



**St. Michael's
Parish Day School** †





OUR PHILOSOPHY

St. Michael's Parish Day School is a place where children are loved and valued. Children at St. Michael's Parish Day School grow spiritually and learn to cooperate, problem solve, be creative, listen to and respect others, and respect differences. St. Michael's promotes the growth of the total individual by helping each child develop socially, cognitively, physically, and emotionally. The child-centered program includes both teacher-directed and self-selected activities, quiet and active experiences, and the recognition that learning occurs in both formal and informal ways. Because young children learn best through active participation, teachers provide them with many "hands-on" activities. The staff at St. Michael's works as a team to meet children's needs, with support from the church and its members, the St. Michael's Parish Day School Committee, parents, and the community.

A Positive Experience

Our staff of experienced early childhood educators fosters a positive experience for every child in our care. We will accept each child as he/she is and will praise and encourage honest effort and work well done. The teachers will assist children in developing respect and positive feelings for others, help them develop initiative, and provide time for every child to talk, to work, to play, and to explore. Our child-centered classroom environments invite interaction and learning and encourage independent thinking. We foster creativity by encouraging experimentation and dramatization. We also use positive discipline techniques:

- positive reinforcement
- problem solving
- natural and logical consequences
- redirection
- reflective listening in dealing with negative behaviors.
- teaching social/emotional skills using Conscious Discipline.

All discipline is handled in a firm, loving manner as a way to teach each child self-control.



What does a typical day at the Parish Day School involve?

While each class will vary somewhat, a daily schedule may include chapel, free choice in child-directed center activities, snack, circle time, outdoor play, science lab, music/movement and lunch.



Your child will:

- ✓ have opportunities to work with small and large groups and alone
- ✓ play and work in centers
- ✓ sing and listen to music, stories, and poems
- ✓ be exposed to drama and the creation of stories
- ✓ share tools, games, materials, and experiences with his/her classmates
- ✓ participate in music and movement
- ✓ help plan his/her own experiences
- ✓ learn to listen to and follow directions
- ✓ help to keep his/her classroom in order
- ✓ build his/her self-esteem and social skills
- ✓ attend chapel regularly
- ✓ use various art supplies, such as paint, crayons, chalk, paper, material scraps, scissors, and glue as a form of self-expression
- ✓ explore math and science concepts and visit our science lab



Babies & Toddlers

Class Facts:

- Attend school two days per week 9:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
- Class size of 8 students with two teachers for toddlers;
Class size of 6 students with two teachers for babies
- Classroom drop-off and pick-up
- Classes are separated by age:
 - 6-12 months (TuTh)
 - 12-18 months (MW or TuTh)
 - 18-24 months (MW or TuTh)



Goal:

The teachers' primary goal is to help children learn how to separate from their parents while exploring and enjoying new activities.

Typical Day:

Babies and toddlers experience plenty of free play to explore their environment. Toddlers have a climbing structure to encourage gross motor play as well as a quiet nook with child-sized chairs for exploring board books. Staff also spend plenty of time on the floor interacting with students one-on-one or with small groups of children as they read books, sing songs, cuddle, or build with blocks. Toddlers go to music and movement class twice per week, and they play outside every day, weather permitting. During the morning, children enjoy a simple group snack as well as a lunch brought from home.



Two-Year-Olds

Class Facts:

- Attend school two or three days per week 9:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
- Class size of 9-10 students with one lead and one assistant teacher
- Classroom drop off and pick up
- Classes are separated by age: 24-30 months and 30-36 months.
Both have Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday options.

Goal:

Much of this year focuses on fostering new found independence and self-help skills, as well as reinforcing language development.



Typical Day:

Classrooms are set up in centers which typically include housekeeping, blocks, manipulatives, books, and art. The teachers also may rotate in science or sensory activities like a sand or water table. Teachers usually lead a short group time featuring a story or song as well as snack time and outdoor play. Children eat lunch in the classroom and attend music/movement and science lab weekly. Basic concepts such as colors and shapes are introduced and explored, and popular themes include families, all about me, animals, transportation, and holidays. Another focus of our two-year-old classrooms is helping children learn to get along with others in the class through sharing, taking turns, and beginning to use their words to resolve differences.

Three-Year-Olds



Class Facts:

- Attend school four or five days per week 9:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
- Class size of 12-13 students with one lead and one assistant teacher
- Morning classroom drop off and afternoon carpool pick up
- Special activities: Halloween parade, Christmas program and Letterland parade
- Children participate in in-house enrichment activities.

Goal:

Following directions and learning to function as part of a group are a big part of the three-year-old curriculum.

Typical Day:

Threes typically love to come to school and are eager to learn. They are like sponges as their social skills develop, and they learn to engage in cooperative play with their classmates. A typical day in the three-year-old classes begins with morning chapel on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Teachers may introduce the weekly theme during circle time; then children choose centers in which to play. Academics are introduced through hands-on activities. For example, weighing and measuring a pumpkin in the fall or combining yellow and red paint at the easel to create orange is one way children learn scientific concepts. Creativity in free-choice art and imaginative play are always encouraged. Playground time is a time to socialize with other children and engage in active play. Children attend music and movement class and science lab weekly.

Four-Year-Olds (Pre-K)

Class Facts:

- Attend school five days per week 9:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
- Class size of 15 students with one lead and one assistant teacher
- Morning carpool drop off as well as afternoon carpool
- Special activities: Halloween parade, family Thanksgiving feast, Christmas program, Letterland parade and Graduation
- Children participate in in-house enrichment activities.

Goal:

The four-year-old (Pre-K) program is geared toward preparing children both socially and academically for kindergarten.





Typical Day:

Socially, children work on following multi-step directions, completing activities independently, caring for themselves and others, problem-solving, sharing and taking turns, and using language to express themselves. They often use playground time for dramatic and cooperative play (for example, turning the play house into a pretend ice cream shop). Pre-K students also act as leaders in our chapel service by serving as acolytes and show responsibility in their classrooms by taking turns holding classroom jobs.

Academically, they use hands-on play to explore mathematical concepts such as one-to-one correspondence, more and less, size, position, and direction. By using the *Letterland* program, teachers introduce letter formation and phonological awareness, and they expose children to reading and writing through our print-rich environment. Sensory exploration and scientific discovery are encouraged through playing in sand and water tables, gardening, engaging in science lab experiments, or observing cause and effect. Child-created artwork and dramatic play provide children with the opportunity to express themselves creatively. After completing our four-year-old (Pre-K) class, most students attend full-day kindergarten the following year.

Five-Year-Olds (Kindergarten)



Class Facts:

- Attend school five days per week 9:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m.
- Class size of 15 students with one lead and one assistant teacher
- Morning carpool drop off as well as afternoon carpool
- Special activities: Halloween parade, Thanksgiving Family Feast, Christmas program, 100 Days of School Celebration, Class Circus, Letterland parade and Graduation
- Children participate in in-house enrichment activities.

Goal:

Our Kindergarten is for children who are five years old and eligible to attend kindergarten in public or private school. The Kindergarten program reinforces and builds on the skills learned in our Pre-K classes, and the curriculum is based on the kindergarten standards outlined by the NC Dept. of Public Instruction.



Typical Day:

Many children in this class have summer birthdays and would be young kindergartners. Some need extra time to work on social development or fine motor skills. Others want to enjoy one last year of having a shorter day before encountering the rigors of a full-day schedule. While children still have plenty of unstructured time to play and learn in classroom centers, our staff also introduces more teacher-directed activities like those that children would encounter in a full-day kindergarten classroom.

In addition to continuing the *Handwriting Without Tears* and *Letterland* programs, children learn to recognize high frequency sight words and use their knowledge of letters and sounds to become emergent readers and writers. Special cooking activities that are coordinated with the letter of the week are always a popular choice for the children. Math skills are nurtured through counting, sorting, classifying, estimating, sequencing, and patterning activities. In addition, child-directed art activities foster free expression. Playground time, chapel services, music/movement classes, science lab and lunch complete the day. In all activities, children are encouraged to become independent and self-sufficient in order to prepare them for elementary school.



Chapel

To enhance their spiritual growth and Biblical knowledge, children in the three-year-old, Pre-K and Kindergarten classes attend short, age-appropriate chapel services two days per week. In a dedicated children's chapel with preschool-sized pews, children hear familiar Bible stories and learn songs and prayers. We also recognize children celebrating birthdays. Parents are welcome in chapel at any time, especially when their children are "child of the day" or celebrating a birthday.



Science Lab

Classes in the younger 2s and up participate in weekly science enrichment classes in our science lab. This year children have learned about earthworms, experimented with force and motion while designing ramps, and participated in composting.



Music

All classes participate in music/movement class weekly. Children learn fun songs and interact with musical instruments, bean bags, scarves and shakers as they learn to follow directions, practice rhythm and rhyme, and use their large and small muscle groups.



Playground



We are blessed to have a large natural area for our playground. One- and two-year- olds enjoy our bucket swings, sandbox, and toddler-sized bulldozer climber school bus and rythm wall.

In addition, older children can explore our tire swings, large climbing structure with slides, playhouse, basketball goal, stage, and monkey bars. Each age group has a 45-minute outdoor play period to encourage gross motor play and dramatic play as well as time to socialize with friends from other classes.

Library

The Children's Library contains a wide variety of children's board books and preschool age-appropriate books, which may be checked out by teachers, parents and students. New books are acquired for the library through book clubs, Parent Council donations and individual gifts.

Some classes visit the library weekly to allow children to select books to borrow, and other classes use the library for special story times. Teachers rotate books regularly to enhance their classroom themes.



The Parish Day School Difference

- **Staff Longevity**

Lead teachers have been working at the Day School an average of 6 years and have an average of 12 years of experience teaching preschool.

- **Staff Training**

Teachers are required to participate in 5-10 hours of educational workshop training each school year and have degrees and/or experience in the field of early childhood.

- **Relationships**

Our class sizes are small, and our teacher-student ratios are low to give teachers plenty of time to work one-on-one or in small groups with children. Teachers share information with families through parent conferences, email, newsletters, and our Procure app.

- **Support**

Our active Parent Council is a volunteer organization for parents of students. Its role is to provide support to the director and teachers, sponsor special events throughout the year, and raise funds for special purchases for the school. Membership is open to all parents of St. Michael's Parish Day School students.

- **Specials**

We are one of the only preschools in our area with a chapel designed specifically for children, and we have a science teacher as well as a music/movement teacher on staff.

- **Leadership**

Our director has a master's degree in Family and Child Development, and is certified as a Triple P Provider (Positive Parenting Program)





Class Offerings and Monthly Tuition Rates for the 2024-25 School Year



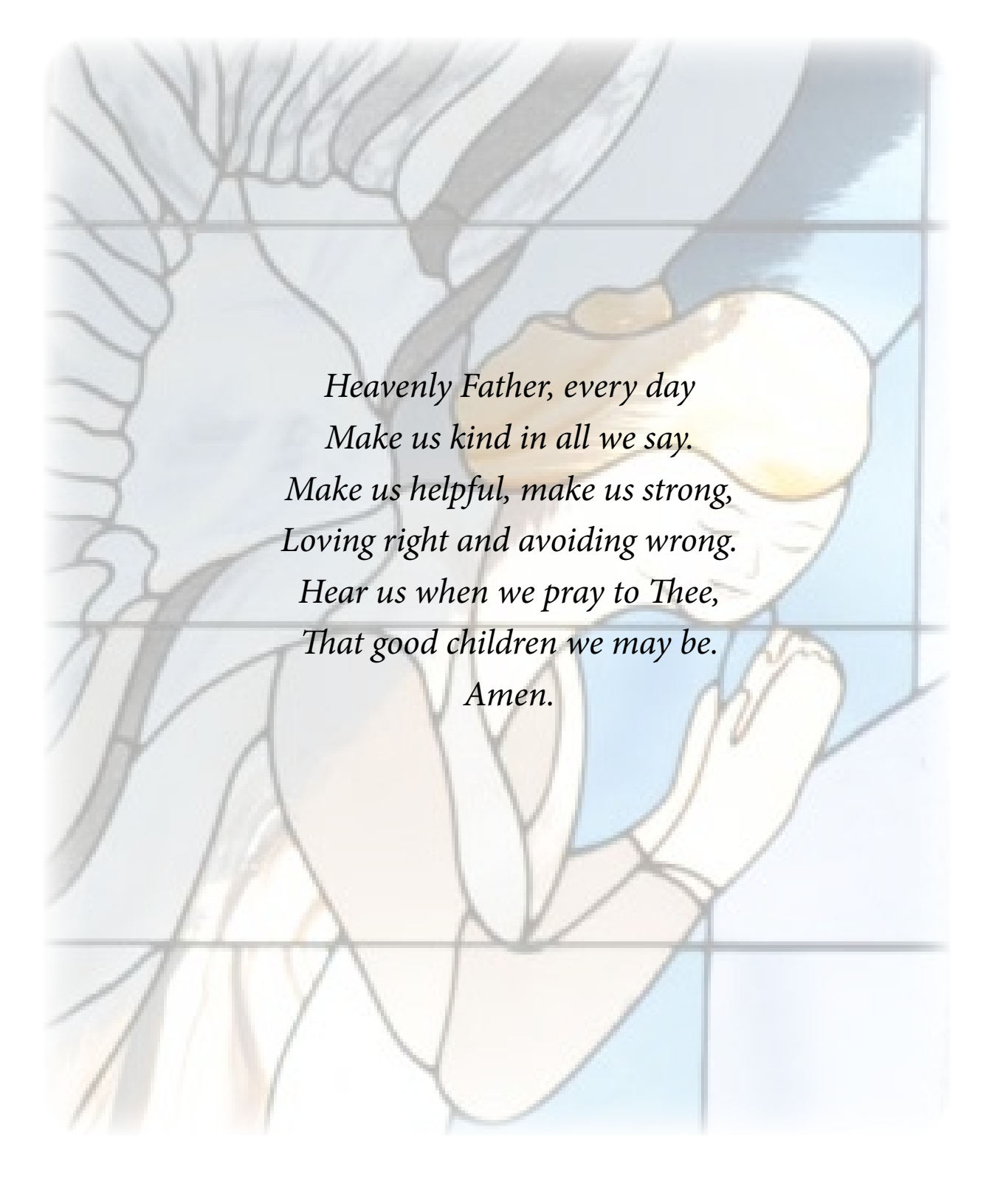
Babies (6-12 months)	Tuesday and Thursday	\$335
Younger Toddlers (12-18 months)	M/W or Tu/Th	\$335
Older Toddlers (18-24 months)	M/W or Tu/Th	\$335
Younger Two-Year-Olds (24-30 months)	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	\$395
Younger Two-Year-Olds (24-30 months)	Tuesday and Thursday	\$335
Older Two-Year-Olds (30-36 months)	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	\$395
Older Two-Year-Olds (30-36 months)	Tuesday and Thursday	\$335
Three-Year-Olds	Monday through Thursday	\$450
Three-Year-Olds	Monday through Friday	\$480
Four-Year-Olds (Pre-K)	Monday through Friday	\$480
Five-Year-Olds (Kindergarten)	Monday through Friday	\$505

All classes meet 9:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. with the exception of the Kindergarten, which dismisses at 1:15 p.m.

All classes have a yearly registration fee of \$300.

Class ages are based on the Wake County Public School System's cutoff date of August 31.





*Heavenly Father, every day
Make us kind in all we say.
Make us helpful, make us strong,
Loving right and avoiding wrong.
Hear us when we pray to Thee,
That good children we may be.
Amen.*



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