

Welcome to our St. Michael Parish School and our “Family of Families”!



The Mission of St. Michael Catholic Community

Place God first in all things, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to grow in holiness through prayer, sacraments, and service.

School Mission Statement

St. Michael Parish School exists to provide a Catholic education committed to the mission of St. Michael Parish, excellence in teaching and learning, and the continual spiritual, intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and aesthetic growth of all.

St. Michael Parish School Philosophy Statement

St. Michael Parish School is a ministry of St. Michael Parish. We strive to:

- + Fulfill our mission
- + Empower leaders who live the Gospel message
- + Provide excellence in a student-centered academic program that supports parents as primary educators and teachers as facilitators of learning
- + Create a Catholic community of disciples who are committed to grow, worship, serve, give, connect, and share

St. Michael Parish School School-Wide Learning Expectations (SLEs)

As life-long learners, St. Michael Parish School students:

- + Meet or exceed grade level standards in all subjects
- + Participate in a rigorous curriculum that results in high achievement for all
- + Set goals that lead to growth in academics and discipleship

As disciples of Jesus Christ, St. Michael Parish School students:

- + **Grow** in faith using the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- + **Worship** through regular celebration of the Sacraments and friendship with Jesus
- + **Serve** our community by developing and using their God-given talents.
- + **Give** generously from their hearts by participation in parish and community stewardship
- + **Connect** to each other as children of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ
- + **Share** their faith and learning with the world

School Schedule:

School office hours are from 7:45 am – 4:00 pm
Monday through Friday

School hours:

Kindergarten – 8th: Mondays 8:10am - 2:15pm

Tuesdays – Fridays: 8:10 am – 3:00 pm

Pre-K: Monday – Friday 8:10 am – 11:10 am

Weather related delays: We follow the Olympia School District protocol for school delays due to inclement weather. Please check our Facebook page or listen to local news agencies for information about school delays or closures. We will also send an email with more information.

Attendance: We have a dedicated email box for parents to notify the school of student tardies & absences. Please email us at attendance@stmikesolympia.org in the morning (or call 360-754-5131) by 9:00 AM when your child is going to be tardy or absent. If you call your child in, you **MUST** also send in a written absence note or email to excuse your child within 2 days of their absence. Otherwise it will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Communications:

Family Directory and Handbook:

At the beginning of the school year, each family will receive the school directory that lists the name and addresses of every school family. The Family Handbook is available on our website at www.stmikesolympia.org under documents.

Thursday Notes:

The “Thursday Notes” newsletter is emailed to all school families every Thursday. The monthly calendar and hot lunch menu are included once a month. You will also receive various reminders throughout the year via the Thursday Notes email address. If you are not receiving Thursday Notes, please contact the school office.

Purple Envelope:

A purple envelope is sent home with your youngest child every Thursday. These envelopes contain valuable information such as tuition statements, lunch accounts statements, Scrip orders and the previous week’s homework. Thursday envelopes are **due** back to school on **Friday or Monday**. You may also receive a white envelope from your older child that contains their homework from the previous week.

Curriculum Night and Open House:

The Curriculum night is held during the second week of school. The goal of this evening is to build a strong foundation of partnership between teachers and parents that will last all throughout the year. Our teachers will share an overview of our curriculum and let you know how you can best support the education of your children.

Catholic Schools Week Open House:

To celebrate Catholic Schools week, we invite current and prospective families to visit the school and see what our students think makes Catholic schools, especially St. Michael Parish School, so special.

School Activities:

MMO (Monday Morning Opening: We begin with Faith):

MMO is the assembly and prayer service that starts off each week. Each grade is responsible for leading the school in prayer. Students and faculty also use the time for awards, recognition, and announcements.

Lunch Program: Mrs. Smith and Mrs.

Hokanson prepare and serve healthy, tasty lunches that kids will eat. Parents are invited to join their child(ren) for lunch and are welcome to purchase a hot lunch. You can prepay for hot lunch by sending in a check labeled “hot lunch” or simply by stopping by the office. You will receive a statement from the lunch room if your balance ever goes below \$0. Our 4th graders serve as kitchen helpers.

Special Events and Activities

Safety Patrol:

Each year, the 5th graders oversee safety patrol both before and after school. They are also in charge of raising and lowering the American flag. They are trained at the end of the 4th grade. Their hard work culminates in an end-of-the-year party. Please listen to their requests when they are on duty.

Saint Houses:

The goals of Middle School Saints' Houses are to develop wise life choice skills in kids, provide an outlet for social justice projects, meet the individual needs of emerging leaders, allow each student to have a place where they are known and valued, and have fun accomplishing it all!

We have seven Saints' Houses; they are multi-grade and centered around the virtues represented by a particular Catholic saint. The houses meet weekly, and serve as a consistent, cohesive program that creates a greater sense of belonging. These smaller communities have teacher advisors, who guide rather than direct. Students bring forth projects and issues of interest to them; teachers facilitate action.

Buddy System:

A special part of St. Mike's is the buddy system. The older grades buddy up with the lower kids throughout the year. The older students listen to the younger students as they are learning to read and they help complete class projects. The 8th grade buddies create a special handmade bible that they give their kindergarten buddies at the end of the year. The buddies also attend Mass with each other.

Religious Services:

All school Mass is celebrated every Friday and on special feast days. The older kids buddy up and sit with their lower grade buddies to serve as examples proper church behavior. All school Mass is celebrated at 9:00 am every Friday and family and friends are encouraged to join us.

Conferences and Book Fair:

Conferences are held in October and March. They provide a chance for parent-student-teacher discussions on how each child is doing. During the conferences, the students are not in school. You will receive your scheduled conference time for your child(ren) in your purple Thursday envelope. A Scholastic book fair is held in the library while conferences are being held.

MAP Testing:

MAP measures what students know and informs what they're ready to learn next. By dynamically adjusting to each student's performance, MAP tests create a personalized assessment experience that accurately measures performance—whether a student performs on, above, or below grade level. Timely, easy-to-use reports help teachers teach, students learn, and administrators lead. The students are tested twice a year, fall and spring.

Catholic Schools Week:

Catholic Schools Week is a nationally recognized week of activities promoting Catholic Schools that occurs at the end of January. Each year the staff decides what they will do to celebrate. Each day has a theme that students are encouraged to dress up for. Examples are cultural dress up day, what I want to be when I grow up day, and a career fair.

Outdoor Education:

Camp Hamilton, near Carnation, becomes home to our 6th Graders for a week of experiential learning, communing with nature, and appreciating God's blessings. Held in late spring, the groups have been blessed with fair weather the past few years. St. Michael Parish School staff and a few great parent volunteers supervise the group.

Outdoor Olympics:

A fun-filled competition in St. Mike's style, track and field events feature athletes from seven continents. Each continent is represented by a team color and has students from each grade

level. You never know which continent will win the gold medal! This half-day event is held during the last two weeks of school.

5th Grade Shakespeare Play:

Each year the 5th grade class performs a Shakespeare play in May. In late September, the 5th graders begin a unit on Shakespeare and auditions are held. The 5th graders spend the whole year memorizing lines and learning how to perform in front of an audience while in full costume and makeup. To top off that experience, the 5th graders (along with staff and parent chaperones) travel to Ashland, Oregon to take part in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. The trip is usually during the last week of school.

Olympia Junior Program:

Two or three times a year, our students enjoy theatrical performances at the Washington Center in downtown Olympia. Transportation and theater fee paid for by the PTSA.

Passport Club:

Students in grades K-5 can learn more about the many countries of the world by participating in the Passport Club. Students are given a map with a list of countries and their locations. At the end of the month they are tested on their knowledge of where each country is located. This counts toward their social studies grade. The Kindergarteners are tested but this serves as practice for when they take the test in 1st grade.

Extra-curricular Activities

These activities are subject to change depending on interest and availability of teachers and parent coaches.

Some current and pass activities include: Middle School dances, art classes (paid to outside instructor), chess club, band, and sports.

Band:

Band is available at an additional cost and is open to grades 4th-8th. Beginning and intermediate band meet during lunch recess twice a week. Our band students' talents are

showcased during our Christmas and Spring programs.



Sports:

After school sports are available for 5th – 8th grade students. This is in addition to the regular physical education classes that are held during the school week. A physical exam and a fee are required to play sports.

FALL: (September-November)
5th-8th grade boys – Flag football
5th-8th grade girls – Volleyball

WINTER: (January – March)
6th-8th grade – Boys basketball
5th-8th grade – Girls basketball

SPRING: (March-May)
5th-8th grade – Track – Coed

All students accepted into after school sports must maintain their academic standings. Most practices are held daily from 3 – 5 pm. Fall practices begin the first week of school. Parents are asked to drive to “away” games. Award banquets are held at the end of each season.

Stewards of Time, Talent, and Treasure

There are many opportunities for parents to be involved in St. Michael Parish School. Our Stewardship program has been developed as a means for recognizing and encouraging the God-given gifts and talents with which each of our families are blessed. As part of their commitment to the school, families are required to provide at least 30 hours of their time annually in support of St. Michael Parish School and St. Michael Parish. One half of the service hours must be earned through church time and talent opportunities. All volunteers are required to complete the ***Protecting God's Children*** classroom training. This training must be completed by every parent that intends to volunteer. Please contact the school office for more information.

Some of the school stewardship options include classroom and library help, stuffing Thursday Notes envelopes, coaching student sports teams, providing student transportation to field trips or sporting events, assisting with student vision and hearing screenings, Passport Club check day, music at school liturgies, chaperone duties for field trips and dances, and of course the S.M.A.R.T. auction. If you need help or have any questions please contact our Stewardship Development Director, Roberta McGill at rmcgill@stmikesolympia.org.

S.M.A.R.T. Family Night Auction and Spring Gala and Auction:

"St. Michael – A Remarkable Tradition" is our semi-annual event that occurs in the fall and spring of each year. S.M.A.R.T is a stewardship opportunity where parents chair and co-chairs of either the Family Night or Gala Auction. The Family Night auction is open to the whole family and includes a live auction, food, and fun activities for the kids. The spring Gala and Auction is an adult only celebration of our "Family of Families". Proceeds from these events go toward capital improvement programs, specific fund a need items, and our endowment fund for tuition assistance.

Check out our dedicated S.M.A.R.T. Facebook group for up to date information about each

upcoming event and volunteer opportunities
@St. Michael Parish School S.M.A.R.T. Auction

Financial Stewardship:

In support of our S.M.A.R.T. auctions, we require that each family contribute \$150 worth of items. You may contact a business to ask them to donate or you may purchase items, or simply make a financial donation. Thank you!

SCRIP:

Our scrip program is a fundraising program that allows us, as non-profit organization members, to purchase scrip for everyday expenses like food, clothing, toys, gifts, entertainment; even gasoline, while earning a percentage of each dollar of scrip purchased back in revenue for our school.

We use the funds earned to support our Parent Teacher Service Association (PTSA) in their activities like the Christmas and Spring Senior Luncheons and Junior Programs' Plays. In addition, the PTSA contributes funds to help support teachers and school events such as the 5th grade Shakespeare production, Camp Hamilton 6th grade outdoor camp, and the sports programs.

We keep an inventory of gift cards for the most commonly purchased cards. In addition, we will make a monthly special order for families interested in purchasing scrip that is not usually held in inventory. Scrip is available via Thursday Notes as well as sold in the school office.

There is even an App to make shopping with SCRIP even easier! And don't forget to link your Safeway or Fred Meyer loyalty cards for even more ways to support our school. Contact the SCRIP coordinator for more information.

Special Events

Senior luncheons, Christmas and Spring Programs:

Each Christmas and Spring we welcome the senior citizens of our community to enjoy a lunch and to hear the sweet voices of our students and

music stylings of our choir and band. The Kindergarten retelling of the birth of Jesus is not to be missed!

May Crowning and Maypole Dance:

A ceremony crowning Mary is led by the 8th graders around the first Friday in May. We also recognize our 2nd graders that recently received their First Holy Communion. Following the Mass, the whole community is welcome to watch the 3rd graders perform the Maypole Dance.

PTSA

The St. Michael Parish School PTSA is an organization dedicated to providing service to the school and supporting teachers. Each class has at least two PTSA representatives who help to coordinate events and volunteers. A committee of two co-chairs, a secretary, and a treasurer oversees the PTSA budget and events. The PTSA is funded primarily through SCRIP sales.

Some of the PTSA events include the Christmas and Spring Senior Luncheons, Olympia Junior Program, and many other events. The PTSA also contributes funds to help support teachers and school events, such as the 5th grade Shakespeare production, Camp Hamilton (6th grade outdoor camp), and the sports program. New families are encouraged to contact their class representatives for more information.

Box Tops and Labels for Education: St. Michael School participates in two programs that earn funds for our school. [Box Tops For Education](#) earns \$.10 per coupon, and [Labels for Education](#) earns points that are redeemed for purchase of merchandise. A convenient drop box can be found in the entry way outside the school office.

Uniforms:

Please consult our website for the current uniform requirements.

Further Information:

If you have any questions please contact the school office at 360-754-5131 or connect@stmikesolympia.org. For specific information regarding volunteer opportunities or anything regarding S.M.A.R.T. please contact Roberta McGill, rmcgill@stmikesolympia.org.

Check us out on Facebook too! Search for St. Michael Parish School Olympia.