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St. Michael the Archangel High School
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Summer 2021
 ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL HIGH SCHOOL

The WARRIOR



Mission

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

back cover



The WARRIOR



Story on Page 8

Senior Student Athletes Choose **MILITARY SERVICE AFTER GRADUATION**

Summer 2021 ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL HIGH SCHOOL

front cover





St. Michael the Archangel High School

St. Michael High School is excited to announce that SHADOW DAYS are returning for the 2021-22 school year! Stay tuned for exact dates.

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Save the Dates Warrior Events for 2021-22

**ALUMNI SOFTBALL
TOURNAMENT**
July 17

**FIRST FULL DAY
FOR STUDENTS**
August 9

**RING CEREMONY
(CLASS OF 2022)**
August 11

**ADULT BACK TO
SCHOOL DANCE**
August 28

**ALUMNI HOMECOMING
TAILGATE**
October 15

**6 – 8 GRADE OPEN
HOUSE**
October 21

**ANNUAL GOLF
TOURNAMENT**
November 8

**2022 ANNUAL
AUCTION**
April 2

The WARRIOR



Message From The President

Dear Friends of St. Michael The Archangel High School,

The dictionary defines resilient as: 1) the ability to be happy, successful, etc., again after something difficult or bad has happened; 2) the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness; 3) the ability to respond, absorb, and adapt to, as well as recover in a disruptive event.

I am proud of and grateful to all of you and to our students, parents, faculty, staff, and administration for their resilience during this past year. These have been difficult times and have affected all of us in many ways. I am thankful that St. Michael has been able to continue the education and formation of our students in the best and safest way possible, given the reality of our circumstances. I am grateful to our benefactors and friends who make it possible to continue our educational mission.

We now look ahead and continue with strength and dedication. We are resilient because of our faith.

At a recent meeting, we prayed with a passage from St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians (4:4- 9):

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

This is our invitation and our call to resilience; may we respond with a faithful heart. May the Lord carry us gently ahead, and may we experience Jesus Christ born in some new way in our lives in 2021 and beyond.

Our school has been challenged in ways we could not have imagined. However, the stories in this edition demonstrate that our alumni, students, faculty, and staff continue to work diligently to provide the Catholic education our young men and women need during these times.

Please join us in moving ahead with resilience and strength. We look forward to hosting you on campus again soon.

Thank you for your support of St. Michael the Archangel High School.

God bless,

Jack Nelson
President

*Jack
Nelson*



Ellen
Lee



From The Principal

"WE GOT THIS!" Our faculty, staff and students embraced this unofficial mantra as we began last school year. What a year it was! With divided hallways, extra duties, sanitizing desks, mask wearing, quarantines, and other challenges that the year brought, our St. Michael teachers were determined not to be held back by a pandemic. They consistently displayed positive attitudes as they tackled the many extra duties and responsibilities that the health crisis required. They were willing to go the extra mile to keep our students safe and to keep them in school and learning. They are the heroes of our school community.

As a school, St. Michael was determined not to lose our Catholic identity even though we knew things would look different. We adjusted our service program and used service blocks instead of hours. We held a school retreat for each of our grade levels. We held in-person monthly masses during each of our eight class periods. Students experienced Reconciliation and Adoration. We continued to plant seeds of our Catholic faith which we nourished and watched grow throughout the year.

We recently sent off our 34th graduating class with a heartfelt thank you to their parents for their partnership and for their sacrifices. The members of the Class of 2021 can be very proud of all that they have accomplished. Two-thirds of our graduates received scholarships to colleges and universities. Our Co-Valedictorians challenged their classmates with a quote from Pope St. John Paul II, "Don't be satisfied with mediocrity." The young men and young women of this graduating class worked towards excellence in all that they did. The Class of 2021 was encouraged to "enter into the excitement and beauty of the new life ahead of us." We hold tight to the promise of a brighter future as our graduates mature into the people God calls them to be and go out into the world in service to those in need.

One of the blessings of the education ministry is that each August, we begin again. Renewed from a restful summer, teachers and students are presented with many new opportunities to challenge themselves to grow and to learn. The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time. It is a chance to continue our legacy of "Seeking the Truth, Living the Faith, and Serving Like Christ."

Although I don't know what the new school year will look like and what changes will be in place. I do know that whatever challenges come our way, we will be ready, with the grace of God, to face the opportunity and continue to be committed disciples of Christ. Bring on 2021-2022 because, we got this!

Yours in Christ,

Ellen Lee Principal



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St. Michael Junior Recognized for OUTSTANDING MISSION WORK

Glance over Julia Coffey's resume and you will easily notice that she has done more than just set the standard for exemplary volunteering. Despite her ranking as only a junior in high school, she has completed a total of nine mission trips plus the March for Life excursion. From working with Revive 225 and women's shelters in Texas to rebuilding schools internationally, Coffey embodies the charism of ministerium, or "serve like Christ." As the recipient of the 2021 Outstanding High School Volunteer Award from the Greater Baton Rouge State Fair Foundation, she was recognized for her model volunteer service within her school and throughout the community.

Her passion for volunteering began modestly at a young age, when her grandmother, Cooky, asked her if she would like to join in serving food to a mission group visiting the First United Methodist Church. "My grandmother has been my biggest influence," explains Coffey. "She asked me to go volunteer with her for the United Methodist Women's Group when I was in middle school, and I loved meeting all these people from different places." But Cooky's influence did not stop at just local service. She, too, has been on multiple trips abroad with different mission groups, setting a precedence that her granddaughter sought to follow. This idea of doing such hands-on mission work captured Coffey's attention, even before she entered high school. "My grandmother has picture albums that have photographs from all her mission trips to places like Cambodia and Africa," shares Coffey. "I always told her I wanted to go with her one day."

Knowing she has been a huge inspiration in Coffey's life, Cooky acknowledges that her own passion has always been mission work. She says that she has been thrilled watching her granddaughter grow up to embody this effort as well. "Julia would stay with me when she was little and I would take her to church whenever we had volunteer work to do," shares Cooky. "Then one day she heard me talking about Cambodia - I have been twice - and she wanted to do that, too. So, when Julia was 16, she went to Cambodia, even though I could not join her, and she just loved it. She especially loved the children there. She appreciates traveling, she enjoys helping people and she loves to spread the word of God. Mission work is her passion, and I understand that. It is the only way I can explain it," emphasizes Cooky.

Julia poses with a student from her Costa Rica mission trip. During this visit she taught the children about Mardi Gras and took them on a mini Parade.



Julia cuts through damaged dry wall from Hurricane Michael in Marianna Florida where she helped rebuild houses.

Coffey says that another big turning point in her initiative to help people was right after the 2016 flood and shootings in Baton Rouge. "It just hit so close to home and my family," says Coffey. "I was 12...about to turn 13 and I felt this huge calling to just go out and serve my community. I told my mom I wanted to go work for Revive 225 the rest of the summer because the mission groups that were supposed to come started canceling their trips. I wanted to help rebuild and fix houses from the flood for those who could not afford it." And so she did. From roofing and drywall to painting and flooring, Coffey committed herself to working for her community the entire summer before her 8th grade year at Our Lady of Mercy.

"I was not going to tell her no," shares her mother, Laura Coffey. "Julia came to me and said, 'Mom, I need to work,' and it was my first time having to put her completely in God's hands. It is hard to let your daughter go into parts of town that are struggling in such high-tension times, but I could tell it was something she was being called to do. I knew (and continue to know) that this is God's work, so He will take care of her." Throughout Coffey's other mission trips (which include Costa Rica, Cambodia, Oklahoma, Texas, and Florida), Laura continues to put her faith in God to protect her daughter.

Most recently, in these uncertain times around the world, Coffey has attended a virtual mission trip for the Navajo Tribe in Oljato, UT, speaking with them about their struggles with medical care and cleaning supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic. She plans to take an in-person trip this summer to continue her work with them, pending the lifted travel restrictions.

Coffey's joy for living life fully and involvement in extracurriculars does not stop with mission trips and service. At St. Michael High School, she participates in three different sports and six different clubs. Though she is not quite set on where she wants to attend college yet, she does know that she wants to pursue a career in travel nursing and continue serving God's mission through helping those in need.



ERIC

Eric and his parents pose for a picture before his signing ceremony in February. Eric will play linebacker for the Henderson State football team.

ERIC THIBODEAUX signed his college letter of intent to play football for Henderson State University in Arkansas. Thibodeaux's interest in football began at an early age when his father, a former member of the Tiger Marching Band, began taking him to LSU games as a toddler. From there, Thibodeaux began playing for St. Jean Vianney in 3rd grade. On the St. Michael team, he took to the position of linebacker with ease, dabbling in the position of fullback as well. Thibodeaux is a two-time All-District First Team player, as well as the recipient of multiple player-of-the-game honors. This past year, he received the Warrior Tradition Award from St. Michael coaches, recognizing him as the most outstanding football player of the 2020 season. Thibodeaux is also a member of the St. Michael powerlifting team and maintains above a 3.5 GPA, all while taking dual enrollment and honors courses.

ETHAN HAMES signed his college letter of intent to play football for Mississippi College. A tri-sport athlete, Hames is rather new to the game of football having only begun playing his freshman year of high school for the Warriors. His athletic goal entering high school was to solely play baseball, but that changed after his veteran football friends encouraged him to join the team. Hames has played for the St. Michael baseball team and soccer team, as well as the football team throughout his high school years. He has lettered in all three sports and was named an All-District football kicker twice.

CODI WILLIAMS signed his college letter of intent to play baseball for Southern University. Williams, who is exclusively a center fielder, says he found his love for baseball as a child while playing t-ball when his dad introduced him to the sport. Williams has also played club baseball for the Louisiana Tigers and Next Level. He has been named an All-District player in baseball as well as football for St. Michael High School.

KADE PATIN signed his college letter of intent to play baseball for the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. Patin is a veteran in the sport, having

ETHAN



Ethan poses with the SMHS football coaching staff after his signing ceremony in March. Ethan signed his letter of intent as a kicker for Mississippi College.

KADE & CODI



Kade (left) and Codi (right) smile before their signing ceremony in April. Kade will pitch for the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and Codi will play center fielder for Southern University.

CAROLINE



Caroline poses with her parents, Bill and Natalie, along with her younger siblings during her signing ceremony in April. Caroline will attend Centenary College where she will play center back on the soccer team.

LANCE



Lance, the 1,000 point club signee, poses with his parents during his signing at the end of April. Lance will play point guard for Xavier University in New Orleans.

The WARRIOR

6 St. Michael Athletes Sign College Letters of Intent in Spring

played for as long as he can remember. Along with playing all four years for St. Michael High School, Patin also played for a few travel teams growing up, helping him hone his skills as a pitcher even further. Patin says that he is most looking forward to attending college outside of Louisiana, meeting his teammates, and playing for the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford's Head Coach, Zach Foster.

CAROLINE SIMPSON signed her college letter of intent to play soccer for Centenary College in Louisiana. Simpson's earliest memories of the sport begin at age nine when she started playing for a rec team with some of her friends. Shortly after that, she moved up to a more competitive league, where she's played ever since. As a center back, Simpson must be one of the most vocal and dominate players on the field. Simpson's athletic abilities were made clear as soon as she stepped on the field as a high school freshman at St. Michael. During her freshman year she not only qualified as an All-District player but was also named the District Defensive MVP. As a senior, she is a three-time All-District player, three-time All-Metro player, and two-time All-State qualifier. Simpson plans to major in pre-med and become a Forensic Pathologist. This interest stems from her time as an intern with the Coroner's Office last summer.

LANCE WILLIAMS signed his college letter of intent to play basketball for Xavier University in New Orleans. Williams' earliest memories of loving the game stem from family ties to the sport. His dad played for St. Augustine, and he has multiple cousins who have played basketball overseas. Williams was a key leader on the St. Michael varsity team over the last three years, mostly playing the position of point guard, though he is versatile enough to play shooting guard as well. He is a three-time All-District player, and two-time Defensive MVP as well as an All-State Honorable Mention qualifier. One of Williams' biggest accolades has been joining the exclusive 1,000-point club. In the history of St. Michael basketball, only 11 other players have conquered this feat.

St. Michael Alumnus ZACH LEGER Selected to Lead Football

Coach Zach Leger '03 has been named the new Head Football Coach for St. Michael the Archangel High School beginning in the 2021 season.

Coach Leger, previously the Offensive Line Coach for SMHS, has amassed significant involvement in the sport of football. He not only has four years of high school coaching under his belt, but also has five years of middle school coaching experience. Having played as a former Warrior during his high school football career, Coach Leger was granted a full athletic scholarship to play as an offensive lineman for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

As a former collegiate football player and already having a role on the SMHS football coaching staff, Coach Leger is well adept with what it takes to build a program. "It requires hard work and dedication. I want my athletes to realize they have to push themselves and do more than the person next to them," he shares. "My ability to play at the next level was a reflection of this school and my coaches at the time pushing me to go beyond my comfort level. For our program and kids to be successful, it will require just that."

Coach Leger shares that a main goal of his next year, which stems from his time as a player at SMHS, is to capture the school's first ever playoff victory. "I was part of one of the teams who played in the first playoff game in school history in the year 2000 against Salmen High. There is no greater goal of mine now than to coach this team to capture the school's first ever playoff win." Along with this milestone, Coach Leger admits that another important goal is to grow the program as well. "We want to be able to take the program to the next level. The foundation and groundwork already exists. We must become a competitive and consistent force in our division and district. I want to grow the program by pushing my team to win more titles and open them up to college recruiting."

Coaching is not the only strong suit that Coach Leger provides as a member of the St. Michael community (though he has been the SMHS Head Track and Field Coach for the past five years). He is head of the St. Michael Engineering Program and head of the Multimedia Department on campus, having played an instrumental role in implementing related classes for the 2021-22 school year. He was also named the 2019 Warrior Alumni of the Year.

Athletic Director, Robert Smith, says Coach Leger is an outstanding fit for the position. "We knew he was the best choice with his experience and insight about the game and our school. He brings a wealth of knowledge, and it is great to have someone on staff that we know can continue to grow and develop the program, while also promoting excellence in our young men on and off the field."

In closing, Coach Leger shares his excitement for the future of the SMHS football program and his gratitude for the support and opportunity that has been presented to him. "As an alumnus who played football here, I have always wanted to give back to my alma mater. The ability to come full circle - from a player, to assistant coach, to now head coach - is an opportunity I did not want to pass up," explains Coach Leger. "I am extremely grateful for this opportunity from my alma mater. I am excited to



step into this role, and it goes without saying that I would not have been where I am today without the support of my parents and family. I look forward to making them all proud."

Coach Leger is married to Michelle Leger, the SMHS Head Dance Line Coach. They have two children, Caroline who is seven and Easton who is two.

Previous Head Football Coach, Joey Sanchez, accepted a position as Athletic Director of Walker High School.



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Senior Student Athletes Choose Military Service after Graduation

SHAD SHEFFIE

had never touched a wrestling mat in his life until he stepped onto St. Michael High School's campus. At the time as a freshman, he did not realize the choice he made would turn him into a two-time Louisiana State Champion.

Entering high school, Sheffie's mom encouraged him to continue with athletics. Torn between football and wrestling (the latter which he had never tried before), Sheffie went with the newly discovered sport. "I just wanted to give it a try," he shares. "There was no real reason behind it at the time. The coaches talked to me, and I decided to do it."

Sheffie's mom, Kimberly, says that it was important to her that her son participate in athletics for numerous reasons. "I felt as if he needed to continue to become a well-rounded student in high school. I wanted him to have that exposure to new people and new activities," she explains. Little did she know that after two short years, her son's hard work would pay off on the mats. "I am not surprised. He believes in discipline and character," she says. "Shad is a non-vocal leader whose work ethic speaks for itself. He believes that prayer, hard work, and dedication will always see you through any obstacle or situation."

Despite his championship titles as an upperclassman, training did not come easily for Sheffie his first year. He was not in wrestling condition and did not know a thing about the sport. "He could barely bench press the bar and could only do a few pushups and pullups," shares Head Wrestling Coach Mark Harter. "To see the athlete he has become is astonishing." According to Coach Harter though, this is standard for newbies. All beginner wrestlers start out taking a beating in competition until they can catch up with the skill set, body awareness and develop strength and conditioning. This stood true for Sheffie, but once he caught up, he surpassed most.

"Everyone keeps saying that I am gifted, but I would not say that...I am just competitive. I wanted to do my best and win every time I was at a match," explains Sheffie humbly. "My mindset going into a match - everyone says I look calm - but I am there to take the other person down no matter what. Wrestling has pushed me to my limits, and I like that. In that third period everyone is exhausted but it comes



down to whomever has the better mindset and the better technique," he shares.

Sheffie holds two State Championship titles: one in the 170 lb. weight class (junior year) and the other in the 182 lb. weight class (senior year). During his senior year, he remained undefeated throughout the season. He has also been named to the 1st Team All-Metro. Sheffie credits his coaches for showing him how to grow as an athlete and helping him capture two state championship titles during his high school career. "Some of my previous coaches along with Coach Harter have been incredible influences. Coach Harter, he is like a dad to me. He encourages us but in a quiet way. He gives us the resources and then it is up to us to follow through. And I have followed everything to a T."

Coach Harter can attest that Sheffie's work ethic and mindset make him a standout State Champion. "Shad was always staying a few minutes after practice doing pullups and extra work. He did not get frustrated and give up just because he was not great at wrestling in the beginning. He kept a positive attitude and built the layers of skill and strength overtime. He became unafraid to push himself into that 'red line' area," he explains. Coach Harter says he really noticed the turning point for Sheffie during his sophomore year when he placed 5th at the State Tournament. "His potential to be very good was recognized and this success catapulted him forward with a new confidence and determination to achieve his goal of becoming a State Champion."

Sheffie's physical skill, work ethic and athletic build are only part of the qualities that turned him into a champion quickly. Humbleness and selfless service are also at the heart of how he trains and how he lives. "Shad spent 40% of his time working with newer wrestlers in sharing knowledge and helping them improve," shares Coach Harter. "He could easily have been very selfish and spent every moment in the wrestling room honing his own skills. He has contributed greatly to the development of our newer wrestlers. Shad is very humble with his accomplishments, and because he has been on the other side of it, he has an appreciation for the opponent he defeats."

Sheffie's tough mindset and commendable qualities will bode well for him in his future endeavors. Immediately following graduation, he departs to Fort Benning, GA where he will become part of the 11X Infantry in the United States Army. "Since I was young, I always knew I wanted to become part of the military. I like the mindset of it. I will be part of the 11X Infantry, and I am also going to be fast tracked into the special forces program called the 75th Ranger Regiment. I have been busy preparing for that so that I can meet all the physical training standards."

According to Kimberly, her son has always been interested in service-oriented careers. "For Career Day in Pre-K during Chief Jeff LeDuff's tenure, he dressed up as a Police Officer. He also went through an FBI spy phase where he would set traps for the family using his 'Spy Gear for Kids' toys. He has always expressed an interest in directly serving the public," she shares. "Toward the end of his junior year is when he firmly decided on a career in the military. After extensive research of the different military branches and the opportunities available through each, he decided the Army was his branch of choice."

Meanwhile, Sheffie continues to enjoy the last few weeks of his senior year and prepare himself mentally and physically for his departure to Fort Benning.

KATHERINE VARNADO

was officially accepted into the United States Naval Academy last week. With an acceptance rate only slightly above 8%, Varnado received an exclusive phone call from Congressman Garret Graves to inform her of the news while she was at school.

As the only female in East Baton Rouge's district to be granted this honor, Varnado says she feels excited about what her future holds. "It feels amazing to live out my dream of going to the Naval Academy for college," she shares. "After I received my Letter of Assurance, I just felt like all my hard work paid off for that one moment, and it was extremely satisfying." Varnado goes on to explain that she felt called at an early age to become part of the military because it runs in her family. "I grew up in a military environment. We have a legacy of family being in the service, from my grandfather and uncles. They were officers. I wanted to be the first girl in my family to become an officer, too. That is why being accepted was so important to me. You are able to immediately become an officer after graduating."

Varnado's mother, Lizel, can attest to the fact that the Naval Academy is the perfect fit for her daughter. "She is a very determined young woman. She has always given more than 100% even when not asked. She handles adversity well. She is a fantastic teammate and even better leader," she says. Varnado's father, Paul, agrees with Lizel and says he never doubted his daughter would be accepted. "Katherine thrives in an environment of accountability," he shares. "She understands the value of teamwork and working toward a common goal. She will be successful in whatever branch she wishes to go into after she graduates. Many family members on my side have gone into some sort of military service. She is serving our great country and setting herself up for a great career after the military."

There is a long and demanding process to apply to the Naval Academy. An applicant must do everything from secure six recommendations and a nomination from an official source, pass a physical, write multiple essays, and ask teachers and counselors for evaluations. According to Varnado, the hardest part was securing a single nomination from someone "official." This official source normally includes a U.S. Representative, a U.S. Senator, or the Vice President of the United States. But again, the process is not easy. Applicants must attend a "nomination interview" with graduates from all types of military colleges to be considered for the nomination. "They ask hard questions...but during my interview I was relaxed," says Varnado. "I was not that nervous because I have been around people in the military my whole life. So, I tried to keep it light and show my personality." After impressing the graduates, Congressman Graves provided Varnado with the crucially needed nomination to secure an acceptance.

However, despite making it so far in the application process, Varnado's dreams were almost halted when she was diagnosed with a heart problem after her physical. "I was nervous about it," she admits. "I have Bicuspid Aortic Valve



Disease, so my heart only has two leaflets. But, I am totally fine and was fully medically approved. I am lucky- if it was going to cause a problem for me, it would have done so already."

So now, come end of June, Varnado is off to bootcamp where she will go through the necessary training before becoming a freshman at the Naval Academy. After that, life will look very different for Varnado. Her schedule will be strictly set; from attending classes, to study time and eating, everything she does will be on a timeline. She will also be part of the Naval Academy track and field team as well as take officer classes where she will learn the ins-and-outs of becoming a military leader.

Varnado credits St. Michael for helping her to develop the leadership skills necessary in making it into the Naval Academy and hopefully, in becoming a military officer in four years. "St. Michael offers so many leadership opportunities plus many ways to get involved around campus," she explains. "Since we are a smaller close-knit community, I was able to work my way up on sports teams and in clubs, and I felt that my voice was heard more often. I have had such great encouragement throughout not just my four years here, but also throughout the whole process of applying to the Naval Academy."

Varnado says she is looking forward to many things about heading up to Maryland this summer, but mostly she just wants to enjoy the experience. "It will be a smaller community and I am excited to meet new people and work with them as a team. Everyone will have a similar mindset to me. We will be able to encourage and support each other in order to reach goals," she says. Varnado plans to major in biological engineering and assume the Officer position of a Marine (of which only 6% are women) after graduation, where she will lead and oversee operations of newly enlisted military members.

Congratulations to the Warrior Class of 2021!



Heather Catherine Abadie
Betsy Elaine Adams
Madelyn Layne Adcock
Logan Joseph Allemond
Christian Joseph Almond
Hailey Danielle Anderson
Tyler Joseph Arceneaux
Alexandra Renee Ash
Charlotte Eliza Balart
Lane Grant Banker
Hayden Joseph Barnett
Hector Michael Barraza
Brigette Hannah Benigno
Halle Parker Bice
Kye Joseph Boiteaux
Mason James Bonaventure
Karleigh Elizabeth Bourgoyne
Timothy G. Brandel
Joshua Eduard Breaux
Madison Ann Brown
Savannah Elizabeth Bull
Brock Charles Burkett
Brayden James Burleigh
Stephanie Jiang Chen Calvaruso
Cameren Claire Cash
Angelique Rose Charlton
Parker James Collett
Clara Louise Collins
Brian-Buu Tai Dang
Trina Thanh Tu Dang
Regan Alexis Darsam
Sarah Michelle Degeyter

Katlyn Michelle DeJean
Reid Michael Didier
Addison Elizabeth Dimmick
Zachary Thomas Donahue
Trinity Elizabeth Duncan
Ashlyn Terri Edwards
Matthew Allen Lee Ellzey
Lillee Catherine Engen
Anna Catherine Flauss
Cole Hudson Foret
Nathaniel Anthony Fountaine
Kyla Rose Fox
Zack Thomas Frederic
Alexander Scott Fruge
Ashlyn Paige Fruge'
Londyn Aline Fruge'
Morgyn Jane Gauthier
Leah Marie Gil
Abigail Elise Giroir
Alexis Alejandra Gonzalez
Maria Claire Gordon
Madelyne Grace Gresko
John Paul Guidry
Aryana Yazdanpanah Haghghi
Ethan Patrick Hames
Camille Helen Hardee
Jalayah Tionne Harrell
Bradley Gregory Hassenboehler
Collin Anthony Hebert
Natalie Paige Heflin
Nicholas Michael Heston
Abby Denise Housewright
Grayson Alexander Howell
Hailey Marie Humphries
Sarah Madison Jackson
Casse Loy Johnson
Christian Joseph Johnson
Josephine Sena Marie Johnston
George Ehmett Kim
Brice Matthew Landry
Sophia Stefania LeGrande
Sara Anne Levron

Thuy Ngoc Mai
Emalie Christine Manuel
Isabella Hope Manzullo
Megan Elyse Marcello
Jackson Caldwell Martin
Cynthia Kate McAlister
Tanner Jeffrey McAnally
Ian Joseph McCarron
Abigail Grace McCurry
Kimberly Faith McGee
Adam Michael Melancon
Benjamin Jacob Messina
Emma Katherine Miller
Elena Annelie Monette
Jenna Elyse Monette
Olivia Mary Monette
Emelie Anne DeJean Moore
Jonathan Moya
Brock Kessler Mulhearn
Garret Paul Mumhrey
Owen Christopher Naquin
Tammy Hoang Nguyen
Brenna Claire Pace
Janelle Dawn Parker
Christopher Kade Patin
Sophia Alexa Paz
Breanna Jane-Lashea Perry
Peyton Matthew Pertuit
Tanner Blake Pike
Amelia Michelle Quebedeaux
Rebecca LeeAnn Quebedeaux
Quinlan Patrick Reed
Steven Michael Reed
Ashtyn Elizabeth Roberts
Michael John Robin
John Luke Rochester
Casey Alexis Sanders
Edie Catherine Sanders
Olivia Nicole Schueneman
Michael Andrew Seelbach
Timothy John Seiler Jr
Shad Edward Sheffie

Caroline Renee Simpson
Isabella Ferris Spano
Alexander Pascal St Cyr
Amanda Makayla Stewart
John Houston Stinson
Patrick James Tate
Sarah Elizabeth Templet
Danielle Alane Thibodeaux
Eric Paul Thibodeaux
Jackson Parker Tolbert
Marvin Giang Truong Tram
Camille Alexandra Trelles
Katherine Elizabeth Varnado
Laney Elizabeth Varnado
Burke Michael Vavasseur
Halle Duyen Vu
Kathy Quynh Vu
Riley Elizabeth Waguespack
Ross Anthony Waguespack
Nicholas Taylor White
Kalli Leigh Willett
Cody Byron Williams
Kasey Keyshawn Williams
Lance Paul Williams III
Bliss Rose Woolbright

ATTENTION ALUMNI

HELP US FIND ALL OUR COLLEGIATE STUDENT ATHLETES

In order to ensure that no St. Michael alumni is left off our permanent wall display in the Field House, please contact us if you played a sport, danced, or were in the band in college.

Contact Info:

Khloe Page '04
kpage@smhsbr.org

Please include:
maiden name, graduation year, sport or instrument, and college attended



PAVING THE WARRIOR WAY



Why Buy a Brick?

Leave a legacy for a loved one

Support St. Michael scholarship funds

Represent your class or a group from your graduation year



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 has officially kicked off this spring! We are excited to share with you the continuation of our brick campaign located in the Servium Courtyard (next to touchdown Jesus). This giving opportunity 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. 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.

SMHS "Mask" erade Auction Raises Record Funds



On the evening of Saturday, March 6 St. Michel High School held its annual auction fundraiser. The front parking of campus was transformed into a tailgate area with live music played by the SMHS Jazz Band and 80s cover band Werewolf. Guests enjoyed dinners from Bonefish Grill and had the opportunity to bid on over 60 silent auction items as well as 6 live auction items.

The themed "Mask" erade event raised over \$35,000. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward new student desks, painting the school, and other facility upgrades. "This event would not have been possible without the help of our auction committee and the attendance of our wonderful guests," says SMHS President Jack Nelson. "It is exciting to see people so committed to helping our school and students through this fundraiser, and we look forward to next year's event."

The event's emcee was Hunter McCann '18 and sponsors for the event included: Ruffino's, River Parish Physical Therapy and Wellness, HJT Properties, The Aesthetic Medicine and Anti-aging Clinic, Gage, Ascension Dental, Coleman Roofing, Peters Wealth Advisors LLC, MW Drapery Design, Manda Fine Meats, Healthremede, United Rental, Bonefish Grill, and Coca-Cola. We would like to extend a huge thank you to our auction committee for their help with planning, set up, and procurement.



Two Former St. George Students Named *Co-Valedictorians* for St. Michael High School



Charlotte Balart and Abigail McCurry were both named the 2020-21 Co-Valedictorians for St. Michael High School. Both girls are also graduates of St. George School and will be attending LSU's Honors College in the fall. See what they both have to say about their experience together below:

1. How did it feel to find out that you were both co-valedictorians?

Charlotte: It was really exciting because we have been in school together since we were in kindergarten, and since middle school we have pretty much been in all the same classes. After being together for so long, now we get to share this honor.

Abigail: I felt the same way. I was so excited to find out the person I was sharing it with was someone I have been close to for years.

2. What would you say has been the biggest blessing or steppingstone for you during your high school experience?

Abigail: For me it has been the faith formation. We have gone to Catholic school our whole lives, but I feel like here they really establish how to live the faith and go out and be holy in your daily life.

Charlotte: I agree. To go off that answer, I feel like the faith on campus really permeates through everything we do and all classes, not just religion classes. It has really helped to support us in our growth throughout high school.

3. What will you miss about St. Michael High School?

Charlotte: Everything—definitely some of the teachers. The fact that I can get to see my friends every day and just being in a Catholic school where faith is important.

Abigail: Same. The community here has started to feel like a family, and it is hard to leave that.

4. Advice for future Warriors?

Charlotte: Get involved early! With some activities I waited to get involved until I was an upperclassman, and then looking back I thought, 'I should have done this earlier.' Also, work really hard but do not forget to have fun; do not let school become your life but do not let it slip away from you.

Abigail: Just take your time and enjoy every moment. The cliché that time flies by is true. Also, it is important to keep a balance in your life.

5. College and career plans?

Charlotte: I want to major in English and History and then get my Master's in Education to become a teacher.

Abigail: I am majoring in Biology right now and want to become a vet.



St. Michael's salutatorian is **EMALIE MANUEL**, and the Warrior Sword Award has been given to **JOSHUA BREAUX**.



St. Michael principal Ellen Lee, joins Co-Valedictorians in the traditional moving of the tassel at the 2021 graduation ceremony.

M The **WARRIOR**

New Scholarship Established in Honor of Alumnus **MATTHEW GUILLOT**

The St. Michael High School Matthew Guillot Memorial Band Scholarship has been established to provide an incoming freshman with tuition assistance. This scholarship was created to honor the former Warrior band member and percussionist, Matthew Guillot '13.

Matthew was born on September 20, 1994 and passed away on January 22, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. His musical endeavors of playing in the percussion section at St. Michael began in 5th grade while at Most Blessed Sacrament school. Matthew's love for music grew throughout high school where he played drums and melodic percussion for the Warrior Band. In college, he also played in a handful of low-key garage bands and could light up a room with his positive energy. He played drums, guitar, piano, and often added his vocals to jam sessions with friends.

Matthew attended Southeastern University in Hammond, LA, and graduated with a Bachelor of General Studies degree with a concentration in History in 2018. At Southeastern, he was an active officer and member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity. Matthew enjoyed attending live music concerts with his brother, fraternity brothers and friends,



and was a self-proclaimed movie buff as well as an avid knife collector who enjoyed the mountains and outdoors. Matthew also enjoyed reading and listening to podcasts and spending quality time with his dog Teddy.

Matthew is survived by his wife, Kylie LeCocq Guillot, whom he met in high school and married in 2018. He is also survived by his parents Mark and Angela Guillot, his older brother, Paul Guillot '07 and his sister-in-law, Amy Darouse Guillot '07. Matthew was also a terrific uncle and Godfather to his brother and sister-in-law's three children.

"Matthew was so passionate about music, but for him it was just as much about the communication and camaraderie with friends, especially in the percussion section. We want a recipient of this scholarship to be just as passionate about music and in using their talent to reach other people with their gift," share his parents Mark and Angela. "Whatever obstacles and challenges Matthew faced he always maintained his Christian values of thinking about others before himself. He was gifted with the ability to easily make others feel better about themselves and used his humor and kindness to make others smile."

Recipients of Matthew's scholarship must be enrolled in the eighth grade at one of the Diocesan feeder schools and will attend St. Michael High School. They must maintain above a 3.0 GPA, be actively involved in the band, exhibit leadership qualities and live with Christian attitudes and thoughtfulness. The first ever recipient of the Matthew Guillot Memorial Band Scholarship was incoming freshman, Michael McLeod, from St. Jean Vianney.

Donations to the scholarship in Matthew's memory can be made at:
<https://www.smhsbr.org/admissions/scholarships> under "Matthew Guillot Memorial Band Scholarship."

Alumni Accomplishments

Heather Langlois '89

Alumna Heather Langlois '89 has been a teacher at McKinley High School for 25 years. She has taught English and Health, as well as implemented a first responder program at the school. She is a nationally certified emergency medical responder and now helps her students earn their certificates to become EMRs also. Her students learn basic medical terms, patient assessment, how to measure vital signs, as well as receive their certifications in CPR.



Jessica Dettman '08

Jessica Dettman '08 currently serves as a physician's assistant for the six Baton Rouge Patient Plus Urgent Care centers across the city. Her career in the medical field began in radiologic technology in 2013. Five years later, she graduated from PA school through FranU and began working for the Baton Rouge Orthopedic Clinic, eventually making her way to urgent care.

Jena Vavasseur '20

Jena Vavasseur '20, was named as the NAIA Defensive Player of the Week as well as Athlete of the Week by Lyon College in March. As a freshman goalkeeper, Jena has been outstanding in the goal for the Scots during her first collegiate season posting 65 saves in just nine games. Jena is also a part of the Lyon College softball team and majoring in Biology.



Danny Owens '94

Danny Owens '94, Head Coach of the William Carey Women's Soccer team, has led his players to the number one ranked position in the country for the NAIA conference in 2021. Having secured a National Championship in 2018, Owens was also dubbed National Coach of the Year during that season. In his 15 years as Head Coach, his overall coaching record is an impressive 248-63-16. He has helped the Lady Crusaders to three final-four appearances as well as been titled Conference Coach of the Year eight times.

Joe Marchant '05

Joe Marchant '05 is in his 10th year working for Legoland in Florida. As a supervisor, Joe ensures the day-to-day activities of the park are running smoothly. He was part of the grand opening team for the park and has assisted in opening multiple new attractions within his 10 years. In June, he will travel to New York to assist their attractions team with another grand opening.



Olivia Hamilton '17

Olivia Hamilton '17 will be rejoining her alma mater this summer to help coach the St. Michael Dance Line during their summer training. Olivia recently graduated summa cum laude from LSU with a major in Biochemistry (minor in Business Administration) and earned a University Medal. During her four years at LSU, Olivia was also a member of the Tiger Girls where she served as the team's captain. She will begin her master's degree next fall at LSU in Natural Science and plans to go into Scientific Communication upon graduating.

Warrior Student Life



Senior Trina Dang was accepted by the AHCA "Day with the Doctors" program. Open to upperclassmen who maintain above a 3.0 GPA, the program gives students the opportunity to learn about medical problems, work with specimens and microscopic slides, practice basic life support techniques, explore the anatomy and/or pathology labs, and interact with medical students and faculty. Trina says her interest in medicine stems from taking Biology II and Forensics classes at SMHS. She plans on attending LSU and majoring in Biochemistry.

Charlotte Balart

received one of the most prestigious scholarships LSU has to offer, the President's Alumni Scholarship. This grant is a top merit-based scholarship given to only ten incoming college freshmen based on high academic achievement, leadership, and service. Charlotte attended a 2-day "Scholar's Weekend" on LSU's campus where she met with the Dean of the Honors College, was introduced to faculty, and interviewed for the scholarship. During her senior year at St. Michael, Charlotte was also dubbed the Student of the Year as well as Homecoming Queen. She plans to major in English- Secondary Education and become a teacher.

Charlotte poses on LSU's campus during her Scholar Weekend visit.



Junior Mindy Jones

was selected as a Student of the Year candidate for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She led her team (the Baton Rouge Bees), in advocating awareness of the diseases, as well as in raising funds to support the mission to cure blood cancers. With a total of \$41,000, Mindy and her team were second runner up in the 2021 campaign. Additionally, Mindy was granted the 2021 Ochsner Citizenship Award for Mission Integration which recognizes a campaign candidate who puts the society's mission at the center of their campaign and does the most for spreading awareness to their community.

Team member Abby McLeod was also named the LLS Alumni of the Year for having the largest fundraising impact on her team after having served as campaign leader last year.

(The Baton Rouge Bees consisted of SMHS students: Julia Miller, Maddie deVries, Abby McLeod, Maggie Perrien, Georgia Nizzo, Nicole Benigno, Abby Lanoux, Avery Chambers, and Julia Clark.)



The WARRIOR



At the end of each school year, a donation drive is held based on senior social justice projects. Senior students choose which charities to give to according to their research and local injustices. This year, an organization was chosen for each grade level. Freshmen collected items for Foster Village; sophomores donated to Metanoia Manor; juniors donated to the Food Bank; and seniors gave to St. Gerard School. St. Michael students collected and donated over 3,000 items total for these deserving charities!

SMHS students Amelia Quebedeaux and Kalli Willett drop off donated items for Foster Village.

Senior Traditions

The St. Michael High School class of 2021 celebrated their last days of high school with Spirit Week, the traditional parking lot breakfast, and boiled crawfish at lunch. We wish these Warriors the best in their future endeavors!



Anh-Tu holds his colored pencil drawing of famous singer, SZA. To create his masterpieces, he begins with a sketch of the photograph and then proceeds with layer after layer of colored pencil. A finished product takes him anywhere from one week to one month.

St. Michael sophomore Anh-Tu Nguyen unveiled his remarkable artistic talents at the St. Michael art show in April. Along with his impressive drawing skills Anh-Tu is also quite the pianist, showcasing his musical talents at most St. Michael liturgies on campus. Additionally, he is a member of the Creative Writing Club, the Reading Warriors Club, the BETA Club, as well as Student Council, where he served as homeroom representative this school year. As only a sophomore, he has already enrolled in eight honors classes and boasts over a 4.5 GPA.

Year of Firsts

St. Michael mothers and daughters celebrated the first annual mother daughter brunch in May. Guest speakers were longstanding Spanish teacher Lisa Baldrige and her daughter, Shannon '99. The event ended with prayer and shared rosary.

The first annual Father & Son Lenten Meal for the Feast of St. Joseph took place on Friday, March 19 in the St. Michael cafeteria. Over 90 fathers and sons gathered for an evening of good food, prayer and reflection. Guest speakers included Fr. Paul Gros and Jason Angelette. The evening concluded with time for adoration and confession.



ALUMNI NEWS SUMMER 2021



BABIES

- Brad Johnson '98 and his wife, Lauren Bongiovanni Johnson '99 welcomed a daughter, Claire Elizabeth, on May 10, 2021.
- Chad Guzzardo '99 and his wife, Danielle Berthelot Guzzardo '02 welcomed a son, Hudson James, on January 25, 2021.
- Ave' Taylor Lamm '04 and her husband, Timothy welcomed a son, Askel Phenix, on April 18, 2021.
- Joe Guarisco '06 and his wife, Katelyn welcomed a son, Dalton Scott, on May 12, 2021.
- Daniel Sommers '08 and his wife, Aimee Schexnayder Sommers '10 welcomed a daughter, Aria Camille, on April 13, 2021.
- Landon Bourgoyne '11 and his wife, Rachael Roussel Bourgoyne '11 welcomed a son, Luke Joseph, on March 19, 2020. They also welcomed a girl, Lila Rae, on April 29, 2021.
- Alex Naquin '12 and his wife, Lauren Sardisco Naquin '12 welcomed a baby girl in September 2020.

MARRIAGES

- Lizzie Burt '99 married Kevin Schexnayder on April 25, 2021.
- Elizabeth Indest '07 married Taylor Canchola on May 1, 2021.
- Charles Blanchard '09 married Hillary Joffrion on December 4, 2020.
- James Fontenot '11 married Kelsey Dunham on January 4, 2020.
- Preston Hatfield '11 married Gabrielle Arceneaux on March 7, 2020.
- Stephen Dupuis '11 married Sara Stinson on May 29, 2020.
- Alex Naquin '12 married Lauren Sardisco '12 in January 2019.
- Jenna Anders '12 married Colby Moore in October 2020.
- Matt Smith '12 married Ally Lambert '12 in November 2019.
- Sidney Broussard '14 married Hunter Thibodeaux on January 7, 2021.
- Megan Gordon '15 married Kyle Kidder on January 23, 2021.

Alumni Updates

If you or someone you know has exciting alumni news, please contact our Alumni Coordinator, Khloe Page, at kpage@smhsbr.org



St. Michael Alumnus Honored with Agent of Change Award and Named to the 2021 Tiger Twelve

Alex Landry



Alumnus Alex Landry '17 received the Agent of Change Award at the 2021 Love Purple Live Gold Award Ceremony on April 6. This accolade, which recognizes an LSU student who uses strong leadership skills to identify existing social issues and advocate for change through programs or service opportunities that educate and engage the LSU community, was presented by LSU's Campus Life Committee.

Landry, who is also President of Alpha Epsilon Delta (LSU's premedical honors society), implemented a program called "Pandemic Peers" at the start of the 2020-21 school year. The program, which partners AED upperclassmen with freshmen in the Science Residential College, is meant to help guide incoming students through the premedical process as well as give them a chance to meet new people. "There was a big problem with mental health at the beginning of the school year because of the pandemic and not being able to do normal things around campus," Landry shares. "Living in the dorms and not being able to have that typical college experience, things just looked a lot different. Pandemic Peers is meant to give freshmen someone to talk to who has been through the process - from taking the M-CAT to applying to medical schools - and help them engage socially as well as in service and academics."

The need for a program like this around LSU's campus was not unnoticed by faculty. Landry's immunology teacher, Dr. Hale-Donze, reached out to him after class one day about motivational problems she was seeing throughout her classes. "Dr. Hale-Donze approached me at the end of a class and told me about this problem she was having in seeing motivation from her students. A lot of students were struggling. She told me there was a need for change," he explains. "That is when I began bouncing ideas off my executive board members at AED. From there, Pandemic Peers started with just one meeting on campus where everyone could come together to meet and eventually the program took off. Since then, it has been a great opportunity for our AED members to help out our school community."

Landry is now in his senior year at LSU where he is a dual degree candidate in biochemistry and pre-professional chemistry. He credits St. Michael High School for piquing his interest in science and medicine. Though he had never thought about becoming a doctor

while in high school, once his biology teacher brought it up, the idea never left his mind. "When I was at St. Michael, Dr. Bourgeois literally asked me 'Have you ever thought about becoming a doctor?' and I had not. But after thinking about it I realized that it might be a career that I could embrace," shares Landry. His time on the cross-country team while in high school also nudged him toward a medical vocation. "Another thing that happened in high school was that I noticed that injuries were derailing my cross-country team's championship aspirations. I wanted to do anything I could to help out with that, so I took it upon myself to research different stretching and warmup techniques," explains Landry. "I wanted to find ways that we could keep our mileage but reduce injuries by becoming more conscientious of how to treat our bodies and how to properly warm up."

While at LSU, Landry also attended a medical mission trip to San Ignacio, Belize. From that point on, Landry's says his fate in medical work was sealed. "When I went to Belize and helped care for local villagers there, the people were so appreciative, and I found it extremely rewarding. I knew after that, that I must become a physician. It was one of those key moments where I thought 'Yeah. This is what I want to do.'"

Landry was the 2017 valedictorian at St. Michael High School as well as the recipient of the St. Teresa of Calcutta Service Award his senior year. He was also a captain of the cross-country team. This year, as a senior in college, he was accepted into three medical schools (thus far) and plans to specialize in emergency medicine. "Helping people is rewarding," he says simply in closing. "St. Michael's emphasis on giving back to the community through service really pushed me to get out into the community at LSU. I am so thankful for my high school experiences as well as my professors at LSU who have helped me along this journey. I am also thankful to have AED as a platform for beginning the Pandemic Peers program. Without all of this I would not be where I am today." AED also received the Commitment to Change award from LSU's Campus Life during the same ceremony where Landry was honored as the Agent of Change. Shortly after these awards were given, Landry was also selected to the Tiger Twelve, an award that recognizes 12 seniors for outstanding intellectual achievement, inclusive excellence, leadership, and service at LSU.

Message from Advancement



“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Throughout this difficult year, which will undoubtedly live on as one of the most challenging, St. Michael High School has persevered to deliver an outstanding education to our students. Last March, after the shutdown of our school we quickly adapted to a remote learning environment, completed the school year and even held a graduation ceremony through a combination of virtual and live platforms.

In August of 2020, we began our 36th school year with determination and resolve. We resumed in-person instruction with new procedures, new routines, and a positive attitude, hoping to combat COVID-19 as best we can.

As Catholics and Christians, we are people of good news; the literal translation of the word “gospel.” We are also people of hope. This embodies our work at St. Michael High School as we develop our 617 students into positive role models in society through excellent academics and solid Christian values.

With an “attitude of gratitude” we look toward our bright future even in times of uncertainty. We continue to do everything possible to live out our mission to foster the spiritual, intellectual, and personal development of young people as committed disciples of Christ. With our ever-changing world, we need to adapt quickly to the reality of our current situations. **Now more than ever, our students and their families need us. And we need you.**

Please consider supporting the important work at St. Michael the Archangel High School by making a gift to the St. Michael Warrior Fund. In times like this, we are reminded of how interconnected we all are. Thank you for already playing a huge role in our St. Michael Family. We look forward to forging ahead this year with grace and resolve but without you, none of it is possible.

God bless,

Mr. Jack Nelson **Mrs. Ellen Lee**
President Principal

We want to THANK all of the members of the Warrior community for their generous donations this year. It is because of you that our school and students continue to thrive.

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