

# Saint Michael School

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*Saint Michael, an accredited Catholic Elementary School, partners with families in the education of the mind, body, and soul of each child.*

+JMJ

February 13, 2024

Dear Parents of PreK Students,

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School, Mardi Gras, and our school's celebration of St. Valentine!

I wanted to write to you today in anticipation of the due date for the Letter of Intent for the 2024-2025 school year being tomorrow.

I have noticed in just the past few years that our PreK Families have started to base the decision of where to send their child for Kindergarten on whether or not they believe their child will have an easy or hard transition into public school in the future. Many that have not - or maybe are not this year - choosing SMS for Kindergarten have cited the fear that their child will have a difficult time making the transition into public high school. I must share with you that this has baffled me. As a graduate of SMS myself, sibling of 3 other graduates (who have all attended public high school), a former teacher, and a parishioner who has talked to countless graduates, this couldn't be further from what I've experienced, observed, and have had related to me.

I want to put your mind at ease that SMS graduates who have gone on to public high schools have flourished in all areas and have been valedictorians, salutatorians, lettermen and captains in every area of athletics that our public schools offer, homecoming queens, stars of dramas and musicals, contributing members of choir, band, and leaders in music such as drum majors, senior class officers, members or leaders of service clubs like Key Club as well as academic clubs, inducted into the National Honor Society, college-prep, AP, and vocational school students well ahead of their peers, junior counselors for younger classmen (this list is not exhaustive), and ultimately movers, shakers, and leaders in their communities, churches, fields of study, and work as adults. Our graduates often credit SMS and our teachers with the success they experience in high school, college, and into adulthood.

A couple just told me today that because of SMS, their two college-aged children are now excelling in their medical fields of study and have a great confidence in public speaking, because of the foundation and practice that they received at our school. This comment is not an uncommon one either. Parents such as these cite that SMS offered their children a smaller and safer environment in which these skills can blossom.

I understand that there are a great many factors that must be taken into account when choosing a school for your child, but I would encourage you to look at our track record of graduates and not let the transition between SMS and your child's next school be one of those factors that you need worry over.

I look forward to continuing our partnership in education and welcome any discussion or questions you may have!

St. Michael, pray for us!

Love,

Emily Zgonc 😊