



Established 1897

# SCHOOL NEWS

"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man."  
~ Benjamin Franklin

## Events Calendar

January 10 & 12  
Junior High Exams



January 13  
Noon Dismissal



January 16  
No School  
(Martin Luther King Day)



January 17  
Spelling Bee  
(1:15 pm, School Hall)



January 22  
Early Childhood Open House  
(10:30 am, School Hall)



January 29  
Catholic Schools Week Begins



February 6-7  
Science Fair (6th & 8th Grade)



February 14  
Social Studies Fair (7th Grade)



February 17  
Noon Dismissal



February 19  
Confirmation (8th Grade)



February 20  
No School

### Learn More about SMPS!

Bookmark our school website:  
[stmikesparishschool.org](http://stmikesparishschool.org)

Become a Fan of our Facebook Page:  
[facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS](https://www.facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS)

Get all Mustang Athletic Information:  
[leaguelineup.com/stmikesmustangs](http://leaguelineup.com/stmikesmustangs)

## Happy New Year!



The staff and teachers of St. Michael Parish School wish all of you a new year filled with prosperity, happiness and good health! Happy 2012!!

With the new year comes the excitement of the second half of the school year and the many events our students and parents will enjoy. Later this month, we will host our Early Childhood Open House (January 22 at 10:30 am) to give new and current parents an inside look at our preschool, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten programs. Be sure to attend to get all your questions answered and to meet our wonderful teachers!

On January 29, we will kick-off Catholic Schools Week by celebrating 11:30 am Mass and hosting a "Thank You for Your Support of Our School" Reception immediately afterward. The rest of the week will be full of activities in celebration of our Catholic education: a Penny Drop, Gently Used Book Drive, Crazy Hat Day, Ice Cream Social, Volunteer Luncheon, and a Blue Gold Dress Down along with a "Minute to Win It" competition between students and teachers.

In early February (Feb. 6-7), our 6th and 8th graders will exhibit their science fair projects in the school hall, soon followed by the 7th grade Social Studies Fair on Feb. 14. Confirmation for our 8th graders will be held on Sunday, Feb. 13 at 3 pm with the Most Reverend Michael J. Bransfield. Then, in a week's time, we will celebrate Mardi Gras (Feb. 21) and the annual free Pancake Lunch followed by the start of the Lenten season on Feb. 22 (Ash Wednesday). And don't forget that throughout Lent, St. Michael's will host its Fish Fry every Friday evening in the school hall.

The month of March will bring forth not only St. Patrick's Day celebrations and the start of Daylight Savings Time, but also our Scholastic Book Fair event (March 11-16) that starts with the Grandparents Luncheon on March 11. Soon after we will be celebrating Easter and enjoying a much-needed holiday break (April 4-9). In mid-April, we look forward to Career Education Week at SMPS starting with the annual Career and Hobby Fair on April 17 (for grades 4-8), followed by the new *Professional Career Panel Program* for our 7th and 8th graders on April 18. Our younger students will enjoy in-class career presentations throughout Career Week.

Then comes May and that means spring sports will be in high-gear, including Mustangs track and field, tennis and volleyball. Several special events are also on tap: First Communion (May 5), May Crowning (May 6), State of the School meeting (May 15), 8th Grade Banquet (May 29), Graduation for Kindergarten and 8th Graders (May 30), and the school picnic (May 31). The school year will end on June 1 with a noon dismissal.



## ALUMNI NEWS

### Haas spearheads construction of new Mustang Media News Set



SMPS Alumnus Dalton Haas

SMPS Alumnus Dalton Haas (Class of 2010) spearheaded the construction of a new Mustang Media news set over the holiday break. Dalton, currently a sophomore at Wheeling Park High School, worked with Mustang Media adviser Ann Railing to create the impressive back drop and news desk for St. Michael's student news team. Dalton has always had an interest in broadcast news; during his eighth grade year at St. Michael's, Dalton served as the SMPS sports anchor for the premier of the Mustang Media News Team's weekly broadcast.

With help from WPHS shop class students in building the set, Dalton and West Liberty University student Sophia Kayafas began painting the backdrop and news desk on

Christmas Eve and finished it after two more days of hard work. Since the weekly Mustang Media newscast includes the broadcasting of important anti-tobacco facts to students, materials to construct the set were purchased from funds St. Michael's received through a RAZE grant.

The students and staff THANK YOU, Dalton, for enhancing our Mustang Media news program and for your incredible dedication to your alma mater, St. Michael Parish School!

*The new Mustang Media news set was designed and painted by Dalton Haas and WLU student Sophia Kayafas. Wheeling Park High School shop students built the set.*



### Bishop to travel to Rome for 'Ad Limina' Visit

The Most Reverend Michael J. Bransfield as well as the nation's 200 other Bishops have been preparing for their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican -- a series of encounters that will bring many of them face-to-face with Pope Benedict XVI for the first time.

According to the Catholic News Service, the "ad limina" constitutes the "most comprehensive assessment of church life in the U.S. since the German pope was elected in 2005." Beginning last November and extending through much of 2012, the pope will meet with 15 different regional groups of U.S. bishops asking each to share their individual "Report on the State of the Diocese." These reports will serve as the focal point for the pope's discussions on what the Vatican calls the pope's platform of "new evangelization in U.S. society."

Bishop Bransfield is scheduled to make his trip to Rome the week of January 16-20. We pray for the safe travels of Bishop Bransfield and his staff during this time.

## OPEN HOUSE

### SMPS EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

January 22 ♦ 10:30 am

St. Michael's will host an open house on Sunday, Jan. 22 for children and their parents to learn about the SMPS Lil' Cherubs 2-year-olds Program, the Preschool program for both 3- and 4-year-olds, Transitional Kindergarten, as well as Kindergarten.

The open house will begin at 10:30 am. Parents will first take their child to the appropriate classroom and then attend a general informational session provided by Principal Sis Richardson. A Question & Answer segment will follow. After the meeting, our teachers will escort children back to the school hall to enjoy light refreshments with their parents.

For more information about this free program, please call the school office at 304.242.3966. The open house will conclude at noon.



Mrs. Heather Rine teaches our Lil' Cherubs program for two-year-olds.

#### ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL

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♦  
For shadowing information, please contact  
Principal Marilyn Richardson.

*Welcoming children of all faiths.*