

# PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

*St. Michael the Archangel High School*



## MISSION STATEMENT

*Formed in Catholic tradition, the mission of St. Michael High School is to foster the spiritual, intellectual, and personal development of young people as committed disciples of Christ.*

**January 2026**

## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our St. Michael families. As we begin 2026, we are grateful for the many ways our community continues to grow in faith, service, and unity. January is filled with opportunities to come together, beginning with our Pickleball Tournament, Paddles for a Cause, on January 10 and 11. Team spots and sponsorships are still available, and we look forward to another great event that brings our community together in support of our school as well as Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital.*

*Later this month, St. Michael High School will coordinate eight buses filled with students and chaperones from across the Diocese of Baton Rouge to travel to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life from January 19 through 24. During this pilgrimage, our students will join thousands of young people from across the country to stand as witnesses for the dignity of human life. Please keep all of our pilgrims in your prayers as they prepare for this powerful and faith-filled experience.*

*We will also celebrate Catholic Schools Week at the end of the month, a time to give thanks for our shared mission and for your partnership in forming disciples of Christ. Finally, we will close out January by sending our cheer squad and dance team to compete at UCA and UDA Nationals in Orlando. We wish them the best of luck! Thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of the St. Michael community.*

*God Bless You and Go Warriors!*  
**Mr. Jared Cavalier, Principal**

## UPCOMING DATES AT A GLANCE

### January

- 2: Deadline to register for Paddles for a Cause
- 5: Classes Resume/Late Start
- 10-11: Paddles for a Cause - Pickleball Tournament
- 19: No School/Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 19-24: National March For Life
- 24: Baton Rouge March for Life
- 26-30: Catholic Schools Week
- 30: All School Mass
- 31: High School MP3/March for Life Reunion

### February

- 1: Grandparents' Day
- 7: Trivia Night
- 16-20: Mardi Gras Holidays
- 28: Winter Formal

## *St. Michael Prayer*

*St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle;  
be our protection against the wickedness and  
snares of the devil. May God rebuke him,  
we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,  
by the divine power of God, cast into hell, Satan and  
all evil spirits, who roam about the world seeking the ruin of souls.*

*Amen*

### Classes Resume

Classes resume on **Monday, January 5**. This is a late start day; the **tardy bell rings at 8:49 AM**. This is the first day of our second semester.

## Attendance Reminders

**Students who miss any portion of the school day – including late arrival, early dismissal/check-out by a parent or guardian, or absence for an entire day – are required to submit a handwritten note or a doctor's note to the front office, unless the absence was preapproved by administration.**

**If a note is not received within three (3) days of the student's return to school, or if the absence is unexcused, the student will receive a consequence, which may include Saturday School Detention.**

**This requirement will be added to the attendance policy outlined in the Student-Parent Handbook on pages 21-23.**

### Second Semester

The first semester is complete and report cards were posted on December 29. Please take some time in the first few days of the new semester to discuss with your child his/her academic progress. If grades are not where they should be, please make a plan to improve during this second half of the school year. Seeking help from the teacher, the lunchtime Math Lab, or the National Honor Society lunch tutoring sessions is a good place to start. These resources are available for all students to get the assistance they need. Please feel free to contact your child's teachers or grade level counselor to discuss how we can work together to help your child be successful this school year.

### School Holiday

There will be NO school on **Monday, January 19** in observance of *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*.

### Celebration of Mass

We will celebrate Catholic Schools Week the **week of January 26**. An all-school Mass will be held on **Friday, January 30 at 8:47 AM in the St. Sebastian Gym**. Parents are invited and must check in at the school office prior to the Mass start time. Students must wear their dress uniform on Mass days.

### Catholic Schools Week

Each year during Catholic Schools Week, schools in the Diocese collaborate to support *Catholic Charities* by contributing items to aid their mission. As many of us know, *Catholic Charities* provides vital assistance to individuals and families in need. These contributions enable them to continue their important work, offering help to those seeking a fresh start.

St. Michael has been asked to participate, along with the rest of the schools in the Diocese. The focus this year are Walmart or Visa gift cards (please write the amount on the gift card), new full-sized items of baby wipes, baby shampoo/wash, diaper cream, baby lotion/powder, baby thermometers, new pacifiers, twin size bed-n-bag, bath rug/mat, crib sheets, and adult diapers. The best way to support the work of the Catholic Charities is through donations that can be used to provide essential services to individuals and families in need. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, please click the link [here](#).

## Coffee with the Junior Counselor

Junior parents and guardians are invited to attend Coffee with the Counselor to listen to a brief presentation with Mrs. Alise Ashford.

**\*\*Please RSVP through the link sent to you by Mrs. Ashford.**

Where: SMHS

When: Wednesday, January 14

Time: 7:30 AM

Topics: SMHS counseling services, college and career readiness, graduation requirements, ACT testing, Senior year scheduling, and more



### National March for Life

SMHS will be traveling to Washington, D.C. for the National March for Life with over 300 participants from across the Diocese. We will depart on **Monday, January 19 and return on Saturday, January 24**. You are invited to pray for us during this journey.

### Baton Rouge March for Life

On **Saturday, January 24**, there will be a Respect Life Mass and March in Baton Rouge. More information will be sent through Religion classes as this event nears.

### Pickleball Tournament, Paddles for a Cause

The student council will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pickleball Tournament at Stacks on **January 10-11**. This exciting event is not just about fun and friendly competition, it is about making a difference. Proceeds raised will go to support *Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital* and the much-needed *cafeteria furniture upgrades at St. Michael High School*. Let's rally together for two great causes. Click [here](#) to register.

**Registration is open until January 2.**

**HIGH SCHOOL MP3  
& M4L REUNION**

*CRY of the POOR*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31  
ST. MICHAEL HS GYM  
6-10PM  
FOOD, FUN, PRAYER!  
\$10 AT DOOR  
REGISTER AT TINYURL.COM/CRYOFPOR**

**MP3**  
MUSIC PRAISE  
PRAYER PLAY

### Grandparents' Day

We are thrilled to invite all St. Michael High School grandparents to a special day dedicated just to you! Join us on **Sunday, February 1, 2026, 3:00 - 5:00 PM** for an afternoon of community, faith, and fun with your favorite student!

#### Highlights of the Day Include:

- **Campus Tours:** See what's new on campus and walk the halls with your grandchild.
- **Prayer Service:** A beautiful moment of reflection and community.
- **Professional Pictures:** Capture a lasting memory with your grandchild.
- **Entertainment & Salute:** Enjoy a performance by the SMHS Band, including a special **Salute to Veterans**.
- **Refreshments:** Mix, mingle, and enjoy some treats!

We can't wait to welcome you to the SMHS family for this cherished tradition! RSVP by clicking [here](#).

### Winter Formal

Save the date for Winter Formal on **Saturday, February 28, 8:00 - 11:00 PM**. Girls are asked to wear long dresses only to this dance. More information will be sent after the Christmas break.

**SWORD Program**

**SAVE YOUR LABELS**

**LABEL DRIVE FUNDRAISER**

**Community COFFEE**

**cash for schools**  
Serving Our Children

**WHAT WE NEED?**

BRING US YOUR COMMUNITY COFFEE LABELS AND OUR SWORD STUDENTS WILL SORT AND MAIL THEM. LABELS = MONEY FOR SMHS

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
EMAIL DONNA AT  
DGAINEY@SMHSBR.ORG**





**SUPER BOWL WINNER. LSU ALUMNUS. MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE.**

**CLYDE EDWARDS-HELAIRE**

**IS JOINING THE CONVERSATION ON MENTAL HEALTH**

**CLYDE EDWARDS-HELAIRE**  
LSU FOOTBALL ALUMNUS | KANSAS CITY CHIEFS RUNNING BACK | MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

**PETE MARAVICH ASSEMBLY CENTER**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 AT 6PM**



**PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE**  
**PANELIST**

*A hometown athlete turned Super Bowl champion, Clyde brings the same focus, humility, and heart that define the mission of Rain Will Bring Flowers.*

Rain Will Bring Flowers is proud to announce that Clyde Edwards-Helaire will take the stage as a first-time panelist for the 3rd Annual *Planting Seeds of Hope*.

A Baton Rouge native and former LSU standout turned Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl Champion, Clyde's journey reflects the power of faith, focus, and mental strength.

Beyond the field, he uses his platform to remind student athletes that real success begins with character, community, and care for their own mental health.

## LET'S GROW TOGETHER AT PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE

Every conversation, every story, and every act of compassion helps break the stigma surrounding mental health. That's why the Rain Will Bring Flowers Foundation, in partnership with LSU Athletics, the Joe Burrow Foundation, Our Lady of the Lake Health, and the LCLUB, is bringing athletes, families, and our community together once again.

Together, we'll hear powerful stories of resilience, support youth mental wellness, and remind our kids: they are not alone. 🌱 Mark your calendars, RSVP, and learn more by visiting our website!

## HOME AND SCHOOL



**WISHES YOU A MERRY  
CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**



### Alma Mater

All hail to you, St. Michael High,

The black and gray and red.

Our glory and our honor

To thee do we pledge.

Years will pass and roads divide;

Memories remain.

St. Michael, we proudly pledge

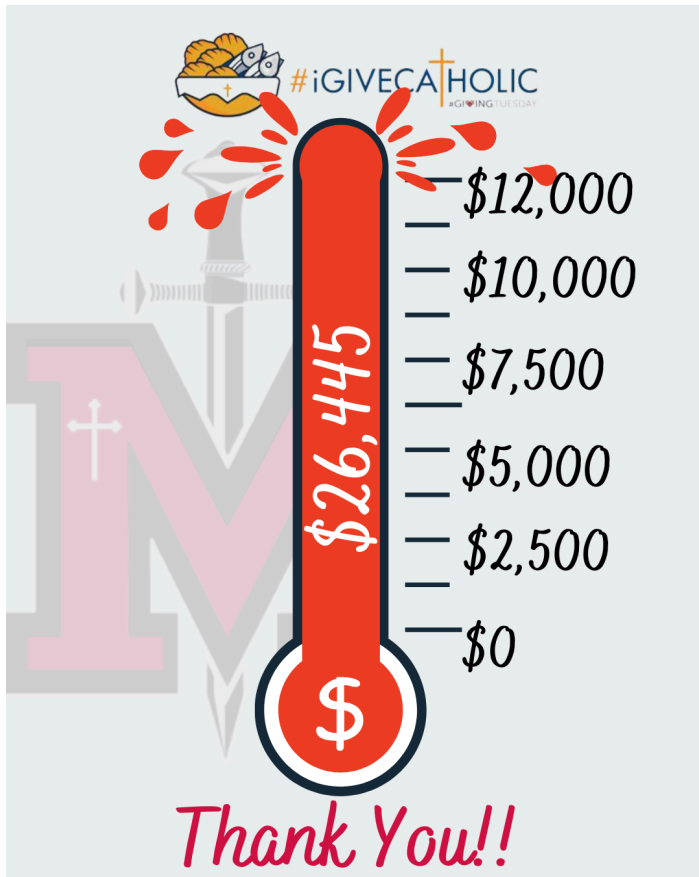
Our honor, our love, and fame.

## ADVANCEMENT NEWS & IMPORTANT EVENTS



Warrior Nation, you did it—and then some! We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible

generosity shown by our St. Michael community during this year's #iGiveCatholic campaign. Our goal was \$12,000... and thanks to your giving hearts, we more than doubled it. A total of \$26,445 was raised to bring modern, union-style seating to our cafeteria—an upgrade that will directly enhance the daily experience of every Warrior on campus. Your kindness, support, and unwavering belief in our mission continue to make St. Michael a place where students grow, thrive, and feel at home. Thank you to every family, alum, supporter, and friend who gave, shared, and prayed for our success. We are truly blessed by this community. From the bottom of our hearts—thank you, Warrior Nation!



We invite you to join us in advancing our mission by considering a personal and meaningful gift to the Fund for St. Michael. Your tax-deductible donation

allows us to provide qualified families with tuition assistance, strengthen faith formation, and support our extracurricular activities and programs. In essence, your gift to this fund improves the overall student experience. Please use the link below to learn more about our fund and how you can help us attain our goal of **\$150,000** for the 2025-26 school year. Currently, the Fund is at approximately \$107,000. Questions? Contact Teri LaRose at [tlarose@smhsbr.org](mailto:tlarose@smhsbr.org).

[The Fund for St. Michael - St. Michael the Archangel High School \(smhsbr.org\)](http://TheFundforSt.Michael-St.MichaeltheArchangelHighSchool(smhsbr.org))

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Formed in Catholic tradition, the mission of St. Michael High School is to foster the spiritual, intellectual, and personal development of young people as committed disciples of Christ. To achieve such a worthy goal, St. Michael gratefully relies on the meaningful involvement of many generous people. If you own a business or know a business, we invite you to discover the numerous ways you can partner with St. Michael High School by visiting our [website](http://website) or contacting Haleigh Gautreaux at 225-753-9782, ext. 26 or [hgautreaux@smhsbr.org](mailto:hgautreaux@smhsbr.org).

*St. Michael the Archangel High School*  
**ALUMNI SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**  
**March 28th, 2026**

Registration  
& Sponsorship  
Spots  
Coming Soon

Visit [www.smhsbr.org/alumni](http://www.smhsbr.org/alumni) for more information