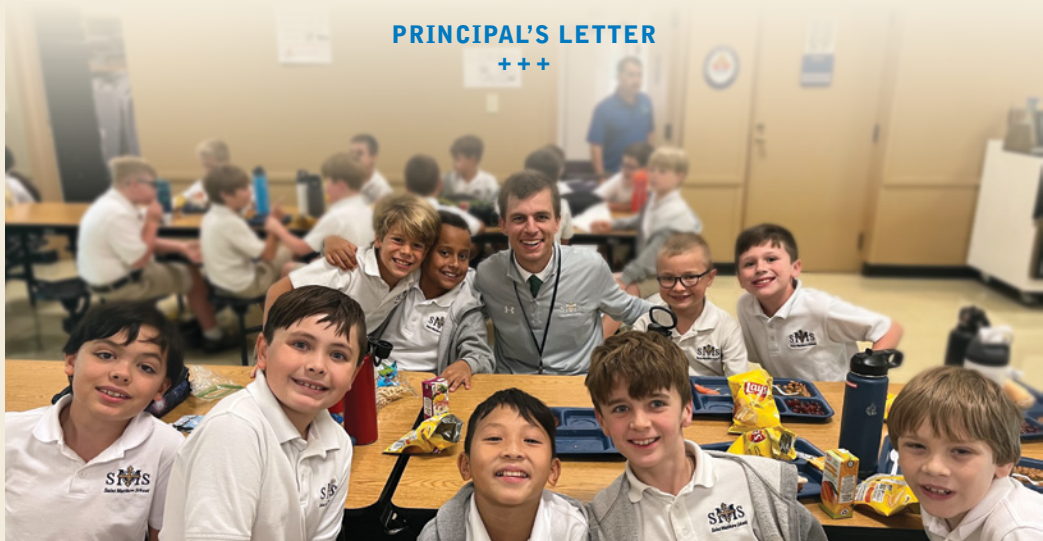
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WELCOME NEW FACULTY

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PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

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Dear Saint Matthew Community,

Change. The one word which can strike fear in even the most fearless of people. As I prepared to arrive on the campus at Saint Matthew, the word change was ringing in my ears for days. I was fearful of the change in my life. What if the school year does not go well with the new change at Saint Matthew? Who will welcome me into this community? Will this be a good change or a difficult change? When I arrived on campus, I said a prayer and turned to my faith to help me prepare for this new change in my life. I can say, without a doubt, the Saint Matthew community washed away any fear I had of this new change. The welcome and acceptance I felt on the campus was immediate, and the community welcomed me with open arms. From the first day in the office, to the first day of school, I knew I was where the Lord wanted me. Saint Matthew School has gone through many changes over the years, and even made it to the other side of a global pandemic. Each change started with ideas, which led to discussions, debates, and decisions. To think back, the school changed from one classroom per grade to two, teachers changed from one grade to another, and a more recent change of offering full-service lunch in the cafeteria every day. Ultimately, the changes made over the years were to improve the school and provide this amazing community with the opportunities for growth and success. I believe it goes without saying that Saint Matthew has seen its share of change this school year. We have excellent new teachers, who are committed to providing the students with the best education possible. After a short hiatus, the forensics team has been brought back and is competing against other diocesan teams. As mentioned earlier, we have an excellent

cafeteria staff who offer multiple options for lunch on a daily basis. We made a change to security personnel on campus in order to provide a more secure learning environment. Throughout the rest of the year, we will continue to make positive changes for the faculty and staff, students, and families in this community.

Change doesn't happen overnight, nor does it happen without the help of others. Each change at Saint Matthew School would not have been possible without those who have donated to the school, either by giving their time or a monetary donation. As a product of Catholic education, I have felt the impact of giving firsthand. The mentors I had throughout my time in Catholic education always gave back, and I knew I wanted to lead others and have the same positive impact. I am appreciative of all of those who have given back to this community, and I will never be able to say thanks enough for what you have given to this special place.

As I sign off on my first letter of the school magazine, I must say I am incredibly overwhelmed by the love and support you have given me. I am so proud to be a member of this community, and I will continue to dedicate myself to ensuring this is a place that you are overwhelmingly proud to call your home. I have said it once and I will say it again, I did not attend Saint Matthew, but I wish I had! I look forward to our future together, and from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. Anthony Simpson

Anthony Simpson



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www.youtube.com/channel/UC8YAwwaoSFTcozQuNsWfJwQ/videos

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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

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stmatthewtn.org/school

THE SAINT MATTHEW
SCHOOL MISSION

Educating children as
we pass on the traditions
and teachings of the
Catholic faith.

Our magazine name,
Corde Leonis means
"Heart of a Lion." Proverbs 30:30 is a bible verse that describes our community and our beloved mascot, "the lion, the bravest of beasts, he will draw back from nothing"

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COVER STORY

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Donors: Our Superheroes



This edition of the *Corde Leonis* focuses on our donors and the many ways they support Saint Matthew School. From the Annual Fund, to Mane Event, Trivia Night, Tuition Assistance & Endowment, every gift matters and supports our school.

OUR HERO, THE SMS ANNUAL FUND

Unexpected turn of events? Sudden need? What does a school do when needs arise that are above and beyond what tuition covers? The Saint Matthew School Annual Fund puts on a superhero cape and contributes to the cause. Think about Spiderman or Batman...the Annual Fund is there and shows up when needed.

Last spring, on a beautiful March day, an unthinkable event happened in our own backyard at The Covenant School in Nashville. Within a week, we hired a security company to patrol our campus and school buildings and added security enhancements. That unexpected cost was covered by our Annual Fund.

In March of 2020, fears were mounting as Covid outbreaks were spreading throughout the U.S. We dismissed our students a day early for Spring Break as our administration, faculty, and Diocese formulated a plan to handle learning and school at the onset of the Covid pandemic. Ultimately, school was canceled for the remainder of the school year. How do we NOT allow our students to fall behind in academics if they can't attend classes? The SMS Annual Fund swooped in to save the day and covered the expenses of remote learning, including zoom

subscriptions, tripods for filming, additional digital platforms and more.

Fortunately, in 2019, the Annual Fund provided the funds to update our Learning Management System (LMS). This system provides technological unity with attendance, grade books, family/ student portals and admissions. This software solution became instrumental in the transition to distance learning the next year. With our new LMS, updated hardware and software, a proactive directive from administration to our faculty, and a strong technical support team, Saint Matthew school was well-prepared at the onset of COVID.

The Annual Fund has also helped with planned enhancements such as 1:1 technology, 3-D printers and other technology advancements. In 2016, iPads were rolled out to every middle school student. By 2018, the Annual Fund helped with the initial purchase of 1:1 technology for all students in 3rd - 8th grade and classroom technology sets for the lower grades to use when needed. These purchases were instrumental in the rigorous road to becoming an Apple Distinguished School in 2021, making Saint Matthew School (then) 1 of only 703 schools in 37 countries to hold this prestigious title.

The Annual Fund has also been there for not so glamorous needs such as replacing the boiler in the concession kitchen, which stopped working 10 days before school started this year. Due to having catering in-house, hot water in the concession stand for cooking and sanitizing was a necessity. We also purchased a new floor machine and cordless vacuums for the custodial team. Both cut down the time and labor it takes to vacuum and sanitize the lunchroom floor at the end of every day or strip and wax the floors (which we do during school breaks). The Annual Fund also paid for major repairs for the basketball goals, including renting a scissor lift.

Safety and security for our students is our greatest priority, and we are grateful for our donors, including 100% faculty participation. Whether our Annual Fund is protecting Gotham City like Batman or providing the use of unparalleled technology in the superhero world like Iron Man, we feel prepared and ready for things that come our way with the added security of the Annual Fund. To donate, visit <https://www.stmatthewtn.org/school/support/>.

PLANNED GIVING

Gifts made as part of your overall estate plan, which benefit you now and SMS later, are known as "Planned Gifts." Planned giving allows you to provide future support for the areas and programs at Saint Matthew School that are of most interest to you and often allow you to make a larger gift than you might have thought possible.

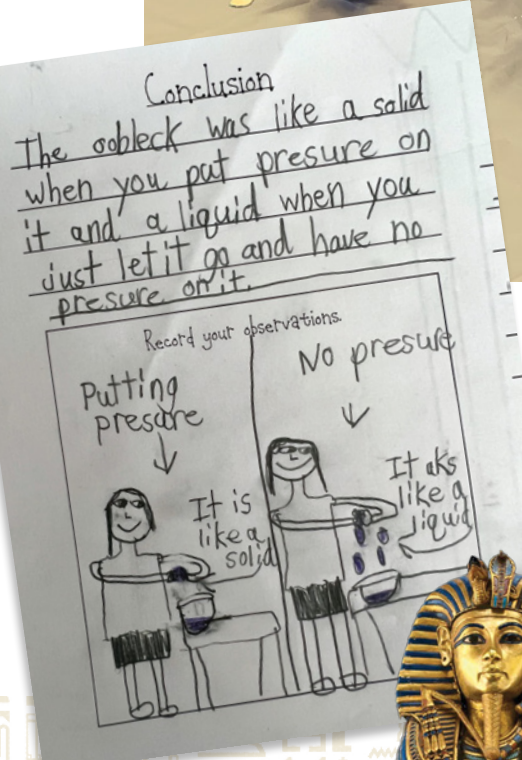
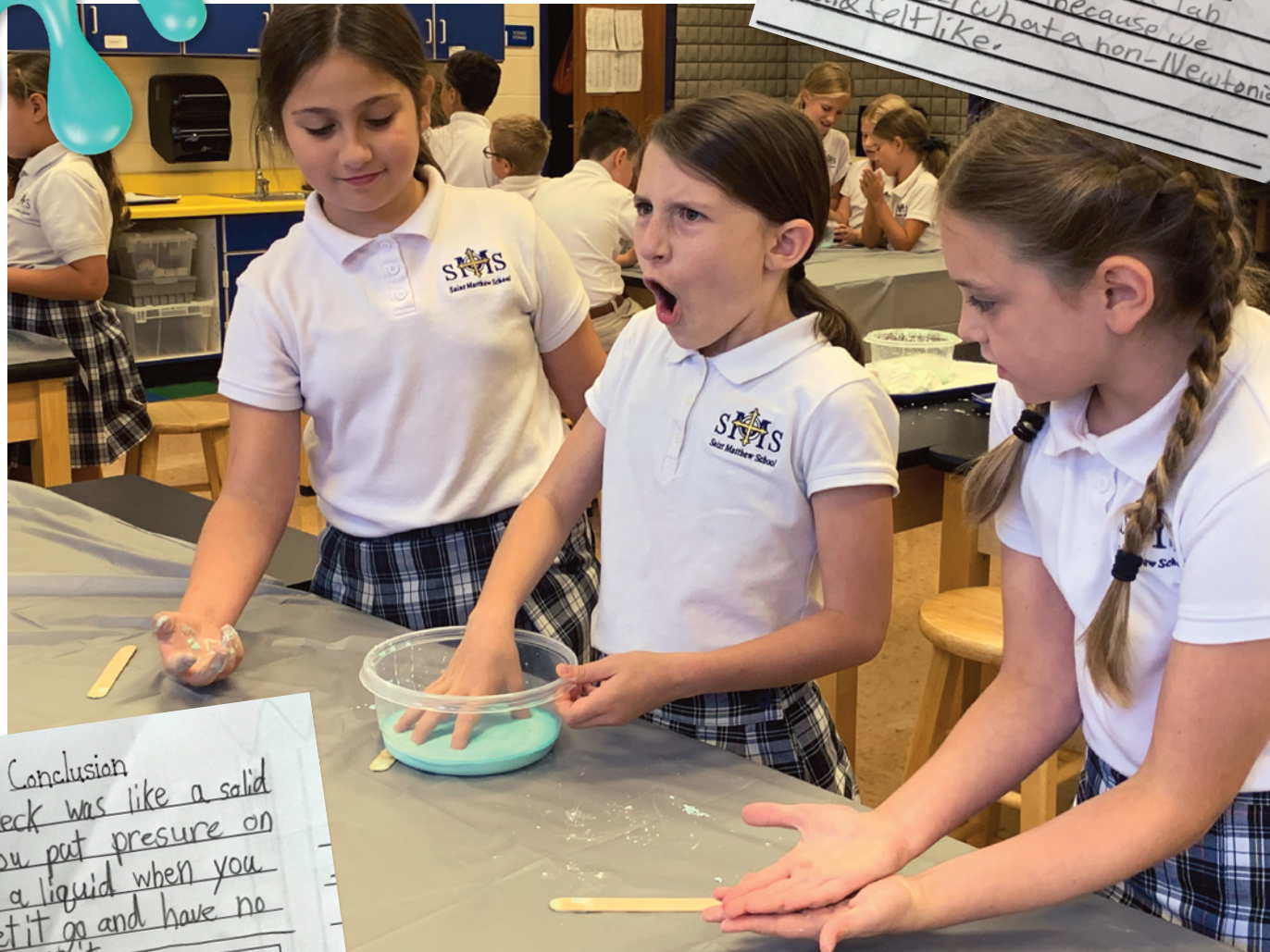
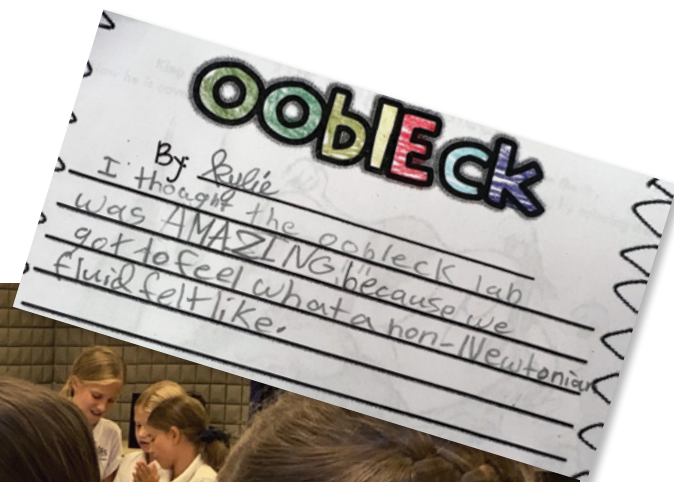
BEQUESTS

A bequest, or gift given through a will, is a simple and effective way to continue your contribution to SMS beyond your lifetime. You may make a gift to Saint Matthew School by designating SMS as a beneficiary in your will. Bequests permit donors to commit assets after their lifetimes while retaining the property during their lives. Bequests can allow for significantly larger gifts and can reduce estate taxes. A bequest can be made for a specified amount or as a percentage of the estate. Bequests can be unrestricted or used to establish operating or endowed funds to accomplish specific goals. Bequests of any size will help to secure the strength of the school for future generations.

To learn more about giving through your will, please contact Lori Bellante at LBellante@stmatthewtn.org



CLASS UPDATES
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4TH GRADE - IS IT SOLID OR IS IT LIQUID?

The 4th grade science lab made Oobleck during their study on matter. In their lab report, the students learned that Oobleck is a non-Newtonian fluid because it has properties of being solid (with pressure) and a liquid (no pressure). "I like the lab because she (Mrs. Tons) made us make it in a ball and open it, and the Oobleck was oozing out of my hand." — A. Moon "I thought the Oobleck lab was amazing because we got to feel what a non-Newtonian fluid felt like." — K. Matthews

3RD GRADE TRAVELS TO EGYPT!

In art class, the students worked as a group to create a life-sized sarcophagi, while learning about the aesthetics and themes of Ancient Egypt. They also studied architecture, tombs, sculptures, hieroglyphics and overall stylistic tendencies including hierarchical scale, repetition, balance and order. Students even learned King Tut's real name, Tutankhamun, and about the Egyptians' obsession with the afterlife.



7TH & 8TH GRADES

In September, the 7th and 8th grade students had the opportunity to visit the Nashville Children's Theatre to see the play, *Strong Inside*. Based on the life of local Nashvillian, Perry Wallace, the play portrayed his life as the first African-American to play basketball in the SEC. After the show, the students enjoyed lunch at the Nashville Farmers Market, finishing the day with a stroll around the Bicentennial Mall.



PRE-K

Our Pre-K pumpkins celebrated Halloween on campus all day! We got to see their wonderful Halloween costumes as they paraded around the school trick-or-treating. They celebrated in their classrooms with a special Halloween lunch, Halloween games and crafts, and then took a hay ride with Woody from Toy Story (aka Dr. Simpson)! Our Pre-K friends ended their day with a visit to our very own Saint Matthew pumpkin patch where they all searched for that perfect pumpkin to take home. It was a fantastic day! We are so happy to have our littlest lions on campus with us to celebrate these special occasions!



1ST GRADE - BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

To celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, Father Raines visited Mrs. Proctor's classroom to give our 1st grade animals a special blessing. "Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land."



FALL ATHLETICS & CLUBS
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CROSS COUNTRY

*“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”
—Hebrews 12:1*

The Cross Country team lived out their motto: if you work hard, good things happen. The program had a fantastic year with over 150 students participating from K-8th grade. The varsity teams competed in the HVAC (private schools) and DAC (Diocesan schools) leagues. For the first time since 2019, both the boys’ and girls’ varsity teams won the DAC championship! The girls’ team placed 2nd in the HVAC, while the boys’ team earned 3rd place. At the Mid-State Regionals, the girls team took home the championship and the boys finished 2nd. The 3rd to 5th grade boys and girls teams also competed in the postseason. Both teams took home first place at the Elementary Mid-State Regionals. All four teams finished their season with a strong performance at the State Championship in Memphis.



VOLLEYBALL

Serve, set, spike, block! The 2023 Varsity Volleyball Team had a very successful season. This year, the Lady Lions made it back to the championship. The girls showed great leadership and determination throughout the season. Led by 8th graders, Sarah Larkin and Kate Mascari, who received All-League honors, the Lions finished in second place in the Diocesan League and the Diocesan Tournament, finishing with a 20-4 record. The season also included an alumni game in October to reconnect with former Saint Matthew volleyball players. We are so proud of our Lady Lions!



FLAG FOOTBALL

Congratulations to our 7th/8th grade flag football team who concluded their season undefeated and are the DAC champions! Flag football is relatively new to SMS, launching in spring (1st - 4th grade) and fall (5th - 8th grade) of 2022. This new diocesan sport opened up opportunities for younger players starting in 1st grade to compete for their school. Prior to that, cross country was the only school sport eligible for younger athletes. “The addition of flag football has been great for SMS! 1) Kids at a younger age can participate. 2) Kids of all sizes and athletic ability can thrive in flag football. 3) You can represent your school and play with your classmates. 4) It allows 1st - 3rd graders to learn football lingo, how and where to line up, the names and responsibilities of positions, etc.,” says SMS athletic director, Josh Edmondson.



MODEL UN CONFERENCE

Our Model UN club members attended the TNCEE Middle School Model UN Conference in Murfreesboro, TN in November. Our SMS delegates represented a country of their choice at the event. Our students wrote resolutions for the countries of Togo, Bahamas, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Botswana. The delegates shared their bills with fellow middle school students from different parts of Middle Tennessee.

DRAMA CLUB

There are seventeen students in 5th, 6th and 7th grade in the SMS Drama Club. Each week students work on theater skills such as memorization, communication, taking direction, body and voice control and, most importantly, kindness and teamwork. In addition, students are working on writing an original play which they will present in early spring.

FORENSICS CLUB

Forensics club is back! Forensics is a competitive program for 5th - 8th graders divided into fourteen categories of public speaking. Our SMS team kicked off the season in October, by winning 5 medals at tournaments held at Pope Prep and the Catholic Pastoral Center. These students will continue competing through March at other diocesan schools. This program offers students the opportunity to gain confidence in public speaking, while developing an appreciation for literature, drama, poetry and historic speeches. These skills will serve students who wish to pursue theater, debate, or Youth in Government. We hope to build the program in the coming years, and send SMS students forth with the wonderful skill set they will develop in Forensics!

CHESS TOURNAMENT - (DEC. 2)

Seven SMS students took part in the Middle Tennessee Scholastic Chess Championship. Our team finished 4th in the high school section but just a half a point away from 1st place. Alex Cavolo, Noah Donchez and Kirby Hollister all earned Top 20 medals.



TRIVIA NIGHT

In 2007, the Saint Matthew School Booster Club (SMSABC) founded its annual Trivia Night fundraiser. This wildly popular event of teams attempting to outthink their opponents, while dressed up in creative costumes, at tables decorated in the team’s theme, has raised money to help Saint Matthew athletics stay at the top of their game. Here are just a few of the items this event has helped fund:

- New scoreboards and banners
- New benches for soccer and flag football
- White Out jerseys for players
- White Out towels for all SMS students
- Cross country team transportation to state
- Gator and ongoing maintenance for gator
- New Under Armour apparel
- Team events

THANK YOU DONORS!
+++

Annual Fund

The 2023-24 Annual Fund is underway! Our goal this year is \$135,000 and we need your support to reach this goal! The Annual Fund provides experiences for our students beyond what tuition alone can provide. Donations to the Annual Fund are 100% tax deductible, and the donation ‘year’ runs through 6/30/24.

Giving levels shown include donations across ALL funds (including Annual Fund, Tuition Assistance, the Endowment Fund, School Operations and individual funds like athletics, music, and library.) Sponsorships for Mane Event, Fun Run and Trivia Night are shown to the far side of this section. Thank you to all our donors—we are so grateful for your support!

ANNUAL FUND GIVING LEVELS

>\$10,000	Saint Matthew Society
\$5,000-\$9,999	Father Lu Society
\$1,000 - \$4,999	2001 Founders Circle
\$500 - \$999	Pride Circle
\$250 - \$499	Sneed Road Circle
\$100 - \$249	Friends of SMS Circle
Up to \$99	Blue & White Circle

Scan QR code to see our fabulous faculty in their world premiere video! #ALLIN



To donate to the Annual Fund, visit www.stmatthewtn.org/school/ and click the SUPPORT option on the left. On the Give page you can donate through credit card or your existing mobile payment service/digital wallet account.



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TRIVIA NIGHT 2024

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Collins Orthodontics



CATHOLIC IDENTITY

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THE 11 DAYS OF KINDNESS/ PAY IT FORWARD

The beautiful thing about a Catholic school is that when there is an opportunity to “serve others” and “model Christ,” the notion is embraced. It’s even better when the whole school collaborates with one purpose—kindness. Each student performed at least one random act of kindness between Sept. 1-11 (11 Days of Kindness) and documented this act on a star. All the stars were then displayed in a flag pattern in the school hallway. We are proud to participate in the “Pay it Forward 9/11” nonprofit’s initiative to spread kindness in honor of the tragedies of Sept. 11, 2001.



8TH GRADE - ROOM IN THE INN

Many past and present SMS 8th grade students would attest to hosting Room in the Inn as an incredibly impactful experience. The students set up and cook a hot meal for the homeless men who are our guests for the evening. They pray and eat together and share conversation. Our students are always moved by the quality time listening and interacting with our guests.



“KINDNESS ROCKS”

Each student (Pre-K - 8th grade) painted a rock for the “Kindness Rocks” project. Before trading them with fellow classmates, students displayed a “Kindness Rocks” garden in the school lobby. In conjunction with Pay it Forward, students could also leave the rocks around our community for others to find and read their inspirational messages. These rocks helped the students “pay it forward” with words of kindness, encouragement and love. “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast the stone across the waters and make many ripples.”—Mother Teresa

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CORDE LEONIS FALL 2023



FEAST OF SAINT MATTHEW

On September 21, Saint Matthew school received a special gift in the form of a procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Raines visited all classrooms throughout school as a part of our feast day celebration. When the monstrance arrived at their room, students knelt and prayed for the intercession of Saint Matthew, patron saint of our community.



RETREATS FOR 6TH & 7TH GRADE

The 6th & 7th grades both visited Camp Marymount this fall and enjoyed awesome, fun-filled retreats. Students tackled challenging activities on the Suntrails obstacle course, a unique outdoor education program that provides team building. Activities included challenges such as coming up with strategies to solve problems on the ropes course which requires physical balance, constructive problem-solving and clear communication. These exercises help students achieve personal growth, self-reliance, promote cooperation, instill confidence and improve communication skills.

9
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WWW.STMATTHEWTON.ORG/SCHOOL

SNEEDVILLE MISSION TRIP

Eighth grade volunteers set out to Hancock County, the poorest county in our state, to serve others. We had four groups working on four different projects. One group replaced a door on a home so it could be more airtight for cold weather. A second group removed debris from a creek. A third used straw to cover a new water line for a resident. They also brought her family food and other necessities. This group also helped a family add supports and build a set of steps for a new shed that the family plans to turn into a living space. They even made time to play with the children in the family.

The final group served a woman, who goes by the name “Nana,” by insulating her household pipes and spending time with Nana talking about her life. The students had to dig around the piping, secure the insulation, and repack the dirt around the pipes. “Afterwards, our group felt very accomplished and excited to have helped someone who could not do the work herself. Nana was very appreciative of our work, even moved to tears,” says Dr. Simpson. The students also were able to interact with many animals at Nana’s, such as kittens, dogs, goats, and pigs. “This was my fourth trip to Sneedville. I am always amazed and humbled by how content the people are that we help. They have so little but never complain or ask for much,” says Kelly Paulus, SMS 4th/5th grade teacher.



FRASSATI PROGRAM

Our goal for the Frassati program here at Saint Matthew is to encourage our students to have empathy, respond with compassion, develop healthy communication skills, know how to effectively resolve conflict and assertively advocate for themselves and those around them. We also want our students to share the love of Jesus in our school and community. On Fridays, all SMS students have a morning meeting to discuss, brainstorm, learn, and practice ways to implement the goals of this program.

WELCOME!

NEW FACULTY
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We welcome **Grace Wright** as the new school secretary. A graduate of MTSU with a degree in Organizational Communication, she worked in commercial real estate and then briefly worked with a landscape architect before making her way to SMS. Grace enjoys time with her family, cooking and watching HGTV. She also enjoys reading to her 2 kids, Keith (2 ½) and Isabella (9 mos.). “I’m a sucker for anything with a heartfelt message, so I love movies like *Wonder* and *The Blind Side*. I also love true story thrillers like *Captain Phillips*.” Grace is a great addition to the school office with her kind, loving nature and exceptional organizational skills. Favorite sports team: Titans



Mrs. Kerry Flanagan is new to SMS, but not to Catholic education. She taught at St. Bernard Academy for 13 years and prior to that was an aide in Kindergarten at St. Edward School. Mrs. Flanagan teaches middle school literature and religion. She joins SMS with

family ties as her daughter, Miss Darby Flanagan, also teaches in middle school. “I enjoy the collaborative nature of teaching as well as the feeling/hope that I’m contributing to the lives of kiddos,” says Flanagan. She is an avid reader, including the books she teaches in middle school like *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The War that Saved My Life*, *The Giver*, and too many others to mention. “My proudest achievements include raising my children to be kind, loving humans! Also, on the list are completing 6 half-marathons, running a 3-day For The Cure (60-mile) event, and earning my Masters Degree at 40 years old.” She loves reading, cooking, traveling and working out.



There’s a lot going on in **Mrs. Sue Grunwald’s** middle school science classes. The onion skin lab, Newton’s balloon rocket, gummy bear lab, and the motion labs are some of her favorites. She previously taught middle school science at Mill Creek Middle School in Williamson County, but embraced the opportunity to teach and be a part of the same school her grandson attends. “Having come from a public school, I love having religion as part of the school day. I love the sense of community at SMS. The students are also so caring and genuine,” says Grunwald. She is a TN Titans and Volunteers football fan and plays tennis in her spare time.

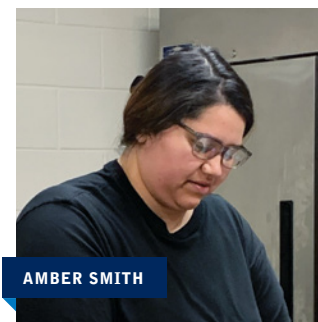


“Every day is a new adventure (when teaching 3rd grade)”, says **Mrs. Kari Commare**. “I love the challenges, successes, hard work, and the pride as you see a student get the lightbulb moment.” Mrs. Commare taught 18 years at Fairview Elementary School in Mt. Prospect, IL, before moving to Tennessee. She has 2 children who attend SMS, Emma (5th) and Jack (Kindergarten). Her favorite subject to teach is “all of them!” She loves baseball, pizza and playing board games like Scrabble.



We welcome **Mr. Max Dvorin** as our new band director. He has been teaching private music lessons since he was in high school. “Music has always been a part of my life. My dad was a professional musician and teacher. I am also a freelance musician and recently had the opportunity to do *9 to 5* at TPAC and at the Grand Ole Opry,” says Dvorin. “My favorite part about teaching children is the moment I can see the student have a spark in their eye figuring

out a new rhythm or note.” He hopes his students grow a love for music as well as gain confidence in music and life. If you don’t find Mr. Dvorin conducting the band or performing somewhere, you might find him umpiring baseball games.



We have some new faces in the SMS cafeteria, **Mo Mrzena** and her assistant, **Amber Smith**. Mo and Amber, part of St. Charles Catering, prepare daily hot meals for our students. Mo has worked in food service for the last 12 years with the last year in the cafeteria at St. Edward School. We are excited to have Mo and Amber here, and they are delighted to serve our students a variety of delicious, nutritious meals. Mo finds the most rewarding part “when I know I’ve made something the students like, when I know they enjoyed what I made for them.”



Eric Rafferty, from Serva Security, is now a familiar face on campus as our new security officer. He loves working at a school and the opportunity to interact with students, staff, parents and the other guests that visit Saint Matthew. “The students have reacted to me really well. Now students are coming up to me asking questions, telling me jokes and giving me high fives and knuckles,” says Rafferty. “I knew from a young age that helping and protecting others is my purpose in this life.” After spending seven years serving in the United States Marine Corps, he is continuing his passion for helping and protecting others as our school security officer. “I am truly blessed and honored to be a part of this amazing community,” says Rafferty, and our community feels the same about him!



Nashville native **Mrs. Nicole Edmondson McCoy** joins our Pre-K team. (Yes, she is a cousin of Coach Josh!) The parent of three current SMS students (Liv - 6th, Blair - 3rd, and

“NEW FRIENDS ARE LIKE NEW ADVENTURES.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT LESSONS THEY WILL TEACH YOU.”

— Unknown

Bennett - 1st), Nicole has jumped right in sharing her passion for creative arts and literacy. “I love the moment I see that spark of creativity light up when a child learns something new - every single time it’s exciting! The opportunity to teach a child how to connect and explore through creative writing and illustration, whether it’s the character of a book or an original idea they are developing in the depths of their imagination, expressing creative flow is by far my favorite,” says McCoy. She plans to go back to school to get her master’s degree in elementary education. Fun facts about Nicole are that she loves reading, gardening, weightlifting and cheering for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Becca Daughdrill has joined our Pre-K team for the first half of the year. She is a mother of twin girls, Camille and Landon. Mrs. Daughdrill has her masters in education and has taught Pre-K, 3rd, 4th & 5th grades in 3 different states - TN, AL & TX. She loves teaching because “it is rewarding to watch students grow and learn. Each day is always an adventure and working with the littles always keeps me laughing.” She loves reading and enjoys sharing stories with students and hopes they fall in love with reading, like she has. With a new baby arriving soon, her substitute teacher will be Coach Edmondson’s mom for the remainder of the school year.

A BRIEF INTERVIEW

We welcomed our new principal, Dr. Anthony Simpson in the last edition of the *Corde Leonis*. Now that he’s been here for a semester, we did a follow up interview...



WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR FAVORITE SMS TRADITIONS SO FAR?

I really enjoyed the trip to Sneedville to have an opportunity for service. I did not realize how large Feed the Staff would be, but I have thoroughly enjoyed each one. I am truly looking forward to the White Out game.

WHAT'S YOUR MOST SURPRISING THING ABOUT SMS?

Although the school is still fairly new, how rich the tradition of excellence is at SMS.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST IN SPRING?

Warm weather, and maybe a track team! No promises yet, but we are trying!

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR FAVORITE LUNCH HERE?

Taco/Nacho Day.

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR FAVORITE DAD JOKE.

When does a joke become a dad joke? When it becomes apparent.

WERE YOU EVER SENT TO THE PRINCIPAL AS A KID?

Yes, I believe for both good and bad reasons.

FUNNIEST STUDENT MOMENT SO FAR.

Weekly updates from Braeden Stack regarding fantasy football.



GRAYSON SHUMATE

PARKER LYNCH '19

SMS alumna and high school Academic All-American and All-State, Parker Lynch, is swimming for Marshall University.

EVAN CUFFE '19

The lacrosse season will begin soon for Berry College's freshman recruit, Evan Cuffe.

GRAYSON SHUMATE '19

Grayson Shumate is looking forward to the spring lacrosse season at Centre College.

LAWSON RYAN '19

Lawson Ryan is joining his older brother, Jackson Ryan ('17) on the Christian Brothers University baseball team.

ELIZABETH ADLER '20

Elizabeth Adler attends Saint Cecilia Academy and was named a National Merit Scholarship Semi-finalist.

LYDIA BRUNNER '23

Lydia Brunner won the state high school cross country championship for Father Ryan.



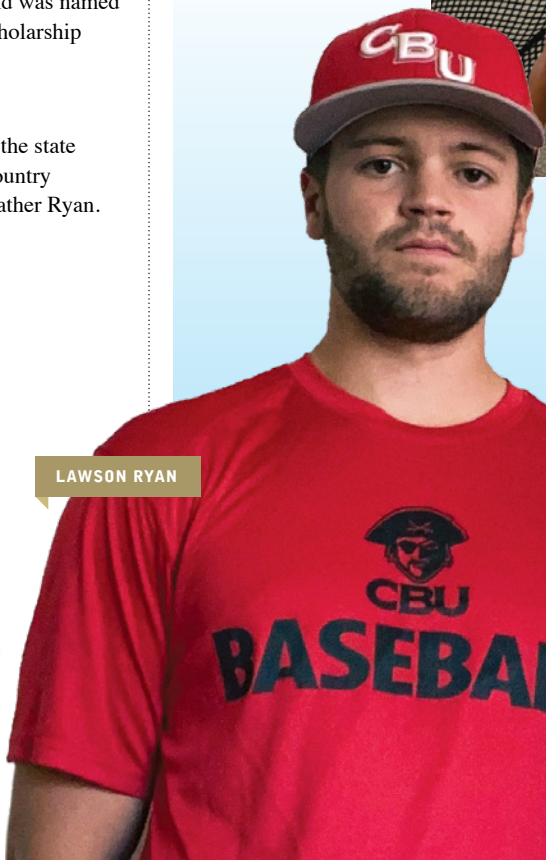
PARKER LYNCH



LYDIA BRUNNER



EVAN CUFFE



LAWSON RYAN

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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ELIZABETH ADLER



BUCKLEY, SLOAN AND SCHULTE...THEN

SMS FRIENDS FOR LIFE

2003 - Nicholas Schulte, Connor Sloan and Michael Buckley were starting their first days of kindergarten at Saint Matthew School. Their years at Saint Matthew formed a friendship that wove their way to reuniting as roommates in Chicago 19 years later. "I met these guys young enough that I don't really remember a time where we weren't friends," says Buckley. "From Mrs. Russell's field trip to the Renaissance Fair, learning to like math with Mrs. Richards and the Mathletes, and especially the Lion Challenge, there was no shortage of ways St. Matthew helped me create lasting friendships," says Schulte. They spent kindergarten to 8th grade together peppered with playing on SMS & WNSL sports teams, often coached by their dads, to further weave their paths.

After 8th grade, they all branched out and got involved with different groups, friends, clubs, schools and sports. The threads continue to untwine as these friends had different college paths. Connor attended the University of Notre Dame, Michael attended UT Knoxville, and Nicholas graduated from Auburn University, all with degrees in Mechanical Engineering.

2023 - Weaving their path to Chicago started with Sloan taking a job there in 2021. The timing of one of his roommates moving out a year later lined up perfectly for Schulte's post graduation plan to relocate there for a new job. Later that year, Michael visited Nick and Connor in Chicago for a weekend and quickly realized that Chicago was a place that he'd enjoy living. "I knew that they were looking for a new roommate, and the rest was history. I wouldn't have made such a great life change moving far away from home without the support of these guys," says Buckley.

You never know how the friendships and education founded at Saint Matthew School may be intertwined. For Buckley, Sloan and Schulte, "It was easy connecting and reconnecting with people who shared the same life path, classrooms, and memories between kindergarten and 8th grade," says Sloan.

ALUMNI NEWS

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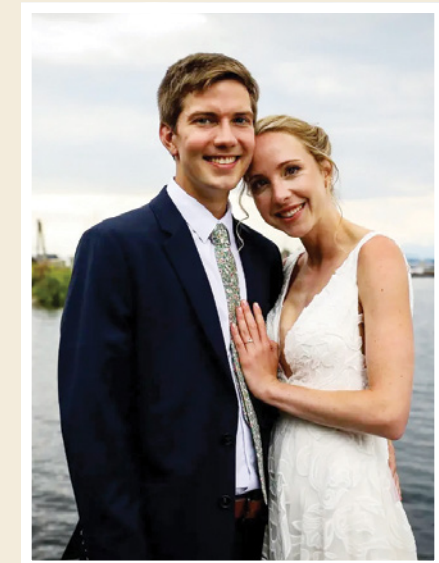
SCHULTE, SLOAN AND BUCKLEY...NOW



May 20, 2023 - **Cecilia Von Mann** ('11) wed Brett Amendola at St. Joseph Chapel, Spring Hill College, Mobile, AL. Ellen Thoni ('11) and Cecilia Moore ('11) were attendants.



Father Tran baptized Kinley Irelyn McClellan, daughter of **Brittany Ozment** ('09) on August 26, 2023. Brooke Ozment ('12) is her godmother.



Daniel Peters ('08) married Sarah McShane on Aug. 12, 2023, in Burlington, Vermont, where he is a 3rd year Emergency Medicine resident, and Sarah is a 3rd year OB/GYN resident.

Attention Parents of SMS Alumni:

If your son or daughter has moved from your home, please contact Lori Bellante at lbellante@stmatthewtn.org with his/her current address. We'd love to keep in touch with them.



Saint Matthew School

ESTABLISHED 2001

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See the school website for more information.
<https://www.stmatthewtn.org/school/support>

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A NIGHT UNDER THE BIG TOP

COME ONE

COME ALL



SMS MANE EVENT 2024

The Mane Event is the school's largest fundraiser. Saint Matthew Home and School hosts an annual dinner and auction to raise money for specific needs for the school. Some of the past proceeds from Mane Event have funded playground equipment, awning/accessories for the middle school courtyard, playground turf installation, the SMS bus, school endowment, STREAM Lab redesign and supplies like microscopes, drones, robotics programs and more. Don't miss out on "Under the Big Top" on **Feb. 10!** This year, we are raising money for our strategic plan.

Mane Event is presented by Coyne Oral Surgery