



*Loving God,
 Our creator, our savior, our companion,
 bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake today.
 Refresh our souls and renew our spirits
 as we embrace the beautiful ministry you have called us to.
 We welcome those who are new to this community and
 ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts you have given
 them.
 Lord, make our hearts pure as we prepare for the return of students to this
 school,
 and may you guide them to return with open hearts and minds eager to learn.
 We ask this in Your name,
 Amen*

Welcome back!

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2018 – 2019 school year. Our faith filled educational journey began this week. The teachers have been working very hard preparing for their students. We have a great staff this year, as in years past with a few additions:

Mrs. Mickler – Music Ms. Blessinger – After Care Mrs. Staples – Café Mgr
 Mrs. Lewis - Preschool Mrs. Lake – PreK Aide

Two teachers have taken on new positions/responsibilities:

Ms. Fleming – Kindergarten Mrs. Capen – Third Grade

Beatitudes

Each month we will focus on one of the Beatitudes. We will use the version of Beatitudes found in Matthew 5:3-10. This is Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. During the month of August our focus will be on "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." One source that gives us a great way to look at this Beatitude for students is not loving things more than God. It is important to know God and to do his will by caring for others.

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted
- Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land
- Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied
- Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy
- Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God
- Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for there is the kingdom of heaven

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 3 – 24
NWEA Testing

August 7
Middle School Math & Science Meeting
5 & 6 at 6:30
7 & 8 at 7:15

August 10
8th Grade Mass
Benediction 2:15

August 14
Back to School Night 6:30 – 7:30

August 15
Feast of the Assumption Mass
8:30 AM

August 16
School Pictures

August 31
Progress Reports

September 4
Labor Day No School

[Very Important Updates in this newsletter](#)

[Acceptable Use Policy](#)

[Posting Pictures](#)

[Protecting God's children](#)

[Mission Statement](#)

*Led by the Holy Spirit,
 St. Michael Catholic School
 encourages our students to
 grow in their Catholic faith, achieve
 academic
 excellence and become
 responsible citizens.*



Tuesday, August 14, 2018

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Back to School Night

Back to school night is Tuesday August 14 from 6:30 to 7:30. This is an opportunity for parents to learn what the expectations are for students in the classroom. We will have two sessions: 6:30 – 6:50 parents visit the classroom, 6:55 – 7:10 all families and staff to the gym, 7:10 - 7:30 second round of classroom visits. Remember this is not a time for individual conferences. If you want to discuss the individual needs of your child/children, please schedule a conference time. We look forward to seeing each of you!

Team Image Orders

Many of our families received their Team Image orders. We are awaiting some items that are on back order. As soon as we know when these items will be available we will let you know. For those of you who were not able to place an order prior to school starting a new order window will be open soon.

The Crusader

The Crusader is our school's newsletter. This week you are receiving a printed copy, in the future you will receive only an electronic copy of the Crusader. If you do not receive our Crusader, please contact the office so we can update your email address. Each week's Crusader will review things that have happened during the school week, preview things to come, address questions, celebrate student and alumni achievement. If you have questions, comments or suggestions for the Crusader please email me at rhittel@stmichaelsgrfld.org.

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications

Free and Reduced Lunch applications are now due. If you feel you may qualify for the federal benefit complete the forms that were supplied to you in the move in packets. You may also access the application from our website <http://www.school-stmichaelsgrfld.org/> click on the link for move in day packets. ***Without a completed and approved application on file students will be charged the full price for lunch.***

Adoration

Adoration is on Fridays from after school Mass until 2:30. If you have the time and would like to join your child/children during Adoration time the times are listed below. Benediction begins at 2:30, join students, staff and parishioners as we take part in this rich Catholic tradition.

Summer Reading

It is not too late to reach your summer reading goals at the Greenfield Public Library. The summer reading program continues until August 31st.

Middle School Math & Science

There will be an informational meeting regarding 5-8 science and math courses on Tuesday, August 7th in Mr. Farrell's room. This is not a mandatory meeting, but just an opportunity for parents to learn about all the exciting and good things happening in math and science this year. This is also not in place of "Meet the Teacher" night. That will take place another evening. If you are available and able to attend our meeting, we would love to see you. 5th and 6th grade parents will meet at 6:30 and 7th and 8th grade parents will meet at 7:15. Please e-mail Mr. Farrell, dfarrell@stmichaelsgrfld.org with any questions or thoughts before Tuesday night.

Safe & Sacred

All staff, volunteers, chaperones, coaches and professionals interacting with children in our school must complete Safe & Sacred. This course empowers each of us with the ability to protect all God's children. Successful completion of this course results in recognizing types, signs, characteristics, scenarios, and in general, indicators of suspected abuse. To provide a safe environment for the children at our school, all adults, staff and volunteers, take this online course. You may access the Safe & Sacred website by clicking on the following link: <https://safeandsacred-archindy.org/login/index.php>

"The whole Church, especially the laity, at both the Archdiocesan and national levels, needs to be engaged in maintaining safe environments in the Church for children and young people."

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (2005), Article 10.

Before and After Care

It is not too late to sign up for our Before and After care program. Information for these programs was sent home in our family's move in packet. You may request another packet from the school's office or find the information on our website <http://www.school-stmichaelsgrfld.org/school-families>. Sign up for our new programs and clubs will begin next week. The clubs will begin the week of August 13th. Here is a listing of some of the new after school activities that are available.

1. Cyber Patriots – Cyber Patriots are grades 6-8. Thursdays (Mrs. Capen)
2. Coder Dojo is grades 3-8. Tuesdays (Mrs. Capen)
3. Drama – Casting to begin in November for a musical. (Mrs. Mickler)
4. Physical Conditioning – one day a week for students in 3 – 8 (Ty Hayes) Start date to be announced
5. Greenfield Public Library Storytelling Pre-school to 3rd will be the second Monday of each month (Begins 8/13)
6. Chess club on Wednesday afternoons for grade 5 – 8 Start date to be announced
8. Walking Club Mondays (end of August through October) Mrs. Brinkman (Begins 8/27)
9. Strings with Mrs. Mickler on Thursday for grade 3 – 8 (begins 8/16)
10. Game Club w/Fr Aaron – 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 3 to 5 for grades 5 to 8 (Begins 8/14)

Jan. 8, 22

Feb. 5, 19

March 5

Posting of Student Pictures

St. Michael is reviewing our policy for the posting of student pictures. We are in the process of setting up class Dojo accounts for all classes. In order for parents to access the class Dojo accounts they will receive an access code. This secure way of sharing pictures with our families will help protect our students.

Protecting God's Children

All electronic communications to, from, or within St. Michael Catholic School shall reflect the Christian principles upon which our school is founded, in support of its educational goals.

Internet access is now available to staff and students at St. Michael Catholic School. We believe that the internet offers vast, diverse and unique educational resources to our school community. Our goal, in providing this service to staff and students, is to promote educational excellence by facilitating communications, leading our community toward effective living in the global village.

A new social media policy will be coming soon at St. Michael. All schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are required to update their social media policies for students and staff members. Some of the changes that will be implemented are as follows:

- Staff members should not send text messages or emails to parents or students concerning school issues from their personal phone or personal email. Staff members will contact parents using school phones, school email, Jupiter, Class Dojo etc. It is important that personal and professional avenues of communicating be separated.
- All staff member communication to students must go through school approved messaging systems and **have parents included in the communication.**
- We ask that parents communicate with staff members using school phones, school email, Jupiter, Class Dojo etc.
- Staff members should refrain from posting images of students on any personal website. Student images may only be posted from school approved sites. The approved sites include but are not limited to Jupiter, Class Dojo, school Facebook, school newsletter, school twitter etc.

Our society's prevalence in using social media has made it very difficult to protect God's children. We must protect our children by limiting access to images and information concerning the children. A more detailed policy will be available for families to view by September 1, 2018.

School Improvement Goals

Catholic Identity All students will gain a better understanding of Catholic social justice teachings.

Math Students will demonstrate greater understand of math processing skills and content vocabulary to more accurately compute and solve mathematical problems.

Language Arts All students will improve their comprehension of both fiction and nonfiction literature.

Enrollment Increase student enrollment through the implementation of new marketing plan

Altar Server Training

Altar server training will be held for all Catholic youth in grade 5 and above on Saturday, August 18 at 9 a.m. in the church. If your child is interested in participating in this ministry but cannot attend the training, please contact Christie Murphy at 317-462-4240 or cmurphy@stmichaelsgrfld.org. Current servers are also welcome to attend the training, but are not required.

Youth Ministry Canoe Trip

Our Youth Ministry will travel to Morgan's Canoe and Outdoor Adventure in Brookville on Labor Day, **September 3rd**, again this year. Any member of the parish in grade 8 or above is invited to participate in the mud run and/or canoe. A registration form and waiver are available on our website at www.stmichaelsgrfld.org/Youth-Activities-for-Grades-8-12.