

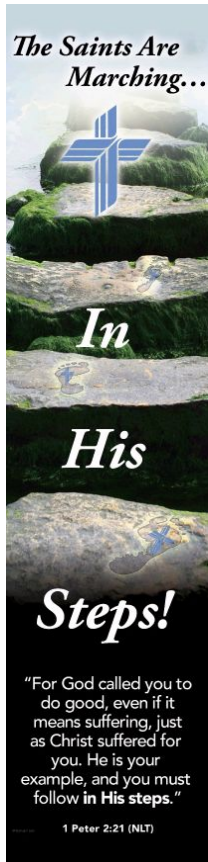
March 24, 2011

Dear Parents:

We are well into our 55th year of ministry in education at St. Michael Lutheran School! Praise the Lord! We are focusing on the theme, "In His Steps"! The theme verse, selected by the instructional staff, comes from First Peter 2:21 (NLT) "For God called



you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps."



- 📖 **S**hare the 'Good News'!
- 📖 **T**ake time to read His word!
- 📖 **E**quipped for good! [Eph. 2:8-9]
- 📖 **P**ray to and Praise Him daily!
- 📖 **S**erve others in His love!

This is the message that children have heard for 55 years, do hear today, and need to hear everyday in the future at St. Michael. Jesus is the reason for St. Michael. His life, death, and resurrection have given us hope and a future as we live in a sinful world. This is the message that permeates, goes into every lesson, every activity, and every daily interaction that children have at St. Michael.

Our Mission statement focuses all that we do. It says, "*The mission of Saint Michael Lutheran School is to educate children and touch families' lives with the love of Jesus Christ.*" We must equip them with the very best education so they are the most effective witnesses possible. The highest possible standards are held for the arts and academics at St. Michael. We educate for life here and for eternity! Jesus first, academics second to none!

Now is the time for you to re-enroll for the 2011-2012 school term, in order for SMLS to align the budget and plan properly for next year. First priority for enrollment consideration goes to current students who complete the paperwork and begin tuition payments. Edit & complete the enclosed document and return them ASAP. Qualified siblings of current students and members of SMLC will be given next priority.

We have regularly scheduled appointments with parents of prospective students and look forward to meeting with them. We also have initiated the admissions program: **Tours Thursday's at Ten** or a Time specifically scheduled. You can refer anyone to stop by the reception area any Thursday at 10:00 A.M. and we will give them a tour and admissions appointment.

This year we are implementing the 2nd of the 5 year cycle of accreditation recommendations and ongoing improvement plans. One of the blessings of accreditation is the recognition that we have received, "The Good Housekeeping Stamp of Approval." What is the key to this achievement? I believe it is the relationship we have between parents and instructors that focuses on the children. As I reviewed the proposed budgeted ministry work program for the next school term with the Board we all realized the blessing and need for superior instructional staff!

The tools provided for learning must be utilized by skilled, caring, and passionate instructors in order for excellence in education to be attained. 'Thanks be to God!' as the Apostle Paul would say, that we have that staff here at St. Michael. During this current school term the staff endured a major realignment of the salary scale.

Saint Michael Lutheran School 3595 Broadway Fort Myers, FL 33901-8021 (239) 939-1218 WWW.SMLCS.ORG



As the Board set the 2011-2012 projected budget, we reviewed the economic impacts on our previous budgets and the major realignment of the past few school terms. We have kept all expenses at levels that enable us to continue excellence with good stewardship of resources. The budgeted ministry work program will include the continuation of our existing programs. The all-inclusive tuition amount has been adjusted to implement these programs with an affordable and competitive tuition rate increase.

“For the 2011-2012 school term the all-inclusive tuition amount will be \$8340 for K-8 Members of SMLC & all full day PK / \$9340 for K-8 Community-members. That is a \$350 increase over the 2010-2011 rates.” [For a chart view of this information see the end of this letter.]

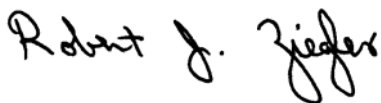
Re-enrollment action steps:

- 1** First, the staff and I would like to continue educating your child and teaming with you! **A customized application form for re-enrollment** is enclosed with this letter. This is the first step toward re-enrollment. It is essential that the application form for re-enrollment be edited and returned to the school office on or before **April 16th** to retain your priority enrollment status.
- 2** **Second, please read and complete the Tuition Declaration Page.** That page is printed on the back side of the re-enrollment form. It is essential that the form be returned to the school office on or before **April 16th** to ensure updating of the FACTS accounts.
- 3** Third, go online to <http://www.smlcs.org/smls.htm> and review the forms regarding Health Department requirements, Emergency Contact information [SAFE forms], Extended Care, Calendar, Grandparent information, St. Michael Church membership criteria, and tuition payments. **If anything has changed over the last 10 months please print a form, complete it, and send it into the office.**

You have chosen Saint Michael because it is a distinctively Christian school offering programs of academic excellence and personal growth for each unique learner. You have our promise that Saint Michael will continue to strive for excellence in all that we do. “Jesus first, academics second to none!”

Again, we are delighted that you and your child will be part of our school family next year. If I can be of assistance to you at any time, please do not hesitate to call me. A healthy relationship between people depends upon open communication. I would like to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to all parents for their enthusiastic support and cooperation during this school term. May we always remember that ‘**In His Steps!**’ we are doing our very best in Christian education for one of His greatest blessings – your child.

In His Steps,



Robert J. Ziegler
Principal,
LEA Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Administrator
U.S. Department of Education and NAESP National Distinguished Principal

General Information:

1. **Staffing Information:** Mr. John Payne has announced that he will not be returning next school term. SML will be going through a process to fill the Director of Music Ministry position. We thank Mr. Payne for his work with the children. At this time we anticipate all other staff returning to SMLS.

2. **1 to 1 Computing Program:** The pilot program for 5th & 8th grade is going very well. We will make adjustments and changes over the summer. **We intend for all 5th-8th grade students to be 1 to 1 starting in August.**

The specifications below include information for all 5-8 students who will need to purchase a PC next year. This is the recommended model. Eighth graders can use existing PC models that they already have. We have chosen the specs that will enable 4 years of productive use for the device. Any brand or model is fine.

- Minimum specifications: Netbook, 10.1 screen, 160GB HDD, 1GB RAM, Intel Atom 270 processor, 8 hours battery life. Windows 7 home starter.
- Recommendation: ASUS Eee PC Model 1015PEMPU17. It comes with newest Intel Atom dual core processor N550, 14 hour battery, 250 GB hard drive. Best price found around \$368.00 at: www.amazon.com
- Consider buying **Scrip** from the office and then use that **Scrip** to buy online at Amazon or Asus the netbook. That is a saving and *win-win* for all involved.



3. **Accreditation:** We have been granted accreditation by an additional agency. Based on the quality of our NLSA work lead by Mr. Rhinehart and implemented by the staff we are now also accredited by The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. **We will have a mid cycle visit next school term. We will also be doing a major online survey in April as part of the process.**



4. **VPK for 4 year olds:** We are doing all of the paperwork with the State of FL. Mrs. Maher and Schwan are both getting the VPK Director's credentials. We intend to continue the traditional SMLS PK4 program. "The traditional SMLS PK4 program is different: VPK meets minimum education standards, often delivered by DCFS certified staff but not by FLDE degreed and certified teachers; we offer an academic prekindergarten that prepares our students for our kindergarten, with fully degreed and certified teachers." We also intend to open up 1 or 2 sections of VPK 4 year olds only (AM 8-11 and PM 12-3) seeking to staff those with FLDE degreed and certified teachers. Those sessions will be paid by the State. So they are free. State reimbursement rates will be applied to both options. The traditional all day PK4 program tuition will be reduced by the VPK State reimbursement. A special registration process will be followed once we have State approval.



5. **Master Calendar Online** at www.smlcs.org : Click on the calendar icon in the bottom left of the screen. We have moved to an online system that will allow you to view and print the calendar and selected specific categories of information to print in many formats. Click on the various button and drop down menus and try it.

6. **E-mail addresses:** If you have not added your current e-mail address to our messagebot system please do so now. This e-mail system will be used to keep you informed throughout the school term. We will send out information about Saints Alive, special reminders or calls to action! Don't miss out on valuable information! Go to this address and follow the directions. <http://www.smlcs.org/parents/messagebot.htm> .

7. **Tuition & Financial Assistance Wording Changes:**

- All financial aid requests must be done through the FACTS Grant & Aid application process online. www.factstuitionaid.com This process must be completed by April 15th.
- New wording: Should a default in tuition payments occur SML may file legal action, utilize collection agencies, and may place a lien on tangible assets.
- Prepay Tuition Payment due in full by April 16, 2011.
- Tuition is set at an early rate for new families and for re-enrolling families who complete re-enrollment in April. If the early re-enrolling date is not followed, standard tuition rates will apply that are higher than the early rate. (The early rate plus an additional \$200 per month) May +\$200 / June +\$400 / July +\$600 / Aug. +800)
- Tuition Payments (2-12 months) begin April 5 or 20, 2011 [If payments continue from the current school term they may be averaged into the total amount due and divided by the number of months thru March of 2012. Or, an additional \$50.00 per month will be added to the current payment schedule until it ends and the new payment schedule begins. The goal is to complete payments by March of 2012.]