

Greetings, St. Michael families,

I cannot adequately express my thanks for all you have done in your homes to support your children's continued academic and spiritual learning and growth over the last 6 weeks. It has been an intense experience filled with frustration, anxiety, uncertainty, some fun (I hope!) and, yes, many blessings. The end is in sight...finish strong!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

May Crowning & Consecration

Join us for MAY CROWNING! Live-streaming tomorrow, **Friday, May 1st, at 5:00pm**. Flowers may be brought to the grotto of Mary in front of the school any time on Friday. Please drive up and place flowers in the provided vases.

Father Borowiak and Father Schwenka will also be consecrating St. Michael parish to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. Archbishop José Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles and president of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops will consecrate the United States to Mary tomorrow, as well. Please tune in as a family and join us in prayer.

End of Year "Parade"

We can't hug or high five but we sure can smile and wave and say goodbye for the summer! St. Michael teachers will be standing 6 feet apart on the sidewalk Monday, May 18, to hand off, with gloved hands, students' personal effects from the classroom AND collect textbooks, library books, loaner tablets, and any other school property students may have. Teachers will do an inventory of all returned materials at a later date.

For the safety and protection of students and staff, please follow these protocols:

- Staggered pick up times
 - Last names ending with A-H - 9:00-10:00am
 - I-P - 10:00-11:00am
 - Q-Z - 11:00am-12:00pm
- Enter from the north Yankee Woods driveway and remain in a single file line along the curb.
- Bag all returning materials and label with student's name.
- Immediately exit drive-through by way of east driveway - no group congregating is allowable.

Registration for 2020-2021 School Year

We pray that we will see every student's beautiful face back with us when school resumes next August. What a celebration we will have! If you have not registered for the 2020-2021 school year, please go to the *Admissions* tab on the school website at <https://www.stmichaelmarauders.org>.

Class Assignments & Input Form

While we have 15 important days of learning left in this unusual conclusion to the 2019-2020 school year, we are beginning the process of making class assignments for next year for the grades that will have two sections - kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades. We approach this important decision in a very thoughtful and systematic manner, taking into consideration a variety of factors in developing class lists. Our first priority as we make assignments is to provide an optimal learning environment for all students. We strive for equitable, compatible, and balanced classes that take into account range of ability (heterogeneous grouping), gender, learning styles, and personality. We also look carefully at peer and social interaction patterns.

Final class assignments for the 2020-2021 school year will be made over the summer by team leaders, teachers, and administrators after extensive input and discussion and will be shared with parents and students via a summer email. Waiting to inform students allows us flexibility to place students new to our school and to finalize teaching assignments that may change over the summer.

If you would like to provide input into this process, **please complete the form [linked here](#) by May 22nd**. Please note that due to the many factors that must be considered when making class assignments, I ask that parents not make specific teacher requests. The demands associated with achieving balanced classes make it difficult to honor all such parent requests. Please also know that not providing written input on the form provided will have no effect on the care given to each child's placement.

CARES Act Feedback

The United States Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, And Economic Security (CARES) Act, which includes one-time relief funding for local school districts, intended to address challenges of providing education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Nebraska Department of Education is seeking feedback from all stakeholders to understand local needs as well as potential investments and supports. Please take a moment to complete this short survey: https://nde.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_efislqh4QDEA1KZ.

May God continue to bless and protect your family. St. Michael, pray for us,

Sue