

St. Michael C.A. News

Elementary Regional Arts Program

Dream ~ Believe ~ Achieve

Trustee: Carol Cotton
Superintendent: Laura Sawicky
Principal: Dayna Fitzpatrick
Secretary: Catherine Pawlick-Grimes
Secretary: Jennifer Pereira
Parish: Rev. Anthony Iacobelli

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Newsletter #1 September 2020

Daily Schedule

8:45 am-yard supervision begins
9:00 am-morning entry
10:25-10:40 am-morning recess
12:00-1:00 pm-lunch & recess
2:05 2:20 pm-afternoon recess
3:30 pm-dismissal

recess/lunch schedule Dragons and Trumpets (see page 7)

Dear Families of St. Michael Academy,

With the first day of school just around the corner we know that there may be challenges and changes. But there is also hope, friendships and a community that awaits us. Together we will persevere with courage!

We wish all of our returning and new students, whether choosing in person or remote learning, a successful, healthy and happy school year!

We pray for God's blessing as we continue to build a strong and positive school community, find success in all our efforts and make new friends!

Dayna Fitzpatrick
Principal



September's Catholic Virtue: *Courage*

I will stand up for what I know

is right and just. I will face challenges, fears and difficulty with courage. I will take responsibility for reaching my potential.

The Newsletter will be phased out as current news will be shared with parents via messenger, our school website: sml.ycdsb.ca and twitter, @smlycdsb



Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Mission Statement

Guided by Gospel values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Vision Statement

Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.

Core Values

Excellence Equity
Fiscal Responsibility Catholicity Inclusion
Integrity Respect

Strategic Commitments

Integration of Our Catholic Faith Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement
Effective Use of Our Resources Engaging Our Communities

"Courage is the magic that turns dreams into reality." R. Abend

Catholic Virtue Recognition:

Each month we recognize students who demonstrate the Catholic Virtue attributes with a certificate, wrist band (on hold), photo (on hold) and Radio Show announcement. September's Catholic Virtue is **Courage**.

Civvies Day: The last Friday of each month students are invited to wear 'civvies' and make a donation to a selected Catholic charity.

Friday September 25th, will be our September Civvies day. Your invitational donation will go towards the **Terry Fox Foundation**.



Terry Fox Marathon of Hope

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope. To date over 800 million dollars has been raised for cancer research. In a recent interview with CTV news, Fred Fox, Terry's brother reminds us of the following.

"Terry faced all kinds of challenges along the way - you know being diagnosed with cancer first, and then making that effort of running across Canada - he was challenged every day, faced the challenges and was very determined. If there is ever a time when we need to be reminded about heroes, if we needed to be reminded about what we are as a world, and why it is so important to get involved and come together and make a difference, now is the time."

Integration of Our Catholic Faith



Dear Parent(s) Guardian(s),

As we begin another school year, I invoke God's blessing on St. Michael Academy, our Principal, our teachers and staff, and our students. May all of us come closer to the Lord in our journey of Faith.

Prayer for our schools, teachers and students

Heavenly Father, our world is broken and we are more aware of that than ever as a result of this COVID pandemic.

WE pray Lord, that you might sustain us in all that we do in this moment. Especially we pray for those involved in education and training. As our schools seek to continue their important work in stressful and difficult circumstances, would you please keep teachers and students safe, and help them to care for each other.

Father, all our hope is in you. Amen

In Christ,

Fr. Anthony

Feast of St. Michael

The Feast of St. Michael is September 29th.

St. Michael is one of the three angels mentioned by name in the Scriptures. The first reference occurs in the Book of Daniel, where Michael comes to comfort Daniel after he has had a vision, and promises to be his helper in all things. St. Michael is called "the great prince who standeth for the children of Thy people." The name Michael signifies "Who is like to God." He has been especially honored and invoked as patron and protector by the Church from the time of the Apostles. St. Michael is the patron of grocers, mariners, paratroopers, police, and those that are experiencing illness.



Buddy Bench

Friendship Bench

Thank you to our **Catholic School Council** for supporting the purchase of another "Friendship Bench" for our school.

Recently installed in our yard the Friendship Bench and the Buddy Bench are places to go if you have no one to play with or if you need some quiet time. If you see someone on the Buddy Bench...

- ask them to play
- ask them to walk and talk (physical distance)
- speak with the person sitting on the bench

These 'Benches' foster friendships, radiate kindness and inclusion and encourage our students to learn about helping one another. The Buddy Bench helps to build empathy, reinforce inclusiveness, and acts as a constant reminder to everyone to be kind to one another.



Engaging Our Communities

2020-2021 School Agendas

St. Michael Catholic Academy will be using Agendas as a communication and organizational tool for students, teachers and parents in Grades 1-8. A letter will be sent home shortly.

'WHEELS' At St. Michael Academy

Physical activity and healthy choices are encouraged, so it is great to see the use of bikes, scooters, skateboards and inline skates by our students. Wear a helmet!!! Ensure these items are locked or securely stored. For safety reasons, students must walk onto and off of school property.

Catholic School Council

We are currently waiting for next direction from the Ministry of Education with regards to Catholic School Council Elections. When this information becomes available it will be shared with the community.

A meeting to close the 2019-2020 Catholic School Council will be scheduled shortly, information/date to follow.

Your involvement, time and efforts benefit all the children in our school. CSC Meetings are open to all parents whose children attend St. Michael Catholic Academy. Thank you for all that you do to support Catholic education, for our students, staff and for the entire school community.

Currently the Hot Lunch Program, Milk Program and Kid's Kitchen are not available.

St. Michael Academy Uniform:

Uniforms are available by contacting DGN Kilters at www.dgn-kilters.com

We understand that it may be difficult to have a complete uniform at this time due to back orders. Please try your best to wear navy blue pants and a collared golf shirt, blue or white until uniform orders are ready.

Please see attached information regarding St. Michael Academy school uniform.

Dream
Believe
Achieve

Engaging Our Communities

2019-2020 Yearbooks have arrived!!!

The **2019-2020 Yearbook** has arrived and it looks fantastic!! I want to thank our Yearbook Committee for working diligently behind the scenes in persevering to complete this project for the St. Michael Academy community. Thank you Ms. Coelho, Ms. Huh, Ms. Burke, Ms. Belcastro, and Ms. Skenderis. Thank you for all your hard work, it is greatly appreciated and will be treasured by our families, this year especially.

Congratulations to Ronnen N. (gr. 9), Front Cover Design and Isabella A. (gr. 4) Back Cover Design. Thank you Ronnen and Isabella and to all of our students who entered the design cover contest. Thank you for sharing your artistic talents with the St. Michael Academy Community.

Yearbooks will be sent home the week of September 21st

*extra yearbooks are available (limited number) see attached order form

Phone Calls & Cell Phones: We would like to remind parents that students should use the school phone for emergencies. If students need to call or text home, we request that this is done in the office area. Cell phones should be turned off and out of sight while on school property. Exceptions will be made if cell phones are required for health or medical purposes and to support special education needs. Please refer to the Board Policy 318 "Personally Owned Electronic Devices" for further information.

Food & Celebrations

As many of our students and some staff members have life threatening peanut /shellfish, etc., allergies, we kindly ask that you refrain from bringing food items to school to share. This includes birthday celebrations, Tim Horton's, cakes, or treat bags at Halloween etc., that contain any food item. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping all of our community safe. Due to the Health & Safety of all our community **No FOOD SHARING** of any kind will take place.

Please refer to www.ycdsb.ca for various policies...

Healthy Schools: 201

The Protection of Anaphylactic Students: 209

Pediculosis (Head Lice): 210

**SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH PREVALENT MEDICAL
CONDITIONS: DIABETES: 213**

Engaging Our Communities

Elementary Start Dates (for both face to face and remote learning):

September 10: Grades 1-3

September 11: JK/SK "Kindergarten"

September 14: Grades 7 & 8

September 15: Grades 4-6 (3/4 class)

September 10: Grade 1-3 8:45 am-9:00 am: students arrive and go directly into the school and are directed to their classroom

September 11: JK/SK 8:45 am-9:00 am: students are brought to the Kindergarten fence and met by teacher, Grade 1-3 are in the large school yard (in their boundary) and wait for bell to ring, line up outside and will be met by a teacher to bring into the school.

All Students will be taught their yard boundary (see notes below)

September 14: Grade 7 & 8 8:45 am-9:00 am: students arrive and go directly into the school and are directed to their classroom. JK/SK students are brought to the Kindergarten fence and met by teacher. Grade 1-3 are in the large school yard and stay in their boundary and wait for the bell to ring, line up outside and will be met by a teacher to bring into the school.

September 15: Grade 4-6 and Grade 3/4 Class 8:45 am -9:00 am: students arrive and go directly into the school and are directed to their classrooms. JK/SK students are brought to the Kindergarten fence and met by teacher. Grade 1-3 and Grades 7 & 8 are in the large school yard and stay in their boundary and wait for the bell to ring, line up outside and will be met by a teacher to bring into the school.

September 16-onwards: all students arrive 8:45 am-9:00 am, stay in the large school yard in their boundary and wait for the bell to ring, line up outside and be met by a teacher who leads students into the school. Kindergarten students go to the Kindergarten fenced area.

***if it is inclement weather on any of the staggered entry days, we will follow inclement weather procedures, in that all students come into the building, social distancing and go directly to their classrooms.**

Engaging Our Communities

Recess:

-students will clean hands, remove and store masks in their classroom and have recess in the morning or afternoon to maintain cohorts in hallways and at recess
-upon returning to the classroom, students will wash/sanitize their hands and put their mask back on
-we are asking that you send your child with an activity for recess, we will introduce ball activities the week of September 21st, 2020, once proper sanitization, routines and boundaries have been taught

10:25 am - 10:40 am **Cohort A "Dragons"** -outside for recess (all 1st floor classes)
Cohort B "Trumpets" - inside for recess (all 2nd floor classes)

2:05 pm-2:20 pm **Cohort B "Trumpets"** - outside for recess (all 2nd floor classes)
Cohort A "Dragons" -inside for recess (all 1st floor classes)

The **Kindergarten** class has their own fenced in yard and washroom and therefore are not a part of the whole school recess. The Kindergarten schedule will be provided by the classroom teacher.

Lunch

12:00 pm -12:20 pm Lunch Time at desk for **Cohort B "Trumpets"**
Cohort A "Dragons" outside

12:20 pm - 12:40 pm Transition Time for **Cohort A Dragons & Cohort B Trumpets**
washing hands returning indoors, washing hands preparing to go outdoors

12:40 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch Time at desk for **Cohort A "Dragons"**
Cohort B "Trumpets" outside

Effective Use of Our Resources

Safety Reminders:

Ensuring that we are providing a safe environment for all students both within, outside, and coming to and leaving from school is our shared responsibility. School staff will follow specific safety protocols to ensure your child's safety and we would ask that parents also adhere to the safety practices outlined below.

Parents who walk or drive their children to school are asked to say their good-byes before the children enter the school yard. In addition to fostering a sense of independence, this routine affirms the school's safety protocol that the only people in the school yard are the supervising teachers.

Parents of Kindergarten students are asked to bring their children directly to the Kindergarten yard between 8:45am and 9:00am.

-school doors are locked at 8:45 am, please come to the front doors and buzz for entrance with your child if you arrive after 9:00am, a late slip will be provided

-When dropping off or picking up your child at school, please use the designated parking area. The school parking lot is very busy, it is recommended that you use the church parking lot and walk your child(ren) to the school yard area.

Parent Parking: Visitor parking spaces are marked with appropriate signage and are for the general use of parents and / or other visitors to the school throughout the day. The number of 'visitor' parking spaces is limited. Please do not use 'visitor parking' to drop off/pick up your child. Parking is generally available at the Church and on side-streets. Please be a good neighbor and obey the road signs and times indicated.

Kiss N' Ride: On the east side (by the Church), there is staff parking and student drop-off area. **SAFETY FIRST**—single lane of traffic only, stay to the right side. When students are dropped-off, they should proceed directly to the school yard. Do not pass other vehicles in the drop-off area as students exit vehicles. Patience and cooperation ensures student safety. There is **NO PARKING** in the Kiss N' Ride. Please do not use the visitor parking to drop your child off in the morning. This creates a dangerous situation and impedes the flow of traffic in the Kiss N' Ride area. If you plan to walk your child to the school yard, please park at the Church or on a side-street and walk to the school along the sidewalk.

Bus Loop Shared with German Mills P.S.: We share a one-way bus loop with our neighbouring school German Mills P.S. The Bus Loop is for German Mills staff (parking), German Mills student drop-off, and school buses for both our schools. **Please do not drive/park in the BUS LOOP area before or after school.**

Morning Supervision and Dismissal:

School yard supervision begins each morning at **8:45am** in the school yard. Unless students are registered in the *Before and After Program*, they **MUST NOT be dropped-off early**, as there is no teacher supervision. Students are dismissed at 3:30pm, and should depart from the school grounds promptly and follow their pre-arranged after-school routine (B & A Program, bus, walk home, parent pick up, etc.) If a student is not picked up at 3:30, he/she should come directly to the office.

Your child's safety and that of all of our students depends on everyone's cooperation. Thank you for your support.

Effective Use of Our Resources

Student Transportation:

Important reminder for families of students who qualify for bussing at St. Michael Catholic Academy. If your child does not qualify for bussing, please ignore this message.

Welcome to a new school year.

Please go to www.schoolbuscity.com , click on “Find Your Bus Stop” and follow the instructions. You may also find this information on the YCDSB website, <https://www.ycdsb.ca/> go to the bottom of the page and click on “Student Transportation” and click on www.schoolbuscity.com Alternate arrangements for your child's pick up from school must be communicated to their teacher/office. This includes, before and after care, parent pick up or other people picking up your child.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Parent Responsibilities:

The following is a list of responsibilities for parents. The information is a guide to ensure students safe travel to and from school.

*JK, SK and Grade 1 students must be met at the bus stop by a responsible person.

Student Transportation Services of York Region, (STSYR), has developed a new Safety Program page for parents and students on the www.schoolbuscity.com website which provides access to valuable safety information.

* Parents should understand the need to make alternative arrangements for their child/children if the school bus is late.

* Parents should arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the regularly scheduled pick-up and drop-off times (10 minutes during the first week of school).

* Parents should know their child/children's route number.

* Parents should know their child/children's bus stop location.

* Parents should know the school (St. Michael Catholic Academy: 905-889-4816) and bus company (First Student: 905-770-1866) phone number in the event of an emergency.

* Parents are reminded to refer to the Late Bus Report on the Student Transportation Services website at www.schoolbuscity.com prior to leaving for the bus stop in the mornings and afternoons.

Administration of Medication: If your child requires prescription/non-prescription medication, check with your doctor about the possibility of prescribing medication that could be taken before school and/or after your child returns home. If your child is required to take medication at school, it is the YCDSB's policy that parents submit a completed Administration of Medication Form to the school with the medication. Do not send medication to school without notifying the school and completing the form. Medication is kept at the office. (Policy 207A 207B)

Emergency Contact Forms

Please take the time to ensure that the information on the Emergency Contact form is accurate and current. With the beginning of a new school year, there is a lot of student data that requires inputting into our system to ensure the safety of all of our students. Your support is greatly appreciated! Once received, please return all forms as soon as possible.

Effective Use of Our Resources

Pediculosis (Head Lice) Policy 210

The York Catholic District School Board recognizes concerns related to pediculosis (head lice) at the school and community level. Pediculosis (head lice) are not a public hazard, as they do not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. To prevent pediculosis (head lice) from becoming a problem at our school we all need to work together. Please check your child's head on a regular basis for lice or nits. If you do find lice or nits, you must contact the office so that we can notify other parents in your child's class to keep a special watch for any signs of head lice.

A student's readmission to school is contingent upon the Parent/Guardian submitting a completed and signed "Pediculosis Treatment Form" communicating to the Principal that treatment for pediculosis (head lice) has been administered.

More information on the identification, treatment and prevention of pediculosis (head lice) from the Canadian Pediatric Society (<http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/headlice>) and Toronto Public Health (toronto.ca/health) is available on the school's website. A hard copy of the information posted on the school's website will be provided by the Principal if requested by the Parent/Guardian.

School Communication to parents related to Policy 206: Protection of Students with Asthma

In accordance with the *Act to Protect Pupils with Asthma* (Ryan's Law : Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools, 2015) the Board approved a new policy # 206: *Protection of Students with Asthma* at its June 21st Board Meeting. The York Catholic District School Board recognizes that there are some students within the school system who have a diagnosis of asthma which could be life threatening. The York Catholic District School Board also recognizes that asthma management is a shared responsibility among students, parents, caregivers and the entire school community.

It is the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to advise the school immediately upon registration and/or when in receipt of a diagnosis of asthma. It is also the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that all medical information pertinent to their child's diagnosis of asthma is always current.

If your child has a diagnosis of asthma please contact the school office immediately so that the appropriate forms are completed and school records are up to date in accordance with Policy 206.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this request and your ongoing support in the shared responsibility for asthma management in our school. Please refer to the Board's website for more information related to Policy 206.

The Protection of Anaphylactic Students Policy 209: The York Catholic District School Board has a comprehensive policy for students with life threatening allergies. As outlined in the policy, parents are asked to inform the school of such allergies immediately and are required to fill in specific forms with yearly updated photos, which are available in the office. Parents are required to provide the school with two (2) up-to-date, single-dose applications of Epinephrine auto-injector. We ask that **NO PRODUCTS** be brought into the school that may contain nut products such as peanut butter, certain types of candy bars, cookies, etc. Please be sure to read all label ingredients. Fresh vegetables, fruit, 'no nut' granola bars, raisins, etc., make great snacks for your child(ren). Thank you for your cooperation.

2019-2020 Yearbook has arrived!

If your family ordered a yearbook it will be sent home the week of September 21st, 2020. Extra copies are available for \$30.00. Please complete the order form and return to your child's teacher.

Name of Student: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

_____ cheque (made payable to St. Michael Academy)

_____ exact cash

(online orders no longer available)

Families will be responsible to reimburse SMCA for any charges incurred as a result of non-sufficient Funds (NSF) payments. The fee of \$12 will be in addition to the amount owing

St. Michael Catholic Academy

We believe that the St. Michael Catholic Academy uniform:

- fosters a sense of unity, belonging and pride in the students and school community
- offers convenience for students and their parents
- provides an attractive, practical and comfortable style of clothing for the students.
- assists with identification and security at school and on excursions

Dress Code:	Uniform
Board approved uniform supplier:	DGN Kilters (www.dgn-kilters.com)
Last updated:	May 19 th , 2020

Acceptable dress code items:

Items available at DGN Kilters are marked with an asterisk (*)

- ~*crested* golf shirt * or non-crested golf shirt -white or navy blue, long or short sleeved
- ~*crested* cardigans *, sweatshirts * -navy blue
- ~kilts *, skorts, shorts -navy blue (no shorter than 5cm above the knee)
- ~dress shirt/blouse -white only, long or short sleeved
- ~turtlenecks -white or navy blue
- ~pants -navy blue, cotton
- ~socks/leotards –navy blue
- ~shoes -dress shoes: black -indoor shoes: navy/white/black or combination of three, non-scuffing soles
- ~hair accessories: bands, clips, elastics-white /navy blue
- ~gym attire: although not mandatory it is available through DGN Kilters (shorts, etc.,)

Civvies Day:

Last Friday of the Month (donation to Catholic charity)
Students are invited to wear casual clothing.

Choir:

As set by the Choir Director

All Instrumental Bands:

As set by the Band Director (see attached)

Unacceptable dress code items:

The following items are not part of the school uniform and therefore, not permitted (with the exception of Civvies Day if noted):

- jeans, t-shirts (exception on Civvies Day)
- leggings/yoga pants (exception on Civvies Day, student must wear a top that covers thigh area)
- cargo pants, track pants (exception on Civvies Day)
- sandals, flip flops, boots (Uggs, work boots), crocs (not permitted)
- make-up/jewelry is not encouraged but if worn by intermediate students should be minimal
- shoulder straps narrower than three fingers, tops that reveal midriff