



St. Michael
Catholic School

Kindergarten Handbook

2017 - 2018



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MISSION STATEMENT

Shaping disciples of Jesus by igniting the spiritual, academic and social growth within each child.

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

St. Michael Catholic School is dedicated to:

- Teaching students to learn and live the Catholic faith in an environment where Christian values are taught and modeled. We prepare students for active participation in the Church's social mission.
- Designing standards-based curricula that include mastery of basic skills, development of critical thinking, and encouragement of children to reach their potential to function as fully contributing members of society.
- Respecting the dignity of individuals regardless of race, gender, economic, or religious background.
- Creating an atmosphere in which students, parents, and staff can worship, learn, and work together.
- Developing an attitude of support among students, parents, and staff for the rules and policies of St. Michael Catholic School.



Are you questioning . . . PRESCHOOL OR KINDERGARTEN?

Author and teacher Jacquie McTaggart states in the January/February 2009 issue of Family Times magazine:

“The chance of causing harm to your child by holding him/her out of a traditional kindergarten for a year is small; the damage that can occur by sending him/her to kindergarten before he is ready is huge.”

Children’s academic, social and emotional development requires time to evolve. Kindergarten readiness cannot be forced or accelerated.

You have plenty of information about your child from a variety of sources including: Kindergarten screening, preschool teacher input, your pediatrician, and, of course, your own experience with your child.

As you reflect upon your child’s characteristics, consider the following:

Does your child demonstrate:

- A strong need for free play?
- Difficulty separating from you?
- Following through on directions without repeated instruction?
- The ability to get dressed independently?
- A need for one-on-one attention to accomplish tasks?
- Patience while waiting?

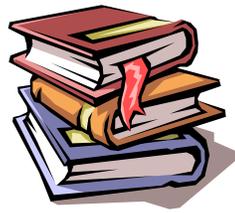
These are a few characteristics to consider when determining your child’s placement. Like you, we want your child to have a positive start to their education. Please call us if you have concerns about your child’s readiness, or if he/she has any special needs.



PREPARING FOR SEPTEMBER

Here are some activities to help your child get ready for Kindergarten:

- Help them zip up tie their shoes, button, fasten belts
- Encourage participation at Mass (avoid toys and snacks at church)
- Read, read, read to them and ask them about the stories
- Count things with them
- Notice letters, shapes, and numbers
- Help them write their name (sample sheet included)
- Cut, draw, paste, fold, color and do puzzles
- Help them find solutions to problems without crying or hitting
- Give them jobs to do – allow them to do the jobs!
- Give directions once and see that they follow-through
- Give them opportunities to wait, to share
- Allow your child to speak for himself or herself
- Help them learn your phone number and address



ST. MICHAEL KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM



RELIGION/SOCIAL STUDIES

- How to be like Jesus
- Formal Prayers: Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel, and The Sign of the Cross
- Scripture stories
- Church holy days
- Praise songs
- School service projects
- Weekly scripture verse
- Weekly church service with grades 1-8 beginning second quarter



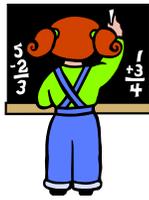
LANGUAGE ARTS

SKILLS

- Journeys Curriculum
- Recognition and forming of upper and lower case letters and numbers
- Association of sounds with letters
- Learning left to right/top to bottom direction, for reading
- Developing vocabulary
- Comprehending and sequencing
- Blending CVC (consonant vowel, consonant words)
- Sight words (the, for, of, this, etc.)
- Reading, such as simple, repetitive stories
- Reading leveled readers
- Printing on lined paper
- Expressing complete ideas
- Forming sentences

Skills are taught through:

- Emerging literacy books, big books and literature stories
- Songs, poems, art
- Large group lessons, small group and individual reinforcement
- Multi-sensory handwriting curriculum
- Journal writing
- Paper - pencil tasks



MATH

SKILLS

Number Sense

- Recognition and counting of numbers 0 - 100
- Skip counting by 2's, 5's, 10's
- Counting backwards
- One to one correspondence
- Comparing, estimating and ordering numbers
- Place value

Concepts

- Ordinal Numbers (first, second, third, etc.)
- Left - right, top, bottom, middle
- Sorting and classifying size, shape, color
- Patterning
- Measurement of length, volume, and weight
- Telling time to hour
- Counting money
- Graphing
- Adding to 20
- Subtracting to ten (10)
- Story problems

These skills are taught by:

- Singapore Math Curriculum
- Songs
- Games and using manipulatives
- 100th Day Celebration
- Large group daily activities (calendar time, birthday graph, weather charting, number line)
- Paper-pencil tasks



SCIENCE

TOPICS:

- Life Science: Plants & Animals
- Earth Science: Our Earth, Sky & Weather
- Physical Science: Matter & Motion



COMPUTER/MEDIA

- Learning the parts of the computer
- Opening and closing programs
- Producing work on the computer
- Learning to care for books
- Locating books in the library
- Sharing and enjoying literature



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Emphasis on gross motor development



ART/MUSIC

- Exploring Art Media (markers, colored pencils, crayons, paint)
- Art history and appreciation
- Using materials (glue, scissors, etc.)
- Chanting, singing, rhyming, and finger plays
- Rhythm and pattern
- Group singing and performing



SOCIAL SKILLS & WORK HABITS

- Respecting others, sharing, taking turns
- Being kind and courteous and helpful
- Working together as a class
- Taking care of the classroom and the school
- Sharing of and listening to the ideas of others
- Cooperating with students, teachers, other adults
- Developing friendships
- Developing independence
- Learning to be socially appropriate
- Using time wisely, being on-task
- Taking ownership and pride in work
- Self control
- Task completion
- Using materials appropriately
- Cleaning up work spaces



KINDERGARTEN SUPPLIES

Please bring in these supplies on **Meet Your Teacher Night**. Please label the backpack, folders and pencil box with your child's name.

- 1 - backpack
- 1 - Twelve pack Crayola colored pencils
- Two ten-packs **Crayola Classic Colors Markers** (broad tip)
- 4 - Simple pocket folders (put their name on front on the top)
- One box of eight **(8) regular crayons** (Crayola)
- 4 - Standard glue sticks (Elmer's)
- 1 - Bottle white washable school glue (Elmer's)
- 1 - Children's Fiskers Scissors
- 1 - Pencil Box for Supplies
- 1 - Fine point black Sharpie
- 3 - Reams of 8.5" x 11" White copy paper
- \$25.00 to cover cost for Weekly Reader, Parties, RAZ online reading program, and Kindergarten Olympics



TRANSPORTATION

Please refer to the Prior Lake/Savage District Transportation Information Packet for busing information. If you are providing your child's transportation, drop-off and pickup procedures will be explained at Orientation in September.



ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL DRESS CODE/UNIFORM POLICY

St. Michael Catholic School believes that appropriate attire demonstrates respect for self, others, and occasions. While clothing may not define a person, a uniform appearance allows students' character to shine. Our dress code compliments our Catholic Christian values to help students develop a sense of modesty and appropriate taste. Our goal is to foster school pride and unity.

All St. Michael's students are expected to wear approved school uniforms throughout the normal school day.

SHIRTS for Kindergarten boys and girls:

- Short of long sleeve navy blue or white banded polo shirt only.
- Banded polo shirts must have the St. Michael Catholic School insignia and be purchased from Donald's.
- Shirts should be sized to fit, not oversized.
- White blouse allowed under jumper only.

PANTS for Kindergarten boys and girls:

- Navy blue twill dress pants, purchased through Donald's, excluding denim
- Pants must fit properly. Baggy, cargo, carpenter style, pajama, hip hugging, yoga or skinny pants are prohibited.

SHORTS for Kindergarten boys and girls:

- Navy blue shorts, purchased through Donald's.
- No short shorts, carpenter or cargo style shorts allowed.
- **Shorts may only be worn during September, October, May and June.**

JUMPERS for Kindergarten girls:

- Plaid jumper (purchased only at Donald's, jumper style #55). All girls need to wear navy leggings or bike shorts under jumpers.
- Jumper length should not be shorter than 2" above the top of the knee cap.
- No skirts or skorts.
- White blouse, navy blue or white banded polo shirt may be worn under jumper.

OUTERWEAR

- Navy cardigan with school insignia purchased through Donald's (uniform banded polo worn underneath).
- Fleece or sweatshirts with school insignia purchased through Donald's (uniform banded polo worn underneath).

FOOTWEAR:

- Sturdy, flat-heeled athletic or dress shoes
- All shoes must have enclosed toes and backs
- Shoe laces must be tied
- No Crocs, Heelys, skaters, flip-flops, Ugg-style or fashion boots including out-of-uniform and Spirit Wear days.
- Boots are expected during winter weather but may not be worn in the classroom

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL STUDENTS:

- Undergarments (worn under uniform shirts) must be solid white in color (no print or graphics)
- All pants must be worn at the waist
- No oversized or "sagging" pants or tight pants
- T-shirts worn under uniform shirts must be plain white
- Unbanded shirts must remain tucked into pants
- Natural hair colors are acceptable, no hair extensions

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLOTHES:

Gym shoes need to be properly laced and tied.

UNIFORM SUPPLIER:

Approved uniforms are available through Donald's Apparel and Uniform. Donald's representatives visit the campus in the summer to sell all needed uniform supplies. A uniform exchange for used uniforms is available to parents at this same time.

Donald's West
6407 City West Parkway
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
952-942-7448

Donald's East
972 Payne Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55130
651- 776-2723

SPIRIT DAY ATTIRE GUIDELINES:

Spirit Day will be the First Friday of every month. School "Blues" gear/Blues team shirts may be worn. All other uniform rules apply.

OUT-OF-UNIFORM DAYS:

Out-of-uniform days are a privilege. The school dress code and all of the above guidelines with respect to modesty, neatness, and appropriateness apply. Administration reserves the right to ask a student to change to appropriate attire at any time, including special dress days.

Student attire should be consistent with the following guidelines:

- No sleeveless shirts or low necklines
- No offensive words, phrases or pictures
- No exposed midriffs
- Shorts and dresses may be no more than 3 inches above the knee
- No caps or hats are to be worn

Please label your child's sweaters, sweatshirts and outerwear! Thank you!

KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER & COMMUNICATION

Every week that we have a 5 day school week, a Kindergarten Newsletter will be sent electronically. Later, it can be found on our classroom website under the tab *Newsletters*.

Our classroom websites give parents the opportunity to communicate directly with each other. Please understand that we cannot give out other parents email addresses. Therefore, we encourage every parent to go to the class website and fill in the information on the *Class List & Contacts* page. Only members that are personally invited by the teacher have access to this page.