

St. Michael's School News

August 2009

www.stmichaels-cuero.org

Meet Our Faculty

St. Michael's Catholic School is accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department. It is the mission of St. Michael's Catholic School to know as Jesus knew, to love as Jesus loved, and to serve as Jesus served. St. Michael's Catholic School admits students regardless of race, color, creed, national origin or gender.

The pastor of St. Michael's Parish and School is **Rev. Kirby Hlavaty**. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Victoria by Bishop David Fellhauer in May 1999. He is beginning his seventh year as pastor of the Catholic community of Cuero.

Beginning her ninth year as St. Michael's School principal is **Ms. Judy Roeder**. Ms. Roeder earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with Elementary and Kindergarten certification from Our Lady of the Lake University and a Master of Education degree with Mid-management certification from the University of Houston in Victoria. She has a total of 30 years of teaching and administrative experience.

Returning to St. Michael's after a three-year absence is **Mrs. Nancy Bluntzer**. Nancy taught at St. Michael's from 2001 – 2006. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Milligan College in Tennessee and a Master of Arts degree in Education Administration from Texas A & M University. She has a total of 30 years of teaching experience. She will teach Grades 5 and 6.

Mrs. Connie Boedeker begins her twelfth year at St. Michael's School. In addition, she has four previous years of teaching experience. Mrs. Boedeker earned a Bachelor of Science degree and teaching certification in Elementary Education and Reading from Southwest Texas State University. She will teach Pre-Kindergarten for the three-year olds.

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Mrs. Karon Copeland begins her second year on the St. Michael's School teaching staff after 26 years with Cuero ISD. She has a Bachelor of Business degree from Sul Ross State University and a Master of Education degree in Elementary Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston in Victoria. She will teach Grades 3 and 4.

Mrs. Samantha Denton begins her sixth year at St. Michael's. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities and Elementary Education certification from Fort Lewis College in Colorado. She has also earned her Texas teaching certification. She will teach Pre-Kindergarten for the four-year olds.

Mrs. JoLein Gray begins her second year on the St. Michael's School teaching staff after having served the school as Title I instructor for two years. She has a Bachelor of Science degree and teaching certification from Pan American University and a Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas in Tyler. Mrs. Gray has 31 years of teaching experience. She will teach Kindergarten.

Mrs. Virginia Haun begins her fifth year at St. Michael's. In addition, she has thirteen years of previous teaching experience. She has a Bachelor of Science degree and teaching certification in Elementary Education from Southwest Texas State University. She will teach First Grade.

Mrs. Kathleen Leske joins the St. Michael's Staff as the art teacher for Grades K-6. She has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art from Incarnate Word University and has seven years of experience teaching art at Cuero ISD.

Mrs. JoBeth Stiles-Caskey begins her fifth year at St. Michael's School. She has 30 years of teaching experience in the public school system. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and teaching certification from Texas A & I University. She will teach Second Grade.

Meet Our Staff

Ms. Sarah Nami joins the St. Michael's staff as the Pre-K 3 aide. Sarah is currently attending the University of Houston in Victoria to attain a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Mrs. Vertronica Owens begins her fifth year at St. Michael's. She has previous experience as a Middle School Library Aide, Receptionist and Administrative Assistant. She will be the school's Secretary/Bookkeeper and will teach music

Mrs. Audrey Sauer returns for her fourth year as the St. Michael's School Library Manager. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Mrs. Anne Sharron begins her third year as the school's custodian.

Mrs. Veronica Wanjura will be the afternoon aide for Pre-K 3 and the after-school care program. Mrs. Wanjura has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Houston in Victoria. She has previous experience as an aide and substitute teacher at St. Michael's.

Advisory Council

The 2009-2010 officers and members of the St. Michael's Catholic School Advisory Council are: **Mike Uresti**, Chairperson, **Dale Denton**, Vice-Chairperson, **Jill Saenz**, Secretary, **Debbie Rath**, **Jimmy Gips**, and **Evan Overby**. **Deacon Tony Warzecha** and **Rose Meyer** are ex-officio members of the Advisory Council. The areas in which the Advisory Council has responsibility and will be consulted are: planning, policy development and formulation, finances to include budgeting and policies for financial management, public relations, selection of the principal, and evaluation of the principal's relationship with the council.

We extend our thanks to these members who have volunteered their time to this important role.

HSA Officers

The Home and School Association (HSA) officers for the 2009-2010 school year at St. Michael's Catholic School are: **Melissa Keseling**, President; **Lena Jasso**, Vice-President, **Tara Janak**, Treasurer; **Kim Uresti**, Secretary; and **Lorine Meitzen**, Reporter. In the 2008-2009 school year, the HSA donated \$38,000.00 to the school's operational budget. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the officers and members of the HSA and the support of our many benefactors. Thank you for all you do for St. Michael's School.

Health Screenings

Each student at St. Michael's will be screened for possible vision or hearing problems, weighed and measured to document his/her growth, and checked periodically for lice and other communicable diseases. Parents will be notified if a problem is suspected or if further evaluation is indicated.

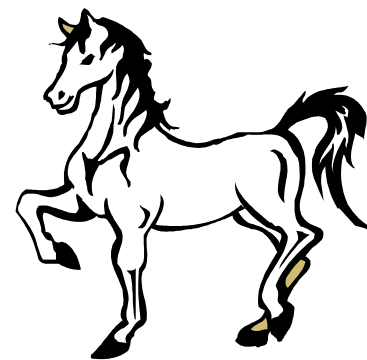
The State Health Department requires that all children have an up-to-date immunization record. The state also requires Diabetes screening for all Third and Fifth grade students and Scoliosis screening for Fifth and Sixth Grade students.

Thank you to **Connie Catron** and **Jill Saenz** who have again volunteered their time to conduct the health screenings this year.

School Hours

Our school day begins at 7:45 a.m. The teachers are in their classrooms by that time. Students should be in their classrooms ready to begin instruction at 8:00 a.m. Regular dismissal is at 11:45 a.m. for preschool students who choose this option, and at 3:15 p.m. for all other students.

Faculty meetings are held once per month, usually on the first Friday of the month. Classes will dismiss at **noon** on these days.



Extended-day Care

Daycare hours are from 3:15 until 5:15 p.m. The daycare will be open on days when school is dismissed at noon for Faculty meetings. Lunches will not be available on these days. The daycare fees will apply. The first day of daycare will be August 19th.

Daycare is billed following the end of each month. **This bill must be paid by the 10th of the following month or students may no longer stay in daycare.**

Mass

All parents are invited to join us for our weekly mass each Friday and holyday of obligation. These will be specified on the monthly calendars that you receive. The classes take turns each week presenting the liturgy of the mass. **The mass begins at 8:05.** Teachers and students leave their classrooms no later than 8:00 a.m. on mass days. **Please have your child here on time to avoid distracting our students during mass.** Grades 4K-6 will attend mass beginning Friday, August 21st. The three-year-olds will attend later this semester.



Lunch

Lunch will be served from Noon until 12:30. The price per meal for Pre-K through Adults is \$2.50 and includes milk. Menus will be sent home monthly.

The St. Michael's HSA sells milk (\$.50) and orange or apple juice (\$.35) during morning break and for those who bring their lunch from home. To make these purchases easier for you and the teachers, you can now purchase milk or juice cards. Milk cards are \$5.00 for 10 purchases. Juice cards are \$5.25 for 15 purchases. As your child makes a purchase each day, the teacher will punch through one of the prices. When your child has used up all of the amounts, the teacher will return the card to you so that you know to buy another. Milk and juice will no longer be charged. Students must have purchased a card before being allowed to get milk or juice for snack. Juice is also still available in the vending machines for \$.50 or \$.75. Please see your child's teacher or stop by the school office to purchase these cards. Please keep in mind that your child may also bring milk or juice from home.

Please check the Family Handbook for the Wellness Policy which specifies the foods and drinks that are acceptable for lunch.

Lunches are billed following the end of each month. **This bill must be paid by the 10th of the month or students may no longer charge their lunch.**

School Uniforms

The uniform policy and requirements for St. Michael's School are included in the school handbook. The school has several previously owned uniforms available for sale at reduced prices. Proceeds from this sale go to the Guardian Angel Fund.

Students may substitute the khaki bottoms or jumpers for navy blue bottoms or jumpers. Denim jeans, shorts, skorts, skirts, or jumpers may not be worn. Please note the dress uniforms that must be worn on mass days. The St. Michael's Mustangs t-shirt may be worn on Wednesdays unless it is a mass day.

Forms Due

Please keep in mind that the following forms require signatures from both the **parent/guardian** and the **student**:

- Technology Use Agreement (Gr. K-6)
- Handbook Acknowledgment Form

*All forms are due by Friday,
August 28th.*

Back to School Fish Dinner

St. Michael's School is sponsoring a Back to School Fish Dinner on Sunday, August 23rd. The dinner will be held in the Parish Hall. Serving will be from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Dine in or plates to go are available. The cost is \$7.00 a plate. Tickets may be purchased from any Advisory Council member or in the school office.

*Students are reminded to bring
lunches Wednesday, August 19th
through Friday, August 21st.*

*Milk and juice will be available
beginning August 24th.*