

## ICT SHSM & Communication Technology (Who are We?)



Currently, our ICT SHSM and Communications Technology Program (known as MicTV – named after St. Michael and a play off the word “microphone”) consists of six separate classes: Grade 10, 11 and 12 Communications Technology, Grade 11 and 12 Photography, and Grade 11 Graphic Design, as well as a Grade 11 Film & Video course offered as a specialized Drama course in our school’s Arts Advantage program.

Each school day at St. Michael begins with our LIVE morning announcements that are broadcast across our whole school via Smart Boards and Televisions from our Studio Control Room. The opportunity to be influential in our school via our broadcasting system capabilities doesn’t end there though, as MicTV is also responsible for LIVE broadcasting religious ceremonies such as our stain glass window blessing hosted by the Knights of Columbus, holiday broadcasts that promote seasonal student work, and large “live action” events like the Hospitality program’s Master Chef competition held from inside the kitchen and broadcasted across our entire school.

We are content creators and use Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube (Account Name @STMicTV) to connect with our students inside and outside the school building. When we can’t share our content to the school community LIVE, we create opportunities for our students to have a voice in the digital space. Instagram is the home for our student photography, YouTube has a variety of class work, school events, teacher videos (both fun and informative), and a variety of other content.

In 2014, we went to China and in 2018 we went to Iceland. Both were life changing experiences for our students. Not only did we delve into self-exploration, but we documented the entire process and created two documentary films. Both film screening debuts were hosted at our annual St. Michael Film Festival and Halo Awards (SMFF) with our most recent 6<sup>th</sup> annual festival taking place on the “big screen” at Colossus Cinemas in Vaughan, ON. At SMFF, we screen student projects from our grade 10/11 communications technology classes, grade 12 short film projects that are a collaboration with the grade 12 drama class, and wrap up the whole show with awards given out by guest judges who have in the past been Canadian directors, comedians, actors, and former graduates of our program.

We have a tradition that every year MicTV shoots a Graduation LipDub for our grade 12 grad class. The LipDub video is a final send off to the grad class and our school community always comes together each year to shoot this video. Picture a music video/choreographed dance party wrapped up into one memory that every grad class gets to leave high school remembering. The LipDub is screened at their graduation ceremony on all the big screens inside the hall for all graduates to watch with their family and friends. It is a tradition that the Valedictorian stars in a segment of the video and introduces the screening after their speech. We take pride in the Pre-show we put on display at the grade 12 graduation as well. A full crew of MicTV students travel early in the morning of the graduation and prepare a LIVE broadcast set up inside the event space. Upon arrival later in the afternoon, the screens inside the hall are playing LIVE red-carpet interviews from 3 separate

locations, playing videos prepared by students ahead of time back at school, and showing live video feeds from inside the hall itself. It is a truly a full-fledged digital production.

We've been called upon by our school board to create videos for our safe schools and equity division where we tackled subjects like mental well-being and the use of the "N" word in schools. Our students have competed in the Ontario Skill Competition and have won bronze in graphic design, silver in photography, and gold twice over the last two years in TV and video production. We were also proud to represent our school board at the Provincial competition in the 2016/2017 school year placing 4<sup>th</sup> in the province in the TV & Video Production category.

MicTV and the Communication Technology program are designed to give students the opportunity to be expressive and influential in our school community through the use of communications technologies. We are always looking to create an environment where students can challenge themselves and achieve success both inside and outside the classroom.