

St. Matthias Academy

First NYC Catholic Elementary School to House NY Sun Works Hydroponic STEM Lab

St. Matthias Catholic Academy is conveniently located in the heart of historic Ridgewood – a community touted by the New York Times, as the next up-and-coming neighborhood in NYC because it is the “affordable alternative” to the more expensive and super trendy neighborhoods of Williamsburg and Park Slope. It has a mix of deeply rooted families who have been here for generations and newer generations of immigrant families from Eastern European and Latin American countries.

This culturally diverse community serves as the backdrop for St. Matthias’ proven success in creating lifelong Foundations in Mind and Spirit for its 300+ student body for nearly 110 years. This year, St. Matthias is proud to celebrate its time-tested traditions and more than a century of service to Ridgewood, Glendale and other surrounding communities.

On Jan. 29, St. Matthias is excited to welcome local politicians and community leaders for a ribbon-cutting ceremony of its new NY Sun Works Hydroponic STEM

Lab. “Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics are the careers of the future, which is why we made the important decision to be the first NYC Catholic Academy to build a Hydroponic Lab. We wanted to ensure our students – our future leaders – have access to a cutting edge STEM curriculum,” said Barbara Wehnes, principal. “This Green Classroom initiative will also give our students a fun and rewarding learning experience and help them understand their role when it comes to building a sustainable and innovative food system,” remarked John Pettei, chairman of the academy’s board.

A veteran faculty and staff combine with an active parent community to create a strong and engaged school family. Tara Di Rico, the academy’s Green Classroom administrator explained how this new STEM program will expand far beyond the educational auspices of the urban farm: Students will learn about the science of sustainability and how to grow food with cutting-edge technology. They will also



Photo © St. Matthias Catholic Academy

learn about contamination, pollution, biodiversity and conservation while understanding how their actions have an impact on the environment. The students have already harvested crops; enjoyed salads and other fresh recipes and even got to feed their school mascot fresh greens.

But there is much more than STEM programming. The academy’s extensive curriculum also includes music, arts, language, sports and a broad range of after-school programming, even a 3D printing pro-

gram, all of which provide students with a strong foundation for a lifelong love of learning. St. Matthias’ graduating classes have received acceptances to top-ranking high schools of their choice, and in 2018 qualified for over \$300,000 in scholarships.

Registration is currently open for nursery through eighth grade. St. Matthias offers private tours in addition to the Open House on Jan. 27. Visit and find out why St. Matthias Catholic Academy is the best choice for your child.

What makes SMCA the RIGHT CHOICE for your child?

- Tradition of Excellence in Education Since 1909
- Advanced Curriculum with STEM, STEAM & 3-D Printing coursework
- \$300,000+ in scholarships awarded to the class of 2018
- Language Classes
- Band, Piano & Choir Programs
- Performing Arts/Theater Program
- Sports and After-school Clubs
- Faith-based education
- Safe & Diverse Environment
- Veteran teaching staff

Join the first NYC Catholic Academy with a NY Sunworks Hydroponic STEM Lab

ST. MATTHIAS CATHOLIC ACADEMY
Foundations of Mind and Spirit

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