



WE ARE  
**ST. MICHAEL'S  
ACADEMY**



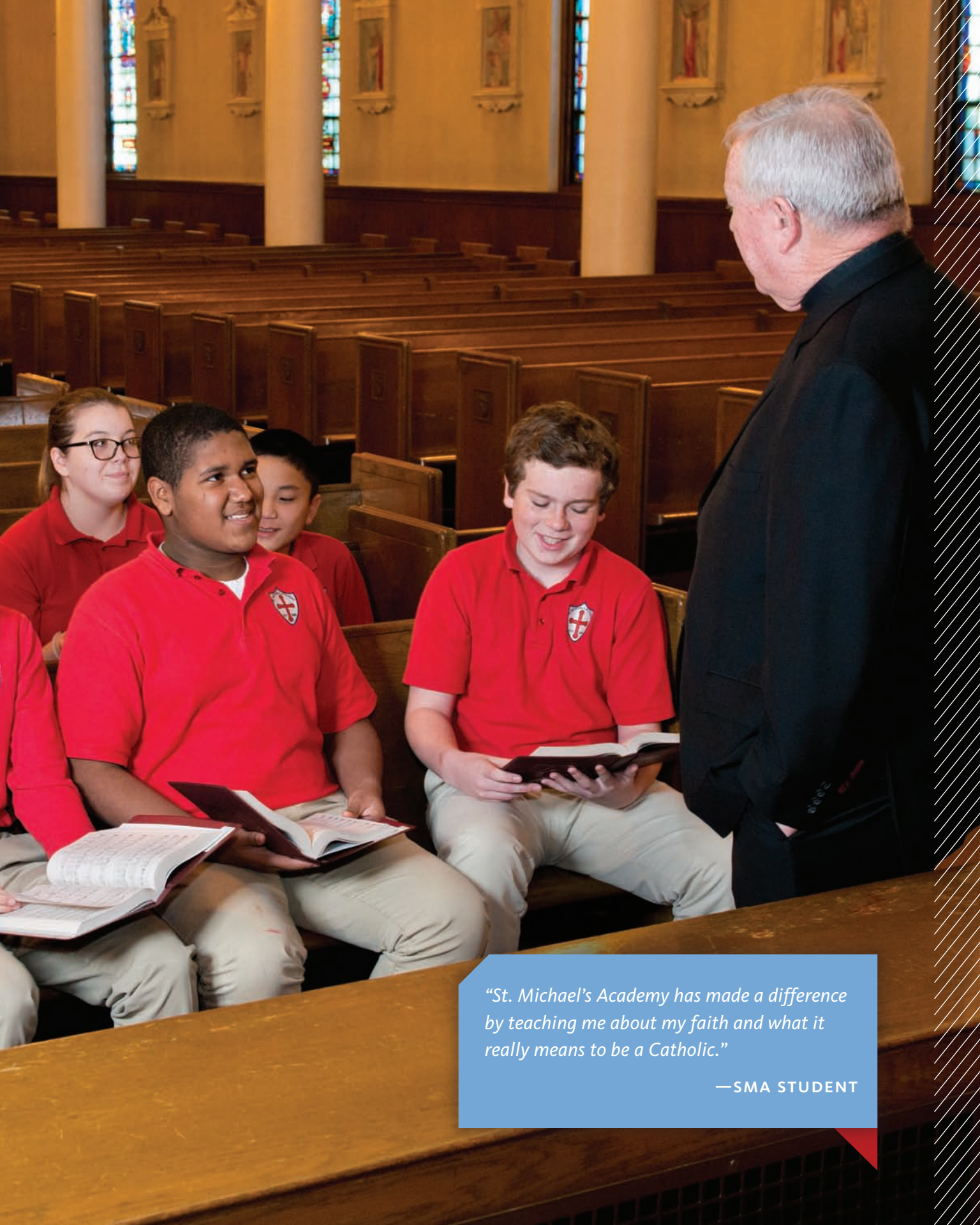
*Inspired Minds. Faith-filled Hearts. Tomorrow's Leaders.*

# LIGHT THE FLAME

St. Michael's Academy is a premier academic institution for students in preschool through eighth grade.

As the largest Catholic elementary school in western Massachusetts, we are widely recognized for our distinguished and nurturing faculty, faith-centered learning environment, challenging academics, and close community. We inspire young minds and hearts, empowering students for lives of wisdom, service, and leadership. The flames of curiosity and faith burn brightly in St. Michael's graduates, as they become tomorrow's leaders in high school, college, and the global community.





*“St. Michael’s Academy has made a difference by teaching me about my faith and what it really means to be a Catholic.”*

—SMA STUDENT

# INSPIRED MINDS

## Providing a Dynamic Curriculum Through a Devoted Faculty

St. Michael's Academy opens pathways for students to discover and develop their academic strengths and talents. Through an innovative, rigorous curriculum and a culture of high expectations and mentored learning, we strive to ignite each student's intellect, creativity, and imagination. Beginning with our youngest children and moving up through each grade level, we work in close partnership with parents to guide our students to become passionate, self-directed, lifelong learners. We prepare students at each grade for success at the next level by offering an integrated curriculum defined by clear outcomes and learning expectations. We incorporate the latest technology to enhance each child's learning experience at every grade level.

Our caring faculty creates a safe, welcoming environment where children from diverse, cultural and religious backgrounds become an inclusive community. Upon graduation, our students are empowered to succeed in high school and college, and well prepared to lead lives of purposeful achievement and servant leadership.



# FAITH-FILLED HEARTS

## Creating a Spiritual Path Towards a Friendship With God

The spiritual life at St. Michael's Academy is essential to our identity. We guide each child toward a realization that a true friendship with God leads to a life lived with dignity and respect for oneself and others.

All students at St. Michael's participate in daily religion classes designed to illuminate the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. Beyond the classroom, we offer students of all faiths opportunities for spiritual growth through prayer, liturgy, devotionals, retreats, and community service.

St. Michael's Academy emphasizes the importance of character as we help students explore their faith, their individual talents and passions, and their personal values. Students are actively engaged in community service as they learn how to cultivate compassion while living out their love of God and of others, building leadership skills along the way.



# TOMORROW'S LEADERS

## Forming Students to Serve with Heart & Mind

Education is the foundation for a life well-lived. At St. Michael's Academy, we partner with parents and other family members to build a dynamic and compassionate community that extends far beyond the classroom walls. Students examine and develop their own personal and spiritual values in preparation to become tomorrow's leaders. Our program allows students to become creative problem solvers, critical thinkers, confident and thoughtful decision makers, articulate and reflective communicators, and accountable team players.



# ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

A Creative & Challenging Curriculum





*“St. Michael’s Academy has exceeded our expectations. The faculty and staff exemplify operational organization, communication and a family-oriented atmosphere..”*

—PARENTS OF PREK-3 STUDENT

## PRESCHOOL

Our enthusiastic preschoolers become early problem solvers and creative thinkers in our child-centered classrooms. We encourage young children to explore the world, learn how to communicate with both peers and adults and build their social skills. They explore their faith and relationship to God through gospel lessons, activities, bible stories and prayers.

For our youngest learners, the emphasis is on providing a literacy-rich environment where children discover new sounds and words through activities, games, and play-based centers that help them learn to communicate. In addition, we begin instilling number sense through games and activities designed to provide the most basic foundation in mathematics. Students have fun and learn at the same time through hands-on, discovery-based mathematical instruction that introduces them to topics such as shapes and numbers, simple graphs, and patterns.

Science, too, plays a big part in the days of our preschoolers at St. Michael’s. We nurture their natural curiosity about the world and teach basics about weather and seasons, the human body, health, the properties of solids and liquids, along with our seas, air, and universe. The social studies curriculum includes instruction on map reading, historical characters and family relationships.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL *(Grades K–5)*

In the elementary school at St. Michael's Academy, we continue building each child's basic knowledge in various academic arenas through an exciting curriculum that includes language arts, mathematics, religion, science, and social studies. We also offer extended programs in music, physical education, health, computer skills, Spanish, and art.

Our focus is not simply on academics, however. At each grade level, St. Michael's teachers are working to educate the whole child and promote growth in all areas—intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and creatively.

The focus of our elementary school curriculum in religion is to foster growth as a member of the church community and to facilitate expressing the love of Jesus and all people through community service projects.

In language arts, our students steadily build their vocabularies and communication skills, both written and oral, as they develop their ability to read and analyze increasingly complicated passages and books. In mathematics, we assess each student individually and build mathematical proficiency, helping students master the basics as they become increasingly competent and creative problem solvers. Our teachers relate what our students are learning in math to real world problems

whenever possible, encouraging students to find ways to apply what they're learning in class to everyday life.

In science, we take an inquiry-based approach, encouraging students to tackle research questions and laboratory experiments that will keep them engaged through hands-on learning as we move through topics in the life, earth, and physical sciences. Our social studies curriculum is designed to broaden each student's understanding of their local communities, the country we live in, and their roles as global citizens, with an emphasis on history, cultures around the world, and map skills.





## MIDDLE SCHOOL *(Grades 6–8)*

Middle school is a time of great transition for students. St. Michael's continues to support and nurture these students as they grow, with a faculty that is expert in handling different levels of maturation and ability. We challenge our middle school students to think in more abstract terms and solve more complicated problems as they continue to build their communication skills through a core curriculum that includes language arts, mathematics, religion, science, and social studies.

Our focus in middle school is on preparing students for the challenges that lie ahead in high school and college—challenges we hope they'll meet ethically and enthusiastically.

In religion, for instance, our sixth graders explore the Old Testament and perform community service projects that build their community spirit and understanding of what it means to be a servant of God. By eighth grade, our focus is two-fold, in that students explore the Catholic Church history and concepts of Catholic morality.

The language arts curriculum for middle schoolers reinforces what they have learned in elementary school, reviewing mechanics while continuing to build their vocabulary and understanding of literary terms. We cover many genres of literature as students complete independent reading assignments and projects, as well as working in writing workshops to produce creative work.

Mathematics coursework becomes particularly rigorous, with students learning to handle practice exercises, quizzes, chapter tests, and homework more independently, as well as project work. Middle school mathematics topics include statistics and the real world application of whole numbers, connecting arithmetic to algebra, fractions, decimals, measurement (US customary and metric), geometry, and lessons in probability. Due to the strength of our math curriculum, students are well prepared to begin their high school math classes.

Between sixth and eighth grade, our students cover a rich array of topics in science, including astronomy, biology, chemistry, oceanography, and physics. They hone their critical thinking skills while engaging in class discussions, laboratory experiences, and other applications to showcase what they have learned. Eighth graders complete a multidisciplinary school design project as a capstone project.

Our social studies curriculum focuses on geography and continental study, with an emphasis on history, modern life, and current events. Throughout their social studies lessons, students engage in enrichment activities, case studies, skills activities, history simulations, and other activities designed to help them make interdisciplinary connections and relate the material covered in class to their own lives.

# ENRICHED LEARNING



## Activities That Engage & Inspire

How do you find the courage to take risks, the opportunity to discover new artistic talents, or practice the skills to lead others?

One of our top priorities at St. Michael's Academy is helping all students reach their full academic potential. However, we also put great emphasis on engaging students in activities outside the classroom. Studies show that these outside activities positively impact students in multiple ways, by helping them build leadership skills, form friendships, lower stress through play, and discover new ways of interacting with the world. In fact, time spent on extracurricular activities can enhance student discipline, time management, and overall productivity, preparing each child to succeed in high school, in college, and even in a future career. St. Michael's Academy offers a variety of exciting enrichment opportunities:

- Choral Program
- Drumming
- Environmental Center for our Schools
- Field Day
- Field Trips
- Fitness Team
- Math Counts
- National Junior Honor Society
- Poetry Cafe
- SchoolsNEXT Competition
- Science Fair
- Special Events Choir
- Spelling Bee
- Student Council
- Violin
- Yearbook



*“St. Michael’s offers our triplets an education and learning experience that has become the vital ingredient to helping them be all that they can be.”*

— PARENTS OF 5TH GRADE STUDENTS





## Inquire

We welcome visitors and encourage families to tour the school. Please feel free to contact the Admissions Office at 413.782.5246, ext. 1208 to set up an appointment. Our doors are always open.

## Apply

The goal of the Admissions Office is to provide you and your family with an application experience that is positive and efficient. The process may be initiated during a private appointment or by visiting the Admissions section of our website at [smaspringfield.com](http://smaspringfield.com).

## Give

St. Michael's Academy relies heavily on the kindness and generosity of others. To support our mission, please contact our Advancement Office or visit our website.



## **St. Michael's Academy**

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Springfield, MA 01118

**413-782-5246**  
**[smaspringfield.org](http://smaspringfield.org)**