

Newsletter September 2024



The start of a new school year brings about so many different emotions. Everyone is sad to say goodbye to summer but we are all eager to learn new things and meet new people. Whether you are starting your 8th grade year at SMS or just joining us as a new student, my hope is that this school year brings you much happiness and that you get involved in school activities and PTO events to truly experience the wonderful community here.

Last week we held our annual Open Houses to give parents an opportunity to meet the teachers and to hear about the curriculum. Please know that the teachers are always happy to answer your questions. The best way to reach the staff is via email which they check daily. Please understand that due to their interactions with students all day, they cannot immediately reply to an email from you. Should you ever need an immediate response, please just call the school directly and the office staff will be happy to assist you.

We truly hope that you'll get involved in the school community this year. Our PTO is robust!!! They raise funds annually that benefit our programs, our students and our teachers. As a current SMS member, YOU are already a full-fledged member of the PTO. You'll soon see some information about our first fundraiser which is a cookie fundraiser. The cookies are delicious and nut-free. My family favorites are snickerdoodles and chocolate chip. We hope you'll share the cookie sale information with your family and friends!

Another way to get involved with the school is by participating in parish life and joining one of the many different weekend masses. Fr. Blaney and Fr. Dwight would love the opportunity to meet school families. A beautiful family mass occurs on Sunday mornings at 10a.m. The parish has lots of different ministries you can join and also has programs for the youth and even a tiny tots program! Our school also hosts monthly masses where different grades host. These will always be listed in the Trumpet News and we love when parents attend. We simply request that you sit in the last two pews of any section to allow our students to sit in their assigned seats.

Parents who wish to volunteer at school must complete some mandated items. Every year, yes every single year, everyone must do a new CORI (criminal history background check). Please be aware that there are often long wait times on getting back cleared CORI forms so get your done soon! Additionally, each volunteer must participate once in a workshop on the protection of children called Virtus (Protecting God's Children). Once you have met these requirements you can chaperone a trip, read a story to the class, help with the PTO, come by for Career Day and more.

As you settle into a new school year, please know that we are here to support you and your child in any way. Always feel free to email or call the school. As I tell the kids, no question is a silly question! Best wishes for a wonderful year!

Sue Gosselin

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www.SaintMichael.com · info@saintmichael.com

St. Michael Church

Off To a Great Start!

Fr. Dwight and I – who both just began here – were so excited to experience for the very first time the inauguration of the Saint Michael School year!! The enthusiasm was palpable at the Welcome Back Social, the opening Mass for Teachers as well as the opening School Mass. I am quite optimistic about the wonderful year that lies ahead for us!

Over the summer Cardinal O'Malley called me to go to the 13th annual Alliance for Catholic Education's School Pastors' Institute at the University of Notre Dame. Over the week in July that I was there I was joined by 103 other priests who are pastors of schools in their parishes from across the US. I learned of many things over the course of this institute that would possibly bore you to tears if I were to articulate them here. Suffice it to say I learned any number of salient things that will benefit us at Saint Michael School moving forward.

What I came to realize, however, was how successful Saint Michael School *already is* under the leadership of our principal, Sue Gosselin. The teachers and the entire staff & administrators operate in such a professional, caring and effective manner. Because of their efforts, your children develop not only fine minds here but fine hearts as well – and that makes all the difference in the world, helping them to reflect the glory of who God created them to be.

I pray for our teachers and thank them not only for *what* they teach, but more importantly *how* they teach. I am grateful for their care, concern, guidance and love, academic contributions and extracurricular contributions.

I pray that your children will learn to recognize the gifts they possess and to never underestimate their potential. I pray that Saint Michael School gives them the confidence and knowledge they need to achieve their dreams. I promise to support them as they risk, as they give, and as they grow.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Robert J. Blaney

Pastor



Rebecca's Nut-Free



Premium Cookies & Cookie Dough

Safe for people with Peanut or Tree Nut Allergies. YUMMY for EVERYONE!

September 16- September 27

Saint Michael School Mission Statement

Saint Michael School offers an exceptional Catholic education to our students, nurturing their desire to achieve academic excellence and encouraging spiritual, artistic, and athletic development in a caring, family environment. We motivate our students to become well-rounded, moral young men and women who are prepared to live a faithful life with intellectual rigor and spiritual awareness.



Important Dates and INFORMATION

- October 1- Banking Day
- October 7- Mass at 1:45pm. (8B)
- October 11- No School for Professional Development
- October 14- No school (holiday)
- October 15-Banking Day
- Oct. 17-18 Gr. 8 Retreat
- October 21- Living Rosary at 1:45pm. (Hosted by grade 5)
- October 22- Uniform Exchange
- October 24- Trick or Treat Night (N-gr. 4)
- October 25- Halloween Dance (gr. 5-8)

Notice

This notice is per the "Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act." An asbestos management plan has been developed for St. Michael's School which has asbestos containing material present. These plans are available and accessible to the public by contacting Nick Ippolito at 978-686-4050 at the Parish Offices as well as at the LEA administration office.

Do Not Send Cash or Checks Into School

When paying for field trips, art projects, club, etc. for your child, all payments must be made through our Student Information Service Program, RenWeb/FACTS.

Food Allergy Policy

Saint Michael School strives to be a nut free school. Please do not send in items that contain peanut butter or tree nuts. Please direct any questions to the Health Office. Thank you for your consideration.



Have An Idea or Suggestion?

We love to hear from you! If you would like to send us a comment or a suggestion, please email us at info@comcast.net.

Tuition Update

How Do Families Receive a Parishioner Tuition Rate?

As a reminder, to be considered an active parishioner (and receive a parishioner tuition rate for the 2024-2025 school year) families must make a minimum total offertory donation of **\$500** to our parish beginning **July 1, 2024 to April 1, 2025**. This can be done on a weekly basis when you attend Mass **BUT** it must be made in a trackable manner. You **NEED** to be a registered parishioner. If you wish to receive offertory envelopes from the parish, please email Dorothy_varga@saintmichael.com.

You may also make donations on the parish online giving website <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/298>. Donations made at Easter and Christmas are for the benefit of the Clergy Trust and therefore do **NOT** count toward the annual \$500 donation to St. Michael Parish.

UMatter

The following students were drawn from the U Matter container this week.

K



Kinley helped a classmate that was very sad about missing her mom.

4A



Kevin offered to help a classmate who was worried about not having a spoon at lunch.

K



Charlie was a bucket filler for a friend who needed extra help.

2A



Rowan showed courage in the classroom.

2A



Jade showed courage in the classroom.

UMatter



The following students were drawn from the U Matter container this week.



Noah found a missing ring for an 8th grader and gave it to a teacher.



Joseph helped the first grade during Mass.



Valentino offered to share the bench with someone.



James helped his classmates get on the chromebooks in STEM.



Sofia nicely reminded a student to be quiet during the band assembly.



NURSERY



PRE-K

Early Childhood

Nursery, Pre-K, & Kindergarten



KINDERGARTEN

Nursery

Mrs. Siddiqui



A brand new year in Nursery! We are busy making new friends and learning new skills! We can't wait to see what the rest of this school year brings!



Nursery

Mrs. McGovern

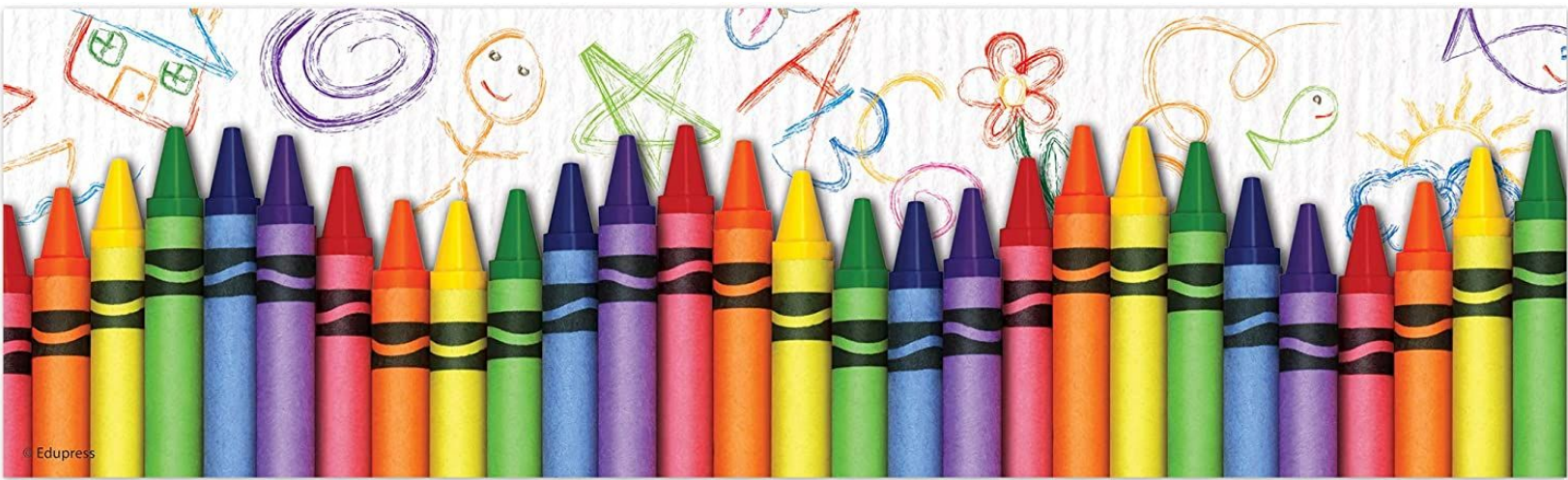
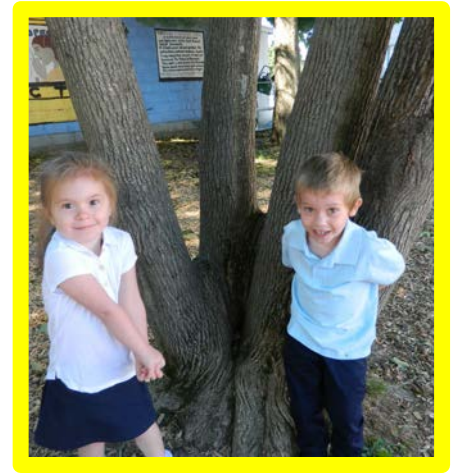


We are off to a great start in Nursery! There is lots of learning, playing and socializing going on and I am so proud of how well we are adjusting. I'm looking forward to a fabulous and fun filled year together!

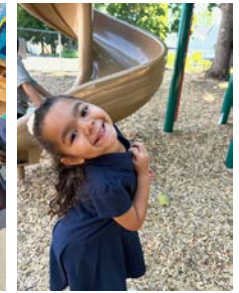
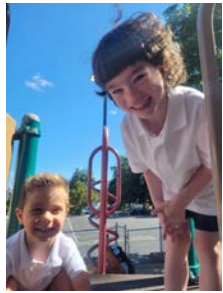


PRE-K Mrs. Reinhard

We are off to a great start in Pre-K. We are ready to make new friendships and learn while having fun!.



PRE-K Ms. K



Welcome to Pre-K! We've been getting to know one another, exploring our classroom, and learning our classroom routines. We're going to have a great school year!



PRE-K Mrs. Cali



We are having a great start to our year! Pre-K has been having fun making friends and getting into our classroom routines



Kindergarten!

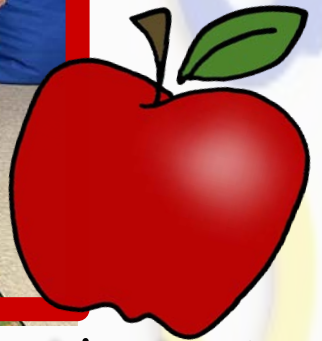
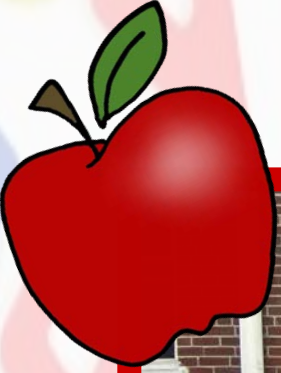
Mrs. Sleight



Kindergarten has started the school year having so much fun!
We have learned all about being a great friend, playing and
sharing and being the best we can be!!

Kindergarten!

Mrs. Polcari



Kindergarten had the best start to the school year!
We spent some time the first week learning how
we can fill each others buckets by being kind,
helpful, respectful and showing love!

Mrs. Kasberg



We are off to a great start in Kindergarten! We cannot wait to learn and grow with our classmates this year!



FIRST GRADE



SECOND GRADE

Elementary School

Grades 1-4



THIRD GRADE



FOURTH GRADE



First Grade

1A- Mrs. Robidoux



Our fabulous first graders are off to a great start. We are learning about friends and first grade adventures. Students are starting new strategies for reading, writing and math and practicing prayers. We are going to have a fantastic year together as we grow in faith and have fun!



First Grade



IB- MS. BEDARD



We are off to an amazing start! We have spent a lot of time getting to know each other and adjusting to first grade. We are making new friends and working so hard. It is going to be a fabulous year!!!

Thank you for all the donations to our class!





Mrs. Caffrey 2A

We are off to a great start. We have met some new friends and we saw some of our old friends. We are so excited to be in Grade 2A. We are looking forward to learning so many new things.





Mrs. Grant

Happy to be in grade 2B!




3RD GRADE


Mrs. Tarpey

The students in 3A have had a wonderful start to the school year. The first few days we got to know one another by presenting "Me Bags" and playing some games.

Our very first STEM activity was to save Fred. Students had to work together to save Fred the worm from drowning when his boat capsized. Students were only allowed to touch Fred with a paperclip, so it took lots of discussion and strategy. They LOVED this activity.



Save Fred



Fred has been enjoying boating on the lake, but he frequently forgets to put on his life preserver. He never learned to swim and disaster has struck. Fred's boat has capsized! He was able to crawl on top of his boat but as luck would have it, his life preserver is under his boat.

Fred needs your help to not only reach the life preserver but to put it on so he won't drown. You and your partner will each receive two paper clips. You may touch the boat, but may only use paper clips to handle the life preserver and Fred. At no time may you injure Fred by stabbing him. If you drop him, he has drowned and you must start over.



SAVE FRED!

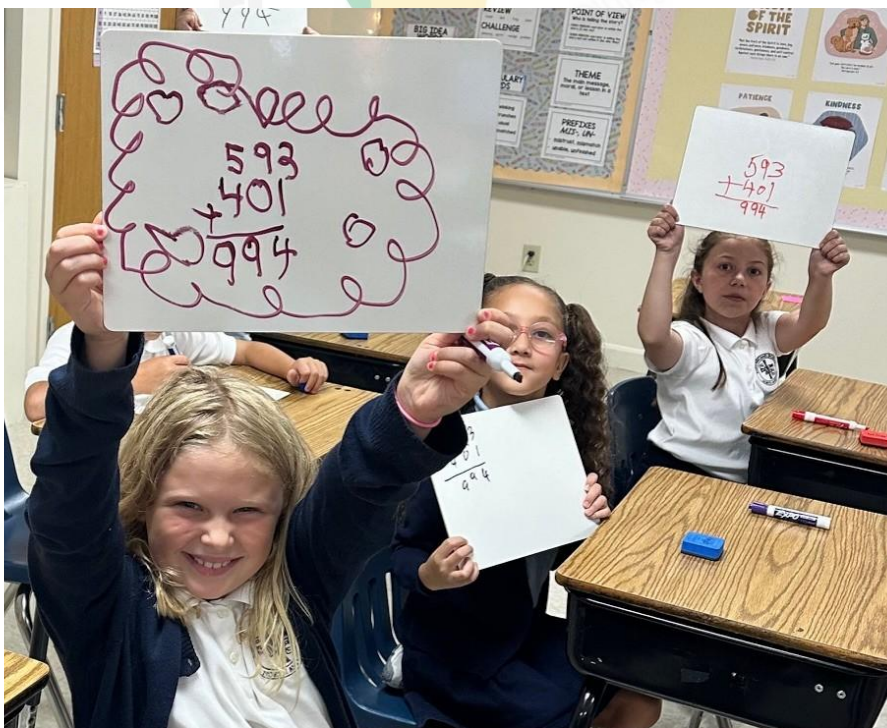
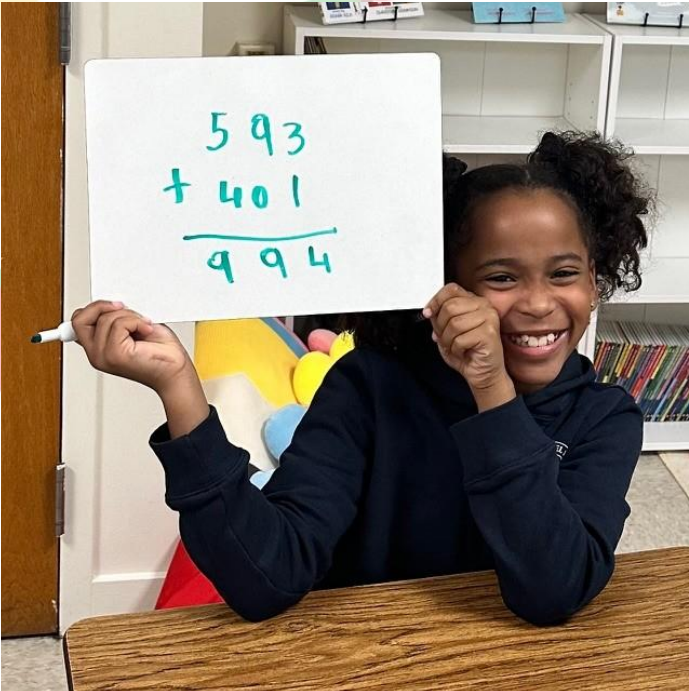


3RD GRADE

Ms. Grava

We are having so much fun in 3B! We started this year with some get to know you games and sharing our "me bags." We've also been working on reviewing math facts to get ready to start multiplication and division!

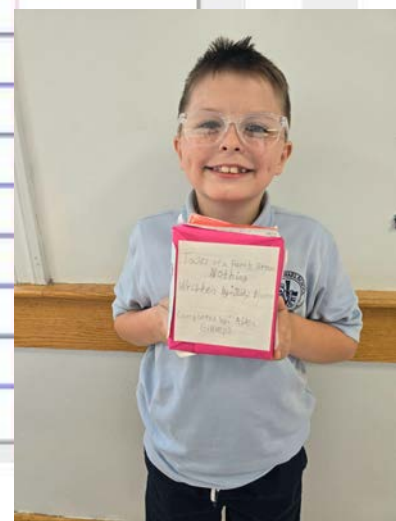
Our class is loving the read aloud *The Wild Robot*. They are all excited for the movie to come out!



4A with Mrs. Andrewchuk



The students in 4A are having a great start to the school year. The loved presenting their summer book projects to the class.



4B

hello FOURTH GRADE

with
Mrs. Sweeney



4th Grade has been off to a wonderful start! We are building a nice classroom community. The students worked on their communication & team building skills when participating in a "Types of Sentences" sorting activity. Way to go, 4B! I'm so proud of you!





FIFTH GRADE



SIXTH GRADE

Upper School

Grades 5-8



SEVENTH GRADE



EIGHTH GRADE

Mrs. Adam- ELA



The 5th graders are in a unit about what pushes people to create new inventions. They just finished reading about Thomas Edison and Henry Ford.



The 6th graders started the year discussing the book they read over the summer. Now, we're studying *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt.

Mrs. Clifford 5B

Welcome back to school! Grade 5 is doing a great job using lockers and switching classes for the first time. We are looking forward to a great year!



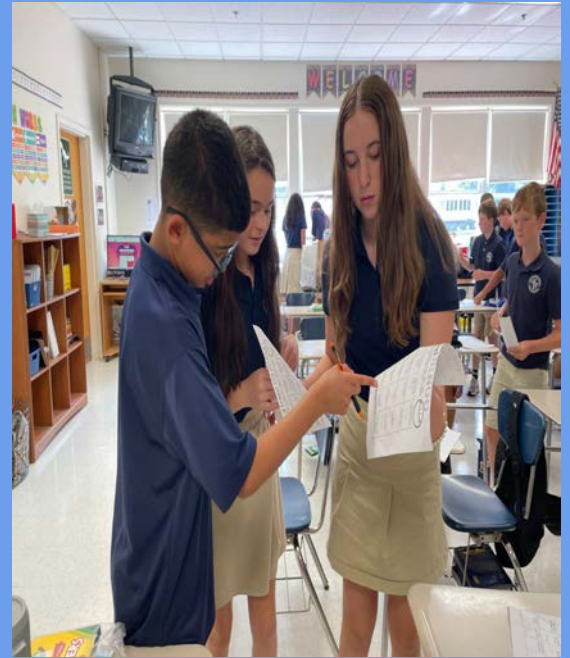
Mrs. Berard 5th/6th Grade Science

Welcome back to school! 6th grade is starting the year learning about the phases of the moon which they demonstrated with Oreos. Yum! 5th grade is learning about observing and describing properties of matter.



Grade 5/6MATH

Ms Decoteau



6A spent the first few classes this year getting settled into our new class. We set up our lockers. We even listed some goals to work on this term. We found friends who share common interests and ideas. We played '2 truths and a fib'. We also began coloring a calming poster, "YOU MATTER!" Coloring can relax a busy mind.



Mrs. Nagle: 7/8 Social Studies

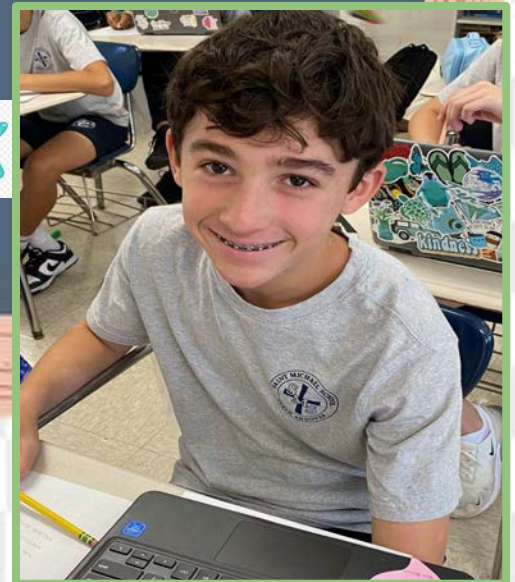
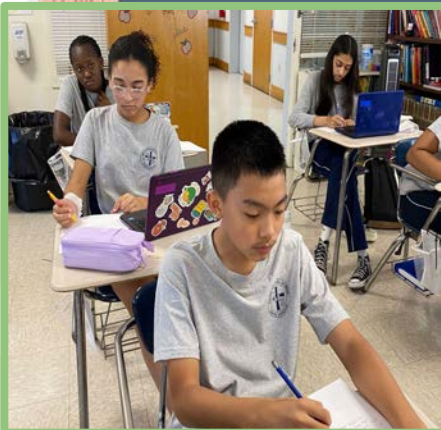
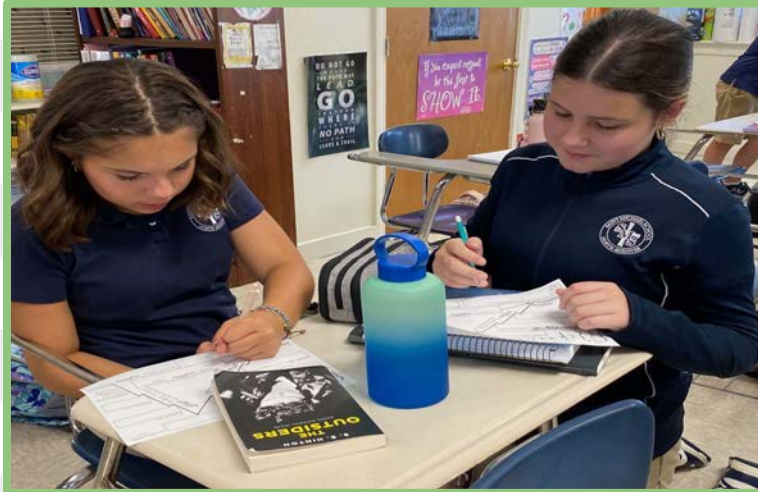


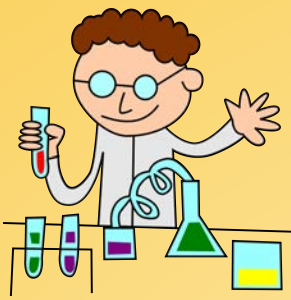
7A is ready to start a new and exciting year!



Mrs. Ordway - Grade 7 ELA

Off to a great start in ELA! Gr. 7
compared thoughts about the summer
reading





Mr. A: Science 7/8

It is hard to believe that the 2024-2025 school year has started. The summer reaches a certain date and time goes quickly from there. I am sure that the school year will go quickly, too.

This year is the last year at St. Michael's for the eighth grade. They are an exceptional group of young adults and I know that they will all have a fantastic school year. I am happy to be a part of it.

The eighth graders have been introduced to their Kindergarten buddies. The grade eight students will help the Kindergarten students with many different things throughout the year. This includes getting them acquainted with the cafeteria, church, and helping out where and when they are needed.

I have just been introduced to the seventh graders although I know many of them because of the sports clubs in the morning.. I am looking forward to a great year with them.

Middle school science is off to a great start. Grade seven is learning about erosion and weathering of rocks and soil. Grade eight is learning about Astronomy and how the earth, moon, and sun work together to make the seasons, tides, and eclipses. This year during Enrichment the students of both grades will get a more hands on view of their respective studies.

I am looking forward to a great school year!



The first Mass with 8th grade & Kindergarten buddies was a big success! We can't wait until next month.



Mrs. Parker: 7/8 Math

The 2024-2025 year is off to a great start! The students have come back refreshed from the summer and ready to go. I am looking forward to a great year with them.

The students in 7th grade have started the year off exploring the different number systems and how to add and subtract in them. These are skills that will continue to be used throughout their mathematical careers. The students in 8th grade are starting Algebra by solving equations with all different steps. They are relying on many of the skills that they learned in past years.

It was nice seeing so many of you at Open House. I am sure that this will be a great year for all of us!



It's an exciting year for the class of 2025! We can't wait to see what's in store for you!





SCHOOL COUNSELOR



MUSIC



GYM

School Counseling and Specials



TECHNOLOGY



ART



STEM

Saint Michael PE

Welcome to the 2024/25 school year! We welcome back all our returning students, and it has been such a pleasure to welcome so many new faces! The students have not wasted any time getting outside and participating in pickleball, hula hoops, ropes, and football.

Remember to always be on the lookout for clubs and other activities. We are organizing basketball and ski club already so stay tuned!!

Mr. D



"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I'm possible!"

-Audrey Hepburn



September Music



WELCOME BACK TO MUSIC CLASS!

“Let Music Belong to Everyone”- Zoltan Kodaly

We will be singing, playing instruments, performing and always learning the theory behind music.

SO... LET THE MUSIC YEAR BEGIN!



“Excellent... As Usual!”
Musically yours, Ms. Lavallee

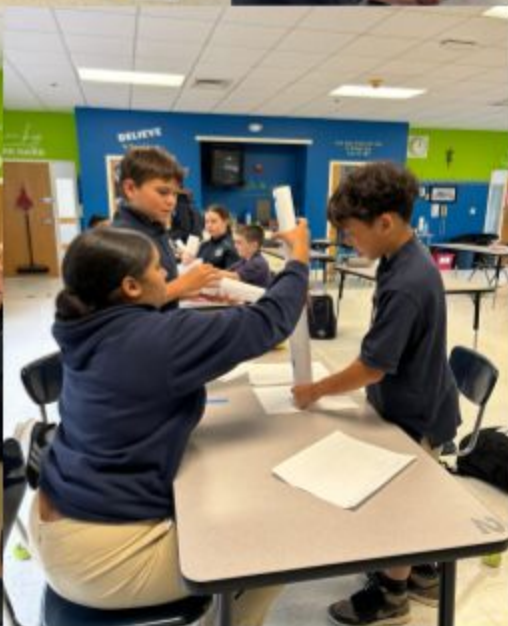




STEM TEAMWORK

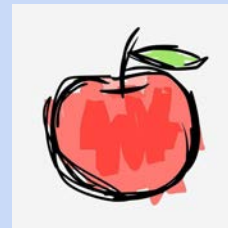
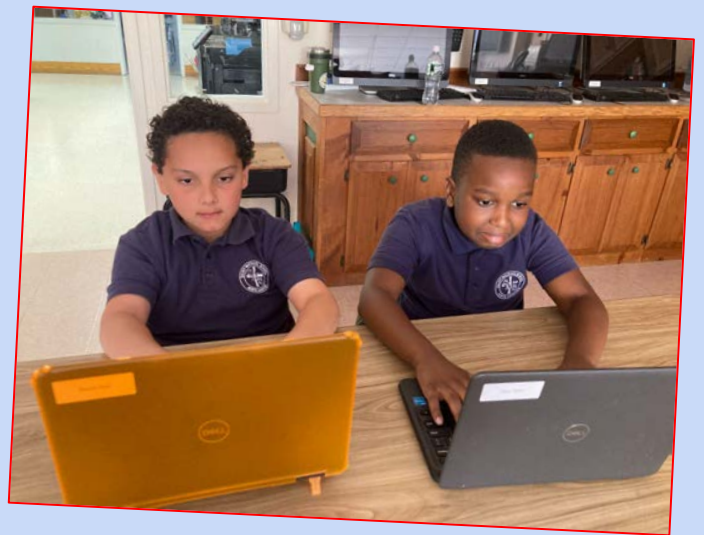
STEM is all about TEAMWORK! Each grade was faced with a STEM challenge that helped develop that skill.





Technology

*Welcome back! I am so excited for the new school year.
This month we will be discussing technology and internet safety. Together we
look forward to using technology to learn and have fun!
~ Mrs. Lesofsky*



ART CLASS

With Mrs. Donegan



Welcome back to the 2024-2025 school year! We are off to a great start in the art room. Students have been learning about lines, shapes and creating sketchbook covers. I am looking forward to see what amazing things students will create this year!



meet the School Counselor!

Mrs. Kara Rowley



Mrs. Rowley



I am so excited to spend the 2024-2025 school year with all of your children! The School Counseling office is a great space for all students to feel safe and welcome to explore their feelings and emotions. I always tells students that while I am here to talk about the tough moments, I also look forward to hearing about the wonderful things each of them is experiencing on a daily basis! My vision is that not only does it take a village, but it takes a team and I hope that throughout the year we can work together to be the strongest team for and with your child both at school and home!

About Me

Hello! I am Kara (Caffrey) Rowley! I grew up in North Andover and I currently live here with my husband, Chris, and our five-year-old son, Bodey. Bodey is in Mrs. Polcari's Kindergarten class!

I attended Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH where I received my Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice (I used to be a Police Officer!). I went on to receive my Master's Degree in School Counseling from Boston University.

Contact Me

I welcome and value parent involvement throughout the year. I would love to hear from you, and you are welcome to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.



978-686-1862 -Extension 22



kara_rowley@saintmichael.com



My Favorites

Food: Cheese Burgers

Drink: Vitamin Water

Candy: Sour Patch Kids and Chocolate!

Hobby: Hiking

Book: The Questioners Series

Subject: History

