



# School Days News!

~January 2021~



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



## Catholic Schools Week 2021

January 31 - February 6

Events to be announced in January

- Sunday, January 31: Celebrating Your Parish
- Monday, February 1: Celebrating Your Community
- Tuesday, February 2: Celebrating Your Students
- Wednesday, February 3: Celebrating the Nation
- Thursday, February 4: Celebrating Vocations
- Friday, February 5: Celebrating Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers
- Saturday, February 6: Celebrating Families

### DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 21: Dress up like your favorite person or animal from the First Christmas!
- Dec 22: NOON DISMISSAL**  
Christmas Shirts and Parties Day
- Dec 23 - Jan 3: Christmas Break**
- Dec 25: Birthday of Our Lord

### JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 4:** School resumes from Christmas break  
**REMOTE LEARNING**
- Jan 5: REMOTE LEARNING**
- Jan 6: REMOTE LEARNING**
- Jan 7:** Jeans Day - No charge  
**IN-PERSON LEARNING RESUMES**
- Jan 14: PTO Hot Lunch
- Jan 15: Quarter 2 Ends
- Jan 17: St. Michael Church Confirmation Retreat
- Jan 18: NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 20: Lunch money and orders for February due
- Jan 21: Dress Down Day - \$1 Donation
- Jan 28: Jeans Day - No charge
- Jan 31: CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK BEGINS!

### FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 31-Feb 5: Catholic Schools Week!!!!
- Feb 5: Last Day for Mitten Tree Donations
- Feb 11: PTO Hot Lunch  
Jeans Day - No Charge
- Feb 12: Act 80 Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- Feb 15: NO SCHOOL - President's Day**

- Feb 17: Ash Wednesday  
No Pepperoni Rolls  
March Lunch Order Forms Due
- Feb 18: Dress Down Day - \$1 Donation
- Feb 23: Quarter 3 Interim
- Feb 25: Jeans Day - No Charge

### Masks and Social Distancing

We want our children and staff to stay healthier than ever this year! Thank you for keeping your child home when sick and for following our guidelines so far as to when it is safe to return to school!

Another key element of staying healthy is following the November 20<sup>th</sup> Mask Order, **requiring** all of us, in school and on school/church property - including the playground - to wear masks or facial coverings AND maintain six feet of distance from those not in our households. This is a major shift from how we've been raised and lived. Thank you for your patience with this new policy. We ask that parents and visitors on our St. Michael campus respect the order and come (and remain) masked while on the property (inside or outside) as well as maintain a 6-foot distance. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Check out this link for Frequently Asked Questions about Masks:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Page/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx>



We want to send out some very heart-felt thank yous:

- Thank you to Fr. Christopher for being such a presence in and support to our school! Your visible and behind-the-scenes leadership means a lot to us!
- Thank you to the members of the PTO for all of their help with lunches and fundraisers!
- Thank you to Mr. Mike Varga who has been setting up IT until the position can be filled.
- Thank you to all of our families for their patience and understanding during Remote Learning.
- Thank you to all of our teachers who have been putting in extra time to make the remote learning experience rich and relevant.



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Congratulations to our newly appointed officers of our School Advisory Council!

President - Conor Scullin

Vice President - Mike Wingard

Recording Secretary - Trichelle Eddy!

## Communication

We welcome communication with you! With so many platforms to choose from, the teachers have decided that the best way for you to communicate with them is through the message feature on Class Dojo. Communication may occur between 7:30am and 3:00pm at the teacher's discretion. Any time after 3:00pm, please know that your child(ren)'s teacher(s) may not get back to you until the following day.

Mrs. Bates may be reached either by phone at 724-588-7050 or email at [stmike@neo.rr.com](mailto:stmike@neo.rr.com) or [lbates@smike1.org](mailto:lbates@smike1.org).

If you wish to communicate with Miss Zgonc during the same hours (7:30am - 3:00pm), you may use the Class Dojo message feature or her email address: [ezgonc@smike1.org](mailto:ezgonc@smike1.org). If school is in session, she may also be reached via phone at 724-588-7050. Miss Zgonc will continue to utilize the Option C parent alert system for school-wide updates.

## Remote Learning

With the Christmas upon us, we know that families will most likely be with those who are not normally in their immediate household. Because of this, cases are likely to rise after Christmas. We are going to be switching to a remote learning modality from January 4-6, with in-person classes resuming on January 7. This time will be used as a buffer period so any person who may have been exposed over the holiday will show symptoms or will know they have been exposed and need to quarantine.

Much more information, including virtual schedules, how-to videos, travel orders, etc. is available under the CURRENT FAMILIES tab on the SMS website: [www.saintmichael1.org](http://www.saintmichael1.org). We ask you all for your prayers as we move into the holiday season that we continue to stay safe and healthy.

For our online "homebase", PreK through Kindergarten has decided to use Google Sites. Grades 1 - 8 will be using the Google Classroom platform.

## Thank you from St. Michael Church!

St. Michael Church and Faith Formation Office would like to say thank you to everyone who donated cookies, candies, Christmas mugs, and Christmas cards for the Good Shepherd Center Dinner!

Also, thank you to everyone who donated money or gift cards for the Giving Tree!

January 17, 2021 there is a Confirmation Retreat. Please pray the Retreat goes well!

## LUNCHES

January's subs will be toasted turkey subs from Golden Pizza. January's PTO Hot Lunch will be on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> for those who ordered. It will come from Chick-fil-A and include a chicken sandwich, chips, fruit, and a small treat. Pizza on Fridays will still be purchased from Fox's Pizza Den and pepperoni rolls on Wednesdays will come from Golden Pizza.

Lunch orders for January are due to the school by December 16<sup>th</sup> due to Christmas Break. Lunch orders for February will be due by January 20<sup>th</sup>.



## Mitten Tree Donations

From now until February 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be collecting mittens, gloves, and winter hats for infants, children, and adults in need.



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## INCLEMENT WEATHER

With weather delays and cancellations coming, please be advised that St. Michael School will make an independent decision on whether to delay or cancel school. This decision is not decided by our surrounding public schools. Parents will be notified through our Option C alert system, KDKA TV, Youngstown TV Channels, and Erie TV.

## DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Please dress your child for outdoor recess and gym class. Unless it is raining or below freezing, teachers and students like to go outside for the fresh air. Remember boots and snow-pants when the snow arrives. Snow boots may not be worn in the school during the school day, only when going outside. Please send a change of shoes if your child is wearing snow boots.

## DRESS DOWN DAY

Dress Down Days are usually held once a month, on the third Thursday. Students and teachers pay \$1.00. Proceeds are donated to various service projects.

On December 17<sup>th</sup> we collected donations for the Good Shepherd Center for Dress Down Day. We collected a total of \$73.

January 21<sup>st</sup> is our next Dress Down Day. Proceeds will be given to the Knights of Columbus in Greenville.

If you know of a local organization that we can donate future Dress Down Day funds to, please call or email the school and let us know! We are always open to learning about new places and people who are doing beautiful things in our community.

## JEANS DAY

Jeans Days will be held every Thursday during the school year that we do not attend Mass. There is no charge to wear jeans on Jeans Day.

## Let Us Introduce.....

We will be highlighting two staff or faculty members every month!! It is our chance to let you know a little bit about each of us!

### Mr. Stephen Neral - PreK3

I was born in Brookfield, Ohio and graduated from Brookefield High School in 1989. I attended Youngstown State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education - Elementary Education and Special Education.



I still reside in Brookfield with my wife Shannon whom I married in July of 2020. Our blended family has six children ranging from age 10 to 27.

In my spare time, I enjoy playing golf and cheering on the Cleveland Browns and Ohio State Buckeyes.

### Mrs. Erica Dorio - PreK4

This is my fifth year at SMS and my third year in preschool. I love the family-like atmosphere and getting to know my students and their families. I have previous experience in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and subbing various grade levels. I received my undergraduate degree in Elementary and Special Education from Clarion University and my master's degree in Early Education from California University of Pennsylvania.



My previous experience includes working at Sharon City School District in an emotional support classroom. I worked there until we moved to Gettysburg where I taught and fell in love with preschool education. I taught preschool at St. James Childcare Center for three years before moving back home to Sharon, PA.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my husband and our Dorio zoo (three spoiled cats and one VERY spoiled dog). I enjoy being outdoors and hiking whenever possible! I also started gardening this summer and already can't wait to expand it! I also enjoy spending time with my neices and nephews when they come to visit. I'm looking forward to another great year at SMS!



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## Option C

Parents, please remember to log in daily to the Option C Homework/Gradebook/Alert System. If you are not receiving the alert messages by phone, email, or text, please contact the school office.



## Shamrock SHOUT-OUTS!



Thank you to Mrs. Bates for starting this initiative! Students and staff are encouraged to be on the lookout for exemplary behavior or character in fellow students and staff and "shout them out" by telling the school why on a shamrock cut-out which is added to our bulletin board. We are growing an amazing crop this year!

## SCRIP Gift Card Program

### Easy way to earn tuition credit!

Contact school office or the SCRIP Coordinator, Shannon Thomas, at 724-456-1279 for more information about the program or placing orders.

Christmas is upon us! Now a great time to purchase gift cards for Christmas gifts: either to give or to use! Visit [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) to see all the cards you can order from over 750 retailers. Order online or contact Shannon Thomas.

## 2020-2021 Tuition & FACTS Management

Any questions regarding tuition or FACTS should be directed to Mrs. Susan Swartzbeck in the St. Michael Church Business Office at 724-588-9800 or [saintmichaelbiz@gmail.com](mailto:saintmichaelbiz@gmail.com).



## BOX TOPS

Box Tops is changing to fit today's families. The new and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products, and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.

## Handbook Information

Parents, please look on the school website: [saintmichael1.org](http://saintmichael1.org) for the updated Handbook. It includes information about the dress code and COVID-19.

## Girls Uniform Exchange

SMS will be offering a uniform exchange of girls PLAID jumpers, skirts, or skorts. Please call the school office to ask about our inventory.

## Erin Scullin Basketball Tournament

It is with a very heavy heart that we have decided to cancel the annual Erin Scullin Basketball Tournament due to COVID. We greatly appreciate the support from our families, neighboring schools, community, staff, and faculty that we always receive during this event.

## Financial Aid Applications

More information about Financial Aid Applications will be coming home throughout the next two months. Please watch for applications to come home in January and/or February. A Parent Alert will be sent out each time an application is sent home. Please remember, these applications require tax information for the 2020 year to be sent with the application.



# January 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>NO SCHOOL</i>  <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</i>	2
3 	4 <i>REMOTE LEARNING</i>	5 <i>REMOTE LEARNING</i>	6 <i>REMOTE LEARNING</i> <i>Staff Meeting</i>	7 <i>Jeans Day - No Charge</i>	8	9 
10	11	12	13 <i>Staff Meeting</i>	14 <i>PTO Hot Lunch - Chick-fil-A</i> <i>Jeans Day - No Charge</i>	15 <i>Quarter 2 End</i>	16
17 	18 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	19	20 <i>Lunch Orders Due</i>  <i>Staff Meeting</i>	21 <i>Dress Down Day - \$1</i>	22	23 
24	25	26	27 <i>Staff Meeting</i>	28 <i>Jeans Day - No Charge</i>	29	30
31 <i>FIRST DAY OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!!!</i>						