

Summary of Parents' Meeting (March 2nd and March 3rd)

Thank you to all the parents who attended the meetings last week. These are the discussion points and questions parents raised at the meetings. We had over 100 families participate in both meetings. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions or concerns (rogone@stmichaelsca.org)

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Crisis Management: In addition to the health requirements mandated this year due to COVID-19, St. Michael's Catholic Academy is in compliance with all FDNY and Health Department regulations. The students have had the required number of fire drill, lock down procedures, and inspections from the Board of Health. All inspectors have not been in contact with the students, but escorted through the school and given the required logs to evaluate in the school office only.

In the event of an evacuation of the school building, the first emergency site is St. Michael's Church basement (and upper church if needed) on the corner of Union Street and 41st Avenue. The second evacuation site is Mary's Nativity Church on Jasmine and Parsons Blvd. If the students are evacuated, then Option C Alerts will be sent to all parents to inform them of the location needed.

Questions from Parents: Are there security cameras on the outside of the school building?

Yes, cameras are able to record all activity on the outside of the school building as well as throughout the halls of the building. Lighting has been increased around the building as well in addition to gates installed.

September 2021: At this time no directives have been given for opening in September, HOWEVER, we have begun to plan for opening September 2021. We will have in person learning and if the need is determined for remote, we will stream in remote students into St. Michael's classes. There is no need to find another program for online learning.

We have begun to stream in some students into St. Michael's classes and have been successful. The teachers have worked very hard in accommodating this need.

Funding from the CARES ACT, provided us with almost \$180,000 which we used to upgrade and enhance support in technology. The equipment and devices should be delivered in time for September 2021.

We have moved very smoothly from in person to remote for whatever reasons this year- quarantine or weather. There are no emergency days (snow days) for this reason. The use of Google Classroom will only increase for students to complete all work online.

Questions from Parents: Are teachers vaccinated?

Information cannot be shared in violation with HIPAA regulations. The principal did share that some teachers have received the vaccine but it is not required as of yet.

Does the school follow the regulation of 3 positive cases before the school is closed on quarantine (DOE new regulation?) rather than the 2 positive cases being followed now?

*We are not the DOE and follow all directives from the Board of Health, CDC, and the Diocese of Brooklyn. We ARE NOT the DOE or the Archdiocese of New York. There is no change in the policy of closure of a school for 3 positive cases. **We follow ALL directives from the Diocese of Brooklyn.***

Tuition Rates

As mentioned in a letter sent to parents in January, tuition rates have had to be increased minimally to cover increasing costs of operating the school. The average cost of educating a student is nearly \$11,000 however the difference in tuition is covered by grants, fundraising, and gifts to the school.

There will no longer be a mandatory Candy Sale due to the restrictions of social distancing. This year the Board of Directors approved a 50/50 raffle to cover the one mandatory raffle. A third grade family won half of the money raised in this raffle this year. Going forward to next year, the mandatory fundraiser for families will be 50/50 Raffles held in December and the Spring. This way families have a chance to win money back. This is all explained in the attached tuition sheet.

The Board has approved the \$775.00 refer a family discount and a 5% discount when registering by May 1st.

Question from Parent: One parent felt they could not sell anything being they were not in contact with other people.

The 50/50 raffle could have been sent in by the families with no need to be in touch with others. One mandatory fundraiser this year, as in all years, is listed on the tuition paper before re-registration begins. If there is a financial issue, then please contact Mrs. Rogone.

Financial Aid

Please apply NOW. All students who received financial awards MUST re-apply each year. Ms. Janett and Sr. Bin Lin are helping parents with the online applications. Appointments from Monday through Thursday are available now.

We have been successful with meeting the requirements of social distancing and maintaining the safety of all students and staff members. We will have a summer program from July 5th-August 13th. More details and pricing will be available in April.

The school office is open all summer, however, will be closed August 16th-August 30th for maintenance.

Question from Parent: How much will the summer program cost?

There is a choice of 4,5, or 6-week program, half day or full day session. We are also arranging for remote learning for summer school. Early drop off at 7:30am and after care is until 5:30pm. Students receive free breakfast and lunch.

The rates are being decided now, however, in past years a 6-week full time program averaged \$960.00. It is safe to estimate that this year a 6-week full time summer program would average close to \$1000.00.