



September Newsletter 2026

Welcome Back! Things at school in the summer just weren't the same without all of our students and staff. We are so happy to hear giggles and laughter daily and smiling faces walking the halls again! We hope that your children have settled into the new school year and routines.

To our newest families and students, WELCOME! We know starting a new school can feel overwhelming from a parent and student perspective. If you need any assistance, please feel free to reach out to Kara Rowley, the School Counselor or me. We are here to assist you and make this transition seamless.

At school, we had a few projects occur this summer including the installation of new artificial turf in the backyard. This was paid for by our amazing PTO fundraising last year as well as generous gifts to our Annual Fund. We are currently having new entry fences installed to protect the new turf from trespassers. This summer, our surveillance cameras picked up several trespassers in the late hours of the night and even some e-bikes traveling on our new turf. The new seven-foot-tall fences should better protect our property as well as the newly installed turf. I'd like to thank Mr. Barry for all the work he and his team did this summer to get the building ready for the arrival of our students.

As a parent at Saint Michael School, you are all automatically members of our PTO. We encourage you to attend meetings and help us raise funds for the school by supporting all of their fundraisers and activities. They also host events for our families and students and truly make SMS the family that it is! All funds raised by the PTO go directly back to the students and teachers.

I encourage parents to read through the weekly Trumpet News. We do our best to communicate to you all that we know is happening. As a parent of two sons, I know how challenging life can be balancing homework, sports, family engagements and more, so when I publish the Trumpet News, I'm in parent mode trying to make sure you have all the vital information you need for a successful week.

A great way for families to stay fully engaged in school life is also to receive automated gradebook emails on a weekly basis. This service is for students in grades 1-8. Without any extra work for the teachers, the family portal will automatically email parents who sign up, a Sunday gradebook email. This way, a parent can stay on top of academics without waiting for the end of the term or a report card to go home. Go to webforms-family demographic form-choose your name and under preferences use the dropdown menu to choose weekly gradebook updates.

A final note about what makes SMS so exceptional and that is the amazing teachers, specialists and support staff who make SMS a FAMILY! Everyone here wants your child to flourish, be successful, enter school each day with a positive spirit and a smile! Our staff work SO HARD each day, each night, on weekends and even school vacations, to ensure learning is happening and students are succeeding. We always show our appreciation to them during Teacher Appreciation Week in May, but I wanted to give them a big shout out this month because they should be appreciated each and every school day! They are AWESOME!

I look forward to partnering with all of you this year to ensure your child succeeds at St. Michael School. Thank you for choosing a Catholic school for your child.

Sincerely,

Sue Gosselin



Important Dates and INFORMATION

September 21-October 23- MAP
Standardized Testing for K-8
September 22- PTO Meeting 7p.m.
September 23- Half Day
October 2- Grade 3 Field Trip
October 5- Mass
October 9- No School- Teacher PD
Day
October 12- No School- Holiday

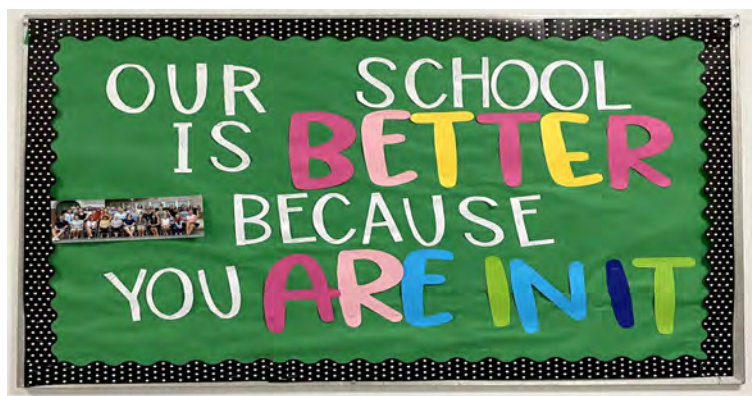
If you are looking for Liturgy or event
times please refer to the weekly
Trumpet.

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.



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.

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
2027-2028 school year) families must make a minimum total offertory donation of **\$500** to our parish
beginning **July 1, 2026 to April 1, 2027**. 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 donations@saintmichael.com.

You may also make donations on the parish online giving **website**:
<https://www.osvhub.com/st-michael-north-andover/giving/funds?preview=%E2%80%8B>
(choose parish offering, no annual pledge). 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.



School News

Thank you to our incredible community!

Because of your overwhelming generosity toward the School's Annual Fund and the amazing work of our PTO, our backyard has a brand-new turf field! This is an unbelievable gift that our children will cherish today and for years to come. We are endlessly grateful for our supportive families and donors who pour their hearts into making St. Michael School Simply Exceptional!





Focus on Faith

Saint Michael the Archangel Prayer

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls, Amen.

Saint Michael Parish Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturdays at 4p.m.

**Sundays at 8a.m., 10a.m. (Family Mass), Noon
and 5p.m.**

*Donuts are typically served in the Parish Hall after the 8a.m. and 10am. Masses.
If you attend the 10a.m. Mass, please consider bringing a food donation for the pantry. The children bring these up during the Presentation of the Gifts.

Father Blaney, our pastor, welcomed our students back on the 1st day of school.

We are blessed to have him and Fr. Dwight at our parish to celebrate masses, liturgies and sacraments with our students.



Feast Day

September 29th

Patron Saint of:

Police officers,
soldiers, grocers,
mariners, and the
sick





PTO News

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT START TO THE YEAR!

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for our Back-to-School Social! It was wonderful to see so many SMS families come together, reconnect with old friends, meet new ones, and have some fun as we kicked off the new school year. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such a great evening!



REBECCA'S NUT FREE COOKIE FUNDRAISER IS COMING!

Our first fundraiser of the year kicks off Monday, September 21! Rebecca's Nut Free Cookies are a longtime SMS favorite – delicious, frozen, ready-to-bake cookies that make an easy treat to have on hand.

Fundraiser Dates: September 21 – October 2

Cookie Pickup: Wed., October 14 | 2:30–4:30 p.m. | Maple Ave Atrium

Look for order information coming home in backpacks!



JOIN US!

Our first PTO Meeting is **Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Main Street Atrium
(enter by the gymnasium)

All are welcome!



Nursery

Mrs. Cataldo



We love playing with our fall themed sensory bin!

Making fall crafts with apples!



We took first day photos!

We have loved getting to know each other and learning about classroom expectations, prayer, sharing, friend's names, correct pencil holding, and walking down the hallway as a class! Our class is off to a great start!



Nursery

Mrs. Siddiqui



We used scissors for the first time and made apples for the letter a!



We learned that we are all God's children, loved beyond measure and created beautifully in His image. What better way to celebrate than by making our own colorful rainbows!



We've found plenty of opportunities to play with new friends!



We've been learning so much about what school is like. We love to practice walking in the hallway!





Pre-K

Mrs. Cali

Pre-K is off to an incredible start at Saint Michael School! Our youngest learners have been busy getting to know each other and building lasting friendships. The highlight of our year so far was the Teddy Bear Picnic, where students brought in their favorite plush pals for an afternoon of treats and playground fun. We have also been setting intentions for our classroom community. After reading *I Promise*, by LeBron James, the children worked together to create their own list of meaningful promises for the year. The students are doing a fantastic job, and we are so proud of their hard work and enthusiasm!





Pre-K

Mrs. Reinhard



This year, we are using Behavior Buddies in our classroom to help children learn and practice important classroom routines and positive behaviors. Our buddies help make learning routines fun and engaging while giving children friendly reminders about things like listening, following directions, using kind hands and words, cleaning up, and being respectful to others.





Pre-K

Mrs. Surprenant



September found us off to a great start! We enjoyed our Teddy Bear picnic and went on a Bear Hunt on the playground. We also worked on our fine motor skills cutting playdough, coloring, and building with Legos. We are all becoming fast friends and the school year is looking bright!





Kindergarten

Mrs. Kasberg



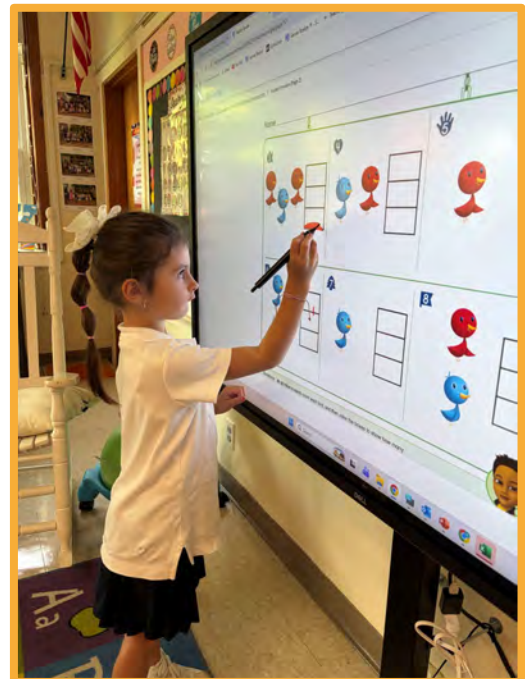
A is for Alligator! We have been busy learning the two sounds that A makes!



In reading we are practicing our book handling skills by exploring our classroom library



We are practicing our letter recognition by digging for letters in our sensory bin!



In math we are working on our numbers 1-10 . We took turns using our interactive smart screen!



Kindergarten

Mrs. Polcari



What an incredible start to the school year! Our classroom was filled with big smiles and enthusiastic energy as students embraced the first day of school, settled into their routines, and quickly made wonderful new connections. A major highlight was the introduction of our 8th grade buddies, where our oldest students stepped up as amazing leaders and role models, greeting their younger partners with warm welcomes and helping them feel confident from day one. The excitement continued as we officially launched our classroom learning centers, where students eagerly rotated through hands-on reading, math, and team building stations designed to spark collaboration and independent exploration.



Kindergarten

Mrs. Tildsley



Learning through play: Our kindergarteners are developing problem solving, fine-motor and organizational skills as they engage in hand-on classroom activities.



Learning in motion: Students are building gross motor skills, coordination, balance and body awareness as they play together outdoors. Active play encourages cooperation and positive peer interactions.

Learning together with technology: Students are using technology as a tool for learning while practicing collaboration, communication, and problem solving skills. Our eighth graders are helping younger students navigate various computer skills and how to use digital tools in a purposeful way.





Grade 1

Ms. Bedard



Our first graders are off to a wonderful start with the **HMH Into Reading and Spelling** program! We are building strong reading foundations as we practice letter sounds, phonics skills, sight words, spelling patterns, and new vocabulary. Students are enjoying stories, learning new words, and working hard to become confident, independent readers and spellers.



We are off to a great start with First Grade Math! Using **enVision Mathematics**, we have been busy reviewing important math skills and building a strong foundation for the year ahead. Students are practicing counting, number recognition. We love practicing our math facts while playing games!



Grade 1

Mrs. Robidoux



Our fabulous first graders have jumped right into reading!

We are learning about new friends, emotions, and exciting new adventures through our reading program and our classroom!



We are practicing different strategies to help us add and subtract, solve problems, and explain our thinking.

We are learning that math is all about trying, thinking, and growing!

We are learning more about first grade and each other each day.





Grade 2

Mrs. Caffrey



New Year! New memories! New Adventures! We are looking forward to a year full of learning!



The children used manipulatives for their addition of doubles.



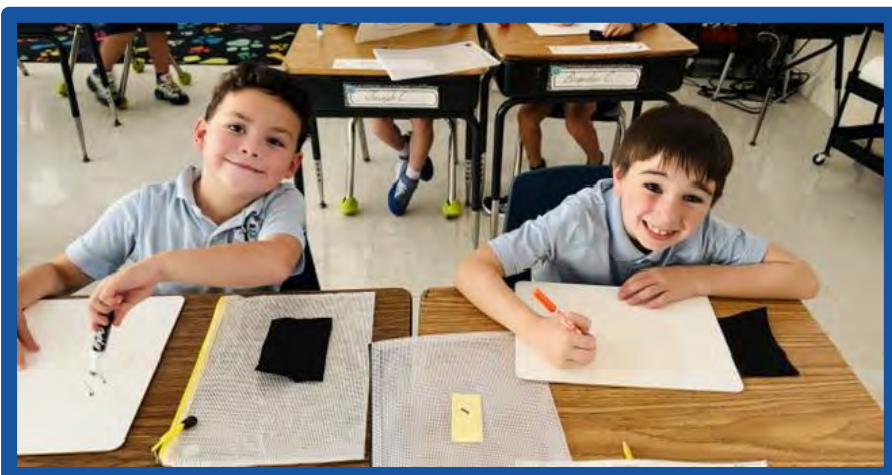
Officer Mark and Officer Annie visited our classroom. We are so grateful for their dedication.



Grade 2

Mrs. Grant

Grade 2 is back in full swing, and the classroom is buzzing with focus and joy. The students have jumped right into the routines and are working hard! We are also finding time to enjoy each other. Looking forward to a great year in 2B.





Grade 3

Mrs. DeFranzo

In third grade, students had fun practicing their addition and subtraction skills through hands on learning! They rolled dice to create their own addition problems and then had their partner solve them.

We also enjoyed using our own whiteboards to strengthen our addition and subtraction skills.





Grade 3

Mrs. Torpey

Our third graders are settling into the school year nicely! One of our first activities was a fun team-building challenge called “Save Fred.” Students worked together in small groups to help Fred get his life preserver back on—but there was a catch! They could only use paper clips to complete the challenge.

Students had to communicate, share ideas, practice patience, and work together to solve the problem. It was wonderful to see their teamwork, creativity, and perseverance in action! We are off to a great start in third grade!





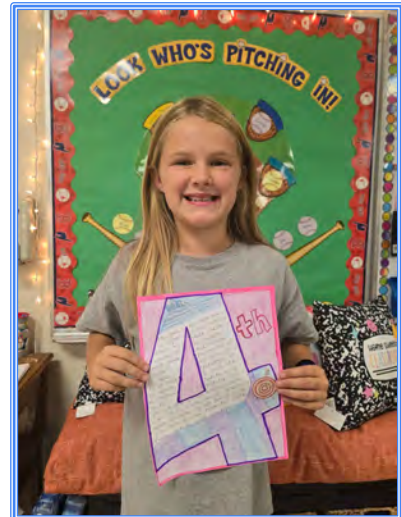
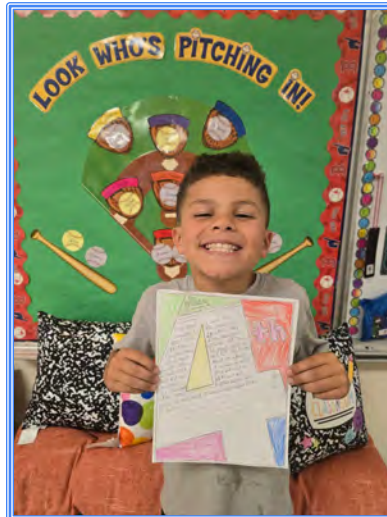
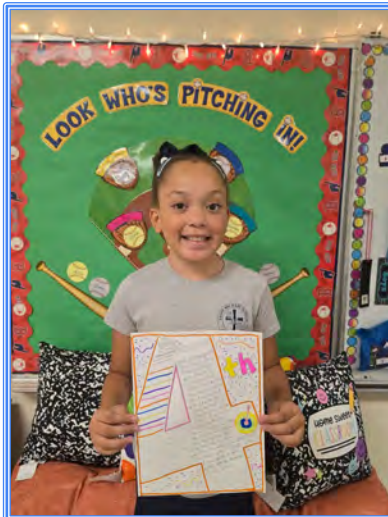
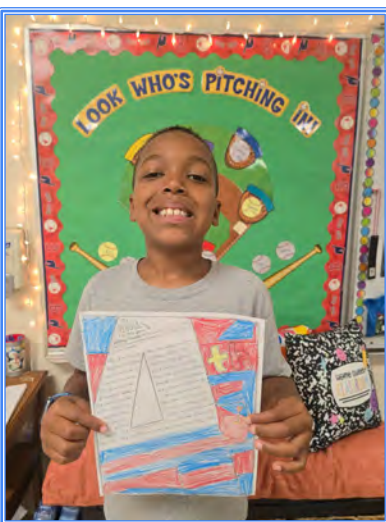
Grade 4

Mrs. Andrewchuk

The children in Grade 4 are off to an amazing start!
During the first couple of weeks of school we talked about setting goals in Grade 4.

The children then set their own academic and personal goals for the school in a writing prompt.

We are going to keep these prompts and then share them at the end of the school year and see how many goals were worked on or achieved!

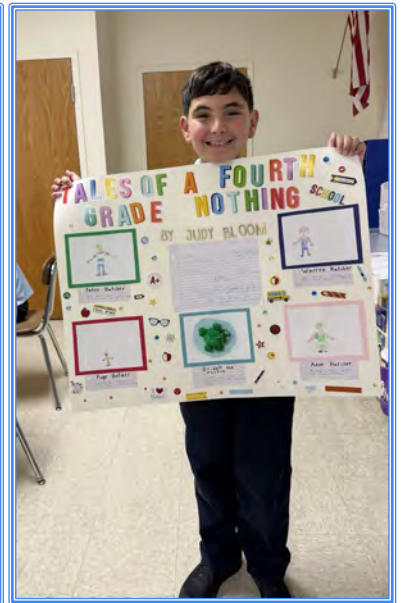




Grade 4

Mrs. Sweeney

During the first few days the children presented their Summer Book Projects. The children had a choice of books to read that included: *Tales of the Fourth Grade Nothing*, *The BFG*, and *Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great*. The projects were creative and the children did a great job presenting them.





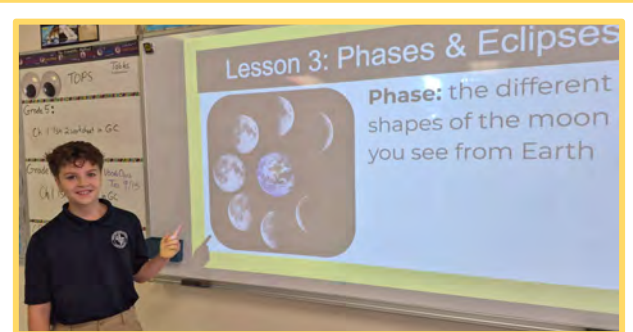
Grade 5-6

Mrs. Berard-Science

In 6B Religion, we created logos of the Blessed Trinity after we discussed how God makes Himself known to us through Divine Revelation.



The 6th grade Science classes are studying the phases of the moon and 4 different types of galaxies. The students will choose one galaxy type and create their own, including planets and stars.



In 5th grade Science, we started the year learning about how to observe and describe physical properties of matter. The students got to feel an object in a bag and describe it to a partner. That partner had to guess what the object was.





Grade 5-6

Mrs. Clifford-Social Studies



In grade 6, we are learning about prehistory and the archaeological discoveries that helped form present day societies of today.



In grade 5, Religion we are starting off the year learning about the Holy Trinity and mission of Jesus.

In grade 5 Social Studies, we are learning about the Native American civilizations of Central America, South West, and North Pacific.



Grade 5-6

Ms. Decoteau-Math

Grade 6 students began the school year by building a strong classroom bond. They worked together to build a 'tower' and recognized teamwork, communication and patience as key factors to their success. They took some time together to share common interests, summer memories, and also identified personal goals for the year.



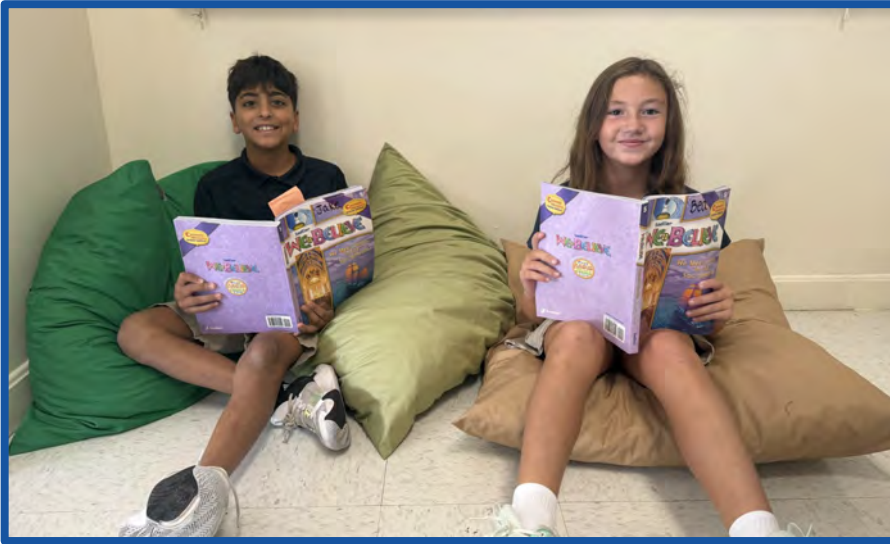
Grade 5 students build on math skills by working together as they practice and encourage each other. Students challenge each other to form large numbers, increase and decrease values, and practice exponential values. Working together reinforces skills in math and communication.





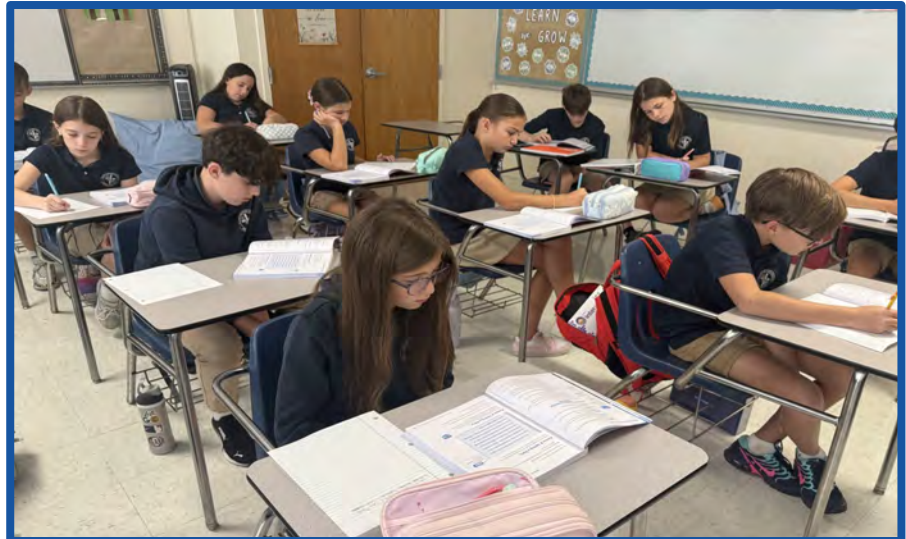
Grade 5-6

Mrs. McGovern-ELA



In religion, we have begun learning how Jesus shares his life with us and what it means to belong to the Kingdom of God.

Grade 6 starting their week with Grammar Monday →
Strengthening our writing skills, one grammar rule at a time!



Grade 5 building reading confidence



Students are reading stories closely and using evidence from the text to support their writing ideas.



Grade 7-8

Mr. Annand- Science

Grade 8 Religion

I am so excited to start this year off with the Class of 2027. I know their final year at St. Michael School will be a memorable one because they are an exceptional group of students. One big event for the 8th graders is being paired with their Kindergarten buddies. The two grades will do many different things this year including partnering up for church and other activities. This partnering helps our 8th graders live out our religion program in their everyday lives. I am looking forward to a great school year!



Grade 7

I already knew many of the seventh graders before the year started, but this is the first time that I have them in class. The students seem enthusiastic and excited about science class. They are currently learning about erosion and weathering of rocks and soil. In class, the students learned about abrasion using sugar cubes as rocks.



Grade 8

In the science classroom, the students in grade eight are learning about Astronomy and how the earth, moon, and sun work together to make the seasons, tides, and eclipses.





Grade 7-8

Mrs. Nagle- Social Studies

In Religion, students are exploring God's presence in our lives through our unique talents and character traits. They are designing name plates that represent the special talents, qualities, and gifts that God has given them.



Grade 7 Social Studies students are exploring note-taking strategies as they learn about the Five Themes of Geography: location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region. Students are learning how to organize their notes in ways that help them better understand, retain, and apply key geographic concepts.



Grade 8 Social Studies students are learning about the causes of the Civil War and the economy of the South. Through class activities and discussions, students are exploring this important time in American history.





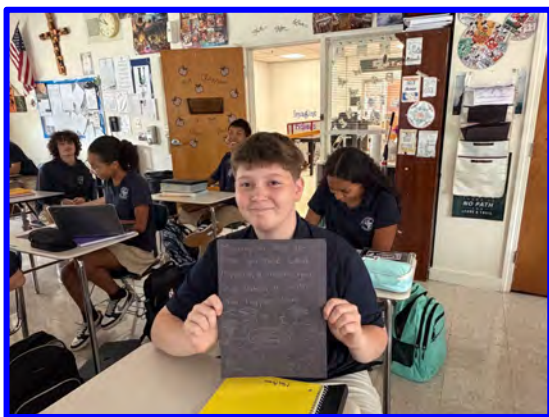
Grade 7-8

Mrs. Ordway-ELA

Grade 7 kicked off the year exploring character traits from their summer reading and shared thoughtful insights in small groups.



Grade 8 explored meaningful aphorisms in literature and put their creativity to work by crafting original ones of their own.



In Religion, students worked collaboratively in small groups to explore the ways God's presence surrounds us in our daily lives.





Grade 7-8

Mrs. Parker- Math

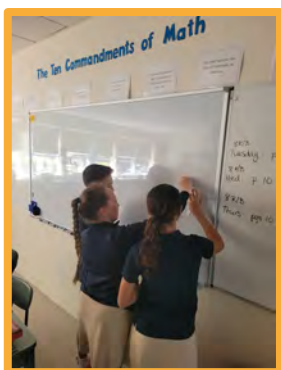
8 Religion

The Class of 2027 has started the year strong! They are ready to take on the responsibilities of being the oldest class in the school. They recently hosted our opening school Mass and assisted their Kindergarten buddies at their first school Mass.



Grade 7

I have enjoyed starting the year with the grade 7 students. They are enthusiastic and excited to learn. We are starting the year off with different number systems. We are currently focusing on adding and subtracting with positive and negative numbers. These are skills that will be used throughout their math careers.



Grade 8

I can't believe how much growth the students in grade 8 had over the summer. They are getting back into their routines and remembering a lot of what we covered last year. We are starting the year with solving for variables. They are remembering all their work with positives, negatives, fractions and decimals. All of this work will get them ready for their high school classes next year.



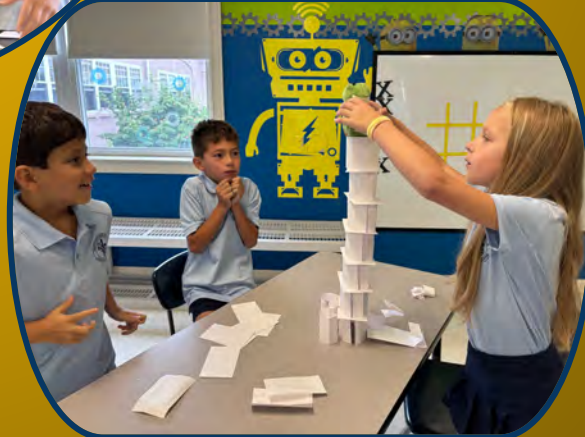


STEM

Ms. Bryant

TEAMWORK

Grade 3 students got off to a great start in STEM. Working in teams of three they used only 50 index cards to build a structure that would hold Freddy the frog.





STEM

Ms. Bryant





STEM

Ms. Bryant





Physical Ed.

Mr. Diaz

Welcome to Saint Michael PE!

Welcome back to Physical Education! I'm looking forward to a fun, active, and safe school year with all of our students.

Our backyard has received a massive upgrade with the installation of our new turf field! We're excited to get outside and put the new space to good use.

To kick off the school year, students will participate in a variety of fun activities and games, including

-  Relay races
-  Soccer
-  Tennis/baseball



"One team. One dream. You'll Never Walk Alone." Liverpool FC



Music

Ms. Lavallee

Welcoming our Nursery and Pre-K students to a joyful work of music! We are on our way learning, exploring, and discovering sounds using non-pitched instruments. Lots of music making, movements and always fun! Our Pre-K students are also learning all about echo songs. In music class we're always building confidence, listening skills, and following the conductor!

ONE SONG AT A TIME!

Excellent... as usual!





Art

Mrs. Donegan



The beginning of the year is always about the basics of art. Nursery students have been boosting those fine motor skills while learning about lines and shapes. They read the book *Miss Spider's Tea Party* by David Kirk. They used precut circles and rectangles to create their spider.

Kindergarten through Fifth grade started working on their sketchbook covers to practice those drawing skills!





Technology

Mrs. Lesofsky

Welcome back! This year, we're excited to continue using Social Institute: **#WinAtSocial** in our technology classes. **#WinAtSocial** is a social-emotional learning program that helps students develop the skills they need to build positive relationships, communicate effectively, make good decisions, and navigate the social and digital world safely and responsibly.



Our 8th graders spend time with their Kindergarten buddies during their technology time. They guide their buddy in using their Chromebooks at St. Michael School by encouraging them to click, drag, and do other important features using the mouse pad. Together they learn while practicing patience, teamwork, and developing friendships.





Spanish

Ms. Andrewchuk

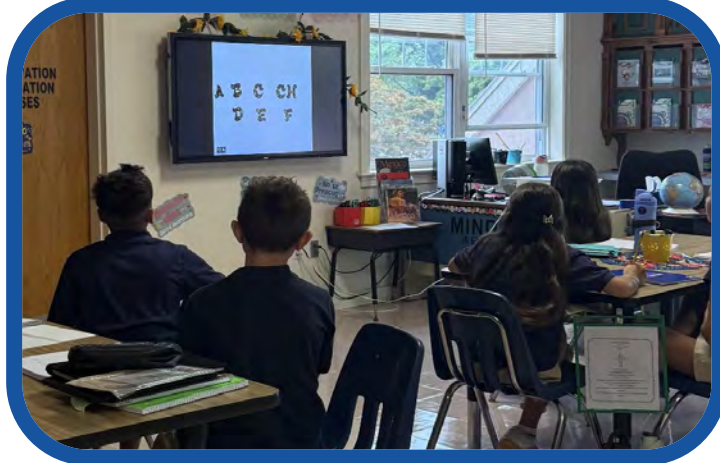
Spanish classes have been off to a great start!

Grade 5 has been learning the basics, including numbers and the alphabet. We are now focusing on the days of the week and months of the year through fun games and note-taking practice.

Grades 6 & 7 have been writing Spanish scripts in their notebooks using common phrases and questions we have been studying. They are getting ready to present their scripts to the class next week!

Grade 8 is jumping right into grammar with subject pronouns and building a strong foundation for the year ahead.

I am so excited to be back! I am looking forward to all of the learning and progress to come! :)



"Un idioma distinto es una visión diferente de la vida." - Federico Fellini

Meaning: A different language is a different vision of life.



School Counselor

Mrs. Rowley

MEET YOUR School Counselor!

HI! I'M
Kara Rowley!

Your Student's School Counselor



I'm here to support you,
encourage you, and help you
be your best!



I CAN HELP YOU WITH:



Making friends and building
positive relationships



Talking through worries,
problems, or big feelings



Setting goals and
solving problems



Building skills for
school success



Learning, growing, and
becoming your best self



REMEMBER...



You don't have to figure
everything out alone.

*I'm here to listen,
help, and cheer
you on!*



A LITTLE ABOUT ME



Favorite food:
Chicken Parmesan



Favorite color:
Blue



Favorite hobbies:
Reading and hiking



Favorite sport:
Soccer



Favorite dessert:
Ice cream



Favorite holiday:
Fourth of July



Favorite place to visit:
Sedona, Arizona



Favorite season:
Summer



Favorite book series:
The Boxcar Children



Favorite movie:
The Sound of Music



Favorite animal:
Raccoons



Favorite thing to do
on the weekend:
Spend time outdoors

FUN FACT ABOUT ME:

I used to be a police officer!
I love to play soccer and coach
first and second grade boys!



COME VISIT ME!



Email:

kara_rowley@saintmichael.com



Phone Number:

978-686-1862,
extension 322

*I can't wait to
get to know you!*

