Throughout the course of human history, a common thread binds every parent: the fervent desire that our children thrive and succeed and are happy. A parent’s love and discipline are key to achieving this vision. But so too is education. With the right education – one that mirrors the parents’ own beliefs and values – children have a much better chance of contributing to society, being responsible productive citizens, and finding their own place in the world.

In Plymouth, Indiana, St. Michael Catholic School is an accredited center of excellence and education, serving preschoolers through the eighth grade. Students receive not only a quality education but also grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. Staff, administrators, board members and parents are all dedicated to providing the highest quality educational standards with Christ-centered beliefs as the cornerstone of valued learning. They challenge students to achieve their full potential. In this caring, social community, students realize their gifts are valued, and interactions are positive, respectful and Christ-like.

Families of every faith tradition are welcome at St. Michael. Whether Catholic or not, families are drawn to St. Michael’s structure and faith-based education, as well as the small class sizes and the fact that students get the personal attention they need.

Underscoring these remarkable qualities, St. Michael’s teachers make sure they are accessible to parents. They keep the lines of communication running openly and freely. At St. Michael School, parents don’t wonder how their child is doing. They know.

Come visit St. Michael. Even a brief step into the halls is enough to tell you that this is a unique and special place. The environment is calm, yet there is an undercurrent of excitement as students learn, explore, solve and discover.

"I went through public school myself, but I wanted more for my three children. I wanted a school that would model the structure and discipline that we provide at home."  
St. Michael School Parent

"From the moment I first walked in the door, I felt a sense of relief. I knew my child would be safe here.”  
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ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL: A GOOD FOUNDATION AND A PRODUCTIVE START
UNA BUENA BASE Y UN INICIO PRODUCTIVO

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A participant in the Indiana School Choice voucher program, St. Michael is among the top educational facilities in the state. In fact, for five years running, St. Michael has received “Exemplary Progress” recognition from the Indiana Department of Education – the highest level possible for an accredited school.

Beyond modeling exemplary behavior, St. Michael students are nurtured academically to reach their fullest potential. No matter what obstacles a student may face, the teachers strive to help each and every child. Sometimes, the result is nothing less than transformative. Students who started out shy end up eagerly reading aloud in church or school. Students who are intelligent but unfocused receive extra attention to help them succeed. Students who previously struggled in school find themselves suddenly blossoming. And they love it. There’s likely not another group of children who so look forward to attending school every day.

At the same time, St. Michael administrators keep a keen eye on important trends in education. They are willing to adjust the curricula as necessary to stay competitive and give children the best education possible. It is in this way that students who enter public high school from St. Michael find many of the “hard” classes easier than their public school-educated contemporaries.

At St. Michael, students are instructed in a core curriculum that comprises Religion, Language Arts, Mathematics, Music/Band/Choir, Social Studies, Science/Health, Art, Physical Education, Computer and Spanish.

They have the chance to learn using current technology, such as interactive SMART Boards in each classroom that use the power of a computer to create collaborative learning opportunities. SMART Boards allow teachers and students to work together using touch screen and digital ink.

Each classroom also is equipped with computers for students’ use. Computer skills are taught using a mobile lab with a one-to-one computer-to-student ratio.

Academic superiority is also evidenced by excellent ISTEP+ scores. Year after year, St. Michael Catholic School has consistently ranked in the upper reaches of ISTEP+ scores and is a leader in the Fort Wayne – South Bend Diocese.

In addition to the core curriculum, the ability to speak well in front of others is also prized at St. Michael, where a comprehensive speech program features an annual competition. The program receives rave reviews for transforming children and readying them for the world that awaits. In fact, the school’s many opportunities to speak publicly – whether through readings at Mass or oral reports or the speech contest – give children a huge advantage as they move through life.

In the area of sports, St. Michael participates in the ICCL, the Inter-City Catholic League, a competitive league that serves the recreational interests of 15 area Catholic grade schools.

In grades 5-8, girls have the opportunity to participate in soccer, volleyball, basketball, golf and cheerleading. Options for boys are soccer, basketball, baseball and golf.

Yet St. Michael’s sports programs do more than just teach students how to throw, swing, kick or hit. Participation is strongly encouraged and is also guaranteed in ICCL. True to the spirit of the school, prayer is offered before every game to give honor to God for the gifts and talents of the players. Coaches teach the fundamentals of each sport, which in turn correlate to many life lessons that students will experience down the road. There is also camaraderie, a sense of belonging, and a great deal of self-fulfillment in being part of a cohesive group that strives together toward a common goal. Of course, when it comes down to it, participating in sports at St. Michael is just plain fun.

"My fifth-grade daughter has attended St. Michael since Kindergarten and in the last six years she has learned more about our faith than I had hoped for. I love that the school instills in our children a respect for others and the understanding that we are here to serve each other.”

- St. Michael School Parent

"The speech program did a lot for my confidence and it helped my friends get over their fear of speaking in public.”

- St. Michael School Graduate
The success of St. Michael School and its students can be attributed to a strong spirit of collaboration among staff, administrators, board members and parents. In fact, parental involvement is a major strength at St. Michael. Many parents willingly volunteer to help out; the students are aware of that and learn from it, too. All are focused on the same goal.

For parents who put their children’s education at top priority, there is reassurance that the teachers and administrators at St. Michael do the same. Children at St. Michael have the best opportunity to grow into kind, productive, faithful and giving citizens, because St. Michael School gives them a good foundation and a productive start.

ENCOURAGING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
FOMENTAR LA PARTICIPACIÓN DE LOS PADRES

“No matter the school, it is the principal who sets the tone for daily life. At St. Michael, the principal’s door is always open and ideas are welcomed. Students respect the office, but also enjoy a comfortable relationship. Discipline is firm but fair.

Staff, too, are praised for their excellence. They know how to turn negatives into positives, how to teach respect for one’s elders, how to embrace values that are diminishing in society. Students learn tolerance and acceptance and core values that help them become the best person they can be.

Staff also have been trained in how to counteract the serious problem of bullying. The training ensures that all teachers are versed in the same skills and know what to look for among the student population. They are given the leeway and feel comfortable in reprimanding any child of any age, not just those in their classes. The training extends to students so that children who are being bullied and those who are watching all know how to be proactive in stopping the behavior. This is an ongoing program that surveys parents at the beginning and the end of each school year to gauge its success. The topic of bullying is also incorporated into religion classes.

Perhaps one of the greatest compliments is that teachers from other schools say they recognize St. Michael alumni because of the way the students hold and carry themselves, as well as their superior study habits.

“Preschool and kindergarten in the public school were very hard for my son, who has behavioral issues and a learning disability. I considered sending him to St. Michael, and after talking with the principal, I came to understand that no matter what school I put him in, I needed to get more help for him. I’m very thankful for that insight. Now he is on the honor roll at St. Michael. His teachers bend over backward for him. In fact, they even drove to Indianapolis to attend a conference related to his needs. What could have been the worst thing for him turned out to be the best. I wouldn’t trade St. Michael for anything.”

-St. Michael School Parent

“The teachers saw early on that my son needed extra help. They took the time to help him succeed. My son would have never made the honor roll without that extra attention. You can’t put a price on that.”

-St. Michael School Parent
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