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@stmichaelbr
@smhsstudentlife (student-run)



Mission

Fostering the spiritual, intellectual, & personal development of young people as committed disciples of Christ since 1984.

Winter 2023
ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL HIGH SCHOOL

The **WARRIOR**

back cover

The **WARRIOR**



Story
on
Page 4



ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL
**Coming Face to Face
with Christ Again**



Winter 2023

front cover



St. Michael the Archangel High School

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Save the Dates Warrior Events for 2023

TASTE OF WARRIOR TAILGATE

March 4

SMHS CAREER DAY

March 22

SMHS GRADUATION

May 19

34th ANNUAL WARRIOR GOLF CLASSIC

November 6



The WARRIOR



Ellen Lee

From The Principal

Seek the truth. Live the faith. Serve like Christ. These are not just words written on the pages of our St. Michael High School Handbook, but they are a call to a way of life through service to others. The goal of our Christian Service Program is to instill in our students the truth that as Christians we are put on this earth to be of service to those in need. The goal for our students is to realize this is not a high school program but a lifelong path to embrace God's call to serve.

Our freshmen begin their service at St. Michael by writing cards and letters throughout the school year to elderly shut-ins. Some of the letters sent by our students go unanswered. This type of service helps our students understand that service is done to help those in need and not in order to receive something in return. This early exposure to the nursing home ministry has led one of the seniors to form a program called "Friends Across the Ages." She recognizes that the elderly can sometimes experience loneliness and feelings of depression so each month she organizes a trip with other student volunteers to a local nursing home to do arts and crafts, to play bingo, and to sing and dance. This senior recognizes there is joy in doing service for others.

Many of our students get their service hours during their summer break. Several of our juniors and seniors spent part of this past summer at The Franciscan Experience, where their volunteer activities included service at Sweet Olive Cemetery, Baton Rouge's oldest black burial grounds. They encountered a cemetery with many graves that were in disrepair and most of the area was overgrown with weeds. When the students returned to school, they planned their own day to work on Sweet Olive Cemetery. Almost 60 students, teachers, and parents spent one warm fall Saturday with weed eaters, rakes, and shovels helping to bring dignity back to the gravesites of those who have come before us. Although the task was overwhelming, the workers that day demonstrated a commitment to make a difference in their community. The students are planning to return to the property this spring to continue the clean-up efforts.

At St. Michael, service opportunities come in all shapes and sizes. One of our most unique programs involving service is our annual March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. where students, adult chaperones, priests, deacons, and sisters participate in the National March for Life. This past January was the first opportunity we have had to attend in person in over 2 years. One junior student said that she had never had an experience before where she felt a connection with Jesus. This trip was life changing for her as she felt God's presence throughout the trip, in the experience and in the people she encountered. "I didn't want our pilgrimage to end." Another student remarked "being with young people who are also struggling and vulnerable but accepting of their faith helped to deepen my relationship with Christ." Many of our young men and young women were skeptical about what the trip would entail but after just a few hours into the long bus trip were convinced that they had made the right decision to attend. Although St. Michael High School sponsors and does the planning and preparation for this trip, students from throughout the Diocese are invited to participate.

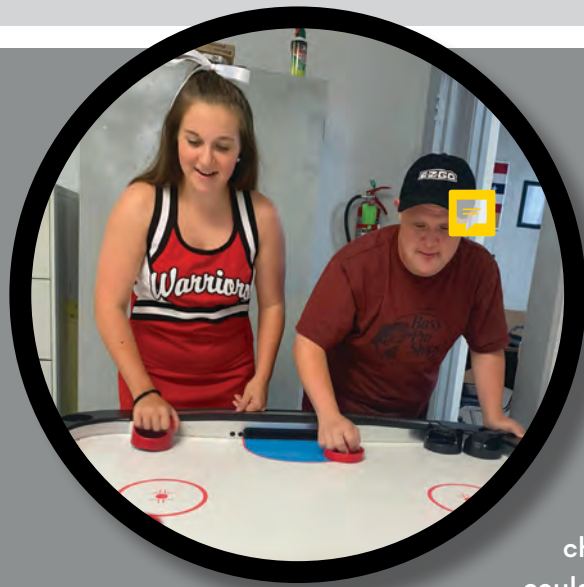
As our St. Michael High School community moves forward into the future, we work to recognize that we are here to make a difference, to make the world a better place. Thanks to the example of our dedicated teachers and parents, our students see that they are blessed with God-given gifts and talents, and they willingly share them with others.

Yours in Christ,

Ellen B. Lee Principal



St. Michael Coming Face to



In March of 2020, life as we knew it, came

slamming to a halt. Everything changed. We could no longer

have get together, go

shopping in stores, go sit

down and eat in restaurants, we had to learn to work virtually and our students had to learn how to learn from home behind a computer screen. One of the biggest things we had to learn to do without was human interaction.

At St. Michael, we teach the importance of having a servant heart and community service is something that is a big part of each of our student's lives. As you can imagine, during the Covid-19 pandemic, face to face community service had to come to an end. When we were able to return to school in the fall of 2020, students had to get creative in ways that they could give back and participate in community service without human contact. Our students participated in many food and clothing drives and created a pen pal system where they would write letters to the elderly who reside in nursing homes. Finally, after a long hiatus, our students can travel out into the community and complete their service hours in person.

Since the mandate has lifted, our cheerleaders have spent the day at a special needs day program in Walker, LA, our basketball team has helped restore



— M — The **WARRIOR** Face with Christ Again!

houses with the Habitat for Humanity, and students have been volunteering their time all over our community. One student of ours has gone above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to giving back and that student is Senior Makayla Bonanno. For her senior project, Makayla has made it her mission to work towards helping elderly poverty both physically and spiritually and has created her own organization at St. Michael to help give back.

Makayla has created her own organization at the school called "Friends Across the Ages." Friends Across the Ages is an outreach program that focuses on volunteering time with the elderly at nursing homes once a month. Over 35 St. Michael students volunteer alongside Makayla. Makayla plans a themed visit every month and have activities, crafts, music, and games to go along with the monthly theme all of which she pays for out of her own pocket. Members of our band attend the visits to play music for the nursing home clients and Deacon Michael Parker is almost always in attendance and leads adoration to end the visit. Each visit lasts about two hours. This month's theme is Mardi Gras and Makayla and her team are hard at work planning another festive visit.

We are so thankful for the giving hearts that our students have and that our world has healed enough to have our face to face contact again.



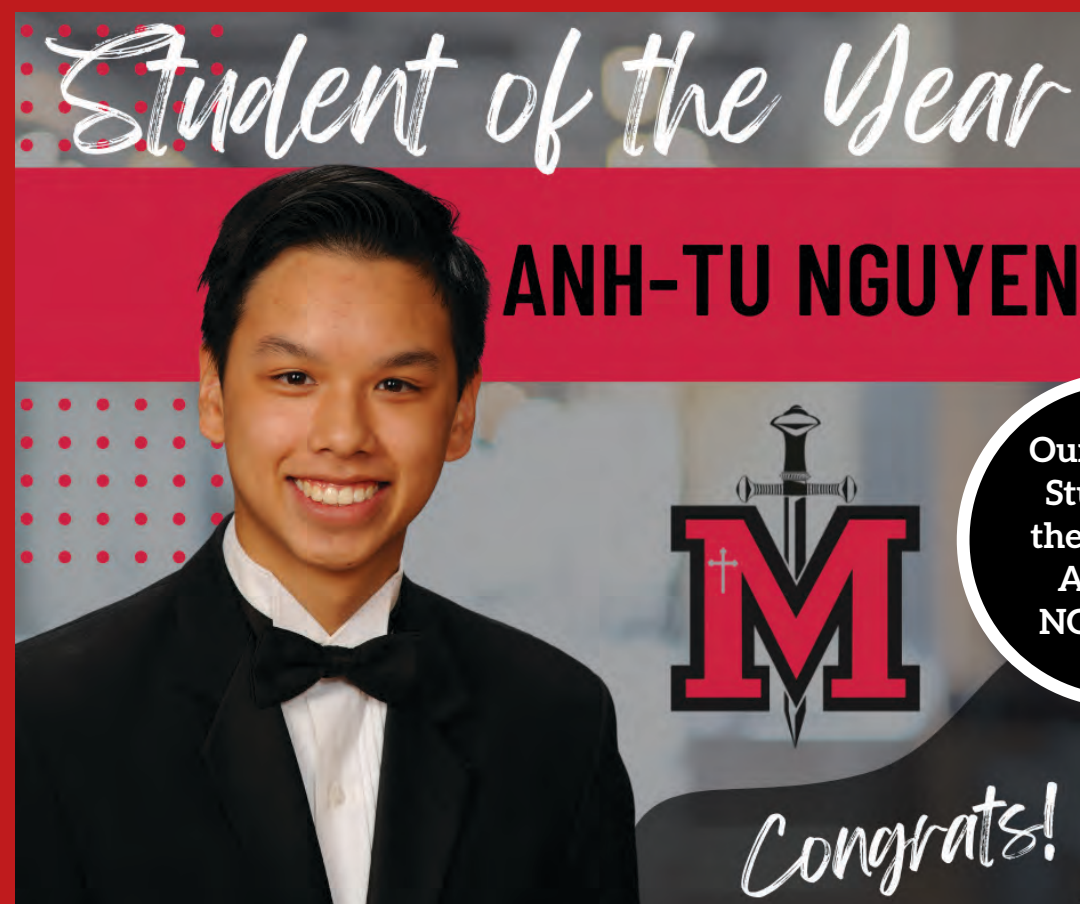
STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Anh-Tu is an outstanding student and truly encompasses what it means to be a Warrior. He is a founder of the St. Michael International Cultural Association and is a member of the Art Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Reading Warriors, Creative Writing Club, Beta Club, National Honors Society, and also serves as the Senior Treasurer of the Student Council.

Anh-Tu holds an impressive 4.55 GPA and is a member of our ACT 30+ Club (students who score

over a 30 on the ACT test). He was also elected to the Homecoming court by his peers. On top of all of his academic accomplishments, Anh-Tu is a very talented artist and pianist and often plays the piano for Mass.

Let's give a big Warrior Congratulations to our Student of the Year, Anh-Tu Nguyen! We are Warrior Proud!



Our 2022-23
Student of
the Year is.....
ANH-TU
NGUYEN!!!!



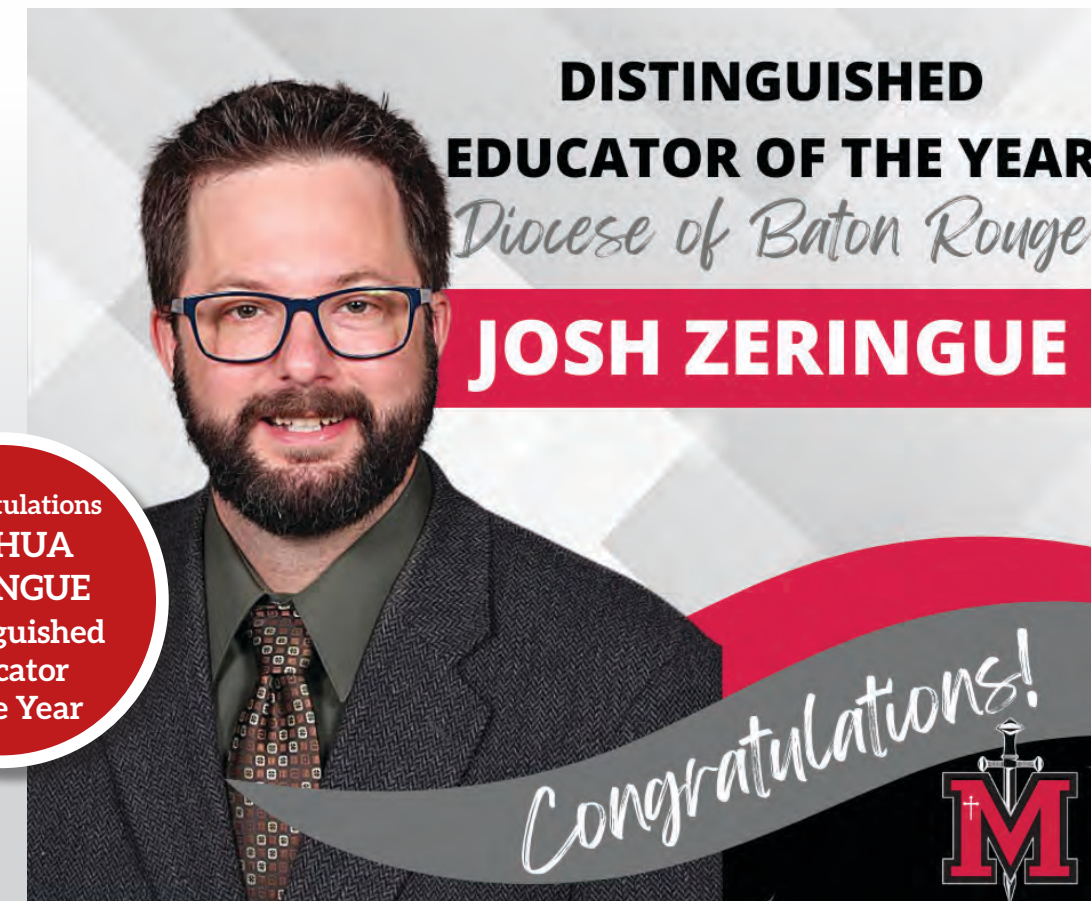
The WARRIOR

**DISTINGUISHED
EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

Diocese of Baton Rouge

JOSH ZERINGUE

Congratulations
**JOSHUA
ZERINGUE**
Distinguished
Educator
of the Year



DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

Let's give a big Warrior Congratulations to Joshua Zeringue, Social Studies Teacher at St. Michael the Archangel Diocesan Regional High School, for being selected the 2022-23 Distinguished Educator of the Year for the Diocese of Baton Rouge! Mr. Zeringue is a valuable asset to the Warrior family! Outside of being a classroom warrior, Mr. Zeringue

serves as the moderator for the St. Michael High School Honor Society as well as the International Cultural Association Club. Mr. Zeringue also helped launch and teaches our new class on campus, African American Studies. Congratulations Mr. Zeringue on this new prestigious honor! We are Warrior Proud!

PAVING THE WARRIOR WAY



Why Buy a Brick?

Leave a legacy for a loved one

Support St. Michael's scholarship funds

Represent your class from your graduation year

do we want to keep the pavor campaigning ad in this issue?



Brick Options

Brick 1: 4 x 8 inches
\$175

13 characters/ line (3 lines max)

Brick 2: 8 x 8 inches
\$225

16 characters/ line (6 lines max)



St. Michael High School's "PAVE THE WARRIOR WAY" campaign provides a way for you to leave a legacy with a CUSTOMIZED ENGRAVED BRICK for your St. Michael student, a group or team, or in memoriam of a loved one.

Located in the Servium Courtyard (next to touchdown Jesus).

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to leave a permanent mark at St. Michael High School!

For more information, contact Khloe Page '04 at kpage@smhsbr.org or visit https://www.smhsbr.org/support/brick_campaign.cfm.

The WARRIOR

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE



Congratulations
**MRS. DENA
BALART**
Distinguished
Graduate

Congratulations to our 2022-2023 Distinguished Graduate, Mrs. Dena Balart. Dena was a member of the 1993 graduating class and has remained involved with the school ever since. Mrs. Balart has said to have always had a servant's heart, especially for children, education, and her Catholic faith. This is evident in her initial occupation as a pediatric nurse and then her vocation as a wife, mother, and volunteer. Dena is an active member and volunteer in a number of organizations including Redemptorist St. Gerard tutor/missionary; St. George Catholic Church ACTS Retreat Leadership Team, confirmation small group leader, lector, and committed adorer; St. Michael High School Advisory Board Vice President and parent ambassador; Board member for The Edward L. Rispone Family Foundation, The Parable Foundation, and The Charity Ball Association. Now, the Warrior family legacy lives on through Dena's three children; James (class of '22), Charlotte ('21) and Lee ('24). Congratulations Dena for being named this year's Distinguished Graduate and thank you for all that you do to help St. Michael grow and thrive.





St. Michael High School
SUMMER CAMPS
 Register Here




The **WARRIOR** OPEN HOUSE



The 2022 St. Michael Open House was held on Wednesday, October 26th from 3-7PM. This year, we had a record-breaking number of attendees right at 350 potential students and a minimum of 836 visitors total!

Visitors of our open house are taken on tours by current students throughout the entire campus and get the opportunity to see first hand some of the amazing things that St. Michael has to offer. Tours include getting to spend some time in the IDEA, Engineering and cooking labs, a showcase of each department, demonstrations by our science classes, a look inside campus ministry and our music departments, a visit into each of our facilities, as well as getting to discover all of the sports and clubs that St. Michael has to offer. Save the date for our 2023 Open House: October 25, 2023.





Sometimes the Warrior Spirit is just too much to handle at just St. Michael so we have to share it with other schools. During the fall, we load up some of our most school spirited Warriors and hit the road visiting feeder middle schools in our area. We put on a pep rally and let the students see firsthand what it is like to be a student at St. Michael.



— — The **WARRIOR**

Middle School Visits



Our visits include head to head competitions, team building games, yell competitions with our yell leaders, watching performances from our spirit groups, and getting to hear from some of our students and coaches about our faith life, sports teams and clubs, and a few of the exciting classes offered at St. Michael.



What schools will we visit next?





St. Michael

School spirit took over the halls the week of October 17th through October 23rd during our annual Homecoming Week! The theme for this year's homecoming was "Life is a Highway" and each class was assigned destinations to match the theme. Dallas, New York, Miami, and Hollywood were assigned to each grade and each class matched the daily spirit themes with their assigned destination. Daily spirit themes included: pajama day, Buccee's day, favorite rest stop snack, destination day, and Warrior Spirit Day!

The festivities kicked off on Monday, October 17th with a hall and door decorating contest. Mrs. Harrison's class was the winner of our door decorating contest and _____ took home the gold in the hall decorating contest. Mr. Mistretta's homeroom class won the canned food drive competition for the week.

On Thursday, October 20th, St. Michael hosted its annual Homecoming Block Party and Pep Rally. It

was great to see our students, parents, faculty, alumni, and members of our community come out to enjoy the festivities. From playing games at our club booths, to enjoying a plate of pastelaya, to cooling off with a sweet treat from the Kona Ice truck, there was fun to be had for every age. At 6pm, everyone paraded into the gym, led by the Warrior band, to raise some school spirit at our annual Homecoming pep rally. The homecoming court was honored as well as the 2009-2010 Championship Lady Warriors basketball team. Students got to compete in several head to head competitions and even got a surprise performance from some of our faculty. Coach Guidry and Mrs. Guarisco were crowned the 2023 Duke and Dutchess of St. Michael.

At the 2022 Homecoming Game vs. Tara on October 21st, we were joined by alumni before the game for our annual alumni tailgate and alumni team performances. At halftime, our homecoming court was presented.



Homecoming 2023





Alumni Spotlights

text and photos to come

Alumni Spotlights

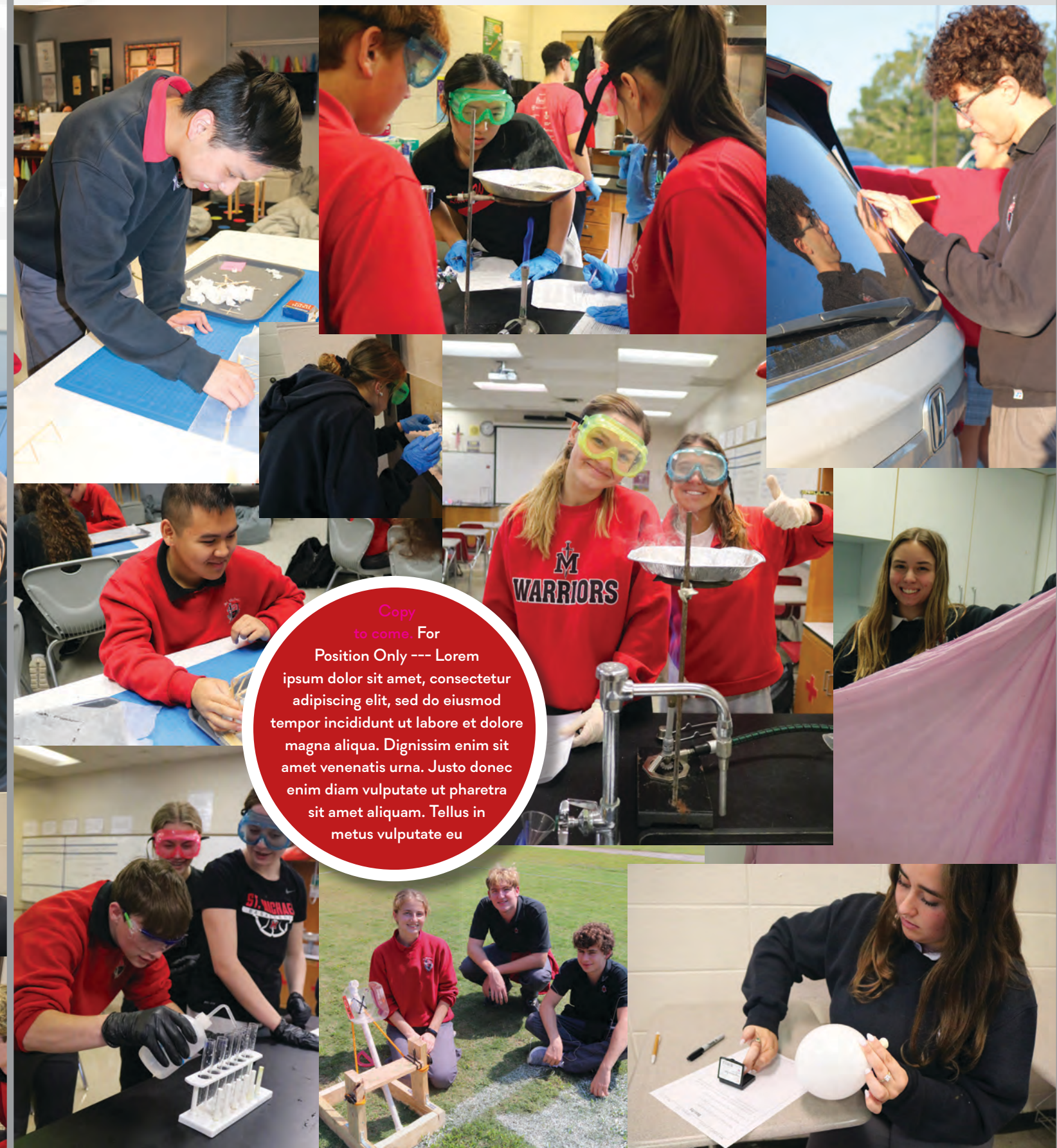
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CLASS Projects

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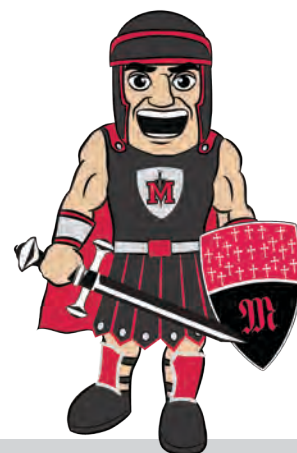
The WARRIOR



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National Merit SCHOLARS

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. Approximately 1.5 million high school students enter the program each year. High School students who meet published program entry and participation requirements enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) at the specified time in the high school program, usually as juniors. Each year's PSAT/NMSQT is the qualifying test designated for entry to a particular year's competition. Congratulations to two of our senior students, ANGELIQUE DEVILLE and BRAEDEN FOX, on being named Semifinalists in the 2023 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION! Another special Congratulations to Mr. Bennett Blank and Mr. Jonathan Harper for being named Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation! **We are Warrior Proud**



The WARRIOR



Every fall the AP program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated outstanding college level achievements through their performance on multiple AP exams. **We are Warrior Proud of all of our 2022 AP scholars!**

AP SCHOLARS

Message from Advancement



do we have a message from advancement for this issue?
we usually have them in past issues?



2022 WARRIOR GOLF CLASSIC

The 33rd annual Warrior Golf Classic was held on Monday November 7, 2023 at Greystone Golf and Country Club. Over 150 golfers participated in this year's tournament making it one of our largest events to date. On top of the traditional golf tournament, golfers also had the opportunity to compete in several other competitions including a putting competition, longest drive, and closest to the pin. This year, over \$61,000 was raised in support of St. Michael Athletics and Clubs.

Congratulations to our winning team #56 (Clint, Allen, & Miles), our longest drive winner Taylor King, the closest to the pin winner Terrell Ballard, and our putting contest winner Brett Moore! We would like to thank our Title Sponsors, Acadian House Design and Renovation and EBS for helping make our event possible.



Save the Date! The 2023 Warrior Golf Classic will be held on Monday November 6th at Greystone Golf and Country Club!