

2019-2020 St. Michael Athletic Recognition Page

Below are coach's words of praise, accolades, thank you notes and highlights from the season. Coaches from volleyball, basketball and dance. Since we were not able to be together in person for our Athletic Breakfast, we still wanted to acknowledge our athletes!

Special thanks to our coaches for all the time and effort they put into St. Mike's athletics! We have a great, competitive, athletic program and a lot of that is because of the wonderful coaches that we have! THANK YOU!



BASKETBALL

8th Grade Boys Basketball



Our 8th grade boys' basketball team was an outstanding group of boys that were made up of both St Michael students and parish members. This group, whose fate was brought together by God, formed a unique bond from 4th-8th grade that few teams will ever experience. They finished their St Michael's basketball careers placing second in the SSYO Gold League with a 14-2 record and finishing their highly competitive B tournament season with a 14-13 record.

A couple of their most memorable accomplishments were being 3 year undefeated SSYO Champions from fourth through sixth grade and winning the State Tournament in sixth grade. But what I'm most proud of and believe their greatest achievement from their time here at St Michael and more important than any success they had on the court, was who they developed into along the way.

This team competed in every game. They were always fun to watch. They never gave up fighting no matter what challenges they faced. They played hard for their school, their fans, themselves but most importantly for each other. They are a special group of boys

that played the game the right way, always respecting the opponent and referees while playing together to accomplish their goal.

I can't say enough of how proud I am of these boys. They learned the meaning of hard work, they learned how to push themselves harder than they thought possible. They learned to compete, to accept winning and losing with class. They worked hard every day which drove their success.

I truly consider myself blessed to have had the opportunity to coach these boys for past 8 years. They know it's only the beginning for them and I have no doubt they will accomplish BIG things in their lives.

Since this is likely my last year of coaching, I'd like to thank a few people that helped me along the way. Without them, we wouldn't have been blessed with the success we had. I want to thank my coaches Kevin Casey and Jason Daniel (and a big part of our state tournament team Joey Casey) for all the years and time they put in coaching. You were a true blessing to the program, our team and me. Thank you for the good times and memories we were so fortunate to experience together.

Thank you to our team mom Colleen Casey for keeping our team organized and having us at the right place at the right time. Playing as much as we did takes coordinated effort and she played an integral part in that.

I want to thank my team's parents. Great kids come from great parents. This group of parents was a special group that made it fun to coach. They were always positive and supportive. They were committed to getting their kids to all practices including those practices that just popped up. They were committed to zig zagging around the twin cities to make sure their son was on time to every game and always with a smile. I really couldn't have asked for better group of parents. They were elite.

I'd like to thank our athletic director Melissa Shimek for all the support she gave me and my teams over the years. It was much appreciated thank you.

I'd also like to thank St Michael for allowing me to coach 3 teams over the last 10 years. I enjoyed every minute of it. I, along with my four kids, were all blessed to have been a part of such a great school and community.

Finally to my boys... take what you have learned and apply it to everything you do. Work hard, push yourself, stay humble, never give up, keep God present and I promise you good things will bless you. I'm anxiously awaiting the great things you'll do in the future. I hope you stay in touch and never forget to always... *play hard and have fun!*

Blues on three, one, two, three....BLUES!

Coach Joe

From Coach Kevin

I've really enjoyed watching all the boys improve over the past years I've also enjoyed getting to know you all, I loved your spirit and competitive attitudes, continue to work hard and enjoy your high school years, you are always apart of St. Mikes. Go Blues!!!

Coach Kevin

From Coach Jason

It's been my pleasure getting to know and watch you all grow into fine young men. I will cherish the many laughs we had and appreciated how each of you poured your all into the game. The way you represented St. Mike's on and off the court is credit to your great families.

Diamond, diamond all game!

Coach Jason

7th Grade Boys Basketball:

We finished with a winning record in the SSYO league. We were very proud of how the boys had a never give-up attitude and it was recognized often by opposing coaches complementing our boys after games. We also saw continual improvement in their skill level.

-Coach Tom, Tom & Kevin

6th Grade Boys Basketball:

The 6th Grade boys had another year of outstanding growth with their teamwork, skills, attitude and maturity. The bond between this group grows stronger every year, and to see the moments where they begin to better understand the game and trust in each other is priceless.

Their 2019-2020 record was 20-12, and place 2nd in three of their tournaments, including SSYO (we'll work on Annunciation next year!).

I do recall one parent asking a coach if we ever practiced boxing out...well, we have proof that we not only worked on it, but were able to use it successfully in a game.

I've never been so proud as a coach as when will had a foul called against him for boxing out too aggressively!!!

We are looking forward to next season!

Coaches Matt, Jed & Chuck



7th Grade Girls Basketball:

Our 7th grade girls basketball team had a fun season. We placed 2nd at St Cloud as well as we received (FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW) the Youth First Team Award at State Basketball. We are very proud of these girls and can't wait for our 8th grade season!!

The Youth 1st Team Award selections are based on votes and comments from the Officials and input from the Tournament Directors. We would like to recognize your team (players, coaches, parents and fans) for exhibiting good sportsmanship and positive conduct during the 2020 Grade State Tournament. You played the game the right way, great job!



6th Grade Girls Basketball:

We were undefeated in our league, culminating with the winning first place. We placed in multiple tournaments, including B tournaments which we challenged ourselves with this year. We beat the Prior Lake B team (the best team at the sixth grade level) to take on the informal title of the best sixth grade girls team in PL.
-Coach Cory & Mark



5th Grade Girls Basketball:

The 5th grade girls took first place in the Prior Lake tournament, St. Cloud and the SSYO league. 2nd place in the Waconia cupid classic!

-Coach Kelly & Tyler



VOLLEYBALL

8th Grade Volleyball

Wow, 8th grade. I've had the pleasure of coaching the girls in volleyball since 5th grade. It's been incredible to see how far they've come since then. We started with - just get the ball over the net - and grew into positional playing within rotations.

This season was definitely the most challenging the girls have had. They played in the Gold division against girls who play club volleyball and have for years. It was frustrating, and tiring at times and a higher level of competition than they were ready for. But they did their best to remain positive, support each other and managed to win one game during the season. As coaches, we couldn't be more proud of them. The word for the season was resilience and it will serve them all well in years to come, no doubt.

Many of these girls have played sports together for 4 years or more. They've got a great common story to share about their time at St Mike's playing volleyball. We have some awesome memories - the time I tried to quickly say the prayer before a game and somehow managed to start saying the St. Mike's school song; winning 1st place in the Bronze division in 7th grade; pineapple; ping pong; dynamic warmups; and the one I wish we were all in person to say together, "STACK IT UP, LADIES".

We are sad to see their St. Mike's years come to an end, but we are excited to see all that the girls will accomplish going forward! Enjoy your high school years!
-Coach Tami and Tina



7th Grade Volleyball:

It was a great season for our 7th grade girls! They did a fabulous job by putting in a lot of hard work and dedication this season.

Together they really excelled as a team!
These girls truly made St. Michaels School
proud! Go Blues!
Coach Ann & Andrea



6th Grade Volleyball:

With our rookie year behind us the 6th grade girls were able to set a lot of goals for this year. By the end of the season all the girls could serve overhand!! That was a huge accomplishment! The more their confidence grew so did their eagerness to try new skills such as setting and spiking. We all had a lot of fun playing and cheering on each other. They are very supportive of one another!! Our goal for next year is to raise the ceilings and make up a new cheer.

Great job ladies!!
Coach Amy & Coach Cory



5th grade volleyball:

The 5th grade girls had an amazing season learning the game of volleyball. They grew so much as players and teammates. The game of volleyball depends on communication on the court and the girls learned quickly to call for the ball and depend on one another to get the ball over the net. We focused on giving ourselves and our teammates grace when things aren't going our way and most importantly having fun playing the game volleyball with our friends. Their hard work and dedication took them all the way to winning our conference championship. It was such a pleasure to coach these stellar girls. I love each and everyone of them!! I



can't wait to get back on the court as soon
as we can.
-Coach Molli



DANCE

Dance Team

This year can be summed up with these words: *Creativity. Adaptability. Drive, & Fun.*

Creativity - Our older girls loved to help choreograph for both themselves and the younger girls. The younger girls were willing to try fun lifts and even learn about 90's boy bands. Meanwhile the older girls were learning how to moonwalk.

Adaptability & Drive - These girls did not give up, even when it was tough to find a consistent place to practice, and we'd end up stretching in the halls, choreographing in the lunch room, or learning routines in Archangels Hall. The wild Katz's number one collective goal is to have entertaining and memorable performances. The girls LOVED having to do warm ups of sit-ups, push-ups and lunges! (wink wink)

Fun - We are proud to say we have taught these girls the Cha-Cha Slide, the Macarena, and pretty much any other 90's fad dance. They loved when Coach Jess would bring in cookies and our mini-mascot, Sophie The Dog. They also loved Coach Jina's dance moves, straight out of the New Kids on the Block playbook. We were unsuccessful in getting Mr. Farnquist to join



in on our dances, but we will continue to work on him for the 20-21 season.

Overall, we are proud, humbled and honored to have coached these girls. We all know we are helping to build something pretty special for the St. Michael's family now, and the students and families to come. Thank you to all of the dancers, the parents, Mrs. Shimek and the rest of the St. Michael's staff!

Mic Drop,

Coach Jina & Coach Jess