



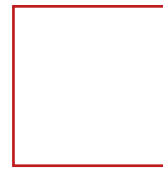
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St. Michael the Archangel High School
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Mission

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



Winter 2022

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL HIGH SCHOOL

The **WARRIOR**

back cover

The
WARRIOR
 ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL
National Merit Honorees



**DAWSON
 LATONA**
 National Merit
 Semifinalist

**JAMES
 BALART**
 National Merit
 Semifinalist

**NICHOLAS
 THAI**
 National Merit
 Commended

Story
 on
 Page 5

Winter 2022 ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL HIGH SCHOOL

front cover





St. Michael the Archangel High School

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February 5
- MOONLIGHT
AND JAZZ**
March 27
- CAREER DAY**
March 15
- 2022 ANNUAL
AUCTION**
April 2
- FASHION AND
ART SHOW**
April 29
- SENIOR CRAWFISH
BOIL**
May 5
- GRADUATION**
May 20

The WARRIOR



Message From The President

Dear Parents, Alumni and Friends,

The past year has tested our country and community in many ways. Our school took on the important responsibility of finding innovative ways to educate our students amidst the pandemic. We can all be very proud of the commitment the St. Michael faculty and staff made to keep our school open and our educational instruction impactful and productive.

We have many blessings at St. Michael. In fact, there are far too many to count or list here. Three of our greatest blessings are the past parents, alumni and friends who have laid the foundation through planning and financial resources for all that we have and all that we are today. This has allowed us to live our mission to the fullest.

Even during these uncertain times the St. Michael community comes together to support our staff and students in big and small ways. One experience that touched my heart was when I was giving a group of alumni a tour of St. Michael. They were very interested in the "IDEA Lab" and they shared stories of their times in school and the impact that St. Michael and its teachers made on them. Before they left, they handed me a donation. They were so proud of St. Michael; you could see it in their eyes and hear it in their voices. Another story that comes to mind is of a donor who decided to cover the entire cost of a senior's tuition after hearing about that family's financial needs. What an amazing gift!

It is our hope and desire to see this cycle of "paying it forward" to continue for generations to come. We are working with current families, alumni and our community as a whole to plan and provide the financial resources necessary to grow our school and academic programs. St. Michael students will enjoy the benefits of generosity from those whom they do not know or may never meet.



Thank you for all that each of you do for St. Michael High School. I can look to our students, teachers, staff, programs, and facilities to see the results of your generosity and to visualize all that we will accomplish in the future due to the generosity of those before us, those who are in our community currently and those who are yet to come. Dream big with us and know that you are in my prayers of thanksgiving every day for all that you have done and continue to do for our Warrior family!

God bless,

Jack Nelson
President

*Jack
Nelson*

Ellen Lee



From The Principal

As a new calendar year begins at St. Michael High School, we are filled with hope and anticipation of the many wonderful opportunities that await us, while we are also filled with gratitude for the blessings that we have been given. The theme of "Live the Call!" was chosen for the 2021-2022 school year to serve as a reminder that God is calling each one of us to something greater than ourselves. We recognize that we are made in his image and likeness and are called to live a life of service. The pandemic challenged us to get creative with our Christian Service Program. Our focus went from obtaining hours of service to performing acts of service. Our Warrior community showed that service has become part of who we are when Hurricane Ida hit our area. Students, parents, and teachers immediately felt called into action to help those who suffered damage during the hurricane. It was a beautiful sight to see our Warriors throughout the city helping neighbors who suffered damage during the storm.

Warriors are called to be creative. Despite restrictions of the pandemic, Homecoming Week, a favorite time in our school year, was a week-long celebration of the successes of our past and of our present. The halls were decorated with the theme, *Dancing through the Decades*. Students dressed up in costumes and in red and black to show their Warrior spirit. We had a wonderful Block Party with many of our families in attendance, followed by our first pep rally to be held on the football field. Our long-awaited Homecoming Dance was held outdoors and was a very special end to a week of Warrior celebrations. Creativity was again a necessity when our annual March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. had to be put off for another year. That did not deter us from planning a pilgrimage experience for our students and other students throughout the diocese. Our two day "March" will help the participants understand the importance of respecting the dignity and the precious gift of all life.

Warriors are called to challenge themselves and our students to grow academically. With the addition of our Broadcasting, Dual Enrollment Chemistry II, Theater II, African American Studies, and Dual Enrollment Calculus classes, St. Michael High School continues to expand our curriculum in order to meet the needs of all of our students. ACT and SAT Prep Classes enable St. Michael students to gain a competitive edge when taking these high stakes standardized tests. The preparation has paid off as this fall three of our seniors were recognized with National Merit honors. Many of our students were honored for attaining a score of 30 or above on their ACT, while others were recognized for an improvement in their scores of at least 3 points. Our IDEA Lab gives students a makerspace where they can experience new technologies while exploring design and problem solving with a focus on STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, art, and math).

Warriors are called to personal development. Our students develop leadership skills, teamwork, and learn so many life lessons through their participation in the many extra-curricular clubs and numerous athletic teams. Our athletic teams focus on character development, as well as skill development. Our Warriors for Wellness club had a Self-Care Week prior to midterm exams. The week was filled with treats and suggestions on how to reduce stress while at the same time tackling the demands of exams.

Catholicity remains at the heart of our identity as we continue to Live the Call by planting and nourishing seeds of the faith in all of our students. Examples of living this call can be seen in the presence of the Mercedarian sisters working in our Campus Ministry Office, where we are reminded daily of the beauty of a life lived in prayer and service. We ask for your prayers as we strive to live out our call and remain committed to our mission of forming young men and young women as committed disciples of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Ellen Lee Principal



The WARRIOR

Two St. Michael High School seniors named 2021-22 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

DAWSON LATONA



JAMES BALART



Two St. Michael High School seniors, James Balart and Anthony "Dawson" Latona, were named 2021-22 National Merit Semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Approximately 16,000 high school Semifinalists, across the nation are announced before National Merit Scholarships are offered to Finalists.

James and Dawson join the 121 other National Merit Semifinalists in St. Michael's history. "It definitely feels rewarding; it was a long process. The PSAT is a once-a-year thing, unlike the ACT, and you do not find out National Merit results quickly," shares James. "I took the PSAT freshman and sophomore year to prep for my junior year because that is the year that it counts. I wanted to perform to the best of my ability because it shows colleges what you are capable of in the classroom; plus, higher scores mean better scholarships."

James, a graduate of St. George School, is a tri-sport athlete, competing in football, basketball, and track and field. He is also the executive vice president of the student body, a student ambassador, and a member of several other clubs. He does all this while boasting well above a 4.0 GPA. James says that being so involved in his school and his studies has taught him the value of time management. "I do my work whenever I can. Being so busy with sports and extracurriculars forces me to be productive, and I try to stay focused and get things done even when I only have a short time frame," he explains. "Not always, but on most days, I am still able to relax and have downtime." James is tentatively planning to attend LSU and then eventually go into the medical field.

Dawson, who formerly attended Runnels, is part of St. Michael's cross-country team and track and field team, as well as a member of peer ministry. He shares that becoming a National Merit Semifinalist has been a longtime high school dream of his. "These results show the amount of hard work that I have invested in my academics," he explains. "It was a lot; I started as a freshman with the expectation that I would

get National Merit. I intentionally took challenging classes and as many Advanced Placement courses as I could. I also had some extremely good teachers, one of them being Mrs. Marsh, who is now an English teacher here." Dawson boasts above a 4.0 GPA as well and also plans on attending LSU to pursue a career in the medical field.

Both James and Dawson credit a portion of their academic testing success to one key St. Michael administrator, Mr. Kevin Landry. Known for his test prep success stories, Mr. Landry worked with the boys almost weekly to ensure they met their goals. "He took me in at the beginning of my junior year, and he worked with us on prep. He showed us the best ways to practice, and so I did a lot of that on my own too, but Mr. Landry was a substantial guiding force for me," explains James. Dawson agrees that Mr. Landry's test-taking tips were imperative in his PSAT success as well. "What was so helpful about meeting with Mr. Landry is that he not only helps with the test questions, but he also teaches you testing strategy, how the entire test works, and other important steps to ensure success" he shares.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation is a nonprofit that awards academically talented high school seniors college scholarships. To qualify as a Semifinalist, high school juniors must have taken the PSAT and scored in the top percentage in their respective state. To become a finalist, the Semifinalist must submit a detailed scholarship application, including academic record, community and school involvement, leadership skills, and awards and honors, along with an essay. Finalist will be notified in February of 2022.

St. Michael also has 14 seniors, including James and Dawson, who qualified as Advanced Placement Scholars, and one senior, Nicholas Thai, who was named a National Merit Commended student.

You can read more about National Merit at www.nationalmerit.org.

MINDY JONES

Chosen as St. Michael's 2021-22 STUDENT OF THE YEAR

MELINDA "MINDY" JONES was chosen as the 2021-22 St. Michael High School student of the year. The SMHS Student of the Year is chosen based on academic achievement, leadership activities, and evidence of service and citizenship efforts. Mindy is an active member in six St. Michael clubs as well as an All-District volleyball player. She also played two years of soccer for the Warriors.

Mindy maintains a 3.93 GPA (including AP and dual enrollment courses), while setting an exemplary standard of service in her school and community. At the 2021 Warrior Awards Ceremony she was honored with the highest service honor, the St. Michael the Archangel Christian Service Award. Previously, she received the title of Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Student of the Year for her efforts in fundraising collecting over \$45,000 to help blood cancer



patients and to aid in research for these diseases.

For college, Mindy tentatively plans to attend LSU and major in Psychology. She hopes to pursue a career in the FBI one day. Mindy will now compete for the Diocesan Student of the Year, the winner of which will compete at the state level. She is a graduate of St. Theresa of Avila middle school.

"I am so excited to be named St. Michael's Student of the Year. It is a huge honor, so I am extremely proud to represent my school in this way. Throughout my four years as a Warrior, I have grown in leadership, and my focus is now on helping others. The intimate feeling around campus has allowed me to foster these skills, and being so involved with my school and my service has taught me the importance of time management."

The WARRIOR

Senior Signs Letter of Intent to PLAY SOCCER at Southeastern

Maggie poses with her mother, Rebecca, and father, Bryan, during her signing ceremony in November. She will play soccer for the Southeastern Lions next year.

Senior soccer player MARGARET "MAGGIE" DENISON signed her national letter of intent with Southeastern University in November.

Originally a volleyball player in middle school, Maggie says her interest in soccer developed around 6th grade after watching her younger sister succeed in the sport. "I began playing soccer because I saw my little sister playing so well and getting a lot of attention for it. So, I joined the Baton Rouge Soccer Club and enjoyed it immediately," she explains. "I was on the second level team for just a year before I moved to the top playing level."

A versatile soccer athlete, Maggie leads the field as a center, an attacking midfielder, and a forward player for St. Michael. She credits her coaches for pushing her to become a top-level athlete in just a few short years.

"I want to thank my St. Michael coaches, Coach Silverman and Coach Lyn Bradley, as well as my club coach, Coach Roger, and trainer Steve Bastura for encouraging me to become the athlete I wanted to



be," she shares. "I knew coming into high school that I wanted to play collegiately, and they pushed me harder than any other coaches."

St. Michael Head Girls' Soccer Coach Philip Silverman asserts that Maggie has been an integral part of the team since her freshman year, despite being rather new to the sport. "Maggie has been a phenomenal player during her time at St. Michael, leading the team in goals every year, even as a freshman," he explains. "Unflappable no matter the opponents'

tactics, whether they double mark her or try to physically take her out of her game, she has consistently put the ball in the back of the net, averaging nearly 2 goals per game for her entire high school career. She is among the most technical players to ever come through our program and already holds the career goal scoring record for both boys and girls at St. Michael."

Through her junior year (as her senior year's accomplishments are not yet compiled), Maggie is a three-time letterman and has been named to the All-District First Team and All-Metro First Team three times. She has also been named an All-District Offensive MVP and All-Metro Offensive MVP. She is a two-time All-State First Team player and was named an All-State MVP. To top it off, she is the active leading female goal scorer in Louisiana with 117 goals as well as the all-time leading goals scorer at St. Michael High School. This year, as a senior, she has been named the team captain.

Maggie is tentatively planning to major in business at Southeastern and most looks forward to playing soccer as a collegiate athlete.



The St. Michael cross country team completed its 2021 season at the state meet in November. The girls added a 4A runner-up state title to their repertoire that already includes 12 runner-up titles and 10 state championship titles. The boys team grabbed a third-place finish, coming just shy of a runner-up title. In previous seasons, the boys have captured three runner-up titles and nine state championship titles. Cross country athletes Dawson Latona, William Nizzo, Zach Edwards, Sayla Fogos, and Blaiklee Guillot were all honored as All-State athletes for their top 10 finishes.



The Warrior volleyball team wrapped up its 2021 season at the Cajundome in Lafayette after a close fight in the semifinals against Hannan. The Lady Warriors finished with a 23 – 9 season record, including capturing an undefeated district championship for the sixth year in a row. Many Warrior players received district award titles. Nicole Benigno was named District Defensive MVP. All-District players include Nicole Benigno, Audrey Doming, Julianna Ghetti, and Mindy Jones. And All-District Honorable Mention players include Julia Coffey, Olivia Pinell, Kennedy Strickland, Camryn Wax, and Riley Williams.



The WARRIOR

Chemistry Teacher LORENZO FOSTER Named High School Chemistry Teacher of the Year

St. Michael chemistry teacher **LORENZO FOSTER** was named the High School Chemistry Teacher of the Year by the American Chemical Society.

Lorenzo was nominated by his mentor, Sandra Y. McGuire, Ph.D., to receive this award through the Baton Rouge local section of the ACS. He says that even though he was not expecting to win, he is still excited about the outcome. "At first I was surprised to be selected," he shares. "I do not teach for any recognition. I do it to help my students. It is a great honor and privilege to receive this award. It means that I am making a difference in the world. I am helping my students to not only appreciate the world of chemistry, but also showing them how to become analytical and logical thinkers who will solve the problems of the future."

Having a passion for science for as long as he can remember, Lorenzo attended LSU and earned his major in Microbiology with a minor in Chemistry. Now, a veteran teacher of 11 years with experience in a multitude of grades and sciences, Lorenzo says that he has found his true calling in the high school

chemistry classroom. "Throughout my teaching career, I have been able to share my love and passion for science, particularly chemistry, with my students," he explains. "Seeing my students reach their goals and knowing that I helped them get there...that is what this is all about."

One of the most important qualities of an effective teacher, according to Lorenzo, is being comfortable with your teaching content. The science curriculum must be made applicable to your students as well, creating more

interest in the subject. Students in Lorenzo's classes are always doing hands-on labs, whether it is creating ice cream to learn about solutions and freezing point depression or tie-dyeing their traditional and informative periodic table of elements T-shirt. Another student favorite is the flame test lab that involves heating up elements to see the colors emitted when excited electrons fall back to their ground state. "I always try to do classroom activities where my students can see science in action," he attests. "My students who have gone on to take chemistry in college or even choose it as a major tell me they are able to breeze through a lot of classes. This tells me I am doing my job the right way."

Lorenzo also explains that it is important to seek opportunities for professional development to continue to master your craft. Last summer, he attended a week-long PD through LSU to become a certified Dual Enrollment Chemistry teacher at St. Michael High School. This new class option was offered to students this school year.

Lorenzo will be honored as the High School Chemistry Teacher of the Year at the ACS Awards Dinner later this spring in Baton Rouge.



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

As St. Michael High School continues through its 37th school year, we are reminded to live each day in the present moment, not taking for granted the gifts and blessings that are made available to us daily. Participation in giving and gratitude are essential to the enhancement of our well-being. It is through these values that we discover God in the most difficult and ordinary times.

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 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. 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. All gifts, no matter the size, have an ability to enhance the standards of excellence in student development, scholarships, and facilities. 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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Homecoming Week Traditions Return to St. Michael High School



The week-long homecoming celebration included decorations, dress-up days, and games.



Senior Julia Clark was crowned the 2021 St. Michael High School Homecoming Queen during the Warriors football game against Ascension Catholic on Friday, Oct. 15. During the ceremony, the entire St. Michael High School homecoming court, as determined by student vote, was presented. Joining Julia on the court were fellow junior and senior maids: Meg Collier, Ashlynn McVea, Meredith Taliaferro, Blythe Waguespack, Caroline Adolph, Honor Camus, Madeline de Vries, Sarah Gil, Olivia Jackson, Hailey Lester, and Ryleigh Williams.

Senior Nicholas Johnson was crowned the 2021 Homecoming King. Other junior and senior escorts included John Dowling, Darren Evans, Will Godbery, Thomas Raymond, James Balart, Ross Fuselier, Anthony Igiede, Dawson Lee, Conner Pike, Joseph Tate, and Caleb Zerangue.



Homecoming Queen, Julia Clark, shares a dance with Homecoming King, Nick Johnson, at the 2021 St. Michael Homecoming Dance.

Returning this school year was the traditional homecoming block party for parents, students, and alumni. During the block party, guests enjoyed a BBQ by Tramonte's and a St. Michael pep rally celebrating fall sports teams.

St. Michael was also pleased to host the alumni homecoming tailgate again this year. Former Warriors were able to enjoy a tailgating experience at Friday's homecoming game as well as participate in the pre-game shows with their former teams.



St. Michael junior Meredith Taliaferro pulled double duty on homecoming night. Not only was she elected to the court, but she also serves as a kicker for the Warrior football team and is the first female football player in school history.

The WARRIOR St. Michael Students Celebrate Life and Serve Like Christ



Students pose with guest speaker Dustin Bertrand. Dustin visited during pro-life week and spoke to faculty and students about the purpose and the power of grace.

In September, Hurricane Ida ravaged southeastern Louisiana as the biggest storm in the state's history. Many people were affected by the hurricane and lost everything, including their homes, forcing them to seek shelter with the American Red Cross at the Raising Canes River Center in Baton Rouge. Most people only had a small bag of personal items or the clothes on their backs. With coordination by Fr. Ryan Hallford, former St. Michael teacher and chaplain, principal Ellen Lee, and campus minister Emily Froeba, St. Michael held an undergarment and sock drive as quickly as possible. In just a couple of days, students collected well over 1,000 of these essential items for the hurricane victims. Students and their parents also volunteered to distribute the items at the River Center.

St. Michael students and faculty celebrated pro-life week in November. Over 2,000 items for Heritage Manor Nursing Home, Metanoia Manor for Child Victims of Trafficking, the Pregnancy Problem Center, and the Catholic Charities Refugee Program were collected for donation. Students also had the opportunity to hear guest speakers Dustin Bertrand, Deacon Michael Parker, and the Sisters of Metanoia Manor discuss valuable lessons in service and faith.





Alumni Updates

ALUMNI NEWS WINTER 2021



BIRTHS

- Courtney Ordeneaux Roussel '09 and her husband, Nick welcomed a son, Tucker John on April 5, 2021.
- Adam Catanzaro '09 and his wife, Maddie welcomed a son, James Powell on November 1, 2021.
- Skyler Bourgeois Stegeman '09 and her husband Joseph welcomed a daughter, Jettie Claire on September 14, 2021.
- Elyse Casemore Lockwood '10 and her husband, Matthew welcomed a daughter, Hallie Beth on June 2, 2021.
- Austin Frey '11 and his wife, Mary Catherine welcomed a daughter, Emma Clare on June 3, 2021.

MARRIAGES

- Elizabeth Indest '07 married Taylor Canchola on Saturday, May 1, 2021.
- Mary Michael Carbon '09 married Alex Grivon on Saturday, June 12, 2021
- Andrew Thomas '11 married, Kyle Maureen Olstad on Saturday, October 16, 2021.
- Amanda Crump '12 married, Nick Veslany on Saturday, October 21, 2021

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



St. Michael Alumnus Qualifies for UFC

AJ Fletcher

Alumnus **AJ FLETCHER '15** reached a competitive milestone that not many athletes can attest to by joining the Ultimate Fighting Championship league in August of last year.

As a life-long football player, Fletcher had hoped to play collegiately but switched gears when recruiting seemed to flatline during his senior year of high school. "Once I realized I was not going to play football in college, I started exploring mixed martial arts because I still wanted to do a sport that was physical," he explains about how he gained interest in the sport. "After my first class, I fell in love with it."

Having taken up MMA at the end of his senior year of high school, he continued his training as he entered LSU. Choosing to major in biology, Fletcher had originally planned to become a doctor. But after his freshman year, upon finding a passion in MMA, he took a leap of faith and transferred to the University of Lafayette where he could be closer to a gym that was more in line with his long-term fighting goals. "I took the advice of one of my training partners at Russell Jones Kickboxing who told me that if I was serious about making a career out of MMA, then I needed to go to a gym where they actually trained fighters. So, after my freshman year at LSU, I packed up and moved to Lafayette," he explains. "In 2019 I had my first professional fight and graduated from ULL with a biology degree."

From there, Fletcher moved up quickly, winning a local Lightweight Amateur Title in the Battle of New Orleans, as well as a Professional Belt in the Atlas Fights. And, on August 31, 2021, he signed a contract to fight in the UFC. The UFC is considered the ultimate goal of any MMA athlete, as it is the highest level of competition that one can achieve in the sport. "By my late 20s I am hoping to have my UFC belt and become the champion of the 170 lb. division," he shares about his goals in the UFC arena. "But I am going to have to check off some boxes along the way. For now, I am trying to stay focused in the gym and respect the game. I have found that the accolades come when you are doing the right things both inside and outside the gym."

Fletcher attributes his current success to numerous factors, particularly adept coaches and mentors who he says became his family-away-from-family once he moved to Lafayette to train at Gladiators Academy. "Tim and Josh both taught me more than just technique. The unseen side, or the mental side of MMA, is just as important, and they have been instrumental ever since I moved to a new city," he shares.

Head Instructor and Manager of the Gladiators Academy, Josh Artigue, coaches Fletcher and says that he is one of the most effortless athletes to train. "When AJ started at Gladiators Academy, I was really impressed with him," he says. "It was his humility and coachability; he is one of the easiest athletes I have ever had the pleasure of coaching. He listens and applies techniques advancing his development in the sport." When it comes to the next level though, Artigue says that having the right mentors is another factor in an athlete's success story. "We have a mentorship between AJ and Tim Credeur and Dustin Poirier, who show him how to be a professional athlete. They help him understand that there is a little more to it than just showing up to fight. We achieved our first goal of getting into the UFC, and now all we do is start stringing together wins to get the recognition and keep moving up," explains Artigue.

Fletcher maintains that one of the best parts of being involved with MMA is not only the physical side of it, but also the mental aspects as well, particularly the morale that it can instill. "Martial arts have a way of giving people what they need," he asserts. "There are young guys that come into the gym pent up and they have trouble understanding how to not let certain things boil over. MMA gives them a handle on controlling emotions and thoughts. I have also seen kids come in with low confidence, or maybe they are dealing with anxiety issues, and it is rewarding to see that as they learn certain techniques or as the technical part of their game improves, it goes hand-in-hand with their mentality. You can see them open up, and you see an increase in self-confidence in the way they carry themselves." Along with training at Gladiators Academy, Fletcher teaches private lessons and children's classes as well as coaches both age groups.

Another factor in Fletcher's success, he mentions, has been the presence of positive role models since his time in high school as a Warrior. "St. Michael does a really great job of placing positive role models in front of young people," he shares. "When you do this for kids, it gives them a better idea of what to look for in terms of mentors. When you have positive role models in front of you at a young age, it makes it easier to identify from whom you can learn in the future."

Lastly, Fletcher mentions his foundation in Catholicism, indicating that he knew his leap of faith into the sport would not necessarily be an easy ride. "When you take a chance on doing something in life that you did not plan to do, you face physical and mental challenges along the road," he explains. "Having a good foundation in faith and scripture to draw upon during low times helps you understand that things come in waves, but you have to keep moving. St. Michael did a great job of instilling this value in me."

Fletcher is hoping to have his first professional UFC fight scheduled by the end of 2021. He will compete in the Welterweight (170 lbs.) division.

Alumni Spotlights



Brittany Murphree Thrower '08 and Marietta Murphree Turpin '11

Sisters Brittany Murphree Thrower '08 and Mari Murphree Turpin '11 are both licensed professionals in skin care and beauty services. Inspired as a little girl, Brittany eventually became the person that her friends went to in high school for hair and makeup when a dance or cheer competition came around. Upon graduating from high school Brittany attended Vanguard College of Cosmetology. After working in a salon for a few years, Mari eventually encouraged Brittany to take a leap of faith and open her own business. Now the sisters together run their own full-service salon called Salon du Sud with Mari as the bridal manager. They offer all hair care services like color and special colors, cuts, blowouts, styling, weddings, treatments, men's cuts, brow services and makeup. They also have a small boutique in the salon called Shop Salon du Sud. Salon du Sud has been named one of the top 5 Best Salons in Baton Rouge from 225 Magazine as well as a top 5 salon in Baton Rouge Parents Magazine. You can find their salon/ boutique off Bluebonnet Blvd.

SALON DU SUD

Brittany and Mari worked with the St. Michael cheerleading team this year to show them how to apply competition makeup.



Jordan Farshchi-Zarrabi '11, PharmD

Jordan Farshchi-Zarrabi graduated from the University of Louisiana Monroe Pharmacy School in 2021 upon following in the footsteps of his sister who is also a pharmacist. He is now in his PGY1 Pharmacy Hospital Residency with Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge. Throughout pharmacy school, Jordan qualified for the President's List multiple times and worked with Heritage Health Solutions as well as served as a chair member for the Student National Pharmaceutical Association. Upon completing his residency, Jordan plans to stay in the Baton Rouge area and work for a local hospital.

Michael Parker '05

Michael Parker was ordained a Deacon for the Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge last year. Initially going into the financial field after graduating from LSU, Deacon Parker says he eventually felt called to the ministry after his wife, JaVaunda, recovered from a difficult experienced at birth. He then became a youth minister at Holy Rosary Church in St. Amant and entered the diaconate formation program. He was recently named St. Michael High School's 2021-22 Alumni of the Year for his continued work with students on campus and dedication to sharing God's work with his alma mater. He and his wife have two children; JaMicah, who is seven, and Michaela, who is four.



Sadie Edmonston '18 and Amber Igiede '19

College athletes Sadie Edmonston and Amber Igiede are leaving their mark in the collegiate volleyball world with their outstanding records and skillful playing. Sadie, in her last year at Cumberland University in Nashville, TN, achieved the number one rank in the nation for digs in collegiate volleyball. Originally an offensive player in high school, Sadie thanks St. Michael's Head Volleyball Coach Rob Smith for giving her the opportunity to play defense during her senior year as a Warrior. "Coach Smith is the one who gave me the chance to play defense as a libero my senior year," she mentions. "I am not sure where I would be right now without that opportunity." While at St. Michael High School, Sadie was a three-year high school District Honorable Mention, a club volleyball National Champion, and an All-American player. She was also a three-year letterman for the Warrior softball team. Today, Sadie is a 4-time collegiate All American as well as an Academic Honor roll student. Upon graduating with a marketing degree, she plans to stay in Nashville to begin her career.

Amber's accolades from her time in high school are plentiful. As a St. Michael senior, she earned a top 10 spot in the nation for hitting percentage. She was also the first ever player as a Warrior to score over 1,000 points and still holds the school's kills record along with numerous First-Team, All-Metro, and MVP titles. As a freshman middle blocker at the University of Hawaii, Amber quickly began racking up more awards and honors. She was named a Big West Freshman of the Week and was a Freshman All-American Honorable Mention nominee. She also received the team's Best Blocker Award during their annual banquet her first year playing collegiately. Throughout her college years thus far she has been named to the All-Big West First Team and was recently named the Big West Conference Defensive Player of the Week and the Big West Conference Offensive Player of the Week shortly after. She qualified for the AVCA All-Pacific North Region Honorable Mention title as well. Amber says that her success on the court reflects learning how to balance her time at St. Michael High School. "I felt prepared for college after high school because St. Michael showed me what it was like to balance my academic time with my time playing a sport," she explains. "Another thing I learned at St. Michael was how to treat every single person with respect and love, which has helped me tremendously." After graduation, Amber is planning to continue to play volleyball either in the American League or overseas. After volleyball, she will use her psychology degree to become a mental health therapist or marriage counselor.

30+ CLUB

St. Michael High School's **ACT 30+ AWARD** was introduced at the 2021 Fall Awards Ceremony held in August. The award is a new honor at St. Michael High School which recognizes Warriors who achieved an ACT composite score of 30 or above. On average, only 7% of ACT test-takers in the world attain this score. We are proud to announce that 10% of the class of 2022 has reached this achievement along with several members of the class of 2021.



The WARRIOR



CHARLOTTE BALART
Class of 2021



HAYDEN BARNETT
Class of 2021



BRIAN DANG
Class of 2021



TRINA DANG
Class of 2021



MORGYN GAUTHEIR
Class of 2021



GRAYSON HOWELL
Class of 2021



SARA LEVRON
Class of 2021



EMALIE MANUEL
Class of 2021



ABIGAIL MCCURRY
Class of 2021



BROCK MULHEARN
Class of 2021



OWEN NAQUIN
Class of 2021



REBECCA QUEBEDEAUX
Class of 2021



STEVEN REED
Class of 2021



JOHN STINSON
Class of 2021



JAMES BALART
Class of 2022



DAWSON LATONA
Class of 2022



NICHOLAS THAI
Class of 2022



CAROLINE ADOLPH
Class of 2022



ALEX HENDERSON
Class of 2022



JULIA MILLER
Class of 2022



HENLEE HOFFER
Class of 2022



MINDY JONES
Class of 2022



CHRISTIAN CORSTEN
Class of 2022



PETER NGUYEN
Class of 2022



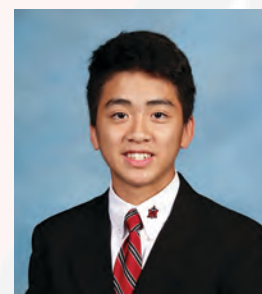
MADELINE DEVRIES
Class of 2022



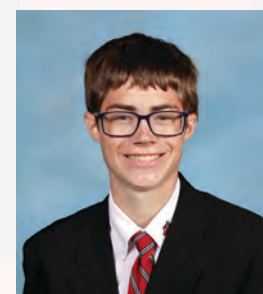
NICK JOHNSON
Class of 2022



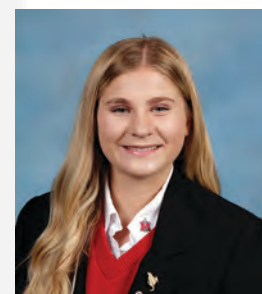
GUS LEBLANC
Class of 2022



RICHARD-TRI DANG
Class of 2023



JONATHAN HARPER
Class of 2023



ASHLYNN HOWELL
Class of 2023

Congratulations to the St. Michael students who **INCREASED THEIR ACT SCORE** by 3 or more points last year:

- Caroline Adolph
- James Balart
- Shepard Butner
- Julia Clark
- Maggie Denison
- Christopher Dodson
- Alex Henderson
- Henlee Hoffer
- Olivia Jackson
- Nick Johnson
- Mindy Jones
- Brendan LeBlanc
- Julia Miller
- Peter Nguyen
- Colton Pike
- Lucy Rispong
- Alex Rodrigue
- Andrew Snyder
- Kennedy Strickland
- Joseph Tate
- Garret Wisdom
- Gannon Wood
- Caleb Zerangue

Academic HONORS



The **WARRIOR**

Fourteen St. Michael students qualified as AP Scholars during the 2020-21 school year. These scholars are chosen based on AP exams taken during their time at St. Michael and are awarded college credits based on the results.

The AP Scholar title is granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. The AP Scholar with Honor title is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. And the AP Scholar with Distinction is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.



ABIGAIL MCCURRY
AP Scholar



ELENA MONETTE
AP Scholar



JENNA MONETTE
AP Scholar



CHARLOTTE BALART
AP Scholar



TRINA DANG
AP Scholar with Honor



MORGYN GAUTHIER
AP Scholar



OWEN NAQUIN
AP Scholar



REBECCA QUEBEDEAUX
AP Scholar



STEVEN REED
AP Scholar



MARIA GORDON
AP Scholar with Honor



CASSE JOHNSON
AP Scholar



EMALIE MANUEL
AP Scholar



JOHN STINSON
AP Scholar with Honor



DAWSON LATONA
AP Scholar with Distinction

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 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.

ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC RAISES RECORD FUNDS



The 32nd Annual Warrior Golf Classic was held Monday, November 8 at Greystone Country Club.

This event raises funds to help support Warrior athletic teams, clubs, and extracurricular programs. This year, thanks to the generosity of 48 teams and over 50 sponsors and tee-sign sponsors, the event successfully raised over **\$60,000**. We want to again thank all our teams, sponsors, volunteers, and players for being an integral part of the success of our Warrior Family.

From left to right: Wayne Stabler III, Taylor King, Dean Schmitt, and Donny Schmitt pose for a picture at the Warrior Golf Classic. Dean was the winner of the putting contest this year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS:

Overall 1st Place Team: Cole Permenter, Justin LeBlanc, Brad Schaeffer

Closest to the Pin: Nathan Robert

Longest Drive: R.J. Perault

1st Place Putting Contest: Dean Schmitt

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS:

Acadian House, Blocker Tree and Landscape, The Stabler Foundation, The Larson Family, Cypress Title, EBS/Court Call, Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux, Labarre Construction, Borden, Hamilton Sales, SoLou, Portobello's, P-Beau's, Smokin Aces BBQ, City Café, Community Coffee, Tramonte's, Coca-Cola, Izzo's Illegal Burrito, and Ruffino's

