

PASTORAL PLAN

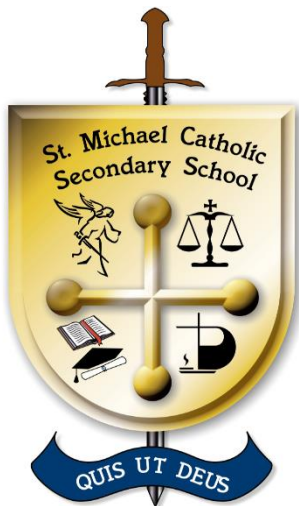
School Name: St. Michael Catholic Secondary School

School Motto or Mission Statement: *Quis Ut Deus – Who is with God*

We the community of St. Michael Catholic Secondary School are committed to the Gospel values as a foundation for student success.

- We believe that every student can and will achieve 8 credits a year.
- We believe that every student can and will be involved in at least one school extracurricular activity.
- We believe that school, home and parish are accountable to one another.

Coat of Arms



1. The SCHOOL “MOTTO” is that of St. Michael’s Coat of Arms: “Quis Ut Deus”, which the school has loosely translated as “Who is with God”. This is translated from Hebrew for the name *Michael*. This was the war cry of the good angels in the battle fought in heaven against Satan and his followers.

2. The SCHOOL CREST displays a vision for both staff and students to strive to be formed by a faith community that will enjoy academic success based on Catholic values and virtues.

3. The GOLDEN CROSS is in the original coat of arms attributed to St. Michael the archangel in the heraldry of medieval England. This also represents the sign of our Catholic faith.

4. The image of St. Michael, the archangel, is part of our faith story that shapes the identity of our school community.
5. The scales of justice represent St. Michael’s fight against Satan. That in the end we are all judged fairly and that we overcome the temptations of evil.
6. The Dufferin-Peel CDSB emblem roots us into the greater Dufferin-Peel community. We are one of many schools that form this community of faith and learning.

The BIBLE, GRADUATION HAT and DIPLOMA, represents the formation of the whole student that is faith based. Faith and curriculum are infused into our graduates who will embody the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

Theme for the Year:**Catholic Education: We are Many, We are One**

“We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another.” (Romans 12:5)

Retreats

Grade 9: Grade 9 students will attend a full grade retreat in September at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Learning Centre. The day will be led by the Chaplaincy Leader and Wings of Faith, along with Hope Stone Catholic Formation Inc. It will include a blessing from Fr. Andrew Cyruk (Parish Pastor), prayer, activities and discussion that will allow students the opportunity to explore their identities as children of God and their growing relationship with God.

Grade 10: Grade 10 retreats include two classes at a time, and are run through religion classes. These retreats will take place at Holy Family Parish. The retreat is led and facilitated by Hope Stone Catholic Formation Inc. The retreat centres around discussing and reflecting on their everlasting identities, their authentic personality traits and walking forward with their struggles. The retreat includes elements of personal testimony and stories, games, interactive activities, small group discussion, large group discussion and prayer, all centred in the Catholic faith.

Grade 11: Grade 11 retreats are single class retreats run through religion classes. Retreats will take place The Exchange and will facilitated by The Exchange staff and the Chaplaincy Leader. Students will tour the The Exchange, learn about its programs, assist with sorting food, assist with preparing food and learn about poverty and support resources in the local community.

Grade 12: Grade 12 retreats are single class retreats run through religion classes. This retreat is a service retreat, with classes going to Regeneration in Brampton. Students learn about poverty and spend the day in service of the guests of Regeneration’s lunch program. It is rooted in social justice Gospel values as parts of its focus.

Other retreats:

Planning for Independence Program: The retreat for students in the Planning for Independence Program will take place at and be facilitated by Sara Elizabeth Centre/ Blue Veil Charities. Students will take part in inclusive activities, while spending time considering God's unconditional love.

Activities of a Religious Nature

Activities of a Religious Nature with a substantial component of ritual and prayer
Opening School Mass/Feast Day : 2 Masses Monday, September 26, 2022
Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context Days and Principal's Days: Staff liturgy
Advent Liturgy: Monday, November 28, 2022
Advent School Mass: Wednesday, December 7, 2022
Ash Wednesday Liturgy and distribution of ashes: Wednesday, February 22, 2023
Holy Week Liturgy: Thursday, April 6, 2023
Closing School Mass: Wednesday, May 3 (during Catholic Education Week)
Graduation Mass: Monday, June 26 at 1pm at Holy Family Parish
Period 4 Masses: Pastor or Associate Pastor of Holy Family Parish celebrate Masses throughout the year in the Chapel for 3-4 period 4 classes at a time.

Other Pastoral/Outreach Activities

Pastoral Activities
Lent initiative – fundraising and informational campaign
Advent initiative – fundraising and informational campaign
Thanksgiving - Food Drive for the Exchange – organized by the Department of Social Sciences and Canada World Studies - Meals prepared and cooked for the Exchange by Hospitality students and staff
Remembrance Day – A service will take place for staff and students
Catholic School Council Initiative
Street Patrol – after school, on a few occasions downtown Toronto
Canadian Food for Children (aka Dr. Simone’s Warehouse) – Wings of Faith students will be promoting donations for CFCC for Halloween (candy and chocolate) and Advent. They will also be visiting and working in the warehouse on December 14

Catholic Education Week

April 30 to May 5, 2023 is Catholic Education Week.

Catholic Education: We are Many, We are One

*“We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another.”
(Romans 12:5)*

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2023 are as follows:

Monday, May 1: **When we see**

Tuesday, May 2: **When we listen**

Wednesday, May 3: **When we reflect**

Thursday, May 4: **When we learn**

Friday, May 5: **When we act**

Date	Activities to include
Monday, May 1	Cookies and Pamphlets – Distribute to students and parents upon arriving to school.
Tuesday, May 2	Guest Speaker (TBD)
Wednesday, May 3	Closing school Mass
Thursday, May 4	Wings of Faith retreat at Silvercreek
Friday, May 5	See all week events

All week activities to include:

- DIY Liturgies – Chaplaincy Leader will prepare liturgies that teachers or Chaplaincy Leader can lead with classes in the Chapel

Activities that Support the Catholic Nature of Our School

Catholicity Across the School

In collaboration with each department head, departmental activities and/or events that infuse Catholic teaching, faith formation, and Catholic culture into the curriculum and the classrooms are highlighted.

Department	Departmental Activities and/or Events
Mathematics	The Mathematic Department will focus on the theme “We are many, we are one “. Our goal is to instill a rich faith built on the last year of the

	<p>Strategic Plan along with the virtues of the month.</p> <p>1) Excel: Supporting each to Achieve their Maximum Potential Allow students to excel through classroom discussion and developing goals for themselves. Student conferences to reestablish goals and re-commit to learning goals to ensure student success. Have students participate in the Waterloo Mathematics Contest to ensure they excel in the subject area. Creating a sacred space in classroom so that students can be reflective in preparation of final assessment.</p> <p>2) Respect: Human Dignity at the Root of Equity Respects the environment around them and gives opportunities for collaboration in the class to create an inclusive environment, recognizing everyone’s individual strengths and needs to strengthen the skill of being a Caring Family Member.</p> <p>3) Thrive: Supporting Mental Health and Well-Being Open dialogue regarding future career aspirations and what goals need to be met to achieve these lifelong dreams. Student Conferences to reestablish goals to re-commit to learning goals to ensure student success.</p> <p>4) Trust: Transparency, Accountability and Confidence Beginning each class with a reflection and inviting students to share prayers of intentions with the rest of the class. This allows students to connect with the class and teacher. This will build trust and nurture an understanding for each other.</p> <p>5) Believe: Built on Faith To give students the encouragement to believe in their goals and their strengths. To believe they can do their best. This is established each day the students walk into our classrooms. As Catholic educators, we believe that we are called to design and implement effective lessons, that nurture the best of our students. They are Christ-centered, purposeful engaging and inclusive, and which reflect success for all.</p>
<p>Business and Computer Studies</p>	<p>The Business/Computers Department will focus on the theme “We are many, we are one “. Our goal is to instill a rich faith built on the last year of the Strategic Plan along with the virtues of the month.</p> <p>1) Excel: Supporting each to Achieve their Maximum Potential Allow students to excel through classroom discussion and developing goals for themselves. Student conferences to reestablish goals and re-commit to learning goals to ensure student success. We give students the opportunities to discuss real-life issues in Business and how to recognize the human impacts this will have while focusing on our role as stewards of God so they can be confident communicators.</p>

	<p>2) Respect: Human Dignity at the Root of Equity Case studies that examine the ethics and social justice implications in business classrooms. Deca-looks at issues such as policies dealing with injustice.</p> <p>3) Thrive: Supporting Mental Health and Well-Being Open dialogue regarding future career aspirations and what goals need to be met in order to achieve these lifelong dreams. Student Conferences to reestablish goals to re-commit to learning goals to ensure student success.</p> <p>4) Trust: Transparency, Accountability and Confidence Beginning each class with a reflection and inviting students to share prayers of intentions with the rest of the class. This allows students to connect with the class and teacher. This will build trust and nurture an understanding for each other. We will allow students to discuss current topics in Business classroom, through a 'Catholic Lens' and to critically think about our role as stewards of God to encourage a Reflective and Creative Thinker.</p> <p>5) Believe: Built on Faith To give students the encouragement to believe in their goals and their strengths. To believe they can do their best. As Catholic educators, we believe that we are called to design and implement effective lessons, that nurture the best of our students. They are Christ-centered, purposeful engaging and inclusive, and which reflect success for all.</p>
<p>Technological Studies</p>	<p>The Technological Education Department has developed opportunities to explore Christian Leadership through outreach projects in our community. Our Hospitality SHSM program has collaborated with the Knights of Columbus and Caledon Community Services to provide ready-made meals to the food bank at The Exchange. Our Hospitality Program actively participates in Food Drives and Meal Preparation for the Food Bank. These projects allow students to explore Christian outreach and develop their faith journey. These activities allow our students to Nurture Hope in the community. In participating in Social Justice Initiatives, students understand their Catholic responsibility to nurture hope in the community. The Bistro allows students to make connections between Faith and Food with special holiday menu planning for Thanksgiving, Lent, Christmas, Ash Wednesday and Easter. Our Communications Technology programs actively participates in school-wide events including masses, liturgies and graduation exercises. Our MicTV program promotes the importance of building a strong Christian Identity in Bolton. It builds unity and community by promoting the school, sporting events, clubs and our success story.</p>

<p>Arts</p>	<p>The Arts Department uses both the visual and performing arts to promote Catholic Education and teaching of the Gospel Values. Students are encouraged to develop their personal faith journey through creative participation in retreats, liturgies and school performances that showcase their talents to our school community. Using sacred music, liturgical dance, dramatized scripture and art work in the chapel, students are encouraged to explore the Arts in Catholic Education. Students in the Arts Advantage Majors are encouraged to participate in outreach programs in the community that provide opportunities to share God given talents with the community at large. Activities include: Christmas Showcase for the community; Vocal music singing for residents of King Nursing home; and the Music program raising funds for Indigenous charities.</p>
<p>Co-Operative Education</p>	<p>In Cooperative Education, there is a concerted effort to place students in work placements that encourage the principles of the Catholic faith and Social justice – for example, Catholic school placements, placements at the Food bank, Habitat for Humanity, and Caledon Community Services. Students are encouraged to use the skills they develop in the community to become more caring and compassionate individuals in their families, communities and parishes. Students are encouraged to reflect how their career goals contribute to God’s work. In their placements, students are encouraged to reflect on their faith and use Catholic principles when making decisions. Students are asked to research the Patron Saint of their chosen profession and to pray to that Saint when they are challenged in their</p> <p>work placement. Students go into the workforce understanding that they have a responsibility to be Catholic role models wherever they may be. Students are encouraged to be responsible citizens and representatives of our faith.</p>
<p>Guidance</p>	<p>Guidance Department will continue to build unity and community by creating an inclusive and safe environment. The guidance department will provide Individual counselling with students recognizing their diversity, and individual needs. Promoting community service hours and volunteer opportunities in our local community promotes Christian outreach along with a call to service. Our annual Education and Career Planning with individual students promotes life-long learning, faith formation and goal setting. We strive to infuse Catholic values and responsible citizenship in the plans. In addition, our Grade 8 to 9 transition initiatives focus on choosing Catholic Education and Culture. We promote faith base learning at St. Michael CSS.</p>

<p>Science</p>	<p>We are many, we are one. In our Catholic School Community, we want to embrace the diversity, talent, and love that exists in each and every one of us because together, as one community, we are One Body of Christ. A community with many moving parts that share the same vision of strengthening our connection with our faith community, nature, and the universe. Our science classes begin each class with prayer and reflection, and we infuse our monthly Catholic virtues in our discussions. To recognize Truth and Reconciliation Day, our science classes will take part in distributing orange flowers throughout the school to recognize the legacy of the Canadian Residential School System. To support World Mental Health Day and Dress Purple Day, and other important moments in our calendar year, we will lead and invite our students and colleagues to participate in Catholic mediation. To take a moment and be with God, so we can strengthen our Catholic faith and work towards creating a stronger community.</p> <p>As Stewards of our Land, our science classes will continue to help pick up waste and support The Great Gulp, Sweater Day, and Waste Audits. We will continue to grow vegetables and herbs using our hydroponic wall and regular soil planting. Vegetables and herbs will be used in hospitality programs and donated to The Exchange, to help support Bolton families. We will continue to collect clothes for our Thrift Shop and donate to Evolve. Our new initiative of growing different varieties of sprouts to bring awareness of food scarcity and again be donated to our local food bank, The Exchange.</p>
<p>Social Sciences and Canadian and World Studies</p>	<p>As members of our Catholic Faith, we must model and lead by example. Teaching our students in the Social Science and Canadian World Studies Department what it means to listen, observe, and reflect supports learning and overall growth. We are many, we are one, reminds us that we are all members of our school environment, however we are one in unity. Nourishing relationships and being cognizant of current events and initiatives is imperative as a faith-based community. Providing our students, the principles to allow them to be Catholic stewards, holistic thinkers, and charitable human beings is what we inspire in our classrooms. The Social Science and Canadian and World Studies Department strives to enlighten students about their journey as youth, both spiritually and intellectually, through daily scripture passages and social teachings. The goal as a department is to build resilience in our students by offering resources to become discerning believers and collective contributors to society. Predominant topics such as sustainability, social justice, ethical standards, and dignity of all human beings, global awareness, mental health, as well as equity and equality</p>

	<p>are at the foundation of dialogues. Members of the department are involved in our Diversity and Allies Club. Supporting students from equity seeking groups to promote diversity and inclusion. Mental wellness activities are also infused in classroom pursuits. Students are provided the opportunity to learn about wellness and eliminating the stigma’s surrounding mental health through collaboration and presentations with the school psychologist and social worker. Creating awareness in relation to these issues perpetuates the ability for students to thrive in their environments. The practices both inside and outside of our classrooms, warrants a positive learning experience with a sense of trust and liability. The Social Science and Canadian and World Studies Department models’ responsible citizenship by offering the student body to participate in student vote and practice proper digital citizenship and online etiquette. Our department ensures that members of the community can access basic needs of survival by coordinating the Thanksgiving Food Drive to feed the less fortunate in the local community through our Food and Nutrition classes. The department also organizes the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony to bring awareness to the battles that were fought for us throughout History, with recognition of the contributions that racialized and discriminated groups have made. Students will have the opportunity to engage in field trips, to learn about Citizenship and Law as they are linked to 21st century competencies. Students are educated on the history of human evolution and civilization, with the acknowledgement of Indigenous Studies and Truth and Reconciliation through virtual presentations from Indigenous Knowledge Keeper’s. Our Geography students partake in sustainability activities around the school to promote the importance of minimizing our ecological footprint. These experiences provide our students with an elevated standard of values and social conscience. Further, pragmatic opportunities assist students with the aptitudes necessary to excel in society and opportunities to engage in faith formation.</p>
<p>Theology</p>	<p>Guest speakers (virtual or in-person) will be invited to speak to classes regarding varying issues that they (the students) need to be aware of and can work towards assisting and helping others</p> <p>2. Participating in food drives, clothing drives and other Social Justice initiatives that will encourage students to practice the teachings of our faith such as Preferential Option for the Poor, caring for our brothers and sisters and the Catholic Social Justice teachings. This will also provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate Catholic Leadership and responsible citizenship</p> <p>3. Retreats: Students will participate in retreats through their religion classes and provide them with an opportunity to reflect on their faith</p>

	<p>journey and center their thoughts and deeds with God and grow spirituality as they continue to grow and nurture their faith and begin to develop an understanding of their place and life and their interactions with others</p> <p>4. Celebrating Mass: Participation in mass nurtures the spirit and the student’s Catholic faith and identity. It will also strengthen their sense of community</p> <p>5. Daily Prayer. Daily prayer will allow students the opportunity to bring their intentions to God and deepen their relationship with Him</p> <p>6. Studying the Gospel narratives and teaching of Jesus. Gives students an opportunity to inform their conscience and make decisions that reflect the values of their faith. Incorporating the Catholic Graduate Expectations into course curriculums, assessment tasks and lessons ensuring that upon graduation, students have successfully met the Catholic Graduate criteria</p>
<p>Academic Resource</p>	<p>Academic Resource Department strives to build unity and community by creating an inclusive and safe environment for all. Through our instructional support and monitoring of students, the academic resource department focus on welcoming students and providing an overview of the services we provide in the resource room. The Academic Resource room is a safe and inclusive environment where we provide students with academic supports.</p> <p>At all our transitional visits with our feeder schools, our aim is to include faith base learning in our presentations and in our transitional visits with incoming students.</p>
<p>Planning for Independence</p>	<p>The Catholic Graduate Expectations are embedded into the Planning for Independence Programs</p> <p>Throughout the year we celebrate the liturgical calendar with activities and lessons according to the time of the year, while we incorporate faith and prayer into our lives at school.</p> <p>The Planning for Independence program provides a safe and welcoming space for our students and staff in each of our classrooms. Integration and cooperative workplace experiences are developed for our students, to develop life skills and independence.</p> <p>We will continue to promote Catholic values by including our students into all aspects of the student life. Students will continue to be a visible presence in all school activities including attending grade level assemblies and retreats.</p>
<p>English/ Moderns/ Library</p>	<p>Responsible Citizen – To lead students in social justice initiatives such as First Nations/ Metis/ Inuit connections (i.e. Orange Shirt Day/ The</p>

	<p>National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, etc.), BIPOC and inclusivity (for ex. Book selections), Food Bank donations, Love of Reading Campaigns, and more. A focus will be how to overcome challenges the Pandemic poses by not only using digital platforms to make connections with students and the community, but re-establishing opportunities for human connectivity (i.e. in-person clubs like Book Club, Wellness Wednesdays, field trips).</p> <p>Collaborative Contributor – Group work and collaboration in both the department and the class to create an inclusive and safe environment: This is witnessed through consistent opportunities to be collaborative in group tasks related to curriculum and in departmental meetings/committees, as well as within the Library Learning Commons space.</p> <p>Discerning Believer – recognizes human suffering in themes in English literature, with a focus on BIPOC issues, as well as a French focus on the Holocaust, and is able to reflect on how this affects an individual’s sense of identity and equity/ justice. Faith formation is also supported in Library through content and activities (Planning for Independence programming, Advantage programming, etc.).</p> <p>Effective Communicator- each student is responsible for a reflective prayer at the beginning of class and is able to express one’s intentions for prayer; also, students in the English and Moderns classrooms should exhibit the ability to treat everyone’s voice and opinion with respect and dignity. In Library, faith is represented in displays and content, as well as digital platforms such as Google Classroom sites and social media sites.</p> <p>Reflective and Creative Thinker – Creating reflections through use of metacognition to reflect individual goals and aspirations in and outside of course/school; Use of creative writing to reveal individual experiences of life; Educators enabled to constantly create lessons that are Christ-centered and relevant in student lives. As Catholic, English and Moderns educators and Library staff, we are models of our faith and are responsible in creating safe, Christ-centered, inclusive classroom spaces that allow our students (as well as ourselves) to grow. We are called to foster growth through all of the virtues of the Gospel through our faith leadership in and outside of our classrooms.</p>
<p>Health and Physical Education</p>	<p>‘We are many – we are one’</p> <p>This year’s message from the board is ‘we are many – we are one’. We are able to espouse this belief through our phys ed/athletics program since sport is a great mechanism to help break down barriers and support inclusion of students from various backgrounds and cultures. Sport and athletics can help bring communities together, whether it’s playing them or supporting a common team – it brings people together.</p> <p>Responsible Citizen</p>

In the past, we as a phys ed department strived to provide students with the opportunity to take a leading role in school community initiatives that enhanced the morale, climate and Catholicity of our students. Activities such as the Terry Fox Run, Wellness Day and organizing of intramural activities, were student led/run activities that helped students achieve these goals. Another activity we organized was Friday Night Lights in support of a local youth centre which helped bring not only our school community together, but also the entire Bolton community together. All these activities promoted responsible citizenship and created a healthy climate in our school. Coming off of 2 year of Covid, where people have been isolated, organizing events like these will help people come together and supports the boards message this year.

Collaborative Contributor

Our goal is to promote fair play and sportsmanship daily in our classes. As educators we provide opportunities and a framework for students to work in groups/teams encouraging respect amongst our diverse groups. This is done in order to create an inclusive and safe learning environment, so that ALL students have the opportunity to develop their God-given talents to their fullest potential.

Discerning Believer

Typically we start off class with a prayer, as it helps set the moral tone of the class. As part of our Grade 9 leadership activities (where students lead a warm up activity), students are asked lead their peers in a reflection about our God given gifts and talents. This helps us act out and live our faith and as an application based course brings to life Jesus' teachings. AS we emerge from the effects of covid, one advantage has been the mandatory use of virtual classrooms like google and its continued use. We have posted prayers and links to important religious events on our virtual classroom so that students have access to them.

Self-Directed, responsible, lifelong learners

Students are to not only participate, but take charge for their own learning and the importance of leading a healthy active lifestyle. Infused in the phys ed curriculum are opportunities for students to push themselves outside of the comfort zones and realize their fullest potential.

As Catholic educators, we believe in the dignity of persons. Through sport we aim to educate our students in the Catholic virtues espoused by the DPCDSB. We feel we are in a fortunate position to promote all the virtues daily in our curriculum. These include Faith, Empathy, Conscience, Hope, Self-Control/decision making, Respect, Kindness, Love, Acceptance, and Fairness. Through our Catholic curriculum we are able to weave through many of these virtues on a daily basis. The

	<p>ultimate goal is to use sport and activity to help students develop a healthy self-image through a Catholic lens.</p> <p>Our Health and Physical Education motto, posted on our department website, is: You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a price. So you must honour God with your body. (Corinthians 6:19-20). Students use their God given abilities to participate actively, develop skills and positive self- image, and to make lasting commitments to the St. Michael school community.</p>
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School Environment Reflective of Our Faith

These religious icons, symbols and visible expressions of our Catholic identity are present in the school environment:

Cross behind the altar in the Chapel; Stained glass window of our patron, St. Michael, in the Chapel; crosses in each classroom; Prayer Tables in each classroom; Tapestry of St. Michael in the Chapel; Tapestry of St. Michael in the Library; Painting of Our Lady of Altigracia in the Chapel; Statues of Virgin Mary in the Chapel; Picture of the Divine Mercy; Statues of the Holy Family, St. Patrick, St. Nicolas, St. John the Baptist and St. John Paul II (representing our Parish and feeder Elementary schools, respectively); mural of St. Michael in the matrix.

Collaborative School Culture

These activities are organized by the School Catholic Community Culture and Caring Action Team:

Virtues –Each month teachers are asked to nominate students who exemplify that month’s virtue. Those students are then recognized by our school community and receive a certificate and tshirt.

Athletics - We organize and lead interschool and intramural athletic programs for the inclusion of all students to positively impact their health and well-being. This includes basketball, flag football, rugby, volleyball, golf, cross country, bocce (students in our Planning for Independence Program), basketball, hockey, badminton, baseball, soccer, and track and field. The implementation of our intramural sports programs is geared to the inclusion of all students, not just elite athletes. We believe athletics are a microcosm of life as many Catholic social teachings can be reinforced and passed onto our students through sports.

Wings of Faith – Student leadership group that promotes and encourages the faith life of the school through leading liturgies, assisting with Masses, facilitating retreats and other opportunities for student faith development.

Student Council – Thunder Council creates activities and events, like Colour Wars and Kindness Week, to bring the school community together and provide students an opportunity to demonstrate our Catholic values.

Diversity and Allies Club – The Diversity and Allies Club is a student-led club that was created to meet regularly to provide an opportunity for all Black students and allies to feel acknowledged, appreciated, and accepted at school.

Athletic Council - Athletic Council is a student led initiative to help promote healthy active living and athletics in general at St. Mike's. It's designed to maximize student involvement and allow students to understand the importance of leading an active lifestyle and all the benefits that entails.

MicTV – student run, teacher led video broadcasting, helping spread community through video morning announcements and the visual medium

Wellness Wednesdays – Our student Mental Health and Well-being Champions (supported by our CWY and SST) offer wellness tips or therapeutic activities (such as Christian meditation) each Wednesday.

Eco- Council – As Stewards of Our Land, Eco Council is a student group that has committed to protect our land and reduce our carbon footprint, by reducing and cleaning up waste, limiting use of plastic, waste free lunches, and giving back to our community by growing our own vegetables, donating used clothes, and creating a sustainable environment.

Library Wellness Wednesdays – once a month themed days for students led by library staff, for students to participate in an activity that promotes well being.

Friday night Lights – student run, teacher led event that raises money for local youth centre in honour of a former student who passed away. Community partners and members are invited and involved in the event.

Parish Connections

Planned and existing initiatives that maintain and enhance positive relationships with the local parish communities:

- School masses throughout the school year celebrated by Pastor or Associate Pastor of Holy Family Parish.
- Parish supports the school through various extra-curricular activities
- Chaplaincy Leader visits Lifeteen at the Parish
- Chaplaincy Leader and Youth Minister meet to pray and have fellowship

Staff Faith Development

Spiritual accompaniment and faith formation for our staff:

- Professional Activity days include faith development opportunities
- Promote faith development opportunities hosted by the board and the Archdiocese

Transitions

Students supported in the area of transitioning from Grade 8 to Grade 9, from Grade 12 to Post-Secondary as well as from one grade to another:

Promoting the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations is of the utmost importance and they will be in all aspects of transitions to our current and future students.

TRANSITIONING FROM GRADE 8 TO GRADE 9

Grade 9 Homeroom Orientation Sessions

Guidance counsellors visited all grade 9 homeroom classes to welcome students to a new school year and to provide an overview of the services offered in the Guidance Department. The goal of these presentations is to inform students, as well as to build unity and community by creating an inclusive and safe environment.

Grade 8 Visits and tours

In order to assist in students' transition to high school, grade 8 students from all feeder schools are invited to spend a day at St. Michael. This year, tours will be arranged and grade 8s will be guided around the school by senior students in order to demonstrate the advantages of Catholic education, to familiarize themselves with the programs offered at the school, and to allow them to experience a day in the life of a high school student in a Catholic education environment.

Grade 8 Mental Health Transition – Your Mind Matters

The initiative included a streamlined Mental Wellness presentation and workshop; which was facilitated by teachers, mental health support staff, Mental Health Champions, and students from the Diversity and Allies Club. The presentation included mental health support resources, as well as a Christian meditation guided by the school Chaplaincy Leader and Wings of Faith students.

Grade 8 Parents' Night

This is an evening where all departments in the school showcase their programs to the grade 8 students and their parents. The evening begins a showcase of all that St Michaels has to offer. Teams, clubs, events will all have displays in the matrix. Following the showcase, a presentation that gives an overview of the St. Michael Secondary School goals, specialized programs, levels, extracurricular opportunities and excursions will be presented to families of incoming grade 8s. An emphasis is placed on the advantages of choosing Catholic education and includes live testimonials from current students and parents of students who attend the school. Following the presentation, guided tours around the school are offered by student leaders while teacher representatives from each department showcase their programs and student work.

FROM ONE GRADE TO ANOTHER

All Grades

Throughout the year, students meet with their counsellors to discuss education and career planning. This promotes life-long learning and encourages faith formation and goal setting. Counsellors strive to infuse Catholic values and responsible citizenship in these plans. Part of the discussion focuses on providing students with volunteer opportunities in our local community, which promotes Christian outreach, along with a call to service. Although students are unable to meet the counsellors in person this year, counsellors still connect with students regarding their education and career planning on the telephone or via email.

Grade 11 – Post-Secondary Planning

Students will be connected to post-secondary information and pathways options through online resources. The Guidance team is collaborating with the Caledon Chamber of Commerce as an active partner for workplace-bound students to make connections to employment opportunities within the community. The goal is that no student will be left behind and will be prepared to embrace their future goals and be contributing members of our community. The Guidance team will continue to connect to local service clubs for Christian outreach opportunities and volunteer hour fulfillment opportunities for students.

Grade 10 to 12 - Spring Post-Secondary Fair

In the spring, students in grades 10- to 12 will have access to an interactive Spring Post-Secondary Fair presentation so they can start exploring post-secondary pathways and programs.

FROM GRADE 12 TO POST-SECONDARY

Grade 12 – Post-Secondary Pathways

Counsellors meet with all grade 12 classes at the beginning of October for a post-secondary pathways presentation. This presentation provides students with useful information regarding their desired post-secondary pathway; apprenticeship, college, university or workplace.

Grade 12 – Fall Post-Secondary Fair

In keeping with the practice to ensure that students have a post-secondary plan, every effort will be made to reach students pursuing all pathways; university, college, apprenticeship, Military, and workplace. This will be done through a virtual platform. The goal of building unity and community, one student and one family at a time, will continue to be the focus as students, families and counsellors work together through this global pandemic to plan for a successful future for the graduates of St. Michael CSS.

Grade 12 - Graduation

Students who have successfully completed all requirements to achieve their Ontario Secondary School Diploma are invited to attend a graduation ceremony. At this ceremony, students are recognized for their accomplishments and are encouraged to use their knowledge and their faith on their post-secondary pathway. If a ceremony cannot take place in person as a result of the pandemic, a virtual ceremony will be organized and livestreamed to the school community to meet the needs of the graduates and their families.

Transition to Grade 9 - Academic Resource Department

In late winter/early spring of each year the Academic Resource Dept, Student Success Teacher and Guidance Counsellors set up meetings with feeder school teams to discuss and plan for incoming Grade 9s. At these meetings, every student is discussed at length. Notes are taken, recommendations are made, and staff share any other valuable information to help with the transition to Grade 9. Students who are flagged at risk or who exhibit high anxiety may be invited to visit our school in May or June prior to their Grade 9 year to help ease some of these worries. If IPRCs take place, parents are also invited to the meeting and can share information with the team as well.

The resource team develops a list of students based on discussions that were had at the transition meetings. These students are invited to a transitional day prior to “Get Ready.” This is a smaller group of students who would benefit from the one-to-one interaction with a caring adult. They are given their schedules and locks ahead of time and are also given a tour of the building and shown each of their classes.

Get Ready takes place the week before school begins and is open to all new grade 9s. On this day students are also given schedules, locks, and a tour of the building. There are also icebreaker activities and lunch is provided. Students are encouraged to meet some new friends and hopefully ease some of their worries about starting high school.

Once school begins, students with an IEP (Individual Education Plan) are invited to visit the resource room and meet their resource teacher. The resource teacher reviews transition notes, informs staff of student accommodations and updates IEP accordingly. The ARD (Academic Resource Department) department also reaches out to families within the first week of school to introduce the team and explain how their child can access support throughout the school year.

The goal is to connect students with at least one caring adult so that they can feel comfortable going to see if they have any concerns or issues.

Vocations

Vocations to religious life and pastoral ministries promoted through:

- Presentations by the Office of Vocations to grade 12 religion classes.

- Ordinandi Luncheon (To Be Determined)– Students attend with Chaplaincy Leader.