

THE GUARDIAN GAZETTE

The Newsletter of St. Michael Academy

September 26, 2019

GUARDIAN GREETINGS!

Welcome, SMA Families, to the start of the 2019-20 academic year! Please know of my sincere gratitude and heartfelt prayers to all of you who have decided to make St. Michael Academy the educational and spiritual home for your students this year!

I can't adequately express our excitement as we welcome the largest student body ever to our school. We are educating 48 students this year in the wisdom of Western Civilization and the Truth of the Catholic Church: 30 full-time and 6 part-time students here in Petoskey, and 12 students at St. Mary School in Charlevoix. We've added two full-time faculty members to serve our growing student body.



I'm pleased to announce several new educational programs for this year, including junior high enrichment, homeschool electives, and Robotics - and also new service-oriented clubs, including Pro-Life, Key Club, and Student Ambassadors. Also, for the first time in our history, we have an athletic team with a State-wide ranking - our Boys Cross Country team is currently ranked 8th in Division-4!

While momentum is on our side and the new spirit, energy, and enthusiasm in the school are palpable, we still have a long way to go. We must continue to attract students, building the school to the critical mass that it needs for long-term viability. We appreciate your continued help in spreading the word across Northern Michigan about all the great things happening at SMA.

We teach the True, the Good, and the Beautiful at SMA, taking our students on an intellectual and spiritual journey through Athens, Rome, and Jerusalem. It's a challenging but rewarding journey, resulting, we pray, with the development of "Smart Saints" who can raise families, spread the Gospel, defend their Catholic faith, and perform the duties of American citizenship.

I invite you all to drop in on our classes, celebrate Mass with us, attend our sporting events, volunteer, and to generally feel a sense of ownership in our school. It's a profound honor for us to help form and educate the mind, body, and soul of your child, and to grow together as a community of faith.

St. Michael, pray for us! Dr. Richard Brake, Headmaster

St. Michael Happenings

Here are some snippets from the first few weeks of the 2019-20 school year at SMA!

- Our first two school days were spent getting to know each other, reviewing the summer reading books, and getting acquainted with the Socratic Method.
- We greeted three new exchange students: Maarla from Mongolia, Marc from Spain, and Pava from the Republic of Georgia! Welcome to the SMA Family!
- At Forum on September 11, we looked back at the horrific events - and acts of heroism - from 2001.
- In a solemn ceremony just prior to Mass on September 12, our faculty members pledged their fidelity to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.
- The SMA students and faculty had a boatful of rafting fun on September 13 with camaraderie, team-building, and good times had by all!
- Several students, parents, and faculty attended the St. Mary School fundraiser on September 13 at Castle Farms, where \$1,500 was raised to support SMA Athletics.
- SMA students and faculty filled two tables at the Pregnancy Care Center dinner on September 19.



SMA's Heavenly Hosts

Our deepest thanks to all who have volunteered to help our school perform its holy mission. There is no way we can do all that we do without your direct involvement and support!

We are looking for volunteers to serve as "Homeroom Liaisons" for each grade. We are also looking for help with our upcoming Michaelmas Celebration on Friday, September 27, and chaperones for our Square Dance on Saturday, October 12.

Our first parent-teacher book club meeting of the school year is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23. We will be reading *The Four Loves* by C. S. Lewis.

Athletic Annex

Our Boys Cross Country (XC) team is off to a spectacular start this season, earning its first-ever State-wide ranking (currently 8th in Division-4) and scoring its first-ever invitational win, trouncing an 8-team field at Cheboygan on September 11, by placing four runners among the first five finishers. The team is led by a very strong top four (Adam Paga, Sam Paga, Hammond Law, and Mac Moore) with our next three runners (John Kargol, Ben Brooks, Will Gagnon) giving excellent chase!



In other milestones, we had our first-ever Girls XC competitor, Mary Fran Forton, finish 12th at Cheboygan, and the first-ever competitor from our new Junior High Running Club, Dominic Mitchell, finish 5th.

In other Athletic news, we now have an Intramural Volleyball program, led by Paul Radatovich, intended to spur interest and develop skills toward restarting a Varsity team next year.

Also, we've informed MHSAA of our intention to field a Varsity Boys Golf team (open to ladies too) in the spring, coached by Shea Whitmore.

In SMA Athletics, we develop virtue through the pursuit of excellence. Boys XC is leading the way, working tenaciously toward long-term goals together as a team! Blessings, Mr. Rudnicki

Focus on the Faculty

We are pleased to introduce one of our new faculty members, Mr. Paul Radatovich who will teach classes and assist with marketing at SMA. He hails from New Brighton, Pennsylvania, and is a recent graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing with a minor in Philosophy.

Mr. Radatovich teaches Medieval History and New Testament to our 10th graders and Geography and Theology to our 7th and 8th graders. In Medieval History, students are learning about the time of the Incarnation to better understand the fall of Rome. In Geography, students are studying cartography and the differences between various maps in world history. In New Testament, he is introducing students to the context and different ways to approach scripture when reading the Bible. Finally, in Theology, students are learning about the universal call to holiness, sainthood, discipleship, Grace, and the Mystical Body of Christ.



Please welcome Mr. Radatovich to SMA!

Faith Matters

We are blessed that Fr. Peter and Fr. Innocent from St. Mary, and Fr. James from Holy Childhood, have celebrated Mass for us in these first few weeks, and that several parents and community members have joined us too. We encourage you to celebrate with us, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Counselor's Corner

As the College & Career Advisor at SMA, I'm excited about our new program for juniors and seniors. Every Friday afternoon, we'll gather to discuss and discern their various gifts, assess their goals, and produce a road map that will help them "take the next step" in their academic, professional, and, most importantly, spiritual lives. Practical tasks like test-taking, college selection, and career discernment will be pursued within the parameters of Christian teaching.

Students were recently asked to develop their top college selections and we are now creating an inventory of resources to help with that process. We also have several college visits scheduled for October and College Night at North Central Michigan College (NCMC) is October 10. We'll take the PSAT on October 16. If you have any questions, please let me know! Yours in Christ, Mrs. Mikelson

Headmaster Musings

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending my second fundraiser banquet for the Pregnancy Care Center of Petoskey. Last year, SMA students performed a variety of volunteer tasks for the Center: raising money through its Baby Bottle Initiative, moving baby equipment to its storage facility, and helping out at the office. We at SMA feel a strong bond to the life-saving mission of the Pregnancy Care Center.

The hall was packed to celebrate the Center's critical work - helping young women, often in crisis, resist the temptation and false promises of abortion, and then continuing to help after birth with the development of the life skills needed to raise children.

I think we were all struck by keynote speaker Mike Slater's question to the audience, "What do you do for a living?"

Regardless of the response - "construction", teaching", etc. - he added the profound point that regardless of that answer, as a supporter of the Pregnancy Care Center, everyone present could, and should, add "...and I save lives." AMEN!

Indeed, that's what all Christians are called to do by spreading the Good News that Jesus died on the Cross to save our souls. In other words, we're all called to be heroes in the Pro-Life cause, especially considering the holocaust of MORE THAN 50-MILLION BABIES KILLED since the unfortunate ruling of Roe v. Wade in 1973. It's truly heartbreaking and makes you ponder what more we can all do to put an end to this carnage. I pray that this year, through our new Pro-Life Club, we will redouble our Pro-Life efforts at SMA, and can put our faith into action to save the lives of the unborn.

God bless, Dr. Brake



“Deliver those who are being taken away to death.” - Proverbs 24:11

Prayer Intentions

Please Pray for the Unborn and victims of the flooding in Texas!

Upcoming Events

- 09/26 Cross Country at Mackinaw Club Invitational
- 09/27 Michaelmas Celebration at SMA
- 10/04 First Friday Mass at St. Francis Xavier
- 10/05 Cross Country at Portage Invitational
- 10/07 *Abolition of Man* Student Essays Due
- 10/10 College Night at NCMC
- 10/12 SMA Square Dance
- 10/16 PSAT at Pellston HS
- 10/23 School Photos
- 10/23 Parent-Teacher Book Club
- 10/26 Cross Country Regional Finals at East Jordan
- 10/30 Quiz Bowl State Finals
- 11/01 End of First Quarter
- 11/01 SMA Lecture Series with Rusty Reno
- 11/02 Cross Country State Finals at Brooklyn
- 11/04 Half Day for Parent-Teacher Conferences



Reminders

- Don't forget to send in money (\$3.50 per week) for Pizza Fridays.
- Questions about RenWeb? Contact Mrs. De Agostino or Mrs. Kendziorski.
- Spirit Wear orders? Contact Mrs. De Agostino.
- Interested in coaching Ping-Pong, Bowling, or Chess? Contact Dr. Brake.
- Interested in serving on the SMA Recruitment Committee? Contact Dr. Brake.
- Interested in helping SMA with fundraising? Contact Mr. Hatch or Mrs. Law.



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.