ST. MICHAEL'S COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE



St. Michael's Country Day School

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About St. Michael's

MISSION

Develop **courageous learners** and **caring citizens** who are **world ready**.

VISION

Be a leader that cultivates the essential qualities students need to thrive in a dynamic global community.

VALUES



Community

Operate with kindness and respect. Embody and celebrate diversity in all regards.



Communication

Find and use your voice. Write, speak and listen. Seek to understand before seeking to be understood.



Courage

Take risks. Fail forward. Embrace the challenge.



Problem Solving

Take risks. Fail forward. Embrace the challenge.

Division Overview

Early Childhood

(TODDLER-PK)

Our early childhood programming centers play and project-based learning. Our approach is reflective of the interconnectedness of holistic development. We intentionally provide opportunities for our youngest learners to revisit and build upon prior knowledge. The school day encompasses free play, morning meeting, center exploration, read alouds, social-emotional learning, project work, and/or specials including Science, Spanish, Creative Movement/Music, Art, and Physical Education.






Nature Walk
Collection
FERN LEAF
ROCKS



Toddler

Language Arts

Early literacy experiences include:

- Receptive and expressive language development
- Expanding vocabulary
- Engaging in wordplay
- Exploring letters as a special form of symbol
- Recognizing a few letters in their own first name
- Active participation in read alouds

Early writing experiences include:

- Development of fine motor skills
- Exploring a variety of writing tools
- Exploring scribbling as representation of oral language

Math

- Counting objects up to 5 accurately
- Naming and identifying some written numerals
- Recognizing and naming familiar shapes
- Recognizing and expanding simple pattern work

Social Studies

- Awareness of community
- Developing understanding of passage of time, people, and the world around them
- Celebration of diverse families, communities, and culture

Science/Health

FOCUS: OBSERVE AND EXPLORE

- Communicate questions
- Sensory exploration
- Notice and explore cause and effect
- Notice and explore characteristics of natural objects, materials, and living things

Foreign Language: Spanish

Students are exposed to Spanish during a weekly special.

Music

Music is integrated into the students' day through:

- Simple songs and finger play
- Exploration of musical instruments

Art

Art materials are available for children to use throughout the day. Art projects that use a variety of materials are integrated into the curriculum. Students are also presented with developmentally appropriate studies that touch on art history and art appreciation topics. Students are exposed to a variety of cultures, styles, and techniques through exploration of a variety of media for self expression.

Gross Motor Development

Weather permitting, the students have outdoor playtime two times per day using playground structures designed to facilitate and enhance physical and social development. Skills developed include:

- Playing "catch"
- Throwing underhand
- Climbing
- Increased coordination and regulation of large muscles

Creative Movement

Toddlers explore the basic elements of dance, time, space, body, and qualities of movement using various music genres, literature, and classroom themes during class.

- Gross motor skills (jumping, marching, galloping, rolling, crawling)
- Introducing rhythm, beat through various chants, and songs
- Cross lateral movements and balance
- Understanding the structure of a movement class
- Introducing control and awareness of body in self space, as well as space of others
- Exploring how to move through space using different and levels

Preschool



Language Arts

Early literacy experiences include:

- Recognizing print in the environment
- Exploring letters
- Recognizing first name
- Participating in author studies
- Retelling a story with support

Early writing experiences include:

- Tracing name
- Exploring letter formation
- Beginning to use symbols to convey meaning
- Drawing a picture that tells a story
- Developing fine motor skills



Math

- Creating patterns
- Sorting and classifying
- Recognizing numbers 1-10
- Counting to 10
- Counting objects
- Exploring shapes
- Sorting by attributes

Social Studies

Projects include:

- All About Me
- Harvest
- Gratitude
- Holidays Around the World
- Arctic Animals
- Fairy Tales
- Plants and Insects

Geography Skills:

- Introduction to globe
- Awareness of neighborhood
- Awareness of community

Science/Health

FOCUS: OBSERVE AND EXPLORE

Topics explored include:

- Seasons
- Solar system
- Weather
- Simple machines
- Plants and their parts
- Apples and the fruit lifecycle
- Sea life
- Dinosaurs
- Recycling

Health topics include:

- Self care
- Nutrition
- Health providers

Foreign Language: Spanish

Students in preschool continue their formal study of the Spanish language.



Music

Music is integrated throughout the day and during creative movement class:

- Group sing-a-longs
- Basic elements of music
- Fingerplays
- Singing at morning meetings
- Rhythm-dynamics and melody
- Exposure to different genres of music
- Exploration of diverse groups and cultures through music
- Introduction to percussion instruments
- Introduction to the “Composer of the Month”

Art

Art materials are available for children to use throughout the day. Art projects that use a variety of materials are integrated into the curriculum. Students have weekly art classes where they are presented with developmentally appropriate studies that touch on art history and art appreciation topics. Students are exposed to a variety of cultures, styles, and techniques through exploration of a variety of media for self expression.



Physical Education

Weather permitting, the students have outdoor playtime two times per day using playground structures designed to facilitate and enhance physical and social development. Students also work with a physical education specialist weekly.

Skills Developed Include:

- Skills Developed Include:
- Over and under hand catching and throwing
- Locomotor skills: hopping, jumping, skipping, kicking
- Understanding personal space
- Basic gymnastic skills: balance, forward/backward roll

Music/Creative Movement

Preschool students explore the basic elements of dance, time, space, body, and qualities of movement using various music genres, literature, classroom themes, and cross curricular techniques during class. Lessons and activities are age appropriate and are based on the national dance standards.

- Cross lateral movements and balance
- Introducing rhythm, beat through various chants and songs
- Responding to musical cues and instruments
- Control and awareness of body in self space and space of others
- Creating shapes with the body and building group shapes
- Understanding negative and positive space
- Understanding body language and non verbal communication
- Exploring diverse groups and cultures through movement, dance
- Studying a new choreographer or dancer every month





PreKindergarten

Language Arts

Early literacy experiences include:

- Recognizing patterns in stories
- Retelling a story
- Rhyming
- Identifying upper case letters
- Exploring lower case letters
- Developing awareness of letter/ sound relationships

Early writing experiences include:

- Writing first name and dictating stories
- Beginning to use letters in emergent writing
- Exposure to and exploration of classroom writing center
- Demonstrating understanding that written text conveys meanging

Foreign Language: Spanish

Students in prekindergarten continue their formal study of the Spanish language.

Math

- Creating number patterns of increasing complexity
- Sorting and classifying by multiple attributes
- Emergent awareness of recognizing numbers 1-20
- Counting to 20
- Counting groups of objects
- Identifying 2-D Shapes
- Making observations about picture graphs

Social Studies

Projects include:

- Family, friends, and self
- Neighborhoods and communities
- Community
- Health and nutrition
- Pets
- Insects

Geography Skills:

- Continents
- Habitats around the world
- Appreciation of world cultures

Science/Health

FOCUS: SCIENTIFIC PROCESSES; SEASONAL ADAPTATIONS

Topics explored include:

- Small animals at SMS (worms, isopods, caterpillars)
- Winter adaptations of plants and animals
- Elements of Spring

Health topics include:

- Nutrition: food groups, healthy eating
- Cold and flu prevention
- Community health care workers

Music/Creative Movement

Music is integrated throughout the day and during Creative Movement class:

- Group sing-a-longs
- Basic elements of music
- Introduction to percussion instruments
- Fingerplays
- Singing at morning meetings
- Rhythm dynamics and melody
- Exploration of diverse groups/ culture through music
- Exposure to different genres of music
- Introduced to a new composer every month

Art

Art projects and materials are integrated into the daily curriculum. The children also have weekly art appreciation classes where they are exposed to a variety of artists and their techniques. In weekly art classes they create a variety of 2-D and 3-D media projects based on the exploration of the elements of art.

Projects might include:

- Line book and sculpture
- Primary color and color mixing
- Texture and shape collage
- Forming letters in clay
- Print making and stamping
- Slab and pinch pot construction in clay

Physical Education

Weather permitting, the students have outdoor playtime three times per day using playground structures designed to facilitate and enhance physical and social development. Students also work with a physical education specialist weekly.

Students have a weekly class where they work in groups and individually.

Skills Developed Include:

- Gross Motor Skills: Running, Walking, Sprinting, Skipping
- Core Stability and Balance
- Obstacle Navigation/Body movement control
- Grasping and Manipulating objects
- Social Skills: Taking turns, Working in groups/teams
- Safety Skills: Using equipment safely



Division Overview

Lower School

(K-4)

Students in our Lower School are led through a core curriculum, which includes math, reading, writing, spelling, and thematic studies. Additionally, students are provided opportunities to expand their interests and explore their individuality through classes in Spanish language, visual arts, music, drama, physical education, innovation lab, creative movement, and mindfulness.

Physical education, health & wellness, art, music, and innovation lab are not “specials” or “extras” at SMS; like math and language arts, these subjects are considered essential parts of our curriculum.





Kindergarten

Language Arts

Early literacy experiences include: big books, read alouds, fairytales, poetry, decodable books, introduction to non-fiction, sight words

- Comprehension: discussion's about stories, making predictions, sequencing events
- Phonics: mastering identification of upper and lower case letters, knowledge of consonant and vowel sounds, blending three and four letter words, phonemic awareness activities
- Vocabulary: developing word meaning

Writing experiences include: writing name in upper and lower case letters, writing stories using phonetic spelling, journal writing

- Writing skills: writing a sentence
- Writing mechanics: spacing between words, introduction to ending punctuation
- Spelling: using some conventionally spelled words when writing
- Handwriting: correctly forming upper and lower case letters

Math

- Number sense development
- Patterns and sequencing numbers
- Skip counting by 5's and 10's
- Reading numbers to 100
- Counting to 100
- Counting backwards from 20
- Concepts of addition and subtraction
- Number bonds: part-part-whole relationships
- Measurement using non-standard units
- Introduction to standard measurement
- Identifying basic 3-D shapes
- Developing the ability to subitize
- Creating a picture graph

Social Studies

Projects include:

- Homes around the world
- Life cycle of a tree/Change of seasons
- Thanksgiving/Life in the past
- Family holiday traditions
- Animal and plant life in a woodland forest
- Fairy tales
- Life in the pond habitats

Geography Skills:

- Know address
- Awareness of hometown and state
- Exposure to world and US map

Science/Health

FOCUS: COMPARING/CONTRASTING:

Physical Forces and Seasonal changes

Topics explored include:

- Animals 2 x 2, Invertebrates
- Marbles, Tracks, and Ramps 1
- Seasonal changes
- Spring plantings
- STEM challenges

Health topics include:

- Social awareness
- Safety on playground
- Personal boundaries
- Healthy habits

Foreign Language: Spanish

Students in kindergarten continue their study of the Spanish language and culture.

Topics in Spanish are explored through games and songs and include:

- Numbers
- Traditions and holidays
- Colors
- Family members
- Weather
- Clothing

Music/Creative Movement

Students are introduced to the basic elements of music, rhythm-dynamics, and melody in Creative Movement class and throughout their day:

- Group sing-a-longs
- Seasonal songs
- Exploration of different percussion instruments
- Chants and poems
- Performing at school assemblies, special events and morning meetings
- Introduction to different parts of an orchestra
- Introduction to various composers
- Exploring diverse groups and cultures through music

Art

Art projects and materials are integrated into the daily curriculum. In weekly art classes they create a variety of 2-D and 3-D media projects based on the exploration of the elements of art.

Projects might include:

- Self portraits
- Making houses in clay
- Holiday related project(s)
- Life-sized self portrait
- Monsters out of wood



Physical Education

Weather permitting, the students have outdoor playtime two times per day using playground structures designed to facilitate and enhance physical and social development.

Students have a weekly class where they work in groups and individually.

Skills developed include:

- Ball skills: catching, throwing, tapping, kicking
- Locomotor skills: hopping, jumping, skipping
- Spatial awareness and rhythm
- Striking with an implement (baseball)

Drama

Basic theater skills covered include:

- Improvisation
- Character development
- Cooperative onstage interaction
- Appropriate audience behavior

Students learn the actor's three most important tools: voice, body, and imagination, as they are introduced to the steps involved in rehearsing and presenting teacher-narrated "fairy tale plays."



1st Grade

Language Arts

Reading experiences include: read alouds, guided reading, decodable books, fiction, non-fiction.

Comprehension skills include: story retell, story structures.

- Phonics: initial, medial, and final consonants, long and short vowels; digraphs; diphthongs, affixes, syllable types, suffixes, contractions, phonemic awareness activities
- Vocabulary: context clues, word structure
- Fluency: choral, buddy and echo reading, Reader's Theater

Writing experiences include: fiction and nonfiction stories, journals, written responses to questions, theme oriented reports, poetry, personal narratives.

- Writing skills: using nouns, verbs and adjectives, sequencing, story mapping, adding details
- Writing mechanics: capitalization, punctuation, and sentence structure
- Spelling: Phonics-based rules and high frequency words
- Handwriting: correct letter formation

Math

- Number sense and identification of numbers to ten
- Addition and subtraction within ten
- Ordinal numbers
- Numbers to twenty
- Shapes
- Length
- Comparing numbers
- Graphing
- Numbers to 120
- Introduction to the concepts of multiplication, division, fractions, time and money

Social Studies

Projects include:

- All About Me
- Celebrating families and cultures
- Migration of monarch butterflies
- Mexican culture and language
- Rainforest
- Conservation and recycling
- Mammal research

Geography Skills:

- Simple maps
- Location of continents and oceans
- Identifying north, south, east, west

Science/Health

FOCUS: CYCLES AND SYSTEMS IN NATURE

Topics explored include:

- Air and weather
- Our body
- Recycling
- Plants/garden planting
- Butterflies
- Mammals
- STEM challenges

Health topics include:

- Human body: organs and functions
- Expressing emotions
- Staying healthy

Foreign Language: Spanish

Students have class one day per week and explore the Spanish language and culture through an oral and visual approach, games and projects.

Topics include:

- Colors
- Days of week/dates
- Weather
- Body parts
- Greetings
- Family members
- Clothing
- Numbers

1st Grade Music

Skills and Activities:

- Singing
- Developing tonal memory
- Reading and iconic rhythmic notation
- Playing percussion instruments
- Exploration of orchestral instruments
- Drumming
- Folk dancing
- Whole class performance

Art

Art is integrated into classroom projects and students also meet weekly with an art specialist.

- Introduction to “Choice Studio”
- “What do Artists Do?”
- Different media, its uses and techniques
- Exposure to wide variety of art and artists both historical and contemporary
- Exploration of elements of art
- Drawing from imagination and observation
- Introduction to symmetry through printmaking
- 2 and 3 dimensional media

Mindfulness

1st grade meets weekly for Mindfulness class. Lessons are based on the Mindful Schools Curriculum. Students learn to be in the present moment through breath work, journaling, imagery, body relaxation exercises, art, music, and movement activities. Students are also taught tools and exercises to help facilitate self-regulation and create a deeper sense of well being. Students also learn:

- Empathy
- Compassion/Self-Compassion
- Integrity
- Diversity and inclusion
- Generosity and gratitude
- Body language
- Cooperation and collaboration

Innovation Lab

Skills & Tools

- Students practice coordination and dexterity by starting to use real tools. They explore how our body and mind must communicate to use a tool safely and efficiently. First graders will use F clamps, a mitre box and saw, a hand drill, rulers, compass, and more.

Projects Might Include

- Tool School
- Swivel Top Box
- Pencil Holder

Physical Education

Twice a week students visit the gym or fields for physical education class.

- Ball skills including throwing, kicking, tapping, catching and striking
- Educational games skills include teamwork, collaboration, problem solving, chasing, feeling, and dodging

In addition, students have recess two times per day.

Drama

Basic theater skills covered include:

- Improvisation
- Character development
- Cooperative onstage interaction
- Appropriate audience behavior

Students learn the actor's three most important tools: voice, body, and imagination, as they grow more familiar with the steps involved in rehearsing and presenting teacher-narrated "story plays."



2nd Grade

Language Arts

Reading experiences include: a variety of genres: read-alouds, poetry, biography, guided reading, whole group novels, Native American tales.

Literature selections may include: Island Boy by Barbara Cooney, The Courage of Sarah Noble by Alice Dalgliesh, Lily and Miss Liberty by Deborah Kogan Ray.

Comprehension skills include: main idea, important details, story development/structure, inferencing, visualizing/asking questions.

- Phonics: vowel patterns, controlled vowels, affixes, suffixes, prefixes
- Vocabulary: Synonyms and antonyms
- Fluency: oral reading, buddy reading

Writing experiences include: letters, poetry, and paragraphs (Writer's Workshop: personal narratives, "How To" books, Daily Journal, Holiday related projects).

- Writing Skills: varied sentence beginnings
- Writing Mechanics: proofreading, identifying subjects and predicates, writing complete sentences, proper use of punctuation and capitalization
- Spelling: phonics-based rules and frequently used words
- Handwriting: correct formation of letters, intro to cursive mid-year

Math

- Place value of four-digit numbers
- Addition and subtraction strategies
- Addition and subtraction of facts to 20
- Addition and subtraction of four digit numbers with renaming
- 0, 1, 2, 5, 10 times tables
- Making change from one dollar
- Telling time to 5 minute intervals
- Comparing fractions with common denominators
- Measurement: inch, foot, yard, cm, meter, km
- Identifying angles and shapes
- Identify a fraction
- Daily use of manipulatives
- Real world, part-part-whole and comparison word problems
- Multiplication and division concepts

Social Studies

Inquiries include:

- Native Americans (Study of Wampanoag/Indigenous peoples)
- Island Life: Aquidneck Island and Australia/Great Barrier Reef
- US Symbols: Lighthouse Unit

Geography

- Cardinal and intermediate directions
- Interpreting map symbols and key
- Locating Rhode Island and Aquidneck Island on a map
- Identifying bodies of water and land forms on a map

Science/Health

FOCUS: GEOLOGICAL PROCESSES

Topics explored include:

- Pebbles, sand and silt
- Classification of rocks
- Volcanoes
- Five senses
- Garden planting
- Oceans/ocean pollution

Health topics include:

- Human body systems
- Senses
- Dental hygieneArt with recycled and upcycled materials

Foreign Language: Spanish

Through games and projects, students build on the fundamentals taught previously.

Topics include:

- Numbers
- Greetings
- Traditions and holidays
- Colors
- Days of week
- Weather and seasons
- Body parts
- Family members

Music:

Skills and Activities:

- Singing
- Continued development of tonal memory
- Improvisation
- Reading standard rhythmic notation
- Playing percussion instruments
- Virtual concert attendance
- Whole class performance

Art

Art is integrated into classroom projects and students also meet weekly with an art specialist.

Concepts covered include:

Art is integrated into classroom projects and students also meet weekly with an art specialist.

- Introduction to “Choice Studio”
- “What do Artists Do?”
- Contemporary artists
- Exploration of elements of art
- 2 and 3 dimensional media

Projects might include:

- Hand building techniques in clay
- Color Theory with warm/cool colors
- Art with recycled and upcycled materials

Mindfulness

2nd grade meets weekly for a Mindfulness class. Lessons are based on the Mindful Schools Curriculum. Students learn to be in the present moment through breath work, journaling, imagery, body relaxation exercises, art, music, and movement activities. Students are also taught tools and exercises to help facilitate self-regulation and create a deeper sense of well being. Students also learn:

- Empathy
- Compassion/Self-Compassion
- Integrity
- Diversity and inclusion
- Generosity and gratitude
- Body language
- Cooperation and collaboration

Innovation Lab

Skills & Tools

- Students practice coordination and dexterity by using real tools. They explore how our body and mind must communicate to use a tool safely and efficiently. Second graders will use F clamps, a mitre box and saw, a hand drill, rulers, compass, practice knot tying and more.

Projects Might Include:

- The Journey of Oliver K. Woodman project
- Model Car

Physical Education

Twice a week students visit the gym or fields for physical education class.

- Ball skills including throwing, tapping, catching and striking
- Soccer: trapping, positions, defending, passing, shooting
- Badminton: eye/ hand coordination
- Baseball/Softball: striking and Fielding
- Educational games skills include teamwork, collaboration, problem-solving, chasing, fleeing, and dodging.

In addition, students have recess two times per day.

Drama

Students have class one time per week. Basic theater skills covered in grade one are expanded upon.

Skills covered include:

- Improvisation
- Character development
- Cooperative onstage interaction
- Appropriate audience behavior

At the end of the year, the class rehearses and performs a scripted play for an audience of students and parents.


EXIT

3rd Grade

Language Arts

Reading experiences include: read alouds, chapter books, guided reading, whole group novels.

Literature selections may include: Owls in the Family by F. Mowart, My Side of the Mountain by J. Craighead George.

Comprehension skills include: relevant and irrelevant details, sequence of events, drawing conclusions, making predictions, evaluating texts.

- Vocabulary: dictionary skills prefixes, suffices, intro to Greek/Latin roots
- Fluency: buddy reading, timed oral reading passages, small groups
- Listening and Speaking: draft, memorize, and record 1 min. speeches

Writing experiences include: paragraphs, books reviews, stories, poetry.

- Writing skills: topic sentence, supporting details, concluding sentence
- Writing mechanics: compound sentences, editing skills, use of comma, diagramming sentences
- Spelling: review of phonics rules, frequently used words (Sitton 201-335), homographs, homophones, spelling patterns and rules, syllabication
- Handwriting: writing cursive

Math

- Place value of six digit numbers
- Addition and subtraction of multi-digit numbers with regrouping
- Mastery of multiplication facts
- Multiplying a one digit number by a two digit number
- Working to master division facts
- Dividing with remainders
- Making change from twenty dollars
- Measuring to the nearest 1/8 inch
- Equivalent fractions
- Finding perimeter of closed figures
- Finding area of squares and rectangles
- Multi-step, part-part-whole and comparison word problems

Social Studies

Topics include:

- Rhode Island: culture, history, landmarks, people
- Fifty States: state, symbols, landmarks, culture, foods, people
- Asia and China: culture, food, landmarks, terrain, people
- Birds: traits, habitat

Geography

- Location of fifty states
- Identification of state capitals
- Introduction to longitude, latitude, prime meridian, equator
- Location of China and Asia

Science/Health

FOCUS: CLASSIFICATION AND ADAPTATION

Topics explored include:

- Plant growth
- Community garden care
- Birds and adaptations

Health Topics include:

- When to get help from others

Foreign Language: Spanish

This class builds on previously learned topics and introduces a basic grammar study. Students create paragraphs and dialogues in Spanish. Students in 3rd grade study the Spanish language and culture.

Topics include:

- Family descriptions
- Cafe dialogues using food vocabulary

Music

Skills and Activities:

- Singing in two and three parts
- Reading standard rhythmic notation
- Introduction to the treble staff
- Recorder
- Improvisation
- Solo, small group, and whole class performance

Art

Art is integrated into classroom projects and students also meet weekly with an art specialist.

Concepts covered include:

- Expansion of drawing techniques
- Drawing from observation
- Fore, middle and background
- Choice Studio continued
- Pattern and texture in environment
- Exploration of historical and contemporary arts ann artists

Projects might include:

- Advanced hand building in clay
- patterns in nature/geometric patterns
- expansion of drawing techniques

Mindfulness

3rd grade meets weekly for a Mindfulness class. Lessons are based on the Mindful Schools Curriculum. Students learn to be in the present moment through breath work, journaling, imagery, body relaxation exercises, art, music, and movement activities. Students are also taught tools and exercises to help facilitate self-regulation and create a deeper sense of well being. Students also learn:

- Empathy
- Compassion/Self-Compassion
- Integrity
- Diversity and inclusion
- Generosity and gratitude
- Body language
- Cooperation and collaboration

Innovation Lab

Skills & Tools

- Third graders continue exploring how our body and mind must communicate to use a tool safely and efficiently. Students will use a moxon vise, F clamps, coping saw, stencils, rulers, and more.

Projects

- Class frame
- Magic Cube
- Tangrams puzzles

Physical Education

Twice a week students visit the gym or fields for physical education class.

- Ball skills including: passing, collecting, blocking, defending, kicking, throwing
- Team sports: soccer, floor hockey, badminton, softball, flag football
- Educational gymnastics: climbing, dismounts, development of a sequence
- Educational dance: square or creative
- Personal Fitness: cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility

In addition, students have recess two times per day

Drama

Grade 3: Students have class one time per week.

Theater skills are expanded to include:

- Vocal technique
- Storytelling
- Scriptwriting
- Constructive audience feedback

Major projects in class include a video project, which is written, acted, filmed and edited by the students, as well as a Chinese folk tale play performed for an audience of students and parents.



4th Grade

Language Arts

Reading experiences include: guided reading, whole group novels, historical fiction, nonfiction.

Literature selections may include: Blended by Sharon Draper, The White Giraffe by Lauren St. John, Hatchet by Gary Paulsen.

Comprehension skills include: character analysis, identifying and interpreting literary devices, understanding point of view, theme and voice.

- Vocabulary: word morphology, study of Latin roots
- Listening and speaking: create "Very Important Part" Keynote presentation, give oral summaries

Writing experiences include: Summaries, interviews, narrative and descriptive paragraphs, poetry, expository paragraphs.

- Writing skills: use of descriptive language, organization
- Writing mechanics: conjunctions, action, helping, linking verbs, adjectives, adverbs
- Spelling: review of phonics rules, frequently used words (Sitton 336-500)

Math

- Place value of seven digit numbers
- Introduction to order of operations
- Multiplication / division facts
- Multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers
- Converting units of measurement
- Understanding decimals
- Adding and subtracting decimals
- Intro to adding/subtracting fractions
- Converting fractions to decimals
- Identifying and measuring angle
- Area and perimeter
- Multi-step word problems using all four operations

Social Studies

THEME: CONTINENTAL STUDY OF THE WORLD

Topics include:

- Study of each continent with a focus on geography, culture, people, resources, landmarks
- In-depth study of African continent and regions, and an African country
- Country Creation Project (maps, cultures, languages, traditions, peoples)

Geography

- Reading a physical and political map
- Locating major countries in Africa
- Familiarity with longitude, latitude, prime meridian, equator, landforms

Science/Health

FOCUS: ENERGY AND OUR CHANGING EARTH

Topic explored include:

- Electric circuits
- Energy in our world
- Biomes
- Shoreline Science
- Sailing and Science
- Chemistry practices

Health topics include:

- Personal hygiene
- Nutrition

Foreign Language: Spanish

Students in 4th grade study the Spanish language and culture.

Topics include:

- Landmarks
- Landscapes
- School and family
- Sports
- General facts including currency, flag
- Festival and holidays

4th Grade Music

Skills and Activities:

- Singing in two and three parts
- Singing in different languages
- Ukulele
- Reading standard notation in the treble staff
- Improvisation
- Playing two and three part pieces of music
- Solo, small group, and whole class performance

Art

Art is integrated into classroom projects and students also meet weekly with an art specialist.

Concepts covered include:

- Africa textiles and fibers
- African-American art
- Choice Studio continued
- Exploring of 2-D and 3-D media
- Explore African American artists
- Symbolism in textile design

Projects might include:

- Fiber arts: weaving and printing

Mindfulness

4th grade meets weekly for a Mindfulness class. Lessons are based on the Mindful Schools Curriculum. Students learn to be in the present moment through breath work, journaling, imagery, body relaxation exercises, art, music, and movement activities. Students are also taught tools and exercises to help facilitate self-regulation and create a deeper sense of well being. Students also learn:

- Empathy
- Compassion/Self-Compassion
- Integrity
- Diversity and inclusion
- Generosity and gratitude
- Body language
- Cooperation and collaboration

Innovation Lab

Skills & Tools

- Building what we draw while considering dimension, exploring the complex curves of boats, and understanding the limits of the materials we use. Students will be measuring and drawing angles, using rulers, stencils, a mitre box and a hand saw, and introduction to utility knives
- Projects
- 2D & 3D Boat Design
- Toy design and build
- Field trip to IYRS School of Technology & Trades

Physical Education

Twice a week students visit the gym or fields for physical education class.

- Ball skills: striking, collecting, blogging, defending, kicking, throwing, catching, passing
- Team sports: more complex study of soccer, floor hockey, softball, flag football
- Educational games skills include teamwork, collaboration, problem-solving, chasing, fleeing, and dodging
- Personal fitness: cardiovascular and muscular strength

In addition, students have recess two times per day.

Drama

Students in 4th grade have drama once a week.

- Theater skills are expanded to include:
- Vocal technique, projection & diction
- Movement for actors
- Scene study
- Constructive audience feedback

Major projects in class include a monologue/character study, as well as an African folk tale play performed for an audience of students and parents.





Middle School
5-8

At St. Michael's, students engage in the core subjects of English, mathematics, history, science, and Spanish every day. Physical education, health & wellness, art, music, and innovation lab are not "specials" or "extras" at SMS; like math and language arts, these subjects are considered essential parts of our curriculum. Starting in 5th grade, students will also choose from a variety of elective arts classes, such as chorus, band, theatre, cosplay, stagecraft, acting workshop, and studio art, in addition to their regular music and art classes.



Throughout their middle school years, St. Michael's students are encouraged to discover and explore their own unique passions, whether in academics, arts, or innovation. By the time they complete 8th grade, our students are equipped not only with a strong academic foundation but also with the confidence and skills to become world-ready citizens.

The Arts

In addition to their weekly art and music classes, students in grades five through eight participate in two additional ARTS classes per year. Choices include:

Studio Art – Students work collaboratively on projects using a variety of media. They also explore non-traditional forms of art when they participate in community art installations and group exhibitions.

Acting Workshop – Students study various acting techniques, including vocal work and movement viewpoints, comedy improvisation, character development and scene study. Much of this class is spent in rehearsal and performance, culminating in a number of shows throughout the year.

Introduction to Theater – Students learn both acting and technical theater basics including theater games and script writing, vocal exercises, improvisation, scene study, basic set design, and scaled ground plans as well as lighting design.

Stagecraft – Students learn the general principles of technical theater, and use their skills to support the various school drama and ensemble productions. Concepts introduced include: set design and construction, costume research and design, scenic painting techniques, and lights and sound for stage.





Cosplay – The purpose of this class is to instruct the students in the learning and application of design as it relates to visual art of cosplay. During the year, the students will be instructed in the following:

- Creating design drawings of their chosen character costume
- Basic sewing skills (both hand and machine sewing)
- How to read/create a pattern
- How to modify existing clothing to create a costume
- Mask making
- Creating accessory pieces using various materials

Chorus – Students explore the art of singing by learning proper breathing, vowel formation, and musical expression to create a unique blend of voices to share with the school and local communities.

A Band – Composed of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments, A Band is the premier instrumental ensemble at St. Michael's. The group focuses equally on advancing instrument playing skills and performance. Students learn to play a variety of musical styles including jazz, march, pop, film score, and contemporary classical music written for concert band.

B Band – Composed of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments, B Band focuses on developing fundamental instrument playing skills with a secondary focus on performance. Students experience playing in large and small ensembles as well as solo performances in class. Students explore a variety of folk, classical, and modern music written for concert band.



5th Grade

Language Arts

Reading experiences include: mystery, classics, historical fiction, dystopian, fantasy, realistic fiction, short story, graphic novel.

Literature selections may include: Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix, Ghost, and Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos by R.L. LaFevers.

Critical reading skills include: annotating text with Notice and Note strategy, identify plot, author's purpose and theme, make inferences and connections, and character analysis.

Vocabulary development: Online practice calibrated to the student's instructional level.

Listening and Speaking: engage in discussions, public speaking, present opinions and reports.

Writing experiences include: journaling, literature responses, poetry, research, personal narrative, persuasive, creativeWriting skills and mechanics: subject/verb agreement, verb tenses, sentence types, subject and predicate, pronoun shifts, direct and indirect objects, revising and editing, peer editing, capitalization and punctuation, planning and organizing writing, beginning, middle and end.

Math

- Place value of eight digit numbers
- Multiplying and dividing whole numbers
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals, fractions and mixed numbers
- Order of operations
- Introduction to Fractions concepts
- Algebra concepts: use of variables, simplifying expressions and equations
- Area of rectangle, square, triangle
- Identifying and measuring angles
- collecting, displaying, interpreting data

Social Studies

WORLD HISTORY I

- Map Skills
- Themes of geography
- Archeology
- Early Humans
- Ancient Civilizations (Mesopotamia, Egypt and Kush, Ancient Israel, China, India, Greece, Rome)

Science/Health

GENERAL SCIENCE

Major topics in investigations include:

- Scientific method-skills of a scientist
- Study of Matter
- Matter and energy in ecosystems
- Overview of earth's systems (hydrosphere, geosphere, atmosphere)
- Water cycle and water uses
- Unique properties of water molecule
- Earth's place in the universe (apparent brightness of objects, day/night, seasons)
- Projects/labs may include, states and properties of matter, chemical and physical changes in matter, mushroom dissection, mapping microclimates, recycled object design

Health topics include:

- Growth Mindset
- Goal Setting
- Mental Health; anxiety, depression, emotions
- Mindfulness
- Fostering Positive relationships
- Hygiene
- Nutrition
- Navigating the use of social media and technology devices
- Safety/Injury Prevention
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Physical Health Promotion

Foreign Language: Spanish

Students have class four times per week. They continue with their study of Spanish culture while being introduced to the written language.

Topics include:

- Alphabet
- Greetings
- Number
- Days of the week / months/date
- Weather
- Time
- Clothing

Music

Course Description: A non-performance class with an overview of music technology, literature, and history. Students will experience each unit at a guided pace, with added focus given to areas of student interest.

Key Activities/Projects

- Composer presentation
- Instrument design
- Audio setup and design
- Song writing
- Chrome Music Lab

Art

Art is integrated into classroom projects and students also meet weekly with an art specialist.

Concepts covered include:

- Review of elements of art and color theory reviews
- Exploration of 2 and 3 dimensional media
- Exploration of art and artists both historical and contemporary

Projects might include:

- Clay construction slab technique
- Egyptian art and artifacts

Innovation Lab

Skills & Tools

- Design engineering thinking, prototyping, self evaluation in design. Measuring, precision cutting with utility knife, mitre box and hand saw, hand drilling, and more

Projects May Include

- Egg Drop Challenge
- Glider Innovation
- Tree house design and build

Physical Education

Once a week students visit the gym or fields for physical education class.

- Team Sports: increasing the quality of game play with soccer, floor hockey, softball, badminton, flag football, basketball
- Educational games skills include teamwork, collaboration and problem solving
- Personal fitness: cardiovascular and muscular strength, endurance and flexibility

In addition, students have recess two times per day.

Sports

Students participate in interscholastic games, and learn the ideals of sportsmanship and is this the importance of being a member of a team. Students in grades six through eight are required to participate in one season of a team sport; participation is optional for fifth graders.

Sport options offered are:

- Fall: Soccer, Cross Country
- Winter: Basketball, Squash, Swimming
- Spring: Lacrosse


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6th Grade

English

Reading experiences include: memoir, novel in verse, short story, dystopian fiction, realistic fiction.

Literature selections may include: Crossover by K. Alexander, Among the Imposters by Margaret Peterson Haddix.

Critical reading skills include: analyze theme, quotes and point of view; annotate text.

- Vocabulary development: Online practice calibrated to student's instructional level
- Listening and Speaking: participate in varied conversations, evaluate statements by others, make clear argument(s), and public speaking

Writing experiences include: thesis driven essays, journaling, literature responses, poetry, compare/contrast, argument, memoir.

- Writing skills and mechanics: fragments and run-ons, phrases and clauses, quotation



Math

- Introduction to percents
- Expressing fractions as percents
- Finding percent of a whole number
- Introduction to ratio
- Converting fractions to ratios
- Integer operations and order of operations
- Introduction to proportions
- Introduction to equation, tables, and graphs to represent functions
- Solve percent problems
- Simplify algebraic expressions
- Segments, lines, planes and angles
- Identify similar and congruent figures
- Area and perimeter of complex polygons
- Explore the Pythagorean theorem
- Volume and surface area of prisms and pyramids
- Solve equations and inequalities

History

WORLD HISTORY II

- Fall of Rome and the Byzantine Empire
- World Religions
- African Civilization and Islam
- The Americas
- Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia
- The Middle Ages
- The Renaissance and Reformation
- The Scientific Revolution
- The Age of Exploration

Science/Health

EARTH SCIENCE

Major topics include:

- Global climate and climate change (local study, world overview, sustainability goals and growth)
- Geosphere (rocks, rock cycle, earth's layers, earth's formation
- Atmosphere (water cycle, properties of water, building hydrometer, water filter design prototype
- Space (earth, sun, moon system and scale of objects in the solar system)

Health topics include:

- Growth Mindset
- Goal Setting
- Mental Health; anxiety, depression, emotions
- Mindfulness
- Fostering Positive relationships
- Hygiene
- Nutrition
- Navigating the use of social media and technology devices
- Safety/Injury Prevention
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Physical Health Promotion

Foreign Language: Spanish

Spanish 1 the emphasis is on meaning in communication. Students take Spanish 4 times per week.

Topics include:

- Vocabulary: classroom, family, home, foods, school, sports
- Articles
- Adjectives
- Present tense of regular verbs
- Irregular verbs
- Question formation
- Culture

Music

Course Description: Students will use Audacity and other music technology software to learn the basics of audio engineering.

Key Activities/Projects

- Song lyric analysis and editing
- Creating a podcast
- Audiobook recording
- Sound design
- Chrome Music Lab

Art

Art is integrated into classroom projects and students also meet weekly with an art specialist.

Concepts covered include:

- Advanced drawing techniques
- Color theory and application

Projects might include:

- Mythology and character development
- Graphic design (corporate identity/logo design and package design)
- Advanced clay construction

Innovation Lab

Skills & Tools

Design engineering thinking, prototyping, self evaluation in design. Measuring, precision cutting with utility knife, mitre box and hand saw, hand drilling, and more.

Projects might include:

- Egg Drop Challenge
- Glider Innovation
- Tree House Design and Build



7th Grade

Language Arts

Reading experiences include: bildungsroman, tragedy, poetry, historical fiction, first Shakespeare play in iambic pentameter, dystopian.

Literature selection may include: The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton, The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins.

- Vocabulary development: acquire and accurately use new and unfamiliar vocabulary

Writing experiences include: National Novel Writing Month and novel writing experiences.

- Writing skills and mechanics: as needed depending on individual and/or group needs

Math

- Integers
- Solving equations and inequalities
- Rules of exponents
- Similar and congruent figures
- Percentages and their applications
- Graphing linear equations and using tables
- Area, volume, circumference, and surface area





History

UNITED STATES HISTORY I

Units may include...

- Early Americans and Exploration
- New Empires in the Americas
- Colonial Beginnings
- American Independence
- Citizenship and the Constitution
- Republic and Jeffersonian Democracy
- The Rise of America
- Creating a National Identity/Westward Expansion
- Civil War and Reconstruction
- Origins of Racism in America
- New Movements in America in the 1800s

Science/Health

LIFE SCIENCE

Major topics include:

- Ecology
- Population control: white tailed deer
- Organs and organ systems
- Cellular biology
- Diseases: viruses and bacteria
- Genetics/inheritance
- Human body systems
- Natural and artificial selection
- Mutations
- Projects may include, tissue labs, produce illustrated children's book on biological concepts, reading case studies on artificial selection

Health topics include:

- Growth Mindset
- Goal setting
- Mental health; anxiety, depression, emotions
- Mindfulness
- Fostering positive relationships
- Hygiene
- Nutrition
- Navigating the use of social media and technology devices
- Safety/injury prevention
- Substance abuse prevention
- Physical health promotion

Foreign Language: Spanish

Spanish 2 the emphasis is on meeting and improving oral and written communication skills. Students take Spanish 4 times per week.

Topics include:

- Vocabulary
- Present tense verbs and irregulars
- Object pronouns
- Adjectives
- Reflexive verbs
- Past tense
- Culture

Music

Course Description: Students explore the connection between music and storytelling. Genres studied include opera, musical, symphony, oratorio, and ballet.

Key Activities/Projects

- Song lyric analysis
- Newspaper review
- Concert design

Art

Art is integrated into classroom projects
andstudents also meet weekly with an art specialist

Concepts covered include:

- Visual Communication
- Symbols and meaning in Art
- Finding voice through art-making

Projects might include:

- Advanced mixed media technique
- 2 and 3 dimensional media
- Exploration of of contemporary artists and their art

Innovation Lab

Project management, scaled drawings, design planning. Precision measuring, power drill, drill press, scroll saw, block planes, sanding, and more. Ecological Design in partnership with Ocean Hour Farm in Newport, RI. Projects vary but might include topographic mapping, model making, independent ecological design challenges.





8th Grade

Language Arts

Reading experiences include: tragedy, mystery, 2nd Shakespeare play in iambic pentameter.

Literature selections may include: And Then There None by Agatha Christie, The Martian by Andy Weir, The Tempest by W. Shakespeare.

- Vocabulary development: acquire and accurately use new and unfamiliar vocabulary

Writing experiences include: reflective writing, research/expository writing, literary analysis.

- Writing skills and mechanics: perfecting multi-paragraph essays, editing techniques, maintaining clear focus for essay and audience, sophisticated sentence structure, clear and logical progression of ideas.

Math

Algebra/Algebra 1 Honors

- Solve linear equations and graphs
- Solve and graph compound inequalities
- Absolute value equations/inequalities
- Learn and use properties of exponents
- Rules for exponential functions
- Calculate with and factor polynomials
- Solve and graph quadratic functions
- Solve and graph radical functions

In Honors, students also learn:

- Radical and rational functions/equations
- Pythagorean Theorem and its converse
- Distance and midpoint formulas
- Probability using permutations

History

U.S. HISTORY II

Units may include:

- Westward Expansion and the Industrial Age
- Immigration and the Progressive Era
- World War 1
- The Great Depression
- World War II
- Japanese internment, Nazi Germany
- The Roots of Racism and the Civil Rights Movement
- The Vietnam War years
- Modern America, 1968 - present

Science/Health

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Chemistry topics include:

- Synthesis and double replacement reaction
- Chemical bonding, balancing chemical equations
- Exothermic and endothermic reactions
- Atomic models and theory

Physics topics include:

- Newton's three laws of motion
- Acceleration, force, friction, gravity
- Sound and light waves
- contact and non-contact forces (magnetism, electricity, circuits)

Projects may include building airfoil, roller coasters, wiring simple and parallel circuits

Health topics include:

- Human sexuality
- Lifestyle risk reduction
- Growth Mindset
- Goal setting
- Mental health; anxiety, depression, emotions
- Mindfulness
- Fostering positive relationships
- Hygiene
- Nutrition
- Navigating the use of social media and technology devices
- Safety/injury prevention
- Substance abuse prevention
- Physical health promotion

Foreign Language: Spanish

In Spanish 3, the emphasis is on grammar and written and oral expression. Students take Spanish 4 times per week.

Topics include:

- Vocabulary
- Distinction between two past tenses
- Double object pronouns
- Relative pronouns
- Conditional and future tenses
- Comparative and superlative
- Culture

Music

Course Description: A survey of music history in the western world 800 CE to the present day.

Key Projects/Activities

- Composer presentation
- Musical self portrait
- Modern musician project

Art

Art is integrated into classroom projects and students also meet weekly with an art specialist.

Concepts covered include:

- How do artists develop ideas
- How does artwork reflect the artists' ideas and interests
- Contrast and juxtaposition in art (the surrealist movement)

Projects might include:

- 2 and 3 dimensional media
- Exploration of contemporary artists and their arts
- DEveloping student voice in their own work

Innovation Lab

Skills & Tools

Combination square, measuring up to the 16 of an inch, scroll saw, band saw, power drill, drill press, router table, orbital sander, chisels, stepped drilling, small construction design, and more.

Projects May Include

- Construction Drawings
- Step Stool
- Design & Build Carnival Game


SMS
St. Michael's
Country Day School
Caring Citizens
Courageous Learners
World Ready