

2016-17 School Year

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL



Plan Update



MESSAGE TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY . . .

St. Michael School Parents and Parishioners,

Last school year, St. Michael School embarked on a strategic planning process that has since then guided and directed our school and will continue to do so for the next three years. Called The SMS 2020 Plan, the parishes of St. Michael in Independence and St. Basil the Great in Brecksville, along with a committee comprised of parents, educators, clergy, parishioners, and business/community leaders, developed “a crystal clear 20/20 vision” for the future of our Catholic elementary school.

The planning process began with a parent survey. Results of that survey showed:

- » 92% of parents gave an overall grade of a B or higher to the school.
- » 94% of parents feel their children are receiving a solid education.
- » 98% of parents feel their children are safe at both the main and St. Basil campus.

As we conclude the 2016-17 school year, please take a moment to review the progress that has been made on our priorities and goals outlined in this plan. It also highlights programs and new initiatives that will be taking place next school year.

St. Michael Parish and St. Basil the Great Parish are both deeply committed to offering St Michael students the highest quality Catholic education. Our school has an incredible amount to offer children, academically, spiritually and socially. We are blessed to have a dedicated and caring principal, teachers, and staff that give of themselves each day to allow students to have the best possible educational and faith-filled experience.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Michael School. We are blessed that you are part of our St. Michael School family, we wish all St Michael School families a safe and enjoyable summer!

God’s Peace and Blessings,

Mrs. Margaret Campisi, Principal
St. Michael School

Fr. Pete Colletti, D.Min., Pastor
St. Michael Parish

Fr. Walt Jenne, Pastor
St. Basil the Great Parish

Deacon Lou Primozić, President
St. Michael School Council



“Community is at the heart of all Catholic education, not simply as a concept to be taught, but as a reality to be lived . . . Your students will learn to understand and appreciate the value of community as they experience love, trust, and loyalty in your school and educational programs, and as they learn to trust all persons as brothers and sisters created by God and redeemed by Christ.”

- Pope John Paul II

Academic Excellence



GOAL:

Increase the use of technology and continuously strive toward achieving academic excellence and address the needs and learning styles of all students.

- Students participated in numerous competitions, including Science Olympiad, Power of the Pen, Science Fair, Geography Bee, and Spelling Bee.
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) activities such as:
 - » First graders and kindergarteners marshmallow building with spaghetti and toothpicks.
 - » Kindergarten made box creations after reading the story, *Christina Katerina and the Box*.
- International Origami Week activities took place in library and art classes after Mrs. Kutis and Ms. Dickerson took a course in Origami Pedagogy at the Cleveland Institute of Art (paid for by PTU). Origami is proven to help math, hand/eye coordination, attention and spatial skills and activates the whole brain.
- » Third graders constructed candy corn towers, completed “Peeps” and Lego engineering challenges, and created “Pig Pens for Wilbur.”
- » Fourth graders solved fall leaf challenges.
- » Seventh graders built roller coasters.
- » Second graders made bat houses and bridges with marshmallows and toothpicks.
- » The Science Club did numerous STEM activities, including making rubberband cars and straw towers.



- All 414 of our students at both campuses, including preschool and Jr. K classes, use iPads for learning.
- Incorporating student-centered learning opportunities and flexible seating in classrooms at both campuses.
- Students participate in National Computer Science Week by learning computer coding.
- Chromebooks used by fourth graders:
 - » Formative Assessments using Quizziz, Kahoot, Google Forms.
 - » Instructional Activities using Google Classroom, Pear Deck, and Kahn Academy.
 - » STEM activities engaging multiple intelligences. Fall Leaf Fiasco, creating a leaf gathering device, paper chain activity encouraging creative thinking and cooperative learning.
 - » Project-based learning activities to engage real world applications. Using a budget, with mathematical applications, to plan a Halloween party. Cross curricular connections to plan and open their own food truck.
 - » Differentiation for reading levels using EPIC! and Stora online reading resources.
 - » Online textbook materials used to differentiate math instruction, assessments, and provide at home resources.
 - » Choose board used as summative assessments to encourage creativity and students' applications of strengths.
- Technology Teacher Mrs. Linda Merk earned certification as a District/Building ICoach from INFOhio, Ohio's PreK-12 Digital Library. She is now a certified "technology integration coach."
- Sixth-grade students rearranged their traditional classroom setting to include flexible seating choices as they engaged with their peers in a technology-based "breakout" lesson using websites to increase their math and critical thinking skills.
- Google Classroom is a standard way of utilizing technology for students to collaborate, research, learn, and grow in their academics.
- Seventh graders participated in Digital Citizenship Day with a field trip to Padua High School.
- Students continually increase reading practice skills with Accelerated Reading. Third graders in Room 105 have read 680 books for AR tests during the 2016-2017 school year.
- Teachers spent their free time learning about integrating technology into the classroom to benefit students, as well as attending several professional development workshops.
- As a model of a Catholic school utilizing technology in the classrooms, St. Michael School was the host of the Diocesan Technology Conference in August 2016 with more than 200 educators from across Northeast Ohio coming into our building for a day of learning, networking and sharing ideas. Two faculty, Mrs. Patterson and Ms. Dickerson, presented at this conference.
- Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, St. Michael School will be an accepted provider site for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program. This is great news for our school and for all of our students. This program gives the parents of children with learning needs the option of receiving added special educational services at St. Michael. These services could possibly be in addition to the services operated by the school district of residence. Students will receive the education and services outlined in their individualized education program (IEP). The scholarship money is used to pay for services outlined in the student's IEP. These services may include but are not limited to intervention specialists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, aides, and tutors. Our goal at St. Michael is to always provide the best possible education to all of our students at all stages of their educational experience.

*teach
me knowledge and
good judgment, for I
trust
your commands.*

- PSALM 119:66

Faith Formation



GOAL:

Form faithful intentional disciples of our school families, staff, and volunteers and serve as an extension of our Catholic identity.

- Creation of school's own Divine Mercy Chaplet in Song, composed by St. Michael School alumni and sung by alumni/students. http://bit.ly/Divine_Mercy_Chaplet.
- Creation of our SMS Prayer On-line Request Program to connect our St. Michael school family and our community, praying for those who have special intentions. <https://www.stmichaelschoolinfo.com/prayer-request>.
- Prayer Services and Masses throughout the Liturgical and Academic Year: Opening Faculty Retreat, Opening Prayer Service and Blessing of Faculty/Students, Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, Walking Rosary Service, Feast of Christ the King, Advent prayer services at both campuses, living Nativity at Breakfast in Bethlehem, Feast of the Epiphany blessings, Lenten reflections and prayer services, Holy Week student/staff retreat, as well as Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, National Day of Prayer service, May Crowning, second grade Bible blessing prayer service, weekly Masses at both campuses, Sacrament of Reconciliation Services. Also, monthly faculty and staff prayer services.
- Increased posts on social media to educate families on Saints of the Day, meaning behind Holy Days, and other religious messages.
- During Spirituality Day of Catholic Schools Week, students/staff participated in a retreat with Andy Kereky, director of spiritual education for St. Raphael Parish, titled "Superheros and Saints."
- Preparing our second graders for Reconciliation and First Communion and our eighth graders for Confirmation.
- Students used their lunchtime to prepare for our school Masses.
- St. Basil Campus Jr. Kindergarten's "Washing of the Feet" during Lent, as well as Last Supper reenactment with kindergarten and first grade.
- Eighth graders attended "Got Prayer" all-day retreat, thanks to a partnership with Trinity High School.
- Eighth graders spent an afternoon raking leaves for our Independence neighbors.
- Our priests spent a great deal of time in the classrooms and in the school educating our students about their Catholic faith and supporting their lessons and classroom activities.

- Eighth graders preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation invited their sponsors to a Patron Saint afternoon celebration enjoying appetizers from their saint's homeland, showing off their patron saint posters and timeline of the history of the Church, and, finally toasting their patron saints in their native language.
- Fifth through eighth-grade students calculated the circumference of the cans of food they brought in on March 13, PI day. The cans were then donated to the food pantry and any extra pies, supplied by the parents that day for the celebration of PI, were given to the Friday Fish Fry Dinner.
- Students in grades K-8 collected books during Right to Read Week for the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank.
- Students in the fourth grade held a Penny Wars collection for Honduras, food drive for St. Vince DePaul, wrote letters and made angels for nursing home patients, wrote thank you cards for community helpers, wrote notes to catechumens, and wrote sacramental cards for grades 2 and 8.
- Rosary Club, consisting of 22 members from both campuses, met 18 times to pray the Rosary and learn new prayers and hymns. This year, they learned eight new prayers and one hymn, while continuing to improve upon their recitation of the Rosary and the two hymns they've been learning since the 2015-2016 school year.



Start
children
 off on the way they
 should go, and even
 when they are old they
 will not turn from it.

- PROVERBS 22:6

Financial Stability



GOAL:

Increase revenue through grants, fundraising, and expanding the endowment, while maintaining affordable tuition.

- Fr. Pete, Fr. Walt and the entire St Michael School Council are committed to supporting St. Michael School financially through parish subsidies and philanthropic fundraising. Tuition increases in the future will be based on necessity to ensure we continue to employ the best teachers for our students and maintain our school campus buildings.
- Participated in first ever day of Catholic giving, #WeGiveCatholic, fundraising campaign through the Diocese of Cleveland, that raised \$2,350 in one day.

Grants received:

- Diocese of Cleveland "Rooted in Faith" Grant awarded to St. Michael School in the amount of \$8,500 to replace the hallway carpeting on the second floor at the main campus.
- Physical Education teacher Mrs. Linda Kehl received a grant for pickleball equipment for our sixth and eighth-grade students to learn how to play. Total amount: \$250

- School Librarian Ms. Natalie Dickerson received the 2017 Virginia Hamilton and Arnold Adoff Creative Outreach Grant to update the civil rights and multicultural book collections at the main campus and St. Basil campus Total amount: \$1000

Fundraising:

- Through Scholastic Book Fairs, we provided approximately 340,859 reading minutes and over 1,892 books to students in Pre3-8 and teachers at both campuses and raised \$1,872.85 for the School Library collections at both campuses.

The 2016 SMS Golf Outing had 42 golfers and netted \$2,500.

- PTU's fundraising efforts for the 2016-17 school year totaled more than \$8,700. This money was raised through the generous support of our school families through Fall Fest, Malley's sale, Breakfast in Bethlehem, gift card sales, Holiday Shoppe, Fourth of July booth, Spirit Wear, Tumblers/Magnets sale, Square 1 Art, Uniform Exchange and membership dues.
- The school enjoyed a fun night of frozen yogurt and fellowship as it partnered with Sweet CeeCee's in Broadview Heights and raised more than \$300.

Ongoing Marketing & Communications



GOAL:

Enhance overall communications with school and parish community and increase school visibility with high schools, businesses, and community organizations.

- Increased the amount of news and information shared with both St. Michael and St. Basil the Great Parishes for their weekly bulletins and newsletters to parishioners.
- Refreshed the school website, adding several pages and making it more interactive for potential school families, as well ways for the community to donate to our school.
- Utilizing local newspapers and publications to send press releases and pictures on SMS events and good news.
- Increasing use of SMS Facebook (more than 450 followers) and Twitter. Began using Facebook Live to broadcast school events, such as the Spelling Bee. Teachers use of Twitter increased to keep parents updated on school events in real time.
- Remind app used in some grades to let parents know immediately what is happening at school, a nightly picture of homework board in fourth grade.
- Weekly emails with information for fourth-grade parents, as well as school-wide events and activities.
- Heavily promoted St. Michael School and Catholic Education during Catholic Schools Week in January.
- Enhanced the monthly e-Messenger newsletter from Principal Mrs. Margaret Campisi to include much more news, pictures, upcoming events, and other important links and information.
- Continued publishing the *Messenger* 8-page newsletter to the school community and parishioners twice a year.

Show
me thy ways, O Lord;
teach my thy paths.
Lead me in thy truth,
and teach me.

Community Collaboration



GOAL:

Foster relationships between parents/families, teachers, CYO, PTU, parishioners, and volunteers.

- As part of the St. Michael School 2020 Strategic Plan, a School Council was formed that consists of 11 individuals, representing both St. Michael and St. Basil the Great Parishes. The Council's main goal is to help implement the priorities and goals listed in the five-year strategic plan that was launched in 2016 while serving in an advisory capacity to the Pastor of St. Michael and St. Basil the Great Parishes.

This Council communicates and demonstrates the long-term commitment of our school. The Council is focused on meeting each of our goals as it relates to academic excellence, faith formation, financial stability, community collaboration, and ongoing communications with our school and parish communities. They plan to regularly communicate the progress they are making in each of these areas. The Council has met three times this school year.

In addition to Fr. Pete Colletti, Pastor of St. Michael Church; Fr. Walt Jenne, Pastor of St. Basil the Great Church; Deacon Lou Primozic, St. Basil the Great

Church; and Mrs. Margaret Campisi, Principal, St. Michael School, members of the School Council include: Mr. Andre Calabretta, Mrs. Christine Delmore, Mr. Justin Kazmierczak, Mr. Robert Misso, Mrs. Christi Vaughn and Sr. Judith Wood.

- Continued SMS Family of the Month recognition. In 2016-17 school year, eight school families were recognized. To read the SMS Family of the Month testimonials, go to: <https://www.stmichaelschoolinfo.com/sms-family-of-the-month-1>.
- Created an SMS Prayer Request program where families and parishioners can submit prayer intentions online and our students and staff will pray for them. To view the page on our website, go to: <https://www.stmichaelschoolinfo.com/prayer-request>
- Increased the use of displaying messaging in the St. Basil the Great church gathering area TV monitors for registration and other good news.
- Continued partnering with our older adults in our community for the first grade SMILES reading program.
- Continued seeking ways to connect with our younger families in both parishes. For example, on

- Palm Sunday, Sunday School students received gift bags with jelly bean crosses and a religious poem, made by our students.
- Promoting the St. Michael Parish PEAK Family Ministry events that were held throughout the year.
 - Inviting our veterans to a Mass and breakfast/ recognition ceremony on Veterans Day.
 - St. Basil Campus invited grandparents to a Mass and breakfast in November.
 - Reaching out to those families in both parishes who have baptized a child through homemade cards, as well as the sick of our parish.
 - SMS CYO Cheerleaders conducted a clinic for young girls belonging to The Up Side of Downs of Northeast Ohio.
 - SMS CYO seventh and eighth-grade basketball teams presented dozens of Christmas gifts to the students at Louis Aggasiz Elementary School in Cleveland school.
 - First graders in K-Kids collected school supplies for Holy Name Elementary School.
 - K-Kids (Main Campus): 1. Collected hygiene products for University Settlement; 2. Made cards for Independence Senior Center Christmas luncheon; 3. Collected food for local pantry; 4. Made posters for local librarians in Garfield, Parma, Independence, and Brecksville.
 - Drama club performed for a local senior center and nursing home.
 - Parent volunteers worked with second graders to make First Communion banners.
 - Hosted various events throughout the year to bring our families together such as Lunch with a Loved One, Father/Daughter Dance, Mother/Son outing, St. Basil Campus First Grade Gingerbread House Making event, Mother's Day/May Crowning Mass and Prayer Service at St. Basil Campus, Dad's Day at St. Basil Campus.
 - Inviting families, alumni and parishioners to our Catholic Schools Week Open House, as well as our St. Basil Fall Open House.
 - Community partnership with the City of Independence and Independence Local Schools for our SMS students to attend the Rachel's Challenge presentation to promote kindness.
 - Partnership with Heinen's to promote healthy eating with our students at the St. Basil Campus.
 - St. Basil Campus/PTU planning a Back to School Dance for St. Basil campus families.
 - Kindergarten Boot Camp welcomes and acclimates incoming students to the kindergarten routine with 22 students attending (up from the previous year).
 - St. Basil campus provided numerous opportunities for parents to visit our classrooms. For example, Jr. Kindergarten hosted a "breakfast in the classroom" for parents and students before a field trip.
 - Eleven St. Michael School sixth and seventh graders were pen pals from November through May with a group of middle school children in Skowhegan, Maine.
 - During Right to Read Week, eight local "celebrities" and community helpers read a favorite book to students in grades K-7.
 - Both fifth-grade classes skyped with a student in Columbus who has Treacher-Collins Syndrome after reading the book *Wonder* in which the main character has the same syndrome.
 - Created an Alumni Organization
Under the guidance of PTA, an Alumni Group has been formed and a list is being generated of past graduates. Our hope is to have an Alumni Mass in the fall of 2017. A Facebook page has been created as well. <https://www.facebook.com/St-Michael-School-Alumni-Community-1863558367255458/>

Campuses



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SMS School Council

- Fr. Pete Colletti, Pastor of St. Michael Church
- Fr. Walt Jenne, Pastor of St. Basil the Great Church Deacon
- Lou Primozic, St. Basil the Great Church
- Mrs. Margaret Campisi, Principal, St. Michael School
- Mr. Andre Calabretta
- Mrs. Christine Delmore
- Mr. Justin Kazmierczak
- Mr. Robert Misso
- Mrs. Christi Vaughn
- Sr. Judith Wood

www.stmichaelschoolinfo.com

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