

Is Full Day Preschool just what your child needs? Contact St. Michael

For many parents, making the choice to send their child to preschool is one of the most important and difficult decisions they will make. However, preschool is the perfect time to begin a new and educational adventure; and St. Michael School is exactly where that adventure should begin.

St. Michael School provides a faith-filled environment where children are encouraged to explore their curiosity and their imagination. New friendships are fostered and built on treating everyone with love and respect. Week to week students study a new letter bringing in alphabetical items to share. Individually, students have the opportunity to shine as Owl of the Week, giving them the opportunity to practice speaking in front of the class, as well as appreciating what is unique and special about themselves. Creativity guides the creation of a class book on friends, while science experiments show that learning can be fun... but this is just the beginning.

At St. Michael, they believe that education is built through academic practice in the classroom, as well as through relationships with great role models. Learning is also a community effort - from surprise mystery readers, to snack days with loved ones, to visits from our safety forces throughout the year. Through it all, their preschool students are reminded that they are individually God's children and are also loved by a larger school community. This is the type of education being provided to each and every student who walks through their doors.

Even with all of the great things happening in their Preschool classrooms, St. Michael saw an opportunity to offer more. This fall, St. Michael is adding the option of a full-day preschool program for their youngest Blue Angels. Research suggests that a full-time preschool program is not only convenient, but it is actually beneficial for a number of preschoolers!

An article posted in Medical News Today pointed to a study done at the University of Minnesota by Arthur J. Reynolds, PhD. After following over

1,000 students, ages 3 & 4, they determined that a full day preschool program not only improved school readiness skills (including language, math, socio-emotional development, physical health, literacy and cognitive development), but also provided earlier recognition of and intervention for learning differences, and improved regular attendance by students as they moved forward through school. Reynolds goes on to say, "Full-day preschool appears to be a promising strategy for school readiness. The positive association of full-day preschool also suggests that increasing access to early childhood programs should consider the optimal dosage of services."

The St. Michael program has been created to meet their students where they are at, encourage them as they learn, and then celebrate them as they grow. Those students who need a little more time to develop each of these skills (on both an emotional level, and an academic level), will benefit even more from a full day curriculum. Guided by Catholic principles reinforced through the Catechism of the Good Shepherd during the school day, they believe that every student is made in the image of God, and therefore, should be given the opportunity to reach their full potential inside, and outside of the classroom. For many students, full day preschool is the opportunity they need to do just that.

Come and see for yourself! Visit St. Michael's website at www.stmichael-schoolinfo.com/preschool and see all that they have to offer. Download, complete, and email the application. They will set up an interview with you and your student, so they can learn a little more about you, and you can learn a little more about them! They certainly look forward to meeting you; but more so, they look forward to seeing how they can work together to make your child's experience at St. Michael Preschool the best possible and prepared first step into a lifelong education. May God bless you as you discern this next step. They hope to see you soon!