



During the 2017-2018 school year, St. Michael School began instituting new enhancements to the rigorous curriculum of the school. These enhancements involved moving to a more classical style of education. This model of education was used in Catholic education until the first half of the twentieth century, preparing students not just for high school, college or a career, but to become lifelong learners who are informed, engaged and faith filled members of society.

Teachers are given opportunities for classes and instruction in classical education. Teachers are able to access online training sessions on Classical U on classical pedagogy and strategies. Several of the faculty traveled to Catholic University for a National conference on Catholic Classical Education, and brought back new ideas and methods.

Latin instruction was expanded to begin in Kindergarten. Students as young as five were able to learn and memorize simple Latin words and phrases, as well as prayers in Latin. The use of memorization and recitation in Latin has led all of the students to better understand the language and begin to apply what they are learning to English grammar as well.

Classical literature is being used throughout the school with great success. Students are enjoying reading books such as *The Secret Garden*, *Stuart Little* and *Little House on the Prairie*. Younger students learned with *Aesop's Fables* while older students spent time reading Mark Twain and William Shakespeare. Students also learned to memorize and recite poetry and speeches. A highlight of the year was our first annual Recitation Night with every class, Pre-Kindergarten through grade eight, participating. Cultivation of memory is an important component in the development of strong minds.

Virtue education was introduced this year, and will continue to be an important part of our program. Discipline is important to learning in school, but having good and appropriate behaviors taught and reinforced makes them a part of each student; not because they are afraid of being punished, but because they know it is the right way to behave.

We have new textbooks in history to focus on the history of Western Civilization and how it has evolved and grown. Our new Religion books emphasize scripture and Christian formation in what Pope Benedict XVI called "the best Catechetical series," ensuring our students have a good foundation in the faith.

Science, math and technology continue to be important in our program, but even in these classes, we utilize classical strategies and allow students to master their subjects in developmentally appropriate ways.

St. Michael School is very excited about a Catholic Classical Curriculum and the opportunities it provides to expand our school with new students and to expand our curriculum to further prepare our students to become the best version of themselves they can be.