



MATER DEI
JUAN DIEGO
ACADEMY



Knowledge + Faith + Community



Lea en español aquí



Dear Families,

“ ‘Thank you’ is the best prayer that anyone could say. I say that one a lot. Thank you expresses extreme gratitude, humility, understanding.” - Alice Walker

I love this quote because it reminds us how powerful a simple “thank you” can be. I love that Mrs. Walker, one of my favorite American literature writers, equates saying “thank you” not only with extreme gratitude, but also with humility and understanding. In this season of thanksgiving, let us reflect on the true power behind each “thank you”. To say thank you is to acknowledge all those blessings in our lives that we may sometimes take for granted. To say thank you is to understand that we need each other on a daily basis, that we cannot do everything alone. It is a humbling experience to say thank you and recognize those around us who help us in small and in big ways. So, please allow me to say, “thank you”. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, for all your support this school year. Thank you for partnering with us in educating the next generation of bilingual, faith-filled, global leaders. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving this school community. Most of all, thank you for raising compassionate, loving and gracious children who make coming to work every day a joy.

Blessings,
Leticia Oseguera

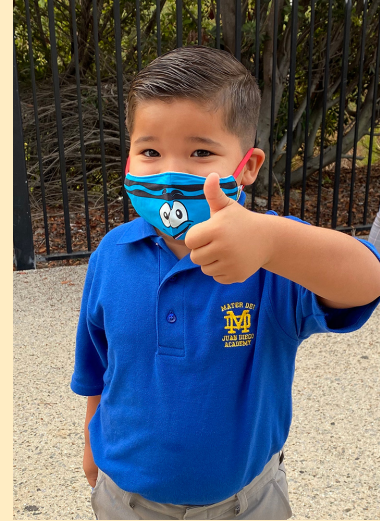
Dear Families,

Throughout this second quarter of the 2021-2022 school year, our students will be learning through the lens of the Catholic Social Teaching of Solidarity. We are one human family and we must work to pursue justice and peace. This is something that takes courage, our virtue for the month of November. Nelson Mandela said “I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.” As we have conversations with our children, let us remind them of the importance of being courageous as we strive to be our best selves and work towards the common good.



IMPORTANT DATES

- **November 11-12:** No School, Veterans Day Holiday
- **November 18:** All-school Mass at Mater Dei Parish
- **November 22-26:** Thanksgiving Break
- **November 30:** Giving Tuesday Marathon
- **December 8:** All-school Mass, outdoors on Senior Lawn
- **December 9:** Winter Arts Festival, Dance Recital
- **December 16:** Last Day of School, Minimum Day
- **December 17 - January 3:** Christmas Break
- **January 4:** First Day of School, Second Semester
- **January 17:** No School
- **January 31 - February 4:** Catholic Schools Week



Safe Environment Announcement

The Diocese of San Diego is committed to providing a safe environment for all who worship, work, or participate in education and formation opportunities in our parishes and schools. The problem of child sexual abuse is a serious one; a child suffers sexual abuse somewhere in our country every thirteen seconds.

As the primary educators of your child, you are entrusted with the responsibility of providing appropriate information regarding how to keep your child safe from sexual abuse. Empowered parents can develop and maintain an environment of trust in the home that allows children to discuss any topic, any fear, and any experience they are having. Potential abusers will avoid children who have such an open and honest relationship with their parents because abusers depend upon secrecy to avoid suspicion.

In compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the topic of safe environments will be introduced to your child on **Tuesday, December 2nd**. Please read [this parent letter](#) for more information or visit our [website](#).

Virtual Open House a Success

Applications for new TK and Kindergarten students will close on Wednesday, November 10. Feel free to share the Open House video with friends and family, as well as the deadline to apply. You can view the video below.

MDJDA Open House 21-22



COUNSELING CORNER

Dear Families,

I have fortunately been able to sit down with many of our students from TK through 8th regarding a variety of situations. I am proud to see how proactive our students have been at seeking support when it is needed, and learning different ways to solve problems independently as well. Our students grades 3-8 have been requesting counseling through the iPads in their classrooms. I recommend that all parents find the time to reflect on your own mental health, and make opportunities to communicate with your children about theirs.



I would like to remind you that to refer your child to see the counselor, there is a Google form to fill out that can be found in the Parent Brochure, or on the MDJDA website under *Parents* and *Counseling Referral*. Parents, students, and teachers/staff can refer a student for routine concerns but referrals should not be used for mental health emergencies. If you would like to know additional information about the services provided in the Counseling program, more details have been attached here as a "Parent Brochure." Please look through the provided information and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

[Parent Brochure \(English\)](#)

[Parent Brochure \(Spanish\)](#)

Thank you,
Mr. Smith

Sports UPDATES



Thank you to our Flag Football players and coaches for a successful season. Flag Football will complete their season with playoffs on November 13th. We will then transition into our Winter Sports. Thank you to everyone who signed up to participate in our offerings of PeeWee Soccer, Boys' Basketball, and Girls' Volleyball. Also a huge thank you to all of our parents who volunteered to support our teams this year. Without your support, our sports programs would

not be possible. If you signed up for a particular sport, please be on the lookout for emails from me regarding payment, practice updates, and season updates.

All of these sports are projected to begin competition in the first week of January.



Prayers of Remembrance

November is the traditional time for remembering and praying for our loved ones who have gone before us and whose loss we feel. Here at Mater Dei Catholic, we will remember all your loved ones in our daily Masses and prayers at Marian Chapel. Please take some time to send us their names, using the link below, and we will put these in our Book of the Dead as a way of praying for them during the month of November.

[Add Your Loved One to Book of the Dead](#)

Our Team Continues to Grow

MEET OUR NEW INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES:

Gitalia Di Ferreti

Born and raised in San Diego, Gitalia Di Ferreti is our new instructional aide. She graduated from San Diego State University with a Bachelor's degree in Communication and has a long term goal of becoming an elementary school teacher herself. Throughout her career, she's had the opportunity to work with students ranging from TK to High School, assisting them with both tutoring and mentoring. Ms. Di Ferreti is happy to be a part of the MDJDA community and eager to support its students and staff.



Mónica García

Mónica García is our new instructional aide. She worked with us as a substitute teacher for the last four years and is now grateful to join us as a full time aide. Mónica graduated with a BA in education from the

escuela normal para maestros del Colegio Ensenada and studied child development at SWC. She worked as a first grade teacher at *Colegio Reina Isabel* for seven years and as a preschool teacher at St. Johns Episcopal for twelve years. Now, she feels blessed to be able to join the Mater Dei family.



MEET OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Clarissa Nuño

Clarissa Nuno is our new Administrative Assistant. She earned her Bachelor's from California State University, San Marcos in Child and Adolescent Development and Psychology. Over the years she has worked with children in many different capacities. Teaching and education have always been her greatest passion. Graduating from Mater Dei Catholic High School and now becoming part of the Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy family Clarissa feels she is right at home and excited to continue to grow both professionally and personally. Clarissa joined JDA last school year as a teachers assistant and this year she has moved into a new position in our administration team. Clarissa will be the main person of contact in regards to daily absences and anticipated absences, her email is cnuno@mdjda.org.



NEWS FROM ADVANCEMENT

Together We Soar – Appeal

You should have received the Fall Appeal by now. This is part of our Advancement efforts to help our community band together to help us “close the gap” between the actual cost of educating each student versus the amount of tuition that we receive to cover these costs. Thank you in advance for contributing to this campaign to continue the legacy of academic excellence, Christian service, and Innovation.



Give Now

Save the Date

Giving Tuesday Marathon – November 30, 2021



Our Giving Tuesday Marathon is coming up, and we invite you to join us virtually on Tuesday, November 30, 2021! We will be running a 26.2 mile marathon from 8:30am - 1:00pm on the Egger Stadium track, but our fundraising begins now and will conclude at the end of the day on November 30, 2021. “Together We Soar” to build community, raise awareness, and meet our \$150,000 goal towards the replacement of our stadium Track and Turf.

Giving Tuesday Marathon



November 30, 2021
Marathon 8:30 am – 2:00 pm
Fundraising 12:00 am – 11:59 pm



1,500 students x \$100 each =
Goal of \$150,000

\$500 Business Sponsorships
Matching Donor Opportunities



Fun incentives and prizes
Students get February 18, 2022
off if we meet our goal!!!



MATER DEI CATHOLIC: *We exist to inspire and educate the hearts, minds, and souls of our students.*

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Incentives for MDJDA student participation:

1. If we reach our \$150,000 goal our school will receive a day off on February 18, 2022 (giving us a four-day weekend)
2. The top three grades that raise the most money will receive a Crusader Celebration with food, music, and a free-dress day.
3. Every classroom with 100% participation will earn a free-dress day and extended recess with music and fun activities.

What you need to know:

1. We are asking students, faculty and administration to join us as we collectively *run a 26.2 mile marathon* from 8:30am - 1:00pm.

2. We are asking families to virtually run alongside us and contribute at least *\$100 per student* to help us reach our goal.

- You can make your [donation here](#).
- Please select "Giving Tuesday Campaign".
- When prompted enter the grade level for the student for whom you're making the donation.
- When prompted make sure to write the name of the student for whom you're making the donation.

3. We are asking our families, alumni, donors and friends to encourage others to give as well by *sharing on social media*.

4. We are asking local *businesses to sponsor* a ½ hour time slot during our marathon for \$500. Sponsors will be promoted on social media and on our website.



[Sponsorship Letter](#)

5. Lastly, we are looking for several donors and friends of Mater Dei to help ignite this day of giving by making a *matching gift* to help DOUBLE the funds raised on our day of giving. If you can help with this, please contact Alejandra Saavedra, Director of Advancement at asaavedra@mdchs.net.

[View the Flyer](#)

amazonsmile

Help us continue to build our programs at Mater Dei through your everyday purchases. Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon purchases to the Mater Dei Catholic Fund when you use the link below. Please select Mater Dei Catholic High School of San Diego.

[Shop Amazon Smile](#)



RiteAid Fundraising

Please take a moment to support Mater Dei Catholic High School and our students. Even if you fill one prescription it will help us raise funds.

[Sign Up Now!](#)



MATER DEI CATHOLIC

Support Our Mission

We exist to inspire and educate the hearts,
minds and souls of our students.
Please join us in supporting our mission.

Give Now



mdjda.org