

6917 North Country Homes Blvd • Spokane, Washington 99208  
www.stmatthewspokane.org • info@stmatthewspokane.org  
school: 509-327-5601 • church: 509-326-3766



July 15, 2024

Dear St. Matthew Family,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 St. Matthew Lutheran school year! This will be the 53<sup>rd</sup> year that St. Matthew has been able to offer a quality, Christ-centered education. Our school started out in our church's basement, and we now have 8 classrooms. It has been truly incredible to see how God's goodness to this ministry has remained year after year. Although over the last few years there have been many changes to our campus, I pray that whether you are new to our school, or have been here for quite some time, that you agree Christ has remained the heart and soul of our school. Some of the changes you may notice this year: we are making attempt number 2 at growing grass in our back field, we are changing the format of our "Friday classes", which will now be taking place throughout the week rather than all on Friday, and we are welcoming a new 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mr. David Zabel, to our faculty. Mr. Zabel had been serving as principal and teacher at one of our other WELS schools in Minnesota, and he is very excited to work at St. Matthew focusing on teaching. His presence will allow me (Mr. Biebert) the ability to focus more on administration duties that will, God-willing, continue to help the school develop into the best version of itself.

Our mission has been, and with God's blessing will continue to be, founded on Christ. What is our mission? Our school exists to provide a quality Christ-centered education which prepares children and their families to serve their Savior both now and into eternity. God created humans so that they could use their lives to seek him, believe in the saving love that he offers through his Son, and then go out in service to him to share this love with others. This message is the most important message that all people of all time need. When our school keeps the focus on teaching this message of salvation, and with your help, I know that we are set for another successful upcoming school year of teaching your children about the close and loving relationship that God wants to have with each of us. Your children will be set up to know why they are on this earth, and what they should do with their time on this earth. So, on behalf of the faculty, I want to thank God for giving us the opportunity to teach your children the message of his love and work with amazing families like yours. I pray for his continued blessings during this upcoming year.

As we start to transition into thinking about the upcoming school year, I pray that you and your family have had a restful and adventurous summer together. There is nothing like getting quality time spent with your family. I don't know of too many people that look back on life and regret not spending more time at work, or people that have some of their fondest memories spent being busy with this or that. It could be something as simple as a monopoly game that won't end, an epic game of corn hole, jokes told around a campfire, stargazing, or even just sipping coffee with your spouse as you get to know them a little better that seems to stick in our memory banks. Whether your summer has been spent at work or with family, whether it has been restful or busy, I hope that your family has had an opportunity to not only grow closer to each other, but most importantly to our Savior.

While summer is not over, hopefully sometime in the near future your family starts to get that tiniest bit of excitement for the upcoming school year and all it will have to offer. There will certainly be new and exciting things to learn, a new teacher to get to know, new friendships to make, and a number of laughs that will be had and shared in the classroom, at playdates, in the parking lot, or on the playground. This letter and the digital resources that will be linked/referenced should give you everything that you need to get the preparation for next school year underway. This is the first year we are not sending out hard copies of the material, but if you would prefer a hard copy, then please let me know, and I would be happy to get one in your hands. If you are new or returning to our school and have any questions with anything, please don't hesitate to reach out to Kayla or myself in the office. We will do our best to answer any questions that you have.

Our theme this year is about using the gifts that God has given us to faithfully serve others. I learned a lot about service this summer when my Biebert family and I rented a houseboat on Lake Shasta. The weather during our houseboat stay was extremely hot. Every day was around 110-115 degrees — including the day we unloaded to get on the boat. We were under the impression we could load up at 3 P.M., and so we unloaded all of our stuff in the blazing heat, and then we waited and waited. We eventually got on the boat around 6. Although I was also hot and uncomfortable, often times the heat doesn't bother me like it seems to bother others, so instead of finishing my unloading and sitting down in the

*Growing in Grace, Growing in Faith, Growing in Knowledge*

shade, I sought to help my other family members haul things down to the courtesy dock, and just be an overall encourager as I could see frustrations starting to rise as the time ticked on sitting on the dock in the sun.....I think this was well received. I also tried to help my younger brother with some of the tasks that needed to be done with boat maneuvering, anchoring it to the shore, and trying to reassure him as he was feeling the pressure of being in charge of a very expensive piece of someone else's equipment.....this was not so well received. Kayla, on the other hand, had a good conversation with my younger brother later on that seemed to calm him down and make him feel listened to. What was the difference? Well it could be any number of things; perhaps it could be that younger brothers don't like to listen to older brothers; perhaps I was super obnoxious in the way I tried to help, or maybe what my brother needed wasn't really a gift that I was best at. Kayla, on the other hand, did have that gift. Our theme verse from 1 Peter 4:10-11 says: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

God has given us each different gifts. Some of us are encouragers, super organized, great listeners, leaders, or people who can just take direction well and get things done. The list could go on and on, but what doesn't change is what God asks us to do with those gifts. Did you catch it? We are to use these God-given gifts to serve others. The beautiful thing about this service is that we are not asked to work outside the bounds of our gifts, nor are we left alone to serve. Christ promises to give us the strength, words, patience, etc. to serve others. God simply asks us to be faithful in the analysis and use of our gifts and in using them to serve others. This is one of the beautiful things about the body of Christ — that each person can use their different and varied gifts to serve others with God's power going with us all the time. I was thankful that Kayla used her gifts to help where I was lacking, just as I am sure my family appreciated me treating my body like a pack mule to help unload and load materials for the boat. So, this year, we are going to focus on teaching the children what the Bible has to say about service to others. Our theme is: Serving Others With the Savior's Strength. Please look for this message to permeate chapel services and in the messages that our taught in the classroom.

As we are getting closer to the beginning of next school year the information on our website should help you prepare for the upcoming school year: **(Please make sure all the following items have been taken care of before the first day of school on August 21.)**

- School Supply Lists (most teachers ask you to bring items by August 11<sup>th</sup> on Orientation Night)
- Religious Textbook/Yearbook/School Fees Order Form
- 2024-2025 School Calendar (Please take note of the color coded items and mark them in your calendars/be sure to also check the Google calendar)
- 2024-2025 Singing Schedule (Please take note of when your child sings and Christmas practices)
- **Orientation Night – Sunday, August 11 at 4:00PM (Kindergarten families or new families to our grade school meet in church) 4:45 PM returning families to our grade school.**

Please make sure to read through of the material on our Back to School webpage. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your classroom teacher or the school office. Two very important dates to highlight on your calendar are the **Orientation Night on August 11<sup>th</sup>** and the **first day of school on August 21<sup>st</sup>**. Thank you again in for putting in the majority of the legwork (viewing the video, answering school-related questions, getting school supplies) **prior** to Orientation. On August 11<sup>th</sup>, we will spend time reconnecting, putting supplies away, and getting to know your teacher; however, if you have questions, we are happy to help! Plan to attend Orientation, and if you can't make it, please reach out to your child's teacher to go over any information you may miss.

**If you have completed the enrollment process and finalized your tuition agreement, thank you so much. If you are still working on this, please go to [www.tads.com](http://www.tads.com) and complete the enrollment and agreement portion today. I understand that this can be confusing at times, so please give me a call (715-402-0094) at any time with questions about TADS or any other back to school information. You can also email me at [principal@stmatthewspokane.org](mailto:principal@stmatthewspokane.org).**

**Please make sure that you fill out your Religious Textbook Order Form before Orientation, and bring attached payment (or ask to be billed to TADS) on August 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are not sure what fees/ordered materials your child (ren) needs, don't hesitate to reach out prior to that date.**

The faculty and I look forward to again serving you this upcoming school year. May God bless the remainder of your summer!  
In Christ,

Jacob Biebert  
Principal