



St. Michael School prides itself on its rigorous and challenging Catholic Classical Curriculum. We have well qualified teachers who care about their students. Our graduates excel in high school and beyond. We have standardized test scores that are well above the national averages. Yet St. Michael School is more than just academics. Our faith is integrated into all of the academic subjects.

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.

Over the past two school years, teachers have had opportunities for classes and instruction in classical education. Last summer, several of us traveled to Catholic University for a National conference on Catholic Classical Education and brought back new ideas and methods. Another group will attend this summer.

It is easy to tell you about what we are doing, but what does it look like? If you came and walked through our school you would meet students learning the history of Western civilization and Christianity. You would hear students in first through fifth grades parsing sentences by chanting and identifying each part of speech; and you would meet teachers thrilled at how this has benefited the students' writing skills. You would find students reciting poetry and preparing for our annual Recitation night. In the older grades students conjugating Latin verbs, declining Latin nouns and adjectives and achieving success on the National Latin exam, all the while learning to think logically and prepare themselves to tackle other languages. You would hear even our younger students reciting their prayers in Latin. You would observe students reading good classical literature, and discussing and recommending books to their classmates; students learning to discuss and debate logically and clearly with evidence using Socratic discussions. And, meet students learning about and growing in virtue.

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. This year, two of our middle school students medaled at the CT State Science Fair, with one taking fifth place in Life Science in the State. Our Robotics Team continues to be successful, bringing home awards each year.

We are very proud of the successes and achievements of our students. They continue to thrive and excel when they leave us to go on to high school and beyond. We thank all of you for the support you have given us to continue our mission. And, we invite any of you who would like more information about St. Michael School and Catholic Classical Education to come and visit and see for yourself. I think you will like what you see.

Doris S. Messina
Principal