



April Newsletter 2026

This year marks our seventy-fifth year of providing a quality Catholic education to students. We are thrilled to be hosting a 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration for all alumni, parents, grandparents, current/past staff members, parishioners and neighbors on Saturday, May 16th at 5pm.

History of St. Michael School

Opened in September, 1950, St. Michael School (where the church currently stands) was an immediate success, welcoming approximately 450 students each year in its first five years. Its ultimate embrace by parishioners was demonstrated by the fact that a new school was so soon needed to house all interested students. In September of 1955, Monsignor Shea broke ground for the new Saint Michael School on land that was donated by parishioner, Louis H. McAloon. The new school opened one year later on Maple Avenue and brought with it a parish-wide sense of great joy and renewal. As the years passed and enrollment increased, it was once again time for St. Michael School to expand. In 1995, the school began doubling grades to allow for fifty students per grade level. To accommodate the increasing enrollment, a new addition to the Maple Avenue school was opened in December of 1998, under the direction of Father Paul T. Keyes. The new addition currently houses grades two through eight. The pre-existing school built in 1955 currently houses nursery school through grade one. The 1950 school was demolished to make way for a new Saint Michael Church.

Dreaming Big! As we celebrate this Diamond Jubilee, we aren't just looking back—we are looking forward. We are dreaming BIG and are looking into the possibility of adding on a gymnasium to the school.

Our school enrollment exceeds 520 annually and the school is bursting at the seams. Our 1955 gymnasium is no longer meeting the ever-changing needs of our students so it is once again time to add to our ongoing history!

Back in 1998, there were plans to add on a gymnasium on the Maple Avenue side of the current building. At that same time, the new church was being erected and funding was limited so the plans were put on hold. Close to thirty years have passed and town regulations have likely changed making those plans no longer viable. The first step in dreaming Big and adding a gymnasium is to hire an architect to see what is possible.

All proceeds from the 75th Anniversary Celebration will be put towards this effort! We hope you will join us at the Diamond Jubilee Celebration to honor our history, take tours of the building, bid on silent auction items, purchase a tuition raffle ticket and more! Together, we can invest in Saint Michael School!

Tickets to the May 16th event are on sale now! Please take a look at the event flyer in the Newsletter for details and ticket purchase information. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

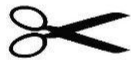
Sue Gosselin

\$5,000 TUITION RAFFLE!

Valid for any accredited institution of choice such as SMS, a Catholic/Private High School or College

Only 200 Tickets available – \$75 Each
Must sell 70 tickets to run raffle

Winner drawn May 16th at the 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration!



Please return the portion below. Thank you!

\$5,000 TUITION RAFFLE TICKET REQUEST

NUMBER OF TICKETS

NAME

CHILD'S HOMEROOM

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL



*Let's celebrate our 75 year legacy
of learning and growing together!*

include cash or a check payable to
Saint Michael School

SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration!

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

Evening Program

- 4:00pm** - Mass at Saint Michael Church
- 5:00pm** - Check in at Saint Michael School Gym
- 5:30pm** - Opening Prayer & Welcome Address
- 5:45pm** - Appetizers, Cash Bar, Silent Auction, Raffles, 50/50 Raffle, Tours & More!
- 7:00pm** - Diamond Jubilee Honorees & Video
- 7:30pm** - Raffle & Auction Winners Announced
- 8:00pm** - Thank You & Auction Check Out



AUCTION ITEM SNEAK PEEK!

- North Shore Music Theater Getaway
- Golf Packages: Indian Ridge, Trull Brook & More!
- Sports Memorabilia, including a Johnny Damon Autographed Baseball
- New England Patriots Tickets
- Front Row Seats for 8th Grade and Kindergarten Graduation Ceremonies!



\$5,000 TUITION RAFFLE!

Valid for any accredited institution of choice such as SMS, a Catholic/Private High School or College

Only 200 Tickets - \$75 Each

Purchase these limited tickets directly at SMS ahead of the event to ensure availability!

Buy your tickets
online today at
SaintMichael.com!
Just \$30/person



*Let's celebrate our 75 year legacy
of learning and growing together!*

Saint Michael School | 80 Maple Avenue, North Andover MA 01845 | 978-686-1862



Nursery

Mrs. Siddiqui



In Nursery, we are almost done learning about the alphabet! We have six more letters left.

We are also focusing on working together to complete tasks, for example, sharing our toys or reading a book together. Since we are in the second half of the school year, our independence is really shining!

This Spring, with the help of Miss Erin, we are working hard on accepting all feelings and emotions!



Nursery

Mrs. McGovern

Nursery has been getting creative using a variety of tools to paint on different types of mediums. As the weather warms up, we're spending more time outside moving our bodies and building important social skills like taking turns and working together. We're also excited to head into our end of year learning where we'll focus on patterns, nursery rhymes, shapes, and numbers!





Pre-K

Mrs. Surprenant



In April, our class explored symmetry and sorting through hands on activities. We are building early math skills while collaborating, sharing ideas, and enjoying teamwork with classmates.





Pre-K

Mrs. Reinhard



In Pre-K, students are exploring the signs of spring, including how flowers grow and bloom and the life cycle of butterflies. Through hands on experiences, we are making connections to God's creations. Students recognize and appreciate the beauty, and wonder that God has created in the world around us.



Pre-K

Mrs. Cali



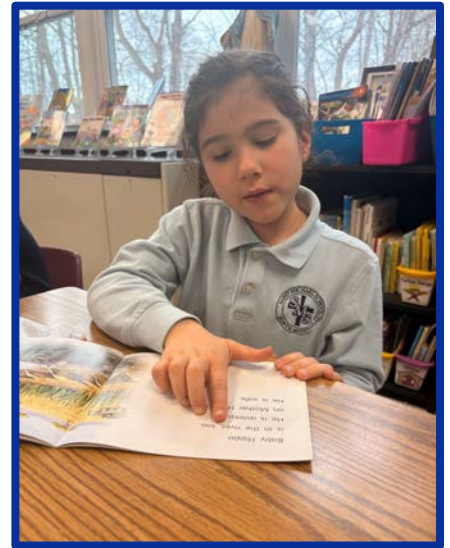
This month in Pre-K has been filled with joyful spring learning and discovery. Students have been exploring the beauty of God's creations and appreciating the world as it blooms around us. We are also nearing the completion of our letter studies, with students making wonderful progress in writing and recognizing letters through engaging crafts and activities. It has been especially rewarding to see them enjoying the warmer weather and spending meaningful time learning and playing with their friends.





Kindergarten

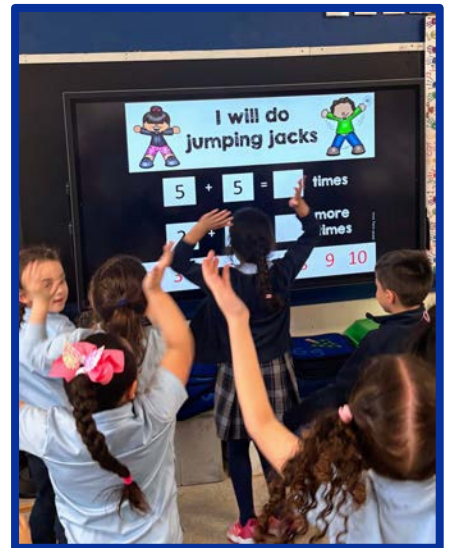
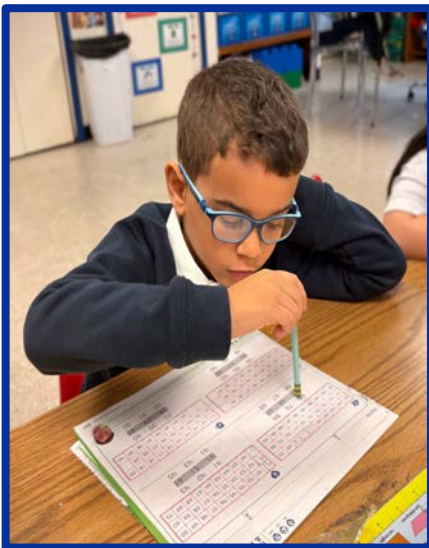
Mrs. Polcari



Our young readers are making incredible strides as they transition to independent literacy. During small group sessions, students receive targeted phonics support, which they then put into action through partner reading and focused individual practice. We

are also taking time to nurture our hearts and grow our relationship with Jesus.

Students made heart shaped suncatchers to hang in the window as a reminder that Jesus' love is like the sunshine that helps them grow. In math, we are building a strong foundation by working toward fluency in addition and subtraction, while also training our "math eyes" to spot predictable patterns in numbers up to 100.





Kindergarten

Mrs. Tildsley



In kindergarten, we are making the important shift from *learning* new skills to *applying* them independently. Students are developing a stronger sense of autonomy and building their work stamina as they engage in longer, more focused learning activities.

In literacy, students are reading decodable books with growing confidence, blending and segmenting sounds, recognizing sight words, and writing sentences with proper capitalization and punctuation.

In math, we continue to build our understanding of addition and subtraction, as well as number order up to 100! We are also focusing on place value and will begin exploring 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes, measurement, time, and money.

During the month of April, we will focus on caring for God's beautiful world by learning ways to recycle, reduce, and reuse. We also continue to practice our daily prayers!





Kindergarten

Mrs. Kasberg



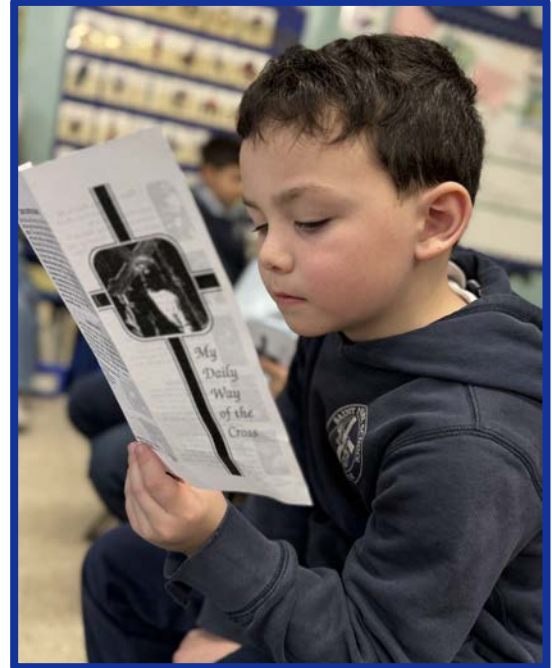
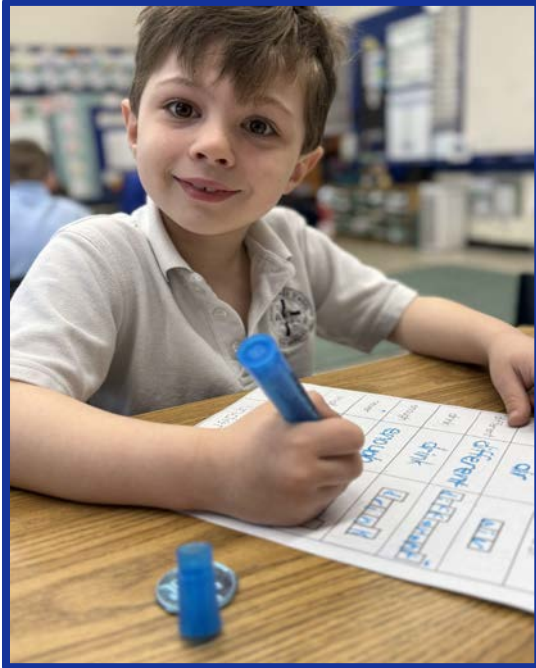
We have been busy practicing our sight words and reading books independently! In math, we have started our unit on two-dimensional shapes and three dimensional shapes! In science, we have been learning how to be scientists and make predictions about what would happen during an experiment . We put Peeps in different types of liquids. In religion we have been working on mastering our Prayers!



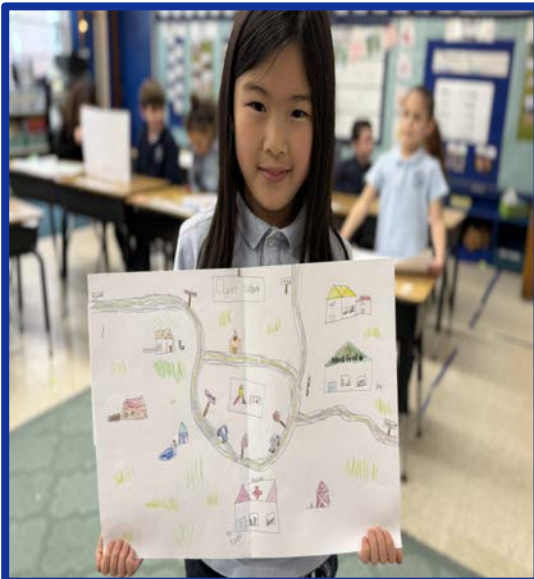


Grade 1

Mrs. Robidoux



Our students are growing in faith and knowledge, exploring the world around them with curiosity and wonder. They are discovering valuable lessons from stories, learning to measure time and objects, and observing the beauty in creation. Alongside their academic growth, students have reflected on the Stations of the Cross, the season of Lent, and our journey toward Easter. As the year continues, they are now focusing on the celebration of the Eucharist, learning about the parts of the Mass, and understanding how faith and learning go hand in hand in their everyday lives.

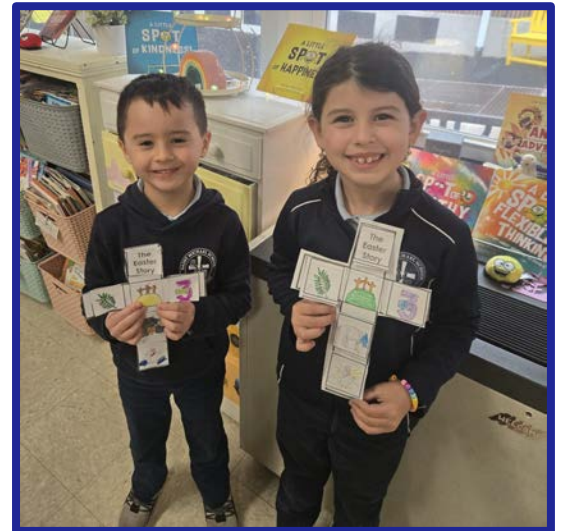




Grade 1

Ms. Bedard

We have been working very hard in first grade, and it truly shows! Our students are becoming more confident and independent readers each day. In science, we explored all about the sun and moon, and in math, we have become experts at measurement and are now learning how to tell time. In Religion, we learned about Lent and are now focusing on the parts of the Mass. Spring is such an exciting time in first grade, as we continue to grow, learn, and blossom together! 🌸





Grade 2

Mrs. Caffrey

Our Grade 2 students had a wonderful time learning and exploring across subjects! In science, we discovered how seeds travel and grow through our Mystery Science program, learning all about seed dispersal in fun and engaging ways. In religion, the children enjoyed playing Eucharistic Bingo, which helped them learn about the different parts of the Mass and the special vessels used during the celebration. In math, we had hands-on practice with money, where students learned the value of different coins and worked on making change using our manipulatives. It has been a joyful and meaningful time of learning in our classroom!





Grade 2

Mrs. Grant

Grade 2 has been excited about our social studies unit on needs and wants, as well as saving and spending. This learning connected beautifully to our math lessons, where students worked hard during our money unit to understand the value of coins and dollars. By linking these subjects, the children were able to see how math is used in real-life situations! In religion, we also spent meaningful time discussing the Stations of the Cross and reflecting on Jesus' journey. As we continue through the spring, we are joyfully preparing for our First Holy Communion in May, and the students are looking forward to this very special day.

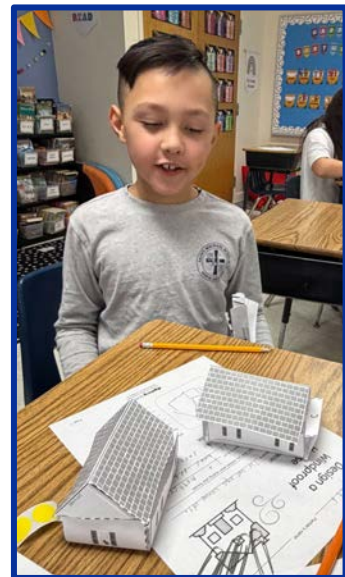




Grade 3

Mrs. Torpey

Grade 3 students have been exploring the powerful effects of natural hazards such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and dust storms. As part of this exciting unit, they took on the challenge of designing and building paper house models in the “Design a Windproof House” activity. Using limited materials, students created and tested different solutions to make their houses strong enough to withstand wind storms. They had a great time comparing their designs and discussing which ideas worked best.



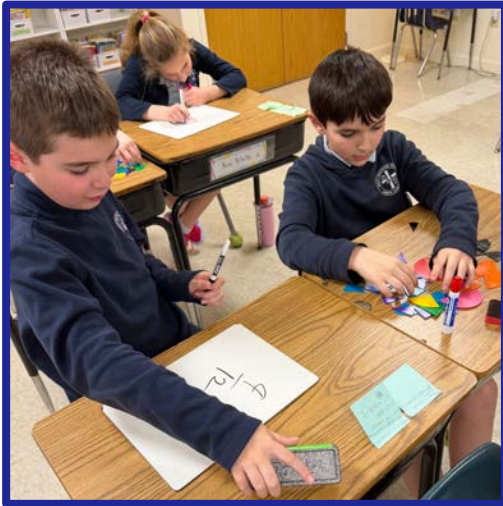
Students have been learning about the Four Marks of the Church—One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic—and what each of these important characteristics means. To deepen their understanding, they created a foldable activity where they explained each mark in their own words. This hands-on project helped students reflect on the Church’s mission and identity while making meaningful connections to their faith.





Grade 3

Ms. Grava



We have been learning all about fractions! Students explored how fractions represent equal parts of a whole by using hands-on fraction pieces. They practiced building different fractions, comparing them, and discovering how parts can fit together to make a whole. Using these visual tools helped students better understand concepts like halves, thirds, and fourths in a fun and interactive way.

In social studies, students took a step back in time to imagine what it might have been like when the Declaration of Independence was signed. They wrote creative pieces describing the setting, the feelings of the people involved, and the importance of the moment. Students showed great imagination and worked hard to include details that brought this historic event to life.

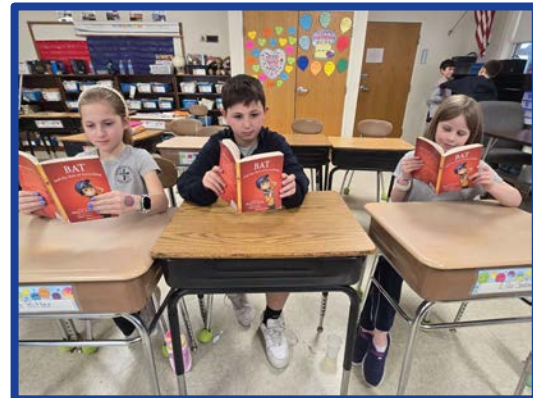
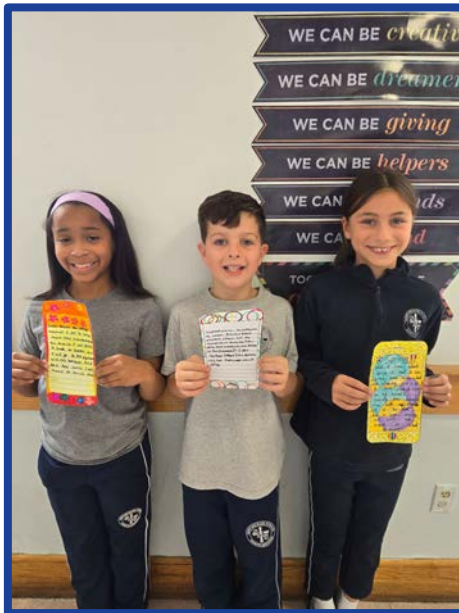




Grade 4

Mrs. Andrewchuk

The students in Grade 4 have been developing their writing skills throughout the year. This past term they explored descriptive writing through engaging prompts, demonstrating their growing understanding and use of adjectives and adverbs. Students also expressed their creativity by crafting poetry inspired by shapes, combining visual elements with thoughtful word choice. In addition, they showcased their comprehension and writing abilities through detailed book reports on *Bat and the End of Everything*.



In Social Studies, the students have completed their journey around our amazing country! From Maine to Hawaii, the children have learned about the geography, economy and people of each of our nation's regions. They have mastered the states' capitals and postal abbreviations. Now each child has been assigned a state to research. Once they complete their research, the children will prepare the project using Google Slides. Then they will present their projects to the class.



Grade 4

Mrs. Sweeney

In Math, the students began their Geometry unit exploring the concepts of perimeter and area. For a final project, the students designed their own spaces, using 10 different shapes and calculating the area and perimeter of each. The students were so creative as they brought their learning to life. They designed their own malls, sporting goods stores, amusement parks and trampoline parks. This project helped the children apply their mathematical skills in a meaningful way using their imagination, and ability to connect math to real-world design.



In Science, the students learned about animal and plant adaptations, as well as how to classify animals and plants based on shared characteristics. To end our unit, we took a field trip to the New England Aquarium where students could learn and explore about many different sea animals and plants. Students researched one fish that they found fascinating at the aquarium and created a PowerPoint slide project on it. The students favorite part was being able to teach their classmates all about their new favorite fish (its scientific name, where it can be located, diet, life, span etc.)





Grade 5-6

Mrs. Clifford-Social Studies

Grade 5 students are diving into their study of the Civil War. They are learning about the important causes that led to the war, as well as the lasting effects it had on the country. Through discussions and engaging activities, students are building a deeper understanding of this significant period in history and how it helped shape the nation we know today.



Grade 6 students have been exploring the fascinating history of the fall of the Roman Empire. Through discussions and activities, they learned about the many factors that contributed to the empire's decline, including invasions, economic challenges, and changes in leadership. Students enjoyed examining how such a powerful civilization could weaken over time, and they are developing a deeper understanding of how historical events shape the world we live in today.





Grade 5-6

Mrs. Adam-ELA

The 5th grade students are in an informational text reading unit. The essential question that guides us through the stories is, "What role does curiosity play in exploration?" We first learned about Auguste and Jacques Piccard, scientists and explorers, who traveled to both the heights and depths of our world. They are now learning about Hiram Bingham, a history professor at Yale University, who discovered Machu Picchu, four teenager boys who discovered the Lascaux Caves, and a group of farmers who, when digging, stumbled upon the Terra-Cotta Army.



The sixth grade students have started *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya. It's a story about love of family, love of community, and understanding that everyone has a voice that is valuable. They are also continuing to learn how to write more interesting sentences by using participial phrases, prepositional phrases, and appositives.





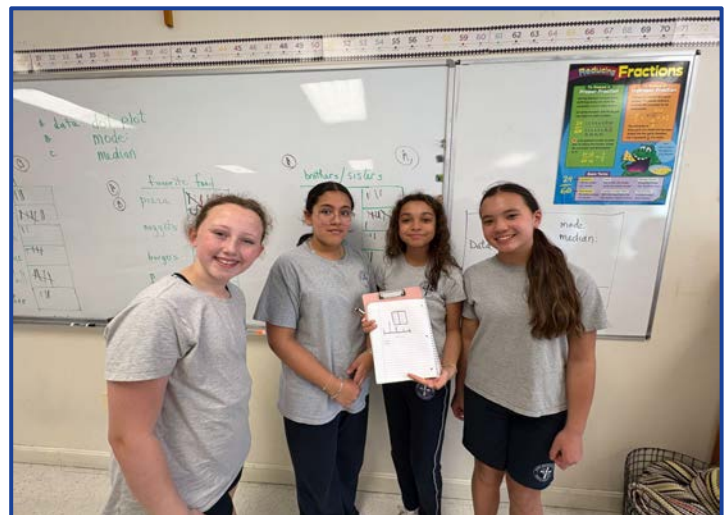
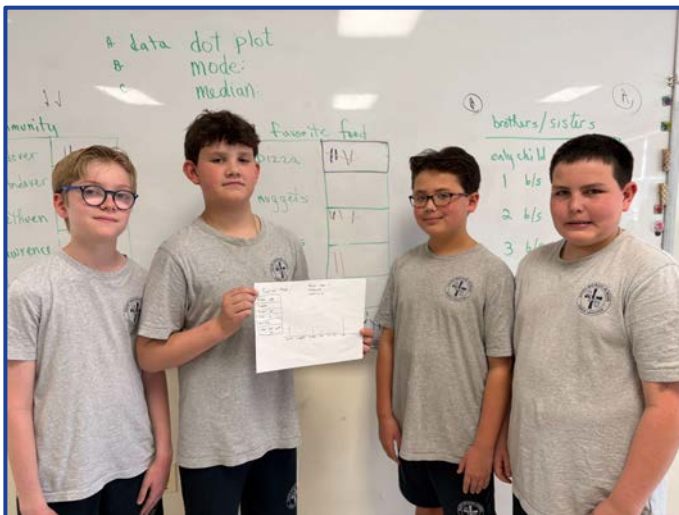
Grade 5-6

Ms. Decoteau-Math

Grade 5 students are sharpening their skills when it comes to fractions. They can be added, subtracted, multiplied, and divided. Students challenged partners to simplify fractions and decide if fractions were equivalent. During class, students focus on building Math skills and apply problem solving skills. They enjoy peer tutoring, teamwork, and partner review.



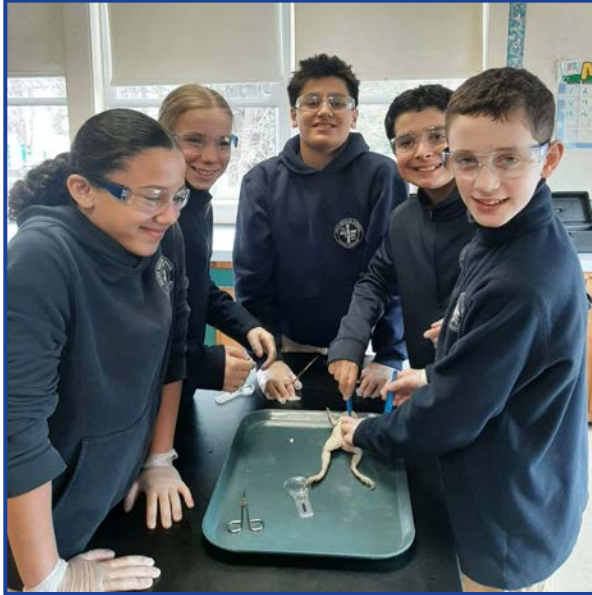
Grade 6 students have been exploring ideas in Statistics, a study of science that involves data collection and analysis. Students collected data, designed tables, and interpreted data. Ask us about mean, median, and mode. Looking at data can tell us so much about the world around us. Sometimes data falls in clusters, but an outlier can change information drastically.





Grade 5-6

Mrs. Berard-Science



Three chapters on Biology including classification of living things, cells and the human body culminated in a frog dissection for Grade 6. They were able to see how all of the material we have covered works together in a living organism. This hands-on experience helped the students gain a clearer understanding of the topics they learned about.

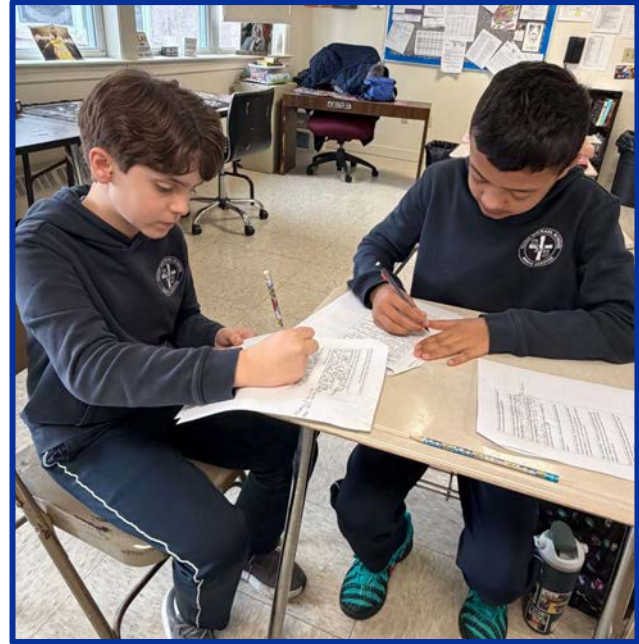


Grade 5 has been studying the solar system and the patterns found in space. They were able to see some of those patterns like the phases of the moon, constellations, and day and night come to life in a lab. Looking closely at patterns they can see how real life allows for a deeper understanding of what is actually happening.

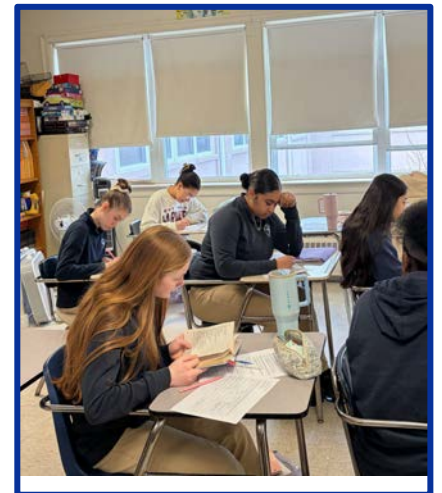


Grade 7-8

Mrs. Ordway-ELA



Grade 7 students analyzed elements of historical fiction by studying both the novel, *Loyalty*, and the poem, *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*. They engaged in pair-sharing to discuss guided questions, using their responses to support and deepen whole-class discussions.



Grade 8 students reviewed key grammar concepts and challenged one another to identify, classify, and explain the uses of different types of clauses within sentences, helping to enhance their writing skills and comprehension of written works.



Grade 7-8

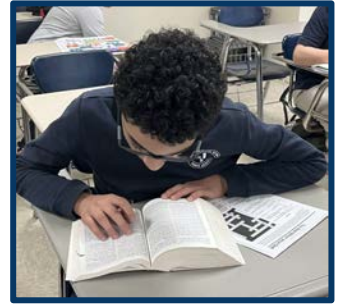
Mrs. Nagle-Social Studies

Grade 7



Students are deepening their faith by exploring the true meaning of the Paschal Mystery and understanding how, through this Mystery, Jesus fulfilled God's plan of salvation. They are also learning about Jesus' final week before his death and resurrection by reading Scripture passages from the Bible.

Grade 7



Grade 7 recently completed their study of the structure and function of the United States government. Students examined the meaning of the Preamble, the seven articles, the purpose of the Bill of Rights, each Amendment, and the roles of the three branches of government. Their study of American History continues with the Territorial Growth of the United States and Westward Expansion. They will explore the struggles and challenges our Nation faced as it strived for Manifest Destiny.

Grade 7



Grade 7

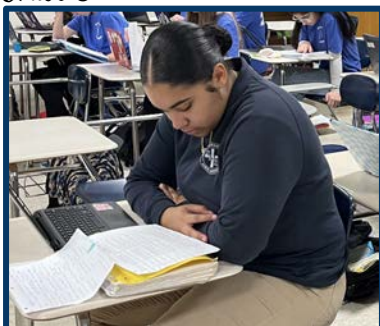


Grade 7



Grade 8's journey into American History progresses into the period of the Great Depression. Students examined how over buying, buying on credit, and the rapid rise of the stock market in the 1920's contributed to the stock market crash and the ensuing economic . The students are examining Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs, focusing on their purpose, the impact they had on the nation, and how they transformed the government's' relationship with the economy.

Grade 8



Grade 8



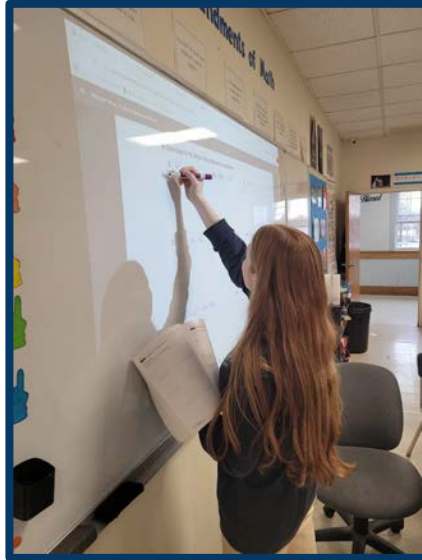
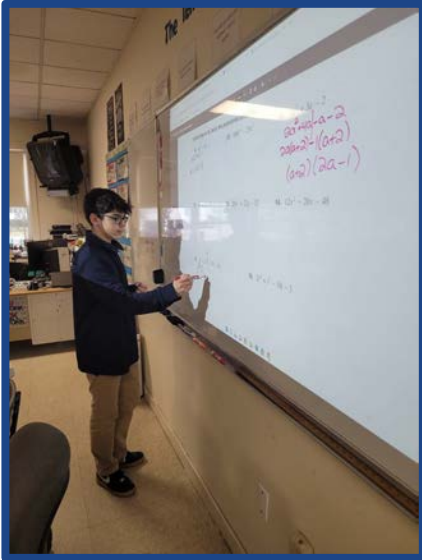
Grade 8





Grade 7-8

Mrs. Parker-Math



8th Grade

In math class, the 8th graders have been working on various factoring methods for quadratics. Students were given the chance to go up to the board and explain out all of the steps to their peers.

In religion class, the students in 8B learned about the Council of Nicaea and the writing of the Nicene Creed. The students then created "I Believe" images to go with the creed statement most meaningful to them.



7th Grade

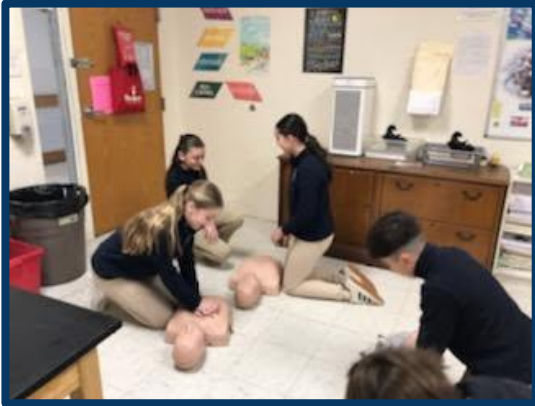
The students in 7th grade have been working on area and perimeter of compound shapes. This has given them the opportunity to work together on real-world problem solving. The students had great conversations about strategies.



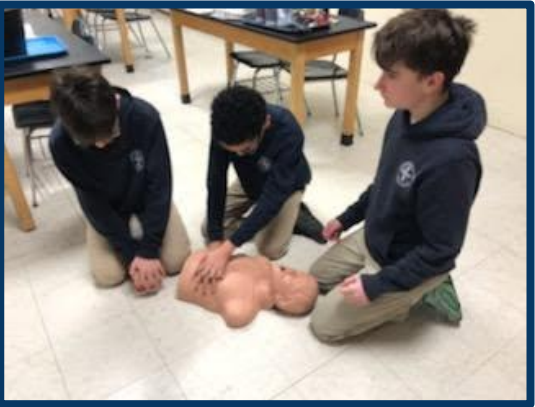


Grade 7-8

Mr. Annand-Science



This month both seventh and eighth grades are involved in a before school science club. Grade seven is learning CPR and how to use an AED. This connects with the fitness and health portion of the curriculum. Grade eight is extracting DNA from strawberries. This falls under the Heredity and Genetics part of their curriculum. Both grades come in once a week before school to learn these interesting and important skills.



*The Class of 2026:
The 75th Graduating Class*

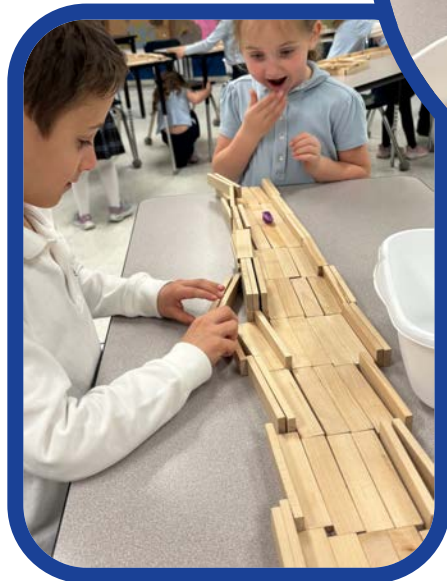




STEM

Ms. Bryant

STEM teaches four key elements - creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication. Our Kindergarteners were asked to create a pathway for a Hexbug using only Keva planks. They practiced critical thinking by figuring out how to design a path that guides the Hexbug without letting it escape. They used creativity as they built unique tracks using the planks in different ways. Through collaboration they shared ideas and help each other improve their designs. Throughout the entire process they were continually communicating about what worked and what needed to be changed in order to be successful. This activity helped our young learners explore STEM concepts while developing important skills through play.





Physical Ed.

Mr. Diaz

Grade 1 students have been learning the fundamentals of lacrosse. They've been practicing cradling, passing, and catching while developing hand-eye coordination and teamwork. For most students this is the first time, and it's been great to see their enthusiasm as they grow more confident with their sticks each class.



"Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body; it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity."

-John F. Kennedy



Music

Ms. Lavallee



Pre-K students are working on percussion instruments and are beginning to explore basic concepts such as the difference between beats and rhythms. They enjoy hands-on learning experiences, including playing together in a pretend play band. It helps build coordination, listening skills and sense of musical play.

Grade 2 students are developing their singing abilities while expanding their repertoire of songs. They are learning to sing with confidence, improve pitch accuracy and expression.

Grade 4 students are learning to play the recorder. They are focusing on note reading, finger replacement and ensemble playing. They are also preparing for the annual Memorial Day Performance, where they will showcase the skills they have developed throughout the year.





Art

Mrs. Donegan



First grade students read the story "The Magical Garden of Claude Monet," by Laurence Anholt. They then discussed the painting *Water Lilies and Japanese Bridge* by Claude Monet. They used oil pastels to draw the trees in the background, the bridge and the lilies and lily pads. Once that was completed they used watercolor paints on the oil pastel to create a resist. These beautiful paintings will be on display for all to see at the 75th Anniversary Gala.

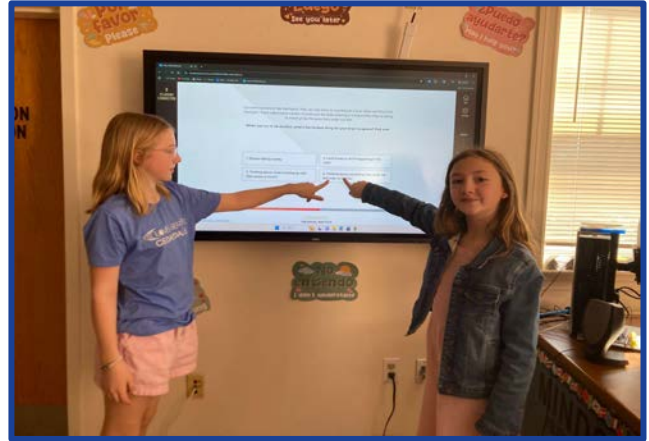
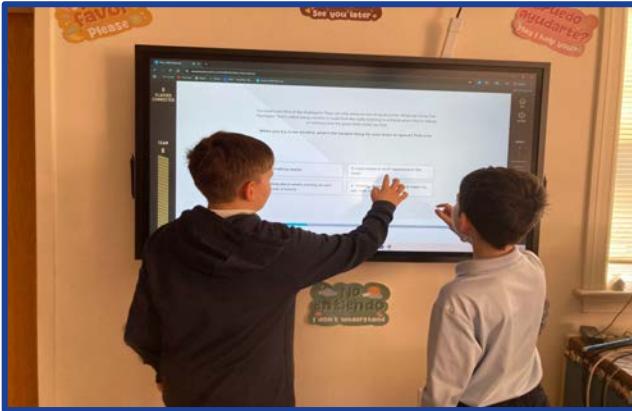


Third grade students learned about perennial plants and how they come back every year. They looked at images of spring time flowers like daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses, and tulips. Then they created their own spring time gardens. Their paper is vertical to work on creating a composition that fills the whole space and have flowers of different heights and sizes. They outlined their flowers in Sharpie and then used watercolor paints. These beautiful gardens will also be on display at the 75th Anniversary Gala.



Technology

Mrs. Lesofsky



#WinAtSocial is an interactive, social-emotional program used here at St. Michael School. Its curriculum helps students navigate social media, technology, and everyday social interactions in healthy, positive ways. Through this program grade 4 is learning how to stay calm, focused, and aware of their thoughts and feelings so they can be successful learners in the classroom and in life.



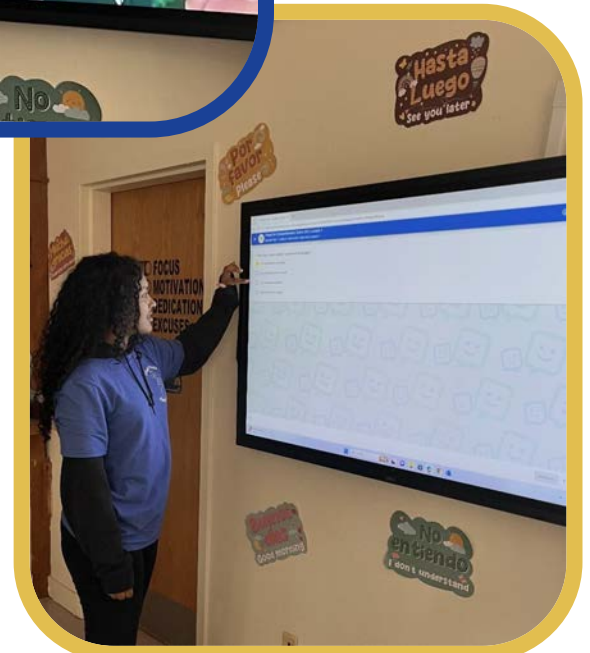
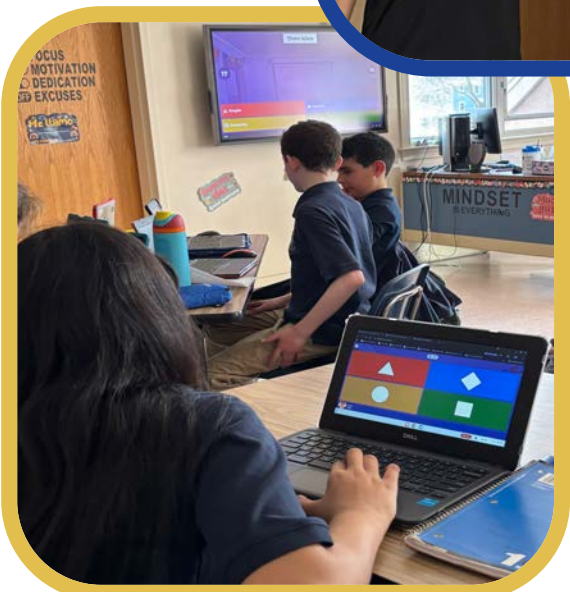
Fifth grade students are creating a group presentation that highlights important ways to stay healthy, such as good nutrition, exercise and sleep. They are using Google Slides to organize their ideas, add images, and share what they have learned in a creative and engaging way. Once their presentations are complete, students will practice public speaking by sharing their work to the whole class.



Spanish

Ms. Bellitti

Our Upper School students study Spanish through Sarah's Spanish School. Classes involve listening to an instructor, answering questions, playing Kahoot games, and solving crossword puzzles. Each activity helps build their vocabulary, practice grammar, and engage in conversations that strengthen their speaking and listening abilities.





School Counselor

Mrs. Rowley



Student Council members collected over 1,000 pounds of food for Bread and Roses during our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive!



The Student Council worked hard this year to support our own school community and the surrounding communities. In December they organized a Toy Drive in partnership with the Lawrence Police Department which were distributed to children who attended Lawrence Public Schools. Additionally, during Easter Holy Week the students made Easter Goodie Bags to be distributed in Lawrence by the Lazarus House.



PTO News



Boys Night Out
grades N-4th was a blast
at Academy Lanes!



*Thank you to Joe Fish and The Loft
for hosting a restaurant fundraiser
for PTO on April 10th!*



Enrichment Program
with "1 Degree Outside"
was a success!



Last PTO meeting on Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00pm.