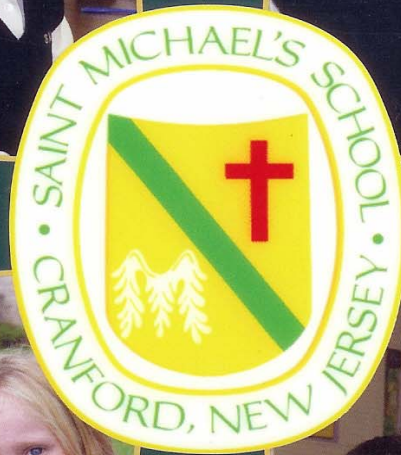


ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL



Fides et Ratio

ABOUT ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

FIDES ET RATIO

Latin for "Faith and Reason," our school motto is the cornerstone of education and life at St. Michael's School. We are a thriving, faith-based school community where children become independent thinkers and grow into responsible young adults grounded in Catholic values.

Our preschool through grade 8 program encourages a love of learning and the development of habits and attitudes that promote personal growth within the spirit of community.

St. Michael's teaches each child the importance of building a relationship with God that they can carry with them into the world. Our students receive religious education every day and regularly attend Mass with their classmates. There are also frequent retreats and other faith-based activities to help our children grow spiritually.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Catholic schools are recognized for superior academic achievement and Middle States accredited St. Michael's is no exception. Over the past five years, St. Michael's students have on average surpassed nationwide Terra Nova standardized test scores.

High test scores are just one indicator of our students' academic achievements. Walk through St. Michael's halls and look into any classroom, and you will see our students actively engaged in inquiry, discovery, and learning. You may see preschoolers sitting in a circle learning the Spanish alphabet. Or if you visit a second floor classroom, you may watch the seventh graders debating the environmental impact of a recent lab experiment.

Our certified teachers are integral to our students' academic success. They bring to their classrooms diverse educational and professional backgrounds that contribute uniquely to academic enrichment. St. Michael's teachers are committed to bringing out the best in our students through individualized attention in controlled class sizes.

"Faith and reason are the two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth."

Pope John Paul II

St. Michael's graduates are well prepared for high school and beyond. Alumni go on to top area schools such as Union Catholic, St. Peter's Prep, Seton Hall Prep, Roselle Catholic and Mount St. Mary's Academy. Yale, Columbia, Georgetown, Notre Dame, Marist, Harvard, Princeton, Fordham, Dartmouth, Seton Hall, NYU, BC, BU, and the U.S. Air Force Academy are among the universities our recent graduates (1996-2006 classes) have attended.

STUDENT LIFE

New students soon discover that St. Michael's fosters a truly friendly and nurturing environment. Mornings will find Mrs. Miragliotta, the school principal, greeting students by name as they come into the building. Children who are dropped off early are welcomed into our before-care classroom by Mrs. McGlynn. As children head to their classrooms, they are also warmly greeted by teachers and friends in other grades and classes.

The school's facilities – which are superior to those of many public and private schools in the area – also contribute to a positive environment for students. The spacious, well-maintained gymnasium allows each grade's twice-weekly gym classes to be conducted in an atmosphere that

promotes fun and physical activity. The auditorium, with its large stage and new sound system, is well-used for school activities including assemblies, drama club performances and book fairs. The school also offers a sizable library and a separate computer lab with state-of-the-art

networked computers, with more in each classroom.

Wander down to our Art Lab, and you will see visible signs of our students' creativity and love of art. Just outside the lab, you'll notice a beautiful mural of a garden scene painted on the walls. Look inside and you will see children in paint-spattered smocks diligently working on their masterpieces.

"The best part of St. Michael's is the atmosphere. It's a place where God is first, learning is taken seriously, family is paramount, and values are taught."

- Stacy W.

Mother of 2 students

Catholic school tuition is a wise investment that pays a lifelong dividend.

While observing the artists, you may notice the aroma of pizza, pasta or hamburgers cooking down the hall in the full-service cafeteria. Lunchtime is a very social time, giving students the opportunity to relax and enjoy each other's company, and reconnect with siblings and friends from other classes. Each meal is preceded by and closed with a prayer.

At St. Michael's, the school day may end at 2:45, but the activities continue and students are encouraged to participate. Through Project WISE

(Widening Interest in Student Experience), students are given the opportunity to learn new skills and hobbies. The school's sports program provides the opportunity to participate in instructional

"Our neighbor went to St. Michael's and loved it. When we visited, there was a very warm welcome and we saw how comfortable our son was here, compared to other schools. Our son told us he wanted to go here."

- Joe
Father of Pre-K student

and competitive sports such as basketball, softball, cheerleading, volleyball, track, and bowling.

Home School Association activities such as Spooky Bingo, Breakfast with Santa Claus, the Family Fun Fair and the Easter Bunny Breakfast, allow our children and families socialize outside of the school day, deepening bonds among students, siblings and parents.

To accommodate working parents, the school also offers a daily aftercare program. Our aftercare teachers continue the friendly and nurturing environment. The aftercare teachers work with the students on their homework, engage them in playtime activities, and often bake delicious chocolate chip cookies for children.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

St. Michael's students are encouraged to put their faith into action through community service. This begins in the younger grades with students bringing in gifts for the Christmas Giving Tree, offering canned goods for an area food bank, or donating a new stuffed animal for the recent Girl Scouts' project to aid hurricane victims. Each year, the third-graders sponsor Milton, a Guatemalan child, by contributing to his care and schooling.

Children donate "Money for Milton" that they earn by doing chores and helping others.

Each month, the eighth-graders take an active part in service focused on community outreach and stewardship. In the past they have worked for the Hillside Food Bank, Archdiocesan Emergency Relief Services, Heifer International Hunger Programs and various local service projects in Cranford.

Upper classmen are also active as mentors to younger students, assisting them at lunchtime and helping first graders with their pen pal letters. The eighth-graders also frequently serve as "bigger buddies" to the preschoolers, walking with them in events like Annual Halloween Parade.

FAITH & REASON CONTINUE

A strong testament to the worth of a St. Michael's education is the number of parents who attended St. Michael's as children and later chose to send their own sons and daughters to our school. Our legacy families are successful and active members of the local community. Many of them say the purpose and direction of their lives were influenced by the values they learned while attending St. Michael's School. This is never truer than for the alumni who return to us as teachers, choosing to give back to the St. Michael's community much of what they received from it themselves.

"Thinking back on my education, it was the work ethic, the discipline and organizational skills that I learned at St. Michael's.

These are what were important when I chose my path in life."

- Deborah
Mother of 2 students

Catholic school tuition is a wise investment that pays a lifelong dividend.

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL CURRICULUM

St. Michael's teachers contribute to the moral, spiritual and academic development of our students. Teachers and parents form a working relationship to help ensure students' success and parents meet formally with teachers twice a year to discuss student progress. The parent/teacher relationship continues to grow at worship, athletic events and many other social activities sponsored by the school and parish. Our dedicated teachers involve themselves with students as coaches and moderators, further strengthening the bonds of community at St. Michael's School.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

St. Michael's uses networked Apple computers with filtered Internet access. The school also has several laptop computers for student use.

Computer instruction begins in Kindergarten with an introduction to Kid Pix. While children have fun creating pictures and learning to read, they also learn computer terminology and become skilled in the use of computer equipment such as the mouse and printer.

Computer instruction continues weekly, with age-appropriate software added to the each grade's curriculum. By the time students get to sixth grade, they are able to create Excel spreadsheets, PowerPoint & multi-media presentations, web pages and simple programs. Eighth-graders work on a variety of projects designed to expand their knowledge of the core curriculum through word processing, spreadsheets and presentations to classmates. Throughout the curriculum we teach our students ways to use the Internet safely as a research and communications tool.

The school uses the most current learning applications to help teachers and students develop key skill sets including; early reading skills, reading comprehension, and math concepts.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

3-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

Our three-year-olds have fun and enjoy learning. Our patient and caring teachers develop interesting lessons and activities based on monthly themes

including the seasons, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Lent.

Each day begins with prayer. Students pray in the morning, before snack time and at the end of the day. Children attend Mass on holy days and at the start and close of the school year. A love of Christ and Catholic values are always visible and included in stories and craft projects.

Teachers integrate creative hands-on learning materials, songs and play to introduce the alphabet, colors, shapes and numbers. Learning the virtue of patience, along with the social skills of sharing and playing well with others, are part of students' daily experience.

Classrooms are warm and nurturing environments, with children's names, pictures and birthdays listed on their cubbies. The classrooms are set up with a variety of activities to stimulate learning and play. Bulletin board themes change often to enhance classroom learning and give students an opportunity to display their artwork.

Our large and bright playroom provides a stimulating environment with plenty of room for movement. Here children can walk, run, and jump to develop gross motor skills.

4-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

Kindergarten readiness is the theme of this program. As our four-year-olds continue to learn while they play, a rich learning environment provides variety and builds upon the curriculum of the three-year-old program. Look into a classroom and you'll see sky-scraper cities under construction at our Block Center, children looking at books and aided by listening headphones at our Listening/Viewing Center, or children listening wide-eyed to a book in the Library Corner.

Four-year-olds love to talk and language games, especially rhymes, are an important step towards reading readiness. Pre-reading games are played often to reinforce readiness skills. Thematic curricula in the areas of religion, social studies, and science promote vocabulary building. Four-year-olds are excited to share their newfound knowledge of words like Nativity, cranberry and astronaut. Religious education is taught through songs and games.

Catholic school tuition is a wise investment that pays a lifelong dividend.

Four-year-olds at St. Michael's School receive weekly instruction from our Physical Education and Spanish language teachers. Daily visits to the playroom are a highlight that allows children to continue to develop gross motor skills. Both 3 year and 4 year old students have the option of staying an additional hour and forty-five minutes to enjoy lunch and play through our Lunch Bunch program.

The four-year-old program culminates with a year-end graduation ceremony. Parents and siblings join in the excitement as our Preschoolers joyfully sing for them.

LOWER SCHOOL, K-5

St. Michael's follows the New Jersey Core Content Curriculum Standards in addition to Curriculum Guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese of Newark. The curriculum provides a liberal arts foundation on which students can build a life of learning.

Every day begins with prayer, led by a student. Students pray in the morning, at lunch and at the end of the day. Students also attend Mass once a month as a class and in celebration of Holy Days. In the second grade, students receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Fall and Eucharist in the Spring.

Beginning in the first grade, the development of study skills is reinforced through daily homework assignments. In the third grade, students begin to change classes and experience departmentalized teaching. Our Spring Science Fair is always an exciting event. Past themes include civil engineering, architecture, and time.

St. Michael's also offers special services including speech correction and math tutoring provided by Union County Educational Services

Our music program exposes students to several areas including singing and listening to music, playing the recorder, and reading musical notes. Third graders are invited to join Future Musicians of America, the St. Michael's instrumental program. Our band and choir perform twice a year at the Christmas and Spring concerts.

UPPER SCHOOL, 6-8

Preparing our Upper School students academically and

socially for High School is our main priority. We encourage students to become independent thinkers and responsible young adults grounded in Catholic values. Older students are encouraged to lead and mentor younger students. They are mindful of their position in the school and their responsibility to be positive role models.

The essence of the Gospel, to love God and neighbor, is reinforced daily. Students are encouraged to follow the example of Jesus Christ and are challenged to live out their Catholic faith as members of the Church in the world. Eighth-graders are required to perform forty hours of community service for graduation.

St. Michael's students have consistently outperformed the national and archdiocesan averages on standardized Terra

Nova tests. Our graduates are accepted into highly competitive high schools, laying the groundwork for entrance into competitive colleges and universities.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

St. Michael's WISE program is a series of academic and arts-oriented programs. These after-school classes offer many opportunities for individual development. The WISE program taps into students' interests in the fields of science and language, as well as recreational interests including chess, math puzzles, scrap-booking and cooking.

Student creativity is expressed in our annual play produced by the Drama Club. Students who prefer not to be in the spotlight play important roles in stage lighting, set design, and costumery.

ATHLETICS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Good sportsmanship, healthy living and a positive attitude towards exercise are all essential to student development.

From Kindergarten through eighth grade, all students participate in the D.A.R.E. program, a nationwide police-led program that teaches children to resist peer pressure and live drug- and violence-free lives.

After school hours, St. Michael's students have the opportunity to participate in a host of instructional and competitive sports through programs offered by the St. Michael's Sports Association.

2006 SMS Graduates are now attending:

Catholic High School- 79%
Public High School- 16%
Magnet High School- 5%

Sports offerings include:

Boys & Girls Basketball
Instructional to Varsity

Coed Track
Girls Varsity Volleyball
Coed Bowling
Girls Varsity Softball

Varsity & Competitive
Cheerleading
Coed Basketball

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL SCHEDULE

CHECKLIST OF REQUIRED FORMS & PAPERWORK

- Birth Certificate
- Baptismal Certificate
- School Registration Form
- Student Information Sheet
- Parent Agreement
- History & Physical Form
- After School Care Registration
- Before School Care Registration

Transfers also require:

- Latest Report Card

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

Contact the school office for information on the Msgr. Davis and the Archdiocesan Scholarship Funds. Both are need-based scholarship opportunities available to students already enrolled in St. Michael's. Archdiocesan applications are due the Feb. 15 prior to the start of the Fall term.

REFERRALS

The St. Michael's School community welcomes referrals. For every referral that leads to a new enrollment at St. Michael's School, a \$100 referral credit will be applied to the fundraising obligation of the referring family.

DRESS CODE

The St. Michael's uniform includes khakis and dress white shirts for the boys and plaid skirts and white blouses for the girls, additional seasonal options are also available. Uniforms are available from Flynn & O'Hara (www.flynnohara.com) or the St. Michael's Uniform Exchange Shop.

PreK 3

2 Day T, Th 8:15 - 11:00
3 Day T,W,Th 8:15 - 11:00
3 Day T,W,Th 8:15 - 2:45

PreK 4

5 Day M - F 8:15 - 11:00
5 Day M - F 8:15 - 2:45

Lunch Bunch* 11:00 – 12:45

* Lunch Bunch is a PreK program offering children the option of staying an extra hour and 45 minutes for lunch & outside play. Children can either purchase a hot lunch or bring their own. Participation requires advance registration and costs \$10 per day.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Students are due for class at 8:15 a.m. and may be dropped off beginning at 7:50 a.m.

Before School Care

Available to students in grades PreK 3 through 8, before care begins at 7:30 a.m. at a cost of \$3 per day

After School Care

Available to students in grades Pre-K (afternoon session) through 8, after care is available until 5:30 p.m.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE FEE SCHEDULE

	<i>Monthly Cost</i>			
	PLAN A 2:30-5:30		PLAN B 2:30-4:00	
	1 st Child	Add'l	1 st Child	Add'l
5 days/week	260	130	140	70
4 days/week	230	115	125	65
3 days/week	190	95	105	55
2 days/week	140	70	80	40
1 days/week	120	60	70	35

Daily drop in rate - \$16

Family Registration Fee - \$30

OUR CHURCH

We the parishioners of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church are called to be a community bonded together by the Father's love and centered on Jesus. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit and called to be witnesses of our faith, expressed in worship, teaching, and service to others in the local and world community.

A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

From its modest beginnings in 1872, when a small group first gathered for Mass in the home of Terrance Brennan, St. Michael's Church has grown to become a thriving parish community serving over 3500 families.

We are blessed with a committed pastoral staff and active parishioners who share their unique gifts to build a spiritually vibrant community. Step through the church doors on any Sunday morning – or stop by the Parish Center on many a weeknight – and you will see our people leading, reflecting, studying and acting as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Lenten Fish Fry, the St. Nicholas Giving Tree, and the Father-Daughter Communion Dance are some of the many visible signs of the Holy Spirit at work in our parish community. The Feast of St. Michael, held each fall, is another shining example of parish and school working together to reach out to the local community with a fun, family-centered event.

WITNESSES TO OUR FAITH

WORSHIP

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the central act of worship of the Catholic Church. Mass is celebrated daily at St. Michael's, with special liturgies on Holy Days of Obligation. Our Church is open from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. All are welcome to visit and spend some quiet time in the presence of the Lord.

TEACHING

St. Michael's School provides a spiritual environment in which our children experience God's love through a growing knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Gospel message. Teachers and staff are role models who share their faith, their talents and their time with our children.

Our Religious Education staff serves over 1400 children through the CCD program and offers teen and adult programs for both recreation and religious study. The programs encourage cooperation among families, catechists, and the parish so that our children can grow in faith and become living signs of Christ's presence in the world.

The school, religious education program, and parish actively participate with parents to prepare our children for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion, as well as Confirmation.

SERVICE TO OTHERS

As St. Michael's parishioners, we seek to share our time, talent and treasure with our church, and the local and world communities through a variety of ministries. Our Liturgical Ministries include the very popular Children's Liturgy of the

Dear God,
I made my first communion. I feel like I'm getting stronger and stronger every week. Jesus thank you for giving your body and blood.

Love,
Ryan M

2nd Grade Class prayer Book 2003

Dear God,
I wonder if I will see you one day. No matter what I will prayer to you all the way. You are my father and a good one too. Thank you God from me to you

Love,
Jessica N

2nd Grade Class prayer Book 2003

2nd Grade Class prayer Book 2003

Word, which is celebrated at the 10:30 Mass on Sundays.

Our Sacramental Preparation Ministries help individuals and families to prepare for the sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist, First Reconciliation and Confirmation. The Ministry of Motherhood (MOM) offers a way for mothers to come together to share in the joys and challenges of motherhood. The St. Michael's Youth Group has worked on building and restoring homes in the Appalachian Mountains. Through the Samaritan Ministry, the parish works to help the homebound and disadvantaged in the surrounding communities. And our Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts provide a range of wholesome activities and service projects for our children.

"What struck me about my first visit to St. Michael's Church was how genuinely warm people were, and how involved they were in creating a joyful place to worship."

*Loraine
New SMS parent*

WELCOME

We openly welcome new members to the St. Michael's community. If you are interested in joining our parish, please stop by the Parish Center, 40 Alden Street, during office hours, or call (908) 276-0360. You can also stop by the Parish Desk in the church vestibule on Sunday mornings, or visit us online at www.stmichaelscranford.com. Our parish staff and volunteers are here to answer any questions you may have about parish-life.