
St. Michael's Lutheran School - Richville, Michigan

Principal's Pen - August 24-28, 2020

“Living By Faith” - *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.- Joshua 1:9*

Welcome Back Everyone!



Welcome to St. Michael's - Home of the Raiders!

Despite everything going on in the last half year or so, we have made it to the beginning of another school year. We praise and thank our Heavenly Father for giving us this little sense of “normal” back into our lives as long as it will stay. Together, we look forward to working with our families and community in promoting a Christian education that starts in the home and is exemplified in the school and those we interact with. Our school theme this year is based on a verse from Joshua, and a well-known one at that, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Summarized this year’s faculty, staff, students and their families will have a common theme, “Living in Faith.” We recognize that despite all of our efforts,

our wants, needs, dreams, and even expectations are all governed by and guided by our faith. As Christians, we confidently, and whole-heartedly root ourselves in Christ, knowing that He is in control of all things. We are active participants in our Christian walk together. By faith, our actions, words, and lives are to reflect the love of Jesus to all those we meet. The Gospel, and its saving truth, have been made known to us and it is through the Word and Christ as Savior that we rest assured and confident in our faith - no matter what happens today, tomorrow, or the future yet to be revealed.

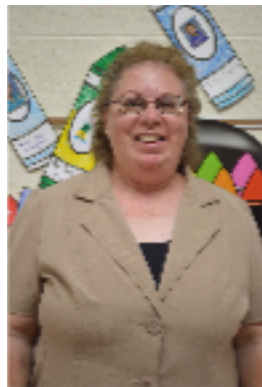
We have made many preparations for returning to school here this year, and continue to do everything possible to ensure that safety for all - students, families, and staff - is top priority. Our goal is to provide you, our families and students, with dedicated, in-person instruction and if necessary, online instruction should Michigan go back to Phase 3. Training and preparation for our faculty and staff has and will continue to take place regarding COVID-19 safety precautions and maintenance and families will be kept up-to-date with any new information. St. Michael's is committed to providing a strong Christian education while maintaining a school environment which is safe and clean.

In addition to many of the physical changes around our school, we also welcome a new group of kindergarten students to our K-8 family. We also welcome five new staff members including Ms. Bethany Daenzer (1st Grade), Mrs. Deborah Doan (2nd Grade), Mrs. Jill Sella (Cook), Mr. Justin Hecht (Athletic Director), and Dr. Jon Eifert (Music). Together with the rest of the staff, we are truly looking forward to working with your students while sharing the love of Jesus with them each day. Our thanks to you, our parents, for entrusting us with your students as we start this school year. Together we can learn, grow, support, and succeed in providing our students with a strong, Christian education.

Please welcome these new staff members when you see them!



Dr. Eifert, Music



Mrs. Doan, 2nd Grade



Mrs. Sella, Cook



Ms. Daenzer, 1st Grade

St. Michael's COVID Policy Reminders



Children and staff will be monitored for signs or symptoms of COVID-19 daily and will be asked to stay home or return home if any of the following applies:

- ***Have a fever of 100 degrees or higher***
 - ***Have had a fever of 100 degrees or higher or other potential symptoms of COVID-19, such as shortness of breath or persistent dry cough, within the last 72 hours***
 - ***Have come in contact with others who have tested positive for or have symptoms of COVID-19.***
- Exceptions to St. Michael's absentee policy will be handled on a case by case basis if and when necessary for individuals in consultation

with Tuscola County Health Department.

To clarify statement #3 of the COVID policy, please be advised that in compliance with executive order 2020-166 and guidelines from the CDC, persons who have been exposed to but not displaying symptoms of COVID-19 are supposed to isolate/quarantine 14 days from the last "close contact" (Within 6ft for 15mins). This is specifically important when it comes to parents and their children. If you know or believe you have been in this situation, please contact Mr. Chaveriat as soon as possible.

Additionally, it should be noted that if you are planning to travel, please do some online research about the areas you are traveling through and ultimately to. Many states have different rules about quarantine and isolation procedures. Please let the office know about any travel plans you may have, especially dates of departure and arrival back home.

Mask Reminders...



Quick reminders about masks when in or around the school facilities. Masks are to be worn when...

- Entering and exiting the building whether before, during or after school hours.
- When in public spaces where social distancing is difficult or non-existent.
- Traveling in the halls or in common parts of the facility.
- Grades K-5 may remove masks once they are in their classrooms.
- Grades 6-8 must wear a mask at all times except, then they are in their own cohort outside, socially distanced, or when eating.
- If your child(ren) will be using bus transportation, they will need to have their masks on before and during their ride.

Home Learning Environment: What is it & Why?

KidsHealth from Nemours, <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/homework.html>, Eric J. Gabor

Kids are more successful in school when parents take an active interest in their homework — it shows kids that what they do is important. Of course, helping with homework shouldn't mean spending hours hunched over a desk. Parents can be supportive by demonstrating study and organization skills, explaining a tricky problem, or just encouraging kids to take a break. And who knows? Parents might even learn a thing or two! Here are some tips to guide the way!

1. Know the teachers — and what they're looking for. Attend school events, such as parent-teacher conferences, to meet your child's teachers. Ask about their homework policies and your involvement.



2. Set up a homework-friendly area. Make sure kids have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies — paper, pencils, glue, scissors — within reach.

3. Schedule a regular study time. Some kids work best in the afternoon, following a snack and play period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.

4. Help them make a plan. On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child to break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary — and take time for a 15-minute break every hour, if possible.

5. Keep distractions to a minimum. This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.)

6. Make sure kids do their own work. They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it's a kid's job to do the learning.

7. Be a motivator and monitor. Ask about assignments, quizzes, and tests. Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.

8. Set a good example. Do your kids ever see you diligently balancing your budget or reading a book? Kids are more likely to follow their parents' examples than their advice.

9. Praise their work and efforts. Post an aced test or art project on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives.

10. If there are continuing problems with homework, get help. Talk about it with your child's teacher. Some kids have trouble seeing the board and may need glasses; others might need an evaluation for a learning problem or attention disorder.



Raider Nation - Athletics

We are off to a great start with our St. Michael's Raider athletes - though we are unsure of the certainty of all their seasons we continue to prepare our student athletes the best we can. We have 3 different Fall sports teams currently happening and have been blessed with a number of committed volunteers to help our student athletes.

We are also welcoming our new Athletic Director (AD) Mr. Justin Hecht to St. Michael's this year. Mr. Hecht comes to us with knowledge and experience in a variety of areas as both a player and as coach. He is an alumni of St. Michael's Lutheran School, having attended his K-8 years here in addition to helping coach some of our basketball teams in the past.



Our Girls' Volleyball teams are currently under

restricted practice rules which allow them to practice following acceptable social distancing measures and cleanliness standards. At this time, competition is not allowed between schools according to the Michigan High School Athletics Association (MHSAA), Tri-County Lutheran League (TCLL) and all practices must be held outdoors. Should the State of Michigan and MHSAA allow for indoor use and competition, there will most likely be different guidelines to follow. St. Michael's & Mr. Justin Hecht will continue to update you all as things get closer and hopefully better.



Our Boys' Soccer team has also been hard at work as they condition themselves for their season. They are hopeful that this season will indeed take place. Just like volleyball, soccer is practicing good social distancing skills and techniques which allow them to practice safely. Their practices are also outside as normal with a few others safety practices implemented. Their competition is also restricted at this point to just practices until further notice from MHSAA and the Tri-County Lutheran League (TCLL). St. Michael's & Mr. Justin Hecht will continue to update you all as things get closer and hopefully better.



Finally, our cross country team has seen some growth this year as more student athletes join their ranks. As the uncertainty of what volleyball and soccer continues, some have chosen to either switch or participate in both programs. Cross country is the only sport currently offered by St. Michael's which is able to compete to some degree. While practices still maintain social distancing and other safety measures, students in cross country will be able to compete to some degree this fall as schedules and meets allow.

Should you have questions regarding school athletics please contact the appropriate coach, Mr. Hecht (AD), or the school office. You may reach Mr. Hecht via FastDirect as well.

Media Center Notes



This year, students and their families are able to browse the library card catalog online. Students all have a log in to be able to put books on hold,

so that the books can be delivered to their classrooms. Login is not required to browse.

To access Destiny Discover, go here:

<https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/103349>

Don't forget, you can also check your AR points from home. Just use your child's AR login.

<https://global-zone08.renaissance-go.com/studentprogress/homeconnect?t=133412>

Upcoming Events

8/29 Mrs. Bierlein's B-Day

9/2 Mr. Kern's B-Day

9/4 NO SCHOOL: Labor Day Wknd.

9/7 NO SCHOOL: Labor Day Wknd.

9/14 PTL Meeting

9/16 School Picture Day

9/21 Board of Education Meeting