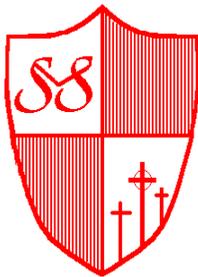


St. Matthew Catholic School

Student-Parent Handbook

2018-2019



St. Matthew School Mission Statement

The mission of St. Matthew Catholic School is to educate a strong faith-centered community through a commitment to the spiritual, moral, intellectual, social and physical development of each child.

Fr. Dennis Aréchiga, Pastor Dr. Jennifer Grenardo, Principal

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Section 1, WELCOME

- Welcome letter from Fr. Dennis D. Aréchiga, Pastor of St. Matthew Catholic Church
- A brief history of St. Matthew Catholic School

PASTOR'S LETTER OF WELCOME 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Dear St. Matthew Parents and Students:

Welcome to our school and parish community! It's hard to believe that on November 23, 1968 our parish will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of our founding, and our school is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its opening on August 18, 1993.

Enhancing the excitement of our anniversary celebrations, we find we are now in the final months of the building phase of our "Building the Future" Project. As this letter is being written, the floor of our new Athletic Center is being prepared for the hardwood floors of our new basketball and volleyball courts. There will be two full sized basketball courts allowing for two games to be played simultaneously or allowing for four different teams to practice at the same time. There will be 72 parking spaces located underneath the gym and several spaces along the perimeter of the facility.

The new Athletic Center will also have three meeting rooms that can each accommodate 30 persons. We are grateful for the PTC which gave monies so that one of the rooms can be used for Art Classes during school hours. Our hope is that the new Athletic Center will be completed by November of this year in time for our basketball season and for our anniversary celebrations. We ask for your continued patience, especially with car line. We project that the new roadway connection from Vance Jackson will be completed in November. Once it is opened, our traffic flow will be improved dramatically.

So many wonderful things are happening this school year. Besides offering excellent academic and sports programs, St. Matthew School continues to develop valuable extra-curricular offerings, such as the STEM, Robotics and Theater Clubs. One cannot minimize the dimension of faith formation that Catholic Schools provide with daily religion classes, school Mass and worthy social service projects.

Please join us for one or all of our anniversary celebrations which include the events listed below.:

Each of these events began at 7 p.m.:

- October 6th. Concert at Antonian High School Auditorium. I will be playing a piano recital of classical music for the first half of the program and accompanying some wonderful singers for a Broadway Musical Revue for the second half of the program.
- Series of Three Talks that include Prayer Services will take place in the Church:
 - October 25th "Our Parish's Past"
 - November 8th "The Present"
 - November 15th "The Future" of the Church by Rev. Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I., President of the Oblate School of Theology

Join us for a Breakfast on November 10th at 9 a.m. in the McDonald Center OR for a Dinner on November 16th at 7 p.m. in the McDonald Center in which a video and slide show presentation will be shared.

The St. Matthew Cardinal 5K Run/Walk celebrating 25 years of Living, Loving and Serving will take place at 8 a.m. on November 17th at Olmos Basin Park.

A highlight of our Anniversary celebrations will take place at 2 p.m. on November 18th in the Church. Our own Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S. will preside over a Special Mass. The mass will be followed by a Field Day for the children and a meal in the McDonald Family Center.

The following pages include the St. Matthew Catholic School Student-Parent Handbook. Please read it in full.

We thank the sub-committee from the School Council that reviews and revises this handbook.

Once again, welcome!

Fr. Dennis D. Aréchiga
Pastor

BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. MATTHEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

January 1993: Ground breaking for St Matthew Catholic School
Pastor: Msgr. John Flynn

August 1993: St. Matthew Catholic School opens – August 18, 1993
Pastor: Msgr. John Flynn
Principal: Sr. Patrice Floyd, IWBS

August 1994: Pastor: Msgr. John Flynn
Principal: Mr. Curtis Youngman

August 1996: Pastor: Msgr. John Flynn
Principal: Mrs. Cindy Salinas

June 1998: Pastor: Msgr. Michael Yarbrough
Principal: Mrs. Cindy Salinas

August 2004: Pastor: Msgr. Michael Yarbrough
Principal: Mr. Alvin Caro

August 2018 : Pastor: Fr. Dennis Aréchiga
Principal: Dr. Jennifer Grenardo, Ed.D.

St. Matthew Catholic Church and School are in North Central San Antonio, adjacent to the Medical Center. In 1992 Msgr. John Flynn, conducted a parish survey which revealed the desire for a parish school. He undertook the project with the firm belief that a parish school strengthened the religious education of the parish and strengthened parish life as a whole.

In January 1993, ground was broken for St. Matthew Catholic School and on August 18, 1993, the school opened with an enrollment of just under 400 students. The school was dedicated by Bishop Joseph Galante on Oct. 10, 1993.

Msgr. Michael Yarbrough was appointed pastor of St. Matthew Catholic Church on June 1, 1998. During his twelve years as our pastor, Msgr. Yarbrough was committed to the children, to their families, to the faculty and staff and, to promoting the Mission of St Matthew Catholic School.

St. Matthew Parish welcomed Fr. Dennis Aréchiga as its pastor on June 1, 2010. Fr. Dennis, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and a former music teacher in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, brought his years of service as a pastor at St. Monica's in Converse, Texas and as Pastoral Administrator of a parish school. Fr. Dennis is a strong supporter of Catholic education. The faculty welcome his visits to the classrooms during the school year. We are blessed to be

part of a living faith community. Fr. Dennis is assisted in the parish by Rev. Jake Emperor, SJ, Msgr. Juan Alfaro, Rev. Abel Ruiz and eleven deacons. They meet the school children at weekly liturgies, during Reconciliation and on special holy days.

Sr. Patrice Floyd, IWBS, the first principal of St. Matthew Catholic School, opened the school with a full schedule for students from PreK-3 through 8th grade. Under the administration of Mr. Curtis Jungman, 1994-1996, school enrollment continued to grow, new classes were added at each grade level, and the decision was made to begin enrollment with PreK-4 classes. Under the administration of Mrs. Cindy Salinas, St. Matthew Catholic School reached an enrollment of over 700 students from Pre-K through eighth grade. Classroom space was expanded with the addition of three portable classroom buildings.

Mr. Alvin Caro dedicated his tenure as principal of St. Matthew Catholic School to our Mission by maintaining our traditions of excellence, and to astute planning for the near and distant future. Under his leadership the school grounds were beautified and made safer for teachers and students with the additions of a newly designed pre-school playground, an awning cover over the back-carline drop-off area, closed-circuit monitoring and security fencing, a renovated school cafeteria and library. His vision for a new gymnasium is being realized. A solid Catholic School curriculum was guaranteed for all children with the staff addition of a Curriculum Director, Technology Administrators, Dyslexia and Intervention specialist and Resource teacher and the student one-to-one iPad initiative. St. Matthew Catholic School's presence on social media is enhanced with a Facebook page, and Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram accounts. In the 2017-2018 school year, The Project Based Learning STREAM Initiative was implemented throughout the school. Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math are incorporated into planned projects that are based in the grade-level TEKS and Archdiocesan Curriculum.

Dr. Jennifer Grenardo, Ed.D. earned a Doctor of Education from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Grand Canyon University. She has taught various grade levels and served as a Catholic school principal in Los Angeles. Dr. Grenardo has been serving the St. Matthew community as the Curriculum Director. She and her family are active members of St. Matthew parish. She has served as President of our Parish Pastoral Council and continues to serve as a lector and greeter. Dr. Grenardo will continue the St. Matthew tradition of excellence established through the work of our dedicated faculty and staff and she looks forward to celebrating 25 years of excellence with a renovated library and the completion of our new gymnasium.

St. Matthew Catholic School is and will continue to be dedicated to faith formation, educational excellence and innovation, and service to the community.