Vol 01 | May 2021

St. Michael School N E W S L E T T E R

SO ENDS ANOTHER YEAR

It is quite unbelievable that this school year is almost over. While it has been a challenging year, it has also been a year of great successes for our little school. In a year that another Catholic school will unfortunately be closing, our school has been able to weather the impacts of the pandemic and has actually grown over the past year in different ways.

We have been able to continue educating our students in-person for the great majority of the year, and with stronger safety protocols in place and truly by the grace of God, we have not had a single incident of a COVID-19 exposure in our school community. In addition, the majority of our faculty and staff have been vaccinated allowing us to further protect everyone on campus. Because we have been in-person, we are confident that our students will continue to progress at their respective grade levels as opposed to their peers who have mostly been learning online this past year.

This year, we also launched our high school program and welcomed a total of nine students throughout this year, and we anticipate further growth in our high school next year. Our school even won the first-ever Ka Ho'oulu Award for innovation in Catholic education because of our innovative use of technology to help bring different Catholic schools and students together regardless of geographic distances. This same innovation is what allowed us to open our high school program while remaining the most affordable choice for Catholic education on our island.

This month, we will be welcoming more students sacramentally into the Catholic faith just as we did in April. This influx of students desiring to be Baptized, or receive first Holy Communion and Confirmation, is a great witness to our mission of sharing and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a part of our campus culture and atmosphere. Our teachers create opportunities to not only assess the learning of our students, but they also create opportunities for our students to practice being active Christians.

We have also experienced the largest percentage of re-enrollments and re-commitments for the following school year. We are truly grateful for all of our parents who continue to trust their child(ren) to our care and who have been incredibly supportive throughout the year. They have been patient through the uncertainties that we experienced especially during the periods of distance learning as well as navigating the new protocols when school was reopened. They have been generous especially during times that we required more cleaning supplies than ever before. They have dedicated their time to volunteer where they could in spite of us not having as many activities or events as in the past. Our school is so blessed by our parents and families who go the extra mile every single day.

Finally, one of the unsung heroes of our school is our pastor. Father Ernie has been with St. Michael for only a couple of years, but during his short time with us, he has made his greatest impact by being present and attentive. Additionally, he has been instrumental in helping us to push major projects forward, such as the repairs of our roof, renovation of the parish bathrooms, replacement of the church floors and the floors in select classrooms. He is no stranger to campus and has always been a welcome guest in our classrooms. At the end of June, Fr. Ernie is scheduled to depart our parish for his new assignment back home in the Philippines. He will be greatly missed, but he leaves a long-lasting impact on our school physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Please say a special prayer for those in our school community who will be moving or transitioning to other places at the end of this school year, and please keep our children, families, faculty, and staff in prayer as they head off to a much-deserved summer vacation!

MR. KAINOA FUKUMOTO

Principal



(808) 637-7772 www.stmichaelschoolhi.com 67-340 Haona St Waialua, HI, 96791







ADMINISTRATION

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Established in 1944, Saint Michael School is a private parochial Catholic school in the North Shore area on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. St. Michael views itself as an integrated part of a larger living faith community, committed to the goal of a Christian education.



Sr. Emilie Basitas & Sr. Mary Sixtilles Pillado

For more than a 160 years, Saint Michael Church and School was established and staffed by the Father and Brothers of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Father Ernesto Juarez has been the first diocesan priest to serve as administrator since the church's foundation. However, the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts was not the only religious order to staff the parish. For decades, several religious sisters have been entrusted with the academic and spiritual welfare of the students at St. Michael School.

SISTERS RETURN TO ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL

A few years after St. Michael School was established in 1944, the school welcomed the first religious sisters to its campus when the Maryknoll Sisters arrived. However, in 1969, the Maryknoll community determined that they could no longer staff the school due to a shortage of Sisters. For a short period of time, St. Michael School became the only school in the diocese that was completely run and taught by lay people.

In 1973, the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena assumed both leadership and teaching positions at St. Michael School for nearly 20 years. In 1992, the school transitioned to the administration of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities when Sr. William Marie Eleniki, OSF, became the school principal. Since the Franciscan Sisters left in 2010, the school has once again been staffed completely by laity.

When principal Kainoa Fukumoto assumed leadership of the school, it was always been part of his vision to see the return of religious sisters to the school campus. "While I never received the call to enter into consecrated or priestly life, I have always been a firm champion and supporter of our religious brothers and sisters," Mr. Fukumoto says. "Unfortunately, many of our children and even families do not have much interaction with our consecrated religious. So, with a lack of exposure, how do young people, especially young women, even know what this unique and holy calling is all about? How would they know that God might be calling some of them to this vocation one day?" Fr. Ernie wholeheartedly agreed.

After much prayer, petitioning, and perseverance, the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary responded to Mr. Fukumoto and Fr. Ernie's request by agreeing to send two Sisters to teach at

the school beginning next school year. While originally from the Philippines, the Dominican Sisters are no strangers to our island community. For almost six decades, these Sisters have been primarily leading and teaching in various local Catholic schools throughout the diocese. Additionally, they also have a skilled nursing facility in Waianae.

Both Sisters coming to St. Michael School have undergraduate and professional credentials in elementary education as well as decades of teaching experience. Sr. Emilie Basitas will be assigned to our Grade 2 class and Sr. Mary Sixtilles Pillado will be assigned to our Grade 5 class. Additionally, they will be living part-time on campus in the former upstairs convent rooms during the school week while traveling back to their home convent on weekends and holidays.

"Catholic education is much bigger than just teaching about math, science, and reading," Mr. Fukumoto comments. "Catholic education aims to direct the hearts and minds of our students back to Christ so that, as our Catechism says, they may know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this world, in order to be happy with Him for ever in heaven. Aside from the wealth of teaching experience they will bring to our campus, I know that they will also bring a more authentic sense of Catholic education...and help our young ones to better discern where God might be calling them in life."

It is truly by the grace of God that next school year, St. Michael School will restore its long and rich history of religious sisters teaching in the school.

For more information about St. Michael School, visit www. stmichaelschoolhi.com or call 808-637-7772.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

May 3-7: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 7: First Friday Adoration at 8:00am

May 14: May Day Virtual Gala

May 16: Mass with Sacraments of Initiation at 9:00am & 11:00am

May 17-21: Cookie Dough Fundraiser Pick-up (TBA)

May 21: 4th Quarter Ends

May 26: Preschool Graduation at 8:30am

May 27: Eighth Grade Graduation at 5:00pm

May 28: Last Day of School (Early Dismissal)







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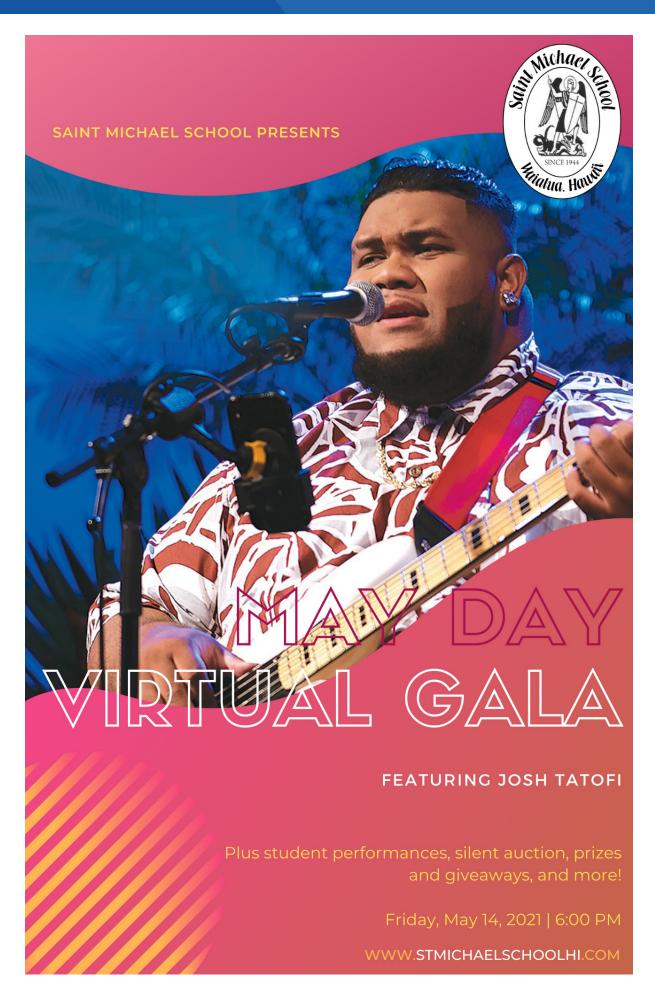
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Private Voice Lessons!

Music Teacher, Mrs. Jaime Craycroft, will be offering private voice lessons to interested students this summer. They will learn basic techniques and skills to help them become better singers. Lessons are half an hour, one-on-one with Mrs. Craycroft on

Mondays and/or Wednesdays in June.
One lesson per week for four weeks = \$100
Two lessons per week for four weeks = \$180

Mrs. Craycroft will also be offering afternoon flamenco classes this summer for adults! The dance classes will be on Tuesday and Thursday from 5pm-6pm for four weeks in June.

Total cost would be \$80.

Sign-up on website.



FAITH FIRST, THE REST WILL FOLLOW

"It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards a man's progress, nor the nature of the task, but the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken." — St. Francis Xavier

Rather than focusing on just the curricular offerings like any other school, Saint Michael School integrates Catholic culture into the life of the campus. Students pray together daily, attend Mass weekly, and often, Catholic-focused content is shared across the different subject areas.

It's also more than going through the practices or viewing pictures of saints on the walls. Catholic identity has to do with one's heart and behavior and how we treat and interact with one another—our family, students, friends and staff. Saint Michael School encourages an inclusive environment of compassion, respect, human dignity, justice, and love of God and neighbor.

Because of this focus, there has been a unique success on campus.

"In the last four years within our small student body, we've had over 50 people baptized and become Catholic," says Carter. "That doesn't happen anywhere. It especially doesn't happen in a place that doesn't proselytize, that doesn't say, 'You should.' We just teach what we teach.

"We teach kids as if they are Catholic. There's no proselytization, no forcing of anything. But you're going do certain things because you're at a Catholic school.

"That's the purpose of Catholic schools. We've forgotten that. With that said, we've had the highest test scores that we've ever had! If you order your life properly, you order the school properly, things happen. When you order things properly in your life, God takes care of the rest."

Carter says that since focusing on faith first, the student body has increased, more funds have become available and new programs have been established.

At the school, faith is the solid foundation upon which each student is encouraged to develop to his/her full potential, and if done the Saint Michael School way, things will fall into place.





Contact us for a FREE initial consultation

The CKCGroup HI@gmail.com 808.375.0449

group



Summer Programs



PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN (in-person)

June 7-July 16, 2021

This summer program is designed especially for our youngest learners to build their classroom learning skills in a fun and engaging manner. Every Friday is "water day", so they will not be missing out on enjoying their summer vacation.

Full-day and half-day options available.

GRADES 1-8 (in-person)

June 7-July 2, 2021

Students entering Grades 1-8 will have morning sessions reinforcing math and language arts concepts so that the "summer slide" does not set them back next school year. Session 3 is designed to appeal to students' creative side as the dive into arts, music, or STEM in this optional session.

HIGH SCHOOL (online)

*self-paced

Students entering Grades 9-12 have a variety of courses to choose from to either get ahead by earning additional credits or to remediate for any lost credits. Courses are all online and allow students to work over the summer at their own pace.

APPLY NOW

Apply online at www.stmichaelschoolhi.com



KAMA'AINA KEIKI DAY

Wednesdays 9am - 4pm

FREE admission every Wednesday for all kama'aina and military keiki ages 4 - 12

HALE'IWA FARMERS' MARKET

Thursdays 2 - 6pm

Shop local! Fresh produce, hot food, arts, crafts, and more on Thursdays at the Pikake Pavilion

LĀ 'OHANA DAY

3rd Saturday Every Month

50% off kama'aina and military family admission, plus keiki botanical activities from 11am - 1pm

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