



St. Michael
catholic school

CLASSROOM *highlights*



OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Guided by Gospel values, St. Michael School inspires today's learners to embrace tomorrow's challenges through a foundation of Catholic faith, academic excellence, and compassionate service. We are committed to the education of the whole child.

PRESCHOOL

Preschool is the perfect time to begin a new and educational adventure. St. Michael Preschool provides a faith-filled environment where children are encouraged to explore their curiosity and imaginations. New friendships are fostered and built on treating everyone with love and respect. Our preschool provides a variety of ways to learn because we appreciate that no two children learn in the same way or at the same pace. We surround our early learners with caring adults who believe early childhood is where the love of learning begins. We believe learning and development in preschool is a collaborative effort between our teachers, their aides, and your family. Our teachers let creativity guide conversations and storytelling in the classroom. We provide the in-class education and recognize and appreciate your role as the primary educators of your children at home. We strive to build upon the strong foundation of principles and faith that has already begun at home.

PRE-K

As we welcome our Pre-K students to the St. Michael School Community we sow the seeds of academic excellence, responsible citizenship, and compassionate service. Our goal at St. Michael Preschool is for your child to develop a life-long love for learning. Our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the whole child. It includes activities that encompass spiritual, social/emotional, language arts, math, art, science and fine and gross motor skill development. We engage children in the FROG STREET PRESS program, which uses delightful characters, songs and stories to make learning fun. The program allows our teachers to customize lessons to the individual needs of each child. The joy in learning is contagious. It is our goal to instill the joy of learning with God as the center.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten students find their voices in their classes, as they experience learning with their hands, heads, and hearts. We hope you will use this information below to understand the ways we inspire their exploration of each subject area, develop their passion for learning, and encourage their collaboration with each other. Kindergarten students are building crucial foundational skills in all areas: social and emotional, language and communication, gross and fine motor skills, citizenship and their place in a community, creative expression, and academic skills and knowledge. Our teachers work to develop these areas in a variety of teaching methods, events, and settings. Therefore, our students are provided with a creative and nurturing classroom environment where they can take the time to explore new ideas, meet new friends, and begin their faith journey.

GRADE 1

First grade is a time of growth and discovery. Children are learning many new skills, both academically and socially. They are beginning to learn about the world, and their place in it, and are awakening to a journey as lifelong learners. First graders, throughout the year, make amazing strides in their reading, writing and mathematics skills. First graders also delve into a variety of content areas regarding science and social studies. Of course, at the heart of our curriculum is our Catholic faith. Our students are learning about God, their Creator and Loving Father; Jesus, His Son; and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

GRADE 2

Second grade is a year of prayer, preparation, and learning. Second graders set off on their journey as they ready themselves for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Students draft and publish pieces of writing and work hard to become fluent readers. They master the basic facts to become experts at double-digit and triple-digit addition and subtraction. Studying a variety of topics from the curriculum, they create slideshows using different online platforms. Second graders are truly saints in the making!

GRADE 3

Every day of third grade is a new adventure. Students explore a wide array of reading genres and become creative writers of short stories, poems, and journal entries. #CBAD (Classroom book a day) - reading a good book, for the LOVE of reading, is one of our daily highlights. Third graders are pioneers of twenty-first-century technology with opportunities to use Google platforms to create innovative and imaginative presentations, explore computer coding and create digital media. Students explore the world around them in social studies and take virtual field trips to places like an African Savanna or Beijing to celebrate Chinese New Year. In person field trips include a visit to a chocolate factory and exploring nature's life cycles at the Rocky River Nature Center. Third graders start becoming independent learners and bright researchers ready to explore animal kingdoms, the different states of matter, and earth's many resources. They become builders, engineers, artists and problem solvers through STEM challenges. They become math wizards as they conquer their multiplication and division facts. And spiritually, their young hearts love learning about Jesus as they continue to grow in their faith.

GRADE 4

Fourth grade is a transition where students make choices that advocate accountability over their education. In doing so, fourth graders discover new and exciting opportunities to grow and learn. STEM instruction (with holiday focus) includes designing and building pumpkin stands, turkey traps, Thanksgiving parade balloons, kites, and bobsleds. These challenge fourth graders to think outside the box. Live and virtual field trips to places such as Rutherford B. Hayes Center and the James A. Garfield Center provide tangible experiences for students to appreciate people and events throughout history and beyond. Students put their creativity on display researching and becoming a famous Ohioan for the Saint Michael Wax Museum. They also use their artistic talents to create a county float of one of the 88 counties of Ohio. While carving out their individuality, students in fourth grade also develop cooperative skills working in small and large groups within the classroom. In Science, they work together as paleontologists examining fossil remains, extinct animals, and water erosion patterns. Most significantly fourth-graders deepen their relationship with God as persons and people of the faith.

GRADE 5

Fifth grade allows for students to have the exciting job of making the critical transition to middle school. Students are challenged to push themselves towards abstract thinking by asking probing questions. At times they consider why a math concept is valid or look for unique finds in science experiment, all the while being tasked with thinking beyond the evidence to draw their own conclusions. Illustrating what they know becomes literal as they create reading comics and interactive book reports. True exploration involves immersion into the area of study. The sights, sounds, and descriptions of new stories they read as a class help students journey deeper into their love for reading. Study of the Sacraments grants students the greatest gift of exploration, that of self-examination and full participation in mass, the embodiment of the Living Word.

GRADE 6

Sixth grade means more independence, increased responsibilities, higher expectations, balancing school life with busy home schedules and dealing with those very special emotional, social and physical changes that occur during these years. That said, they certainly set themselves apart as stewards of the Kingdom of God. As stewards of their knowledge, they learn to write and publish narratives, slideshows, and expand their understanding of the world through multicultural readings.. While in Math, they learn real-world applications for the concepts of calculating percents, classifying data, and analyzing geometry. By studying the early church and first Christians they are able to appreciate their own role as caretakers of the environment and modern- day models of our faith.

GRADE 7

Seventh grade is a year of hands-on learning in all forms across the curriculum. Their purpose in English is to develop and encourage their competence, confidence, and enthusiasm as readers, writers, listeners, and speakers. In Science, students explore both life and physical sciences. They are political analysts comparing forms of government through One-Pagers and more. As mathematical problem solvers, they are using concrete manipulatives to solve abstract equations. Traveling through time, they get to step into the roles of historians in ancient Athens, detectives in a schooltime mystery, and teenage "Outsiders" in 1960s America. Stepping into the future, they are growing as digital citizens learning to create, collaborate, and publish using a variety of media. But above all else, seventh graders are living out loud the word of God through student-created prayer services and opportunities to better their school and community.

GRADE 8

Eighth grade's underlying theme is to go and grow deeper. Early in the year, they participate in their 8th grade retreat reflecting on the person God is calling them to be. Students in this grade delve into primary sources, poems, and lyrics as critical readers and literary analysts. Whether preparing for their Science and Engineering Fair projects or their Argumentative Research papers they are learning to synthesize information in order to present the material in their own voice. Utilizing the proper tools and processes is a key part of preparing them for their high school future. All students take Algebra 1. But growing the mind is only one part of the whole. Through their work in individual and group service projects, they are able to show their compassion. As participants in various clubs and activities, they bring our school pride. Truly acting as the leaders of the school, our eighth graders strive to emulate the Apostles and Saints who came before them by serving their families their classmates and their community.

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