

St. Michael Swords Newsletter

March 27, 2025

www.stmichaelswords.org



*to be friendly, respectful,
responsible, and Christ-like*

Last Days to Register

Monday, March 31st is the last day to register before the \$50 per student registration late fee. Forms were sent home previously and may also be found on our school website. Families new to the school have until July 1st to register and will have their registration fees waived.

Iowa Assessment

Students in kindergarten through eighth grade will be taking the Iowa Assessment of Basic Skills standardized test next week, beginning Monday, March 31st. Testing will take place every day from 8:15 until about 10:30. Areas of testing include Word Analysis (Phonics), Reading Comprehension, Written Expression (Grammar), Vocabulary, Math, Computation, Listening, Science, and Social Studies. Not all grade levels take each of these tests. Some grades will be finished by Thursday, but there are a few that will go into Friday. Grades 2 and 6 will also take the CogAt test which measures intellectual abilities and will show the students' most successful way of learning.

To help your child do well on the test: (1) Make sure he or she gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast (not just sugary snacks.) There should be no homework or subject area tests next week until Friday. (2) Be sure your child has what he or she needs for the test, #2 pencils and a white eraser. Teachers also have items available in the classroom. (3) Remain positive. Staying calm will help your child stay calm. If he or she gets nervous about the test or is likely to experience anxiety during the test, help him or her practice some relaxation techniques that he or she can try during the test.

Please be sure your child does not have any morning appointments next week. If your child is sick, please notify the office right away so we know not to wait for him or her. The tests will need to be made up once he or she returns to school.

HSA News

Cajun Boil – Our 2025 Cajun Boil which will take place on Saturday, April 5th. This year we will have two options: shrimp boil plate or crawfish boil plate. Both options will be available either through the drive-thru from 4-6pm (\$35/ticket) or dine-in from 6-11pm (\$50/ticket) at Holman Hall. We will have live music, a cornhole tournament, bucket raffle, games, appetizers, desserts, beer and wine! It is sure to be a great time! The sign-up genius for the Cajun Boil will go out on March 20th. **Tickets will be due back today.** Money will need to be turned in on time with a completed stub for each ticket sold. It is important for each stub to have either shrimp or crawfish clearly marked. This year, instead of a silent auction, we will be having a Bucket Raffle at the Cajun Boil. We are accepting sponsors for the raffle: Gold \$200, Silver \$100, or Bronze \$50. Families are welcome to sponsor the raffle as well. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring, please contact either Kristen Janecka at 979-561-7104 or Samantha Anders at 979-561-7172. They can give you more information along with a sponsorship form to complete with payment. We are looking forward to another great SMCS event. Success is not possible without the hard work and dedication from our school families.

HSA Nomination Form – Nominations for the 2025 – 2026 school year are currently being accepted. HSA board members receive credit for all working points but are still required to meet their selling points. HSA board members will attend monthly meetings, hold a two-year term, are liaisons for one major fundraiser, train to be an officer in future years, help as fundraisers as needed, and help organize HSA activities. If you are interested in serving on the HSA board, please fill out the form that was sent home last week and return it to the school by April 4th.

There are no Vocations Crosses going home this Friday.

Vocations Crosses next week are going to the Owen and Lily Hubenak family and the Hannah, James, and Alex Conners family.

Be sure to share a picture of your children praying and send to smuras@stmichaelswords.org so she can put it on our school's Facebook page.

Altar Servers

Altar servers on Friday are Kelsey Wied, Hadley Brandt, and James Conners.

Altar servers on Saturday, March 29th are Finley Marshall and CCD students.

Altar servers on Sunday, March 30th at 7:30 are Myla Pavlu, Hannah Conners, and a CCD student.

Altar servers on Sunday, March 30th at 10:30 are Mason Bittner, Brandt Kahanek, and a CCD student.

Please remember to find a replacement if you are not able to serve.

Service Hours

Students in grades 1-7 are reminded that they need to perform service hours and submit the Service Hour form to the office by May 1st. Students in first grade must perform at least one hour, second grade – two hours, etc.

CRS Rice Bowls

In Santa Maria Chiquimula, Guatemala, over half the community is affected by malnutrition. Amid rising food prices and job loss, Ann Belen and her husband were struggling to provide for their growing family. But they saw a ray of hope through their participation in a Catholic Relief Services program that helps them ensure their children are healthy and have the nutrition they need to thrive and play. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-3 to read this week's Story of Hope.

Rice bowls are due back April 22nd.

Everyone is invited to join us on the Fridays of Lent for Stations of the Cross, led by our eighth graders at 2:40, or at 11:30 on early dismissal days.



Home for Sale

Not only is our PreK building being moved this summer, but we are selling the Kindergarten building. It was decided to do start this process now so that a fence can go up to enclose our school grounds more thoroughly. The Kindergarten building will be auctioned off, beginning with sealed bids now and culminating with the live auction at the St. Michael Parish Festival on April 27th. The highest sealed bid will be the opening bid at the festival. The house must be moved between June 2nd and July 11th at the buyer's expense.

We are having three open houses for prospective buyers to view the house. The first is on Sunday, April 6th from 11:30 – 1:00. The second is on Sunday, April 13th from 8:30 – Noon, and the third is on Saturday, April 26th from 11:30 – 1:00.

See today's email for the attachment with more information as well as a bid form to be used. Feel free to share with anyone who may be interested.

Washington Trip 2027

The initial meeting for the parents of the 2027 trip (this year's fifth and sixth graders) will meet on Wednesday, **April 2nd**, at 5:15 in the cafeteria. It's time to start preparing for this summer's fund-raising opportunities.

Washington Trip 2025

The pre-trip meeting for the parents of this year's group to receive the itinerary, luggage tags, etc. will be held on Wednesday, **April 23rd** at 5:15 in the cafeteria. It is very important that parents and students attend this meeting.

Employment Opportunities

SMCS is looking for a secretary/bookkeeper beginning part-time in May and full-time July 1st. Contact Ms. Roeder for more information.

The April calendar and menu are attached.

The re-enactment of the Last Supper by the second graders and the Living Stations by the seventh and eighth graders will be held on Thursday, April 17th, beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the gym