



St. Michael  
Catholic School

Kindergarten Readiness  
& Kindergarten  
Handbook

2010-2011



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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Dedicated to spiritual growth, academic excellence, and social development,  
the mission of Saint Michael Catholic School  
is to prepare our students to live the Gospel message  
in an ever changing and diverse world.

## **ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY**

We are dedicated to:

- Helping students learn and live the Catholic faith in an environment where Christian values are taught and modeled. Preparing students for active participation in the Church's social mission
- Respecting the dignity of individuals regardless of race, gender, economic, or religious background.
- Creating an atmosphere in which students, parents, and staff can worship, learn, work and celebrate together.
- Designing curricula to include mastery of basic skills, development of critical thinking, and encouragement of children to reach their full potential and to function as contributing members of society.
- The development of self-acceptance, self-control, and individual responsibility. Students, parents, and staff are expected to support the rules and policies of St. Michael Catholic School.



## Are you questioning . . . KINDERGARTEN READINESS OR KINDERGARTEN?

Author and teacher Jacquie McTaggart states in the January / February 2009 issue of Family Times magazine:

“The chance of causing harm to your child by holding him/her out of a traditional kindergarten for a year is small; the damage that can occur by sending him/her to kindergarten before he is ready is huge.”

Children’s academic, social and emotional development requires time to evolve. Kindergarten readiness cannot be forced or accelerated.

You have plenty of information about your child from a variety of sources including: Kindergarten screening, preschool teacher input, your pediatrician, and, of course, your own experience with your child.

As you reflect upon your child’s characteristics, consider the following:

Does your child demonstrate:

- A strong need for free play?
- Difficulty separating from you?
- Following through on directions without repeated instruction?
- The ability to get dressed independently?
- A need for one-on-one attention to accomplish tasks?
- Patience while waiting?

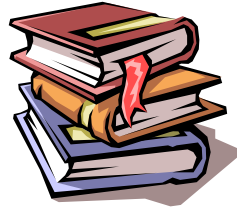
These are a few characteristics to consider when determining your child’s placement. Like you, we want your child to have a positive start to their education. Please call us if you have concerns about your child’s readiness, or if he/she has any special needs.



## PREPARING FOR SEPTEMBER

Here are some activities to help your child get ready for Kindergarten:

- Help them zip up tie their shoes, button, fasten belts
- Encourage participation at Mass (avoid toys and snacks at church)
- Read, read, read to them and ask them about the stories
- Count things with them
- Notice letters, shapes, numbers
- Help them write their name (sample sheet included)
- Cut, draw, paste, fold, color and do puzzles
- Help them find solutions to problems without crying or hitting
- Give them jobs to do – allow them to do the jobs!
- Give directions once and see that they follow-through
- Give them opportunities to wait, to share
- Allow your child to speak for himself or herself
- Help them learn your phone number and address



## ST. MICHAEL KINDERGARTEN READINESS AND KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

Please keep in mind that the Kindergarten Readiness curriculum will be exposing the students to the skills listed below, whereas the Kindergarten curriculum will attain mastery of many of these skills.



### RELIGION/SOCIAL STUDIES

- How to be like Jesus
- Formal Prayers: Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel, and The Sign of the Cross
- Scripture stories
- Church holy days
- Praise songs
- School service projects
- Weekly scripture verse (Kindergarten only)
- Weekly chapel service (Kindergarten only)



### LANGUAGE ARTS

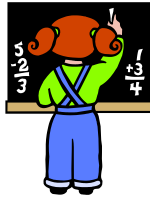
#### SKILLS

- Recognition of upper and lower case letters
- Forming letters and numbers
- Association of sounds with letters
- Learning left to right/top to bottom direction, for reading
- Developing vocabulary

- Comprehending and sequencing
- Blending CVC (consonant vowel, consonant words)
- Sight words (the, for, of, this)
- Reading, such as simple, repetitive stories
- Printing on lined paper (Kindergarten only)
- Expressing complete ideas (Kindergarten only)
- Forming sentences (Kindergarten only)

Skills are taught through:

- Emerging literacy books, big books and literature stories
- Songs, poems, art
- Large group lessons, small group and individual reinforcement
- Multi-sensory handwriting curriculum
- Journal writing (Kindergarten only)
- Paper - pencil tasks (Kindergarten only)



## MATH

### SKILLS

#### Number Sense

- Recognition and counting of numbers 0 - 100
- Skip counting by 2's, 5's, 10's
- Counting backwards
- One to one correspondence
- Comparing, estimating and ordering numbers
- Place value

#### Concepts

- Ordinal Numbers (first, second, third, etc.)
- Left - right, top, bottom, middle
- Sorting and classifying size, shape, color
- Patterning
- Measurement of length, volume, and weight
- Telling time to hour
- Counting money
- Graphing
- Fractions
- Adding to 20
- Subtracting to ten (10)
- Story problems

These skills are taught by:

- Using manipulatives
- Songs
- Games
- 100th Day Celebration
- Large group daily activities (calendar time, birthday graph, weather charting, number line)
- Paper-pencil tasks (Kindergarten only)



## SCIENCE

### TOPICS:

- Life Science: Plants & Animals
- Earth Science: Our Earth, Sky & Weather
- Physical Science: Matter & Motion



## COMPUTER/MEDIA

- Learning the parts of the computer
- Opening and closing programs
- Producing work on the computer
- Learning to care for books
- Locating books in the library
- Sharing and enjoying literature



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Emphasis on gross motor development



## ART/MUSIC

- Exploring Art Media (markers, colored pencils, crayons, paint)
- Art history and appreciation (Kindergarten Only)
- Using materials (glue, scissors, etc.)
- Chanting, singing, rhyming, and finger plays
- Rhythm and pattern
- Group singing and performing



## SOCIAL SKILLS

- Respecting others, sharing, taking turns
- Being kind and courteous and helpful
- Working together as a class
- Taking care of the classroom and the school
- Sharing of and listening to the ideas of others
- Cooperating with students, teachers, other adults
- Developing friendships
- Developing independence
- Learning to be socially appropriate

## WORK HABITS

- Using time wisely, being on-task
- Taking ownership and pride in work
- Self control
- Task completion
- Using materials appropriately
- Cleaning up work spaces



## KINDERGARTEN READINESS & KINDERGARTEN SUPPLIES

Please bring in these supplies on **Meet Your Teacher Night**. Please label the backpack, folders and pencil box with your child's name.

- 1 - backpack (preferably without wheels)
- 1 - Twelve pack Crayola colored pencils
- Two (2) ten (10) packs **Crayola Classic Colors Markers** (broad tip)
- 4 - Simple pocket folders (put their name on front on the top)
- One box of eight **(8) regular crayons** (Crayola)
- 4 - Standard glue sticks (Elmer's)
- 1 - Bottle white washable school glue (Elmer's)
- 1 - Children's Fiskers Scissors
- 1 - Pencil Box for Supplies
- 3 - Reams of 8.5" x 11" White copy paper (One ream per family each Trimester)
- \$13.00 to cover cost for Weekly Reader, Parties, and Field Day

On a rotating basis, you will be asked to send in snacks and any supplies that may need replenishing.



## AMBASSADOR FAMILIES

An ambassador family will contact each new family at St. Michael Catholic School this spring. Your ambassador family will be a resource to you during the school year to answer any questions you may have, provide information about school activities and make you feel welcome at St. Michael Catholic School.



## TRANSPORTATION

Please refer to the District Transportation Information Packet for bussing information. If you are providing your child's transportation, drop-off and pickup procedures will be explained at Orientation in September.



## ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL DRESS CODE/UNIFORM POLICY

St. Michael Catholic School believes that appropriate attire demonstrates respect for self, others, and occasions. While clothing may not define a person, a uniform appearance allows students' character to shine. Our dress code compliments our Catholic Christian values to help students develop a sense of modesty and appropriate taste. Our goal is to foster school pride and unity.

All St. Michael's students are expected to wear approved school uniforms throughout the normal school day,

- GIRLS:**
- a) St. Michael School jumper with a white blouse (pointed or Peter Pan collar) or turtleneck knit shirt (**K-4**)
  - b) Navy blue slacks or navy blue shorts (cords or twills) with approved knit blouse
  - c) Navy blue polo shirt with school logo
  - d) Plaid split skirt with approved white knit blouse (**K-8**)
  - e) Navy blue sweater, if appropriate
  - f) Navy blue/white knee socks, anklets or tights need to be worn at all times (**Solid white or navy blue socks must be worn and visible above the shoe—no lace, logos, or trim**)
  - g) All girls need to wear navy shorts under jumpers

- BOYS:**
- a) Navy blue pants (Dockers, cords, or twill) with an approved white knit shirt or turtleneck
  - b) Navy blue sweater, if appropriate
  - c) Navy blue polo shirt with school logo
  - d) **Solid** navy blue or white socks need to be worn at all times (Socks must be visible above the shoe with no logos or trim)
  - e) Navy blue shorts

### **GIRLS & BOYS:**

Banded shirts with St. Michael Logo can be worn untucked. An approved school monogrammed navy blue or gray sweatshirt may be worn over the white shirt/blouse. Order these through the Main Office.

## **FOOTWEAR:**

- Sturdy, flat-heeled athletic or dress shoes
- All shoes must have enclosed toes and backs
- Shoe laces must be tied
- No Crocs, Heelys, skaters, or flip-flops
- Boots are expected during winter weather but may not be worn in the classroom

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL STUDENTS:**

- Undergarments (worn under uniform shirts) must be solid white in color (no print or graphics)
- All pants must be worn at the waist
- No oversized or “sagging” pants
- No tight pants
- Unbanded shirts must remain tucked into pants
- Natural hair colors are acceptable

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLOTHES:**

Gym shoes need to be properly laced and tied.

## **UNIFORM SUPPLIER:**

Approved uniforms are available through Donald’s Department Store, 972 Payne Ave., St. Paul. Phone orders through Donald’s are accepted at 651-776-2723.

Donald’s representatives visit the campus in the summer to sell all needed uniform supplies. A uniform exchange for used uniforms is available to parents at this same time.

## **SPIRIT DAY ATTIRE GUIDELINES:**

Spirit Day will be the First Friday of every month. School “Blues” gear/Blues team shirts may be worn. All other uniform rules apply.

## **FREE DRESS DAYS:**

Free dress days are a privilege. Guidelines for Free Dress Days will be provided in advance. The school dress code and all of the above guidelines with respect to modesty, neatness, and appropriateness apply. Administration reserves the right to ask a student to change to appropriate attire at any time, including special dress days.

Student attire should be consistent with the following guidelines:

- No sleeveless shirts or low necklines
- No offensive words, phrases or pictures
- No exposed midriffs
- Shorts and dresses may be no more than 3 inches above the knee
- No caps or hats are to be worn

**Please label your child's sweaters and sweatshirts!**

**Thank you!**