

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.

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

October 2025

We recently celebrated Homecoming, and it was great to connect with so many of our alumni, especially those from the first Warrior Football team of 1986. Warrior Stadium was packed, and the energy reminded us how great it is to be a Warrior, both past and present.

Earlier this week, we also witnessed the SWORD Retreat, which was planned and led by our Leadership and Faith (LEAF) Class. It was inspiring to see our LEAF students show empathy and compassion as they guided our SWORD students closer to Christ. Their witness of faith and servant leadership was a true reflection of our school's mission.

October will be another busy month for our community. Next week we will celebrate Warriors for Life Week. Please pay close attention to the themes and activities outlined later in this newsletter. A highlight of the week will be our living rosary and a talk from Deacon Don Allison from St. Aloysius in Baton Rouge.

On October 22 we will host our Open House. While it is one of our most important recruitment events, it is also a beautiful time for our community to come together. Thank you in advance for the time and effort that so many of you will give to make this day a success. The following day will be a remote learning day. Teachers will assign homework, but since they will be on retreat there will be no virtual classes. Student attendance on October 23 will be determined by the

completion of assigned work. SMHS Campus will be closed on this day.

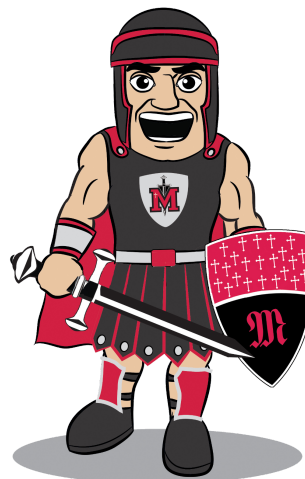
Later this month, our seniors will gather for their retreat on October 26 and 27. Please keep them and the adults who will accompany them in your prayers.

Finally, a reminder that school will have a late start on October 10 and October 31 due to the previous night's football games. Classes will begin at 8:50 a.m., with supervision available on campus beginning at 6:30 AM.

Thank you for your constant support and for the many ways you strengthen our St. Michael community.

Go Warriors!

Mr. Jared Cavalier, Principal



UPCOMING DATES AT A GLANCE

- 6-10: Warriors for Life Week
- 7: Student Council District Rally
- 8: Living Pro-Life Rosary
- 8: March for Life Registration Opens
- 10: Late Start - 8:50 AM
- 10: End of the First Nine Weeks
- 12: Student Council Induction
- 13: Report Cards posted to PlusPortals
- 14: Senior Graduation Order Night
- 14: Junior Ring Order Night
- 15: Mass
- 16: Pro Vita Dinner
- 17: No EBR Bus
- 18: Junior High MP3
- 20: No EBR Bus
- 21: No EBR Bus
- 22: Early Dismissal/Open House
- 23: Campus Closed/Virtual Learning Day
- 24: Fall Holiday
- 26-27: Senior Retreat
- 27: PSAT
- 29-30: All Souls Alter
- 31: Deadline for Seniors to take Yearbook Pictures
- 31: Late Start - 8:50 AM

End of First Nine Weeks

The end of the first nine weeks grading period is **Friday, October 10**. Report cards will be posted on PlusPortals by **Monday, October 13**. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's performance, please contact his or her teacher

Late Start Days for Students

October 10 and October 31 are late start days for students due to the previous night's football games. School will be open at 6:30 AM for students who need to be dropped off early. The first bell will ring at **8:46 AM**, dismissal will be at regular time. EBR buses will run at their regular time and the SMHS shuttle bus will run based on the late start time.

NEW PlusPortals Mobile App

The newly designed PlusPortals Mobile App is now available. The old StudentPlus and ParentPlus apps have been disabled as

of October 1, 2025. Be sure to use your own parent PlusPortals login, not your student's login. If you experience issues using the biometrics login method, enter your id/password using the phone keyboard instead. Parents/guardians that have not yet accessed PlusPortals need to activate their account on the web browser version of PlusPortals first before they can use the mobile app. If you need your account reactivated, please send that request to Lori Steib, Registrar, at lsteib@smhsbr.org. The new free app download is available now for both iOS and Android devices.

Download the new PlusPortals App today:

- iOS App Store:
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/plusportals/id6743200395>
- Android Google Play Store:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.rediker.plusportals>

EBR Buses

The EBR buses will not run on **Friday, October 17; Monday, October 20; or Tuesday, October 21**. The SMHS shuttle bus will run its regular route.

Early Dismissal for Students

SMHS students will be dismissed at **12:00 PM on Wednesday, October 22** for preparation of our Open House that evening. A lighter meal including Grab-and-Go will be served on this day. There will be EBR and SMHS shuttle bus service on this day.

Student Council District Rally

The Student Council will host this year's District III Rally on **October 7, 5:30 to 8:00 PM**. Schools from across the parish are invited to learn and grow in their leadership.

Student Council Induction

All student council members and their families are invited to the St. Michael Student Council Induction to be held **Sunday, October 12 at 1:00 PM in the St. Sebastian Gym**. An invitation has been emailed to all students and parents. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Jackie Moseley at jmoseley@smhsbr.org.

Warriors for Life Week: “Grow in Mercy: Planting Seeds of Compassion, Reaping Hope”

We will be celebrating LIFE **October 6-10** with a week of fun, prayer, and service. Students are invited to prayer, lunchtime activities, and fun dress up days. A couple of highlights and opportunities:

- Support Moms in Need - We will be collecting essential baby items - diapers (all sizes, but especially sizes 4,5,6), wipes, white onesies, baby shampoo and body wash, new or gently used umbrella strollers, bottles, and money for brand new car seats (please do not send used car seats) - all week for the Pregnancy Problem Center. There will be an Amazon Wish list shared to all students, so parents may also donate that way. All in person donations will be collected in the commons. Thank you for your generosity.
- Sock it to Poverty - We are collecting SOCKS for the homeless. Men's and Women's socks will be accepted to give to local homeless shelters. Help clothe the naked and give back to the community. Socks will be counted for each grade level as class cup points. The grade with the most socks at the end of the week, receives points for class cup! We will collect on tables in the commons. Make sure to put them with your grade level.
- Warriors for Life Week at a glance:

Monday – “Roots of Understanding: Cultivating Kindness” - Mental Health & Merciful Friendships - Dress in your favorite Superhero and Sidekick duo, as we Rescue others with mercy and compassion! Spread positivity and motivational messages with clothespins, and make additional clothespins with messages of encouragement, prayer, and love for your friends at lunch outside of campus ministry.

Tuesday – “Harvest of Mercy-Sock it to Poverty”-Poverty—Dress as a farmer! Wear your best overalls and flannel shirts as we work the harvest for the poor. We will be collecting SOCKS for the homeless for class cup points and finding out how SMART we are about poverty during all lunch periods with a simulation at lunch.

Wednesday – “Grow in Mercy: Forgive as you have been forgiven”- Imprisoned—Wear a PURPLE shirt with school bottoms to represent Mercy and

Forgiveness. We challenge students to participate in “fist bumps of forgiveness” and forgive a friend on this day. We invite students to stop by Campus Ministry to write letters of forgiveness to their peers and notes of encouragement or prayer to those who have recently been incarcerated.

Thursday – “Seeds of Freedom: Free to Flourish”- Human Trafficking—Wear BLUE. Blue jeans, blue shirts, blue accessories to raise awareness for Human Trafficking. Join us before school at 6:45 for a Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Chapel to pray for all victims of Human Trafficking. Then visit Campus Ministry at lunch to hear from the Hospitalier Sister who runs the Metanoia Manor for children who have been rescued from Human Trafficking.

Friday – “Nurture New Life: Sowing Mercy, Sprouting Hope”- Unborn/Crisis Pregnancies—Wear PINK/BLUE shirts, socks, and accessories with jeans or sweatpants. Remember all lives lost to abortion and celebrate new life with a birthday party for the unborn by spiritually adopting a baby at risk in a crisis pregnancy in Campus Ministry at lunch! Also, sign the chastity pledge of being pro-life and pledging to live a life fully open to life.



Living Pro-Life Rosary

Parents are welcome to attend our all-school rosary dedicated to celebrating life from womb to tomb. Guests should check in at the school office prior to the start at **8:45 AM on Wednesday**,

October 8 in the St. Sebastian Gym. The Rosary will be followed by Pro-Life Speaker Deacon Don Allison.

Senior Graduation Order Night

Seniors, it's time to get ready for the big day! Join us on **Tuesday, October 14 from 2:30 to 6:00 PM in the Commons** for Graduation Order Night. This is your chance to order all the essentials for your graduation celebration: caps, gowns, announcements, and more! Questions? See Mrs. Moseley or call Jostens at 225-928-5502.

Don't miss out, this is your first big step toward walking across that stage in May. Bring your excitement, your order forms, and \$100 deposit and let's start the countdown to graduation day! If you have to miss ordering on October 14, Jostens will be on campus during all lunches on **Friday, October 17**.



Junior Ring Order Night

Juniors will meet with Jostens during the last 20 minutes of their lunch on **Thursday, October 9** to pick up their ring packets. Jostens will return to campus on **Tuesday, October 14 from 2:30 to 6:00 PM** for Juniors and their parents to place ring orders. Samples will be available to look at and try on. For those unable to attend, Jostens will return on **Friday October 17**, during all lunches to take additional orders. **A deposit of \$100 is due at order time.**

Mass Celebration

An all-school mass will be held on **Wednesday, October 15 at 8:47 AM** in the St. Sebastian Gym of the Multipurpose Building. Parents are invited and should check in at the school office prior to heading to the gym. Students must wear their dress uniforms all day on mass days.

Youth March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C.

Registration for the Baton Rouge March for Life Pilgrimage (January 19-24) will be open **October 8-22**. Seniors and Juniors may sign up with a \$300 deposit and a completed [form](#). The total cost for the trip is \$650, with the balance of \$350 due on November 20. Turn in the deposit to Campus Ministry. After October 22, registration will open to surrounding parishes and schools. For more information about the pilgrimage, visit www.youthmarchforlife.org or contact Mrs. Emily Froeba at efroeba@smhsbr.org.

International Trip Information

Interested in traveling the world? All 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students and parents are invited to an informational meeting on October 15 at 6:00 PM in the cafeteria for the international trip in 2027 to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. Please rsvp here if you are interested: <https://bit.ly/3WbTfxx>. We hope to see you there!

Pro Vita Dinner

The need for financial aid for the *March for Life* and availability of a low cost for all is met primarily through our Pro Vita Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction, which will be held in the St. Sebastian Gym of the Multipurpose Building on **Thursday, October 16 at 6:30 PM**. It is a beautiful night to celebrate life, the impact of the pilgrimage, and the work of the local Pro Life

community. The cost is \$80 per person or \$600 for a table of 8. It is a wonderful night to support and celebrate the *March for Life Pilgrimage*. For more information about the event, to purchase tickets, and to donate to the auction please visit www.youthmarchforlife.org or contact Mrs. Emily Froeba at efroeba@smhsbr.org.

School Closure

SMHS will be closed for students on **Thursday and Friday (October 23-24)**. October 23 is a virtual learning day and October 24 is Fall Holiday.

Senior Retreat: Remain in My Love

The Senior Retreat will take place on **Sunday, October 26-Monday, October 27 from 8:30AM (Sun) to 6:15 PM (Mon) at Our Lady of Hope in Osyka, Mississippi**. Students will meet at school and be transported to and from the retreat by school bus.

- We will begin with a 9:00 AM Sunday Mass in the St. Sebastian Gym for Seniors and their families after bag check in (RSVP information will be sent to parents).
- Our seniors will focus on looking at how their faith has carried them this far and what the future holds.
- Students may wear jeans, sweatpants, or khakis, and will receive a retreat t-shirt to wear on Monday. A packing list is on the last page of the form [link](#).
- Forms have been distributed to students in class and more information, as well as forms, have been emailed to parents on October 1. Forms for retreat can be found at this [link](#). **These forms must be returned by October 3.**
- Parents, please be on the lookout for an email with this information and (2) SURPRISE items needed from parents by **October 13**.

Keep the Seniors covered in prayer during retreat! Sign up to pray for senior retreat here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054FADAF2CA5F49-59109275-prayers>.

Help us with supplies and needs for Senior Retreat here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054FADAF2CA5F49-59109527-help>.

Junior High MP3: Life is a Climb

Enjoy an evening of fun, faith, and fellowship led by St. Michael High School's Leadership and Faith students, **October 18, 6:30 to 10:30 PM**. The cost is \$10 at the door and dinner will be served. RSVP [here](#) to let us know that you will be attending.

PSAT/NMSQT: Standardized Testing Day

On **Monday, October 27**, all juniors and those sophomores and freshmen who were invited will sit for the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT).

- Students must bring their laptops and chargers
- Freshmen and Sophomores who are not taking the test will stay home and use this day to catch up on any classwork assignments or work towards getting their service hours.
- Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors taking the test will be dismissed at 10:00 AM. Students who receive extended time will be dismissed at approximately 11:15 AM
- Buses will be on campus at 10:30 AM. Those with extended time that normally ride a bus will need to arrange alternate transportation on this day.
- There will be no lunch vendors or after-school program on campus on this day.

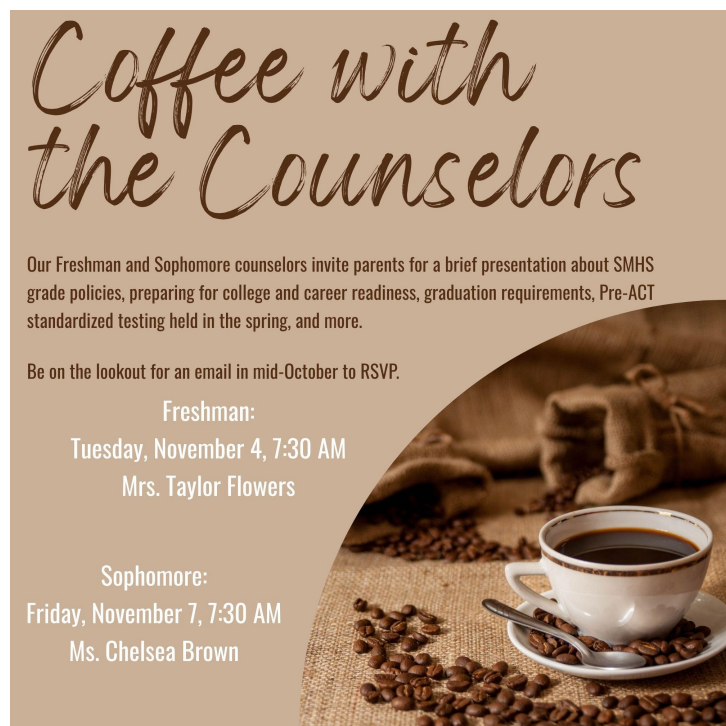


All Souls Alter

The Spanish Club will be preparing to celebrate the Mexican Holiday of *El Dia de los Muertos* or “*Day of the Dead*.” This Catholic holiday is a tradition closely associated with All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day which is held on November 1 and 2. St. Michael will place the alter in celebration on **October 29-30**. The celebration is filled with beautiful imagery and symbols based around family and friends gathering to pay respects and to remember those that have passed away. Spanish Club members will be learning about the history of the day and the symbols that are associated with it. In honor of El Dia de los Muertos, the club will be gathering materials to construct an Ofrenda (altar) to represent their family members who have died. We would like to extend the celebration to the rest of the school community by having students submit a picture of a family member who has passed on, if they choose to participate. More details will be released as the time gets closer. We hope all students, faculty, and staff will consider participating to make this a fruitful experience for our school. Any questions may be emailed to Spanish Club Moderator, Dr. Ghedy Matus at gmatus@smhsbr.org.

Senior Yearbook Picture Reminder

Senior yearbook pictures must be taken by Barclell Studio. The deadline to take senior yearbook pictures is **Friday, October 31**.

A graphic with a warm, brown-toned background. At the top, the text "Coffee with the Counselors" is written in a large, elegant, cursive script. Below this, in a smaller, clean sans-serif font, is the text: "Our Freshman and Sophomore counselors invite parents for a brief presentation about SMHS grade policies, preparing for college and career readiness, graduation requirements, Pre-ACT standardized testing held in the spring, and more." Further down, it says "Be on the lookout for an email in mid-October to RSVP." Then, the details for the Freshman event are listed: "Freshman: Tuesday, November 4, 7:30 AM Mrs. Taylor Flowers". Below that, the details for the Sophomore event are listed: "Sophomore: Friday, November 7, 7:30 AM Ms. Chelsea Brown". The bottom right corner of the graphic features a photograph of a white coffee cup filled with dark coffee, sitting on a saucer with a spoon, surrounded by scattered coffee beans and a burlap sack in the background.

Coffee with the Counselors

Our Freshman and Sophomore counselors invite parents for a brief presentation about SMHS grade policies, preparing for college and career readiness, graduation requirements, Pre-ACT standardized testing held in the spring, and more.

Be on the lookout for an email in mid-October to RSVP.

Freshman:
Tuesday, November 4, 7:30 AM
Mrs. Taylor Flowers

Sophomore:
Friday, November 7, 7:30 AM
Ms. Chelsea Brown

Born to Run

Join the Warriors for Life Club on **November 8** for the Annual Born to Run one mile fun run or 5k to raise money for Women’s New Life Clinic. Students can earn one DIRECT hour by signing up and showing up to participate. Register [here](#) and join the SMHS Warriors for Life team. Those that register by October 13 will receive a tshirt.

Permission for College Visits

Seniors will be granted one college visit with administrative approval. When a student is planning a college visit or tour day, and must miss a school day, his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) must forward a written request to the SMHS Dean of Students, Mr. Kegan Keller, at least five (5) business days prior to the actual date of the visit. The Excused Absence Form may be found under *Quick Links* on the SMHS website or by clicking [here](#). The student should return to school following the absence with a letter of verification of attendance provided by the college or university upon request. Mr. Keller will review the requested information prior to and following the event when considering granting the excused absence. Please refer to the [SMHS Student-Parent Handbook](#) for further details regarding educational absences.

Filing the FAFSA

The FAFSA portal opens **October 1** and can be accessed [here](#). This is the free application for federal student aid that can qualify your child for loans, grants and work study, and it is the application for the TOPS scholarship, if your child qualifies. Your previous year’s income tax return is needed to complete the form, which must be filed by **July 1, 2026**.

If you wish to only fill out the application for the TOPS scholarship in the spring, you may do so on the [Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance website](#).

College Application Month

October is College Application Month!

Throughout September, admissions representatives from area colleges have been on campus meeting with students, and these visits will continue in October. Representatives will be available in the cafeteria during lunch hours to meet with Juniors and Seniors. Senior Parents – Please encourage your child to

complete at least one college application during **October**. Students will be notified of opportunities through email and announcements. Seniors are reminded to regularly check their email, Moodle, and the SMHS online calendar for upcoming dates and events.

LSU Application Reminder

Applications are now being accepted for the next fall semester at LSU. Although the priority date for full consideration for all LSU scholarship programs open to entering freshman is **December 15**, seniors who are on target for meeting LSU admissions requirements should **APPLY EARLY**. The LSU Application for Undergraduate Admission and Scholarships also serves as the automatic application for all entering freshman scholarships. To apply, go to the LSU Undergraduate Admissions website at <https://www.lsu.edu/admissions>. Students official high school transcripts, official ACT or SAT scores, and all other required information must be received by LSU **prior to the December 15 deadline. LSU is test optional; however, if you want to apply for a scholarship, you must submit your ACT scores.**

LSU Honors College Application Information

Freshman entering LSU are eligible to apply to the Ogden Honors College. Students interested in seeking admission to LSU's Ogden Honors College should begin by completing the LSU Application for Undergraduate Admission and Scholarships. Students may indicate their interest in the Ogden Honors College by simply checking the Honors College box on their LSU application. Incoming freshman applicants must first be admitted to LSU prior to their admission to the Honors College. **The deadline to apply and be considered for LSU's Ogden Honors College is December 15.**

Southeastern University Application Reminder

Although the consideration for all SELU scholarship programs open to entering freshmen is **January 15**, seniors who are on target for meeting SELU admission requirements should **APPLY EARLY**. The SELU Application for Undergraduate Admission and Scholarships also serves as the automatic application for all entering freshman scholarships. To apply, go to the [SELU Undergraduate Admissions website](#).

Remaining ACT Dates for Seniors to Qualify for TOPS

www.act.org

- October 18, 2025
- December 13, 2025
- February 14, 2026
- April 11, 2026 - the last date to qualify for all 8 semesters of TOPS

Scholarship Information

Each month, Mrs. Rachel Cart sends an email to senior parents and students with scholarship information. The biggest scholarships students receive are from the colleges. They look at the ACT and GPA to determine the scholarship that is offered.

Freshmen Pen Pal Program

The freshmen will be earning "direct" service hours by writing letters to nursing home residents in the greater Baton Rouge area. More information about these letters and possibilities of visits will be given to students in their Theology classes and emailed to parents.



ADVANCEMENT NEWS & IMPORTANT EVENTS



You are invited to join the numerous donors who help advance our mission by making a personal and meaningful gift

to the Fund for St. Michael. Your tax-deductible donation allows us to invest in teacher pay, provide qualified families with tuition assistance, strengthen faith formation, and financially support our extracurricular activities and programs. Your gift to the fund essentially improves the overall student experience.

Please visit our [website](#) to learn more about our fund and how you can help us attain our goal of **\$150,000** for the 2025-26 school year. Please contact Teri LaRose at tlarose@smhsbr.org if you have any questions about the Annual Fund.

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ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL 36TH ANNUAL

WARRIOR GOLF CLASSIC

2025

The graphic shows a golf club head and a golf ball with a red 'M' logo on a green grassy field. To the left is a cartoon warrior character in a red and black outfit, holding a shield with a red 'M' logo.

Greystone Golf & Country Club

AT **MONDAY**
8:30AM November 3rd, 2025

REGISTER NOW

Sponsorships

The advancement office offers numerous avenues for corporate sponsorships. Please click [here](#) to discover how your business can

invest in the mission of St. Michael High School. Feel free to contact Haleigh Gautreaux at hgaudreux@smhsbr.org with questions about sponsorships.

Scholarships

Scholarships, funds, and endowments are created to provide financial support to St. Michael High School. Through an agreement between a benefactor and the school, these restricted funds are used for numerous expenses such as tuition assistance to families in need and campus improvements. Thanks to our donors, these means of monetary supplements help carry out the mission and vision of St. Michael High School.

It is through the continuous generosity of SMHS supporters that our scholarships, funds, and endowments continue to grow. The amount required to fully endow a scholarship or fund is \$40,000. Once endowed, only the earned interest income is used, not the corpus. This allows the scholarships to perpetually grant financial support to St. Michael High School.

To learn more about our current scholarships, funds, or endowments, [CLICK HERE](#). If you wish to establish an avenue for financial assistance, please contact SMHS President Ryan Empson at (225) 753-9782 ext. 42 or rempson@smhsbr.org.

ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL
OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

SAVE THE DATE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED, HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SMHSBR.ORG/SUPPORT

Homecoming Block Party
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Homecoming Alumni Tailgate
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Open House
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Warrior Golf Classic
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Cookies with Santa
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Grandparents Day
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Taste of Warrior Tailgate
SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Giving Week
APRIL 20-24



We hope you will consider joining the Warrior Club for the 2025-2026 school year. Details can be found on our website by clicking [here](#). You must be a member to purchase the annual Warrior Club Athletic Passes, which provide entrance to all regular season home athletic events.

Athletic Season Passes are available for purchase with [Warrior Club Membership ONLY](#). Failure to follow policies outlined by St. Michael High School will result in your pass being deactivated. Refund options may not be offered.

Warrior Club Membership meeting – **Monday, October 6, 2025, in the St. Sebastian Gym at 5:30 PM** – we will attempt to post via Microsoft Teams for those that are unable to attend in person.

SMHS Open House – The Warrior Club has been invited to Open House to display various items available for purchase in our store. Look for our table in the commons area and stop by to inquire about becoming a Warrior Club Member!

Athletic Program Campaign – We wrapped up our Athletic Program Campaign at the beginning of September. A gracious THANK YOU to all those individuals, families, and local businesses who supported us and made this campaign once again successful. Your contributions are appreciated! Be on the lookout for the Athletic Program debut at every Friday Night Home Football Game. Programs cost \$10 and may be purchased at the WC trailer or in the Stadium.

Warrior Gear: Shop online, year-round, from our website (www.smhswarriorclub.com) anytime and your order may be picked up from the front office during school hours. Keep in mind that this is a volunteer organization and we are doing our best to accommodate and fill orders and respond to emails as quickly as possible.

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

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.