



Year-End Planning Information for Eighth Grade Families

It is hard to believe that we are within weeks of our eighth graders graduating. To help navigate this busy time of year, this note is intended as a one-stop guide to the exciting and emotional culmination of the Class of 2019's time at St. Michael's. The topics covered here are:

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I. Year-End Calendar

13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22 <i>Final Chapel, Yearbooks distributed, Dinner RSVPs due</i>	23 <i>Last full day of class, Class capsule items due</i>	24 <i>English exam, 11:30am dismissal</i>
27 <i>(Memorial Day)</i>	28 <i>Spanish exam, 11:30am dismissal</i>	29 <i>Math exam, 11:30am dismissal</i>	30 <i>Geography exam, Locker clean-out, 11:30am dismissal</i>	31 <i>Science exam, graduation practice, class party & picture, 11:30am dismissal Make-up exams 12:00pm- 2pm</i>
3 <i>St. James Trip</i>	4	5 <i>Baccalaureate 5:15pm & Dinner 6:30pm</i>	6 <i>Graduation 9am (arrive 8am)</i>	7

II. Wrapping Up the High School Process

In October when we met to officially kick off the high school search process, I suggested that the process of searching for, applying to, and selecting the high school program which best suits your child is among the hidden gems of a K-8 school. Now that the process is complete, I hope you've had the opportunity to have meaningful discussions with your rising high schooler about their strengths, challenges, ambitions and what they're willing to do to chase those goals. The Class of 2019 certainly put up some impressive numbers in terms of acceptances, but in the end, the success of this year's search process will be determined by how our students thrive after they've arrived at their new schools.

Now, just a few housekeeping items to ensure we've closed the books on the high school process:

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- ❑ If you have not yet shared with Mrs. Godwin your child's admissions testing results, please consider doing so. This data, which is held in the strictest confidence, helps us calibrate our program to high school programs and admission standards.
- ❑ If your child is on an admission waitlist, be sure you have communicated with the school to indicate whether you wish to remain on that waitlist.
- ❑ Students' final transcripts will be sent by Mrs. Godwin to each student's chosen high school.
- ❑ How high schools award credits for St. Michael's courses varies from public to independent school, and within those two classifications from school to school. Additionally, procedures for course placement and SOL testing (where applicable) also widely and change from time to time. Please check with your child's high school for details and reach out to Mr. Turner if you have questions.

III. Eighth Grade Exams (May 24-May 31)

Friday, May 24

8:00 Study Hall
8:20 English exam
10:20 Recess
10:50 8E goes to Evans, 8F goes to Hayward; 8G goes to Futrell
11:30 Dismissal

Tuesday, May 28

8:00 Study Hall
8:20 Spanish exam
10:20 Recess
10:50 8G goes to Hayward; 8EF goes to Futrell
11:30 Dismissal

Wednesday, May 29

8:00 Study Hall
8:20 Math exam
10:20 Recess & Design Films
11:30 Dismissal

Thursday, May 30

8:00 Study Hall
8:20 Geography exam
10:20 Recess
10:50 Locker cleanout & Science Review (Great Hall with Mr. Winkler)
11:30 Dismissal

Friday, May 31

8:00 Study Hall
8:20 Science exam
10:30 Class of 2019 photo
Students should wear a shirt or other top from their new high school
10:40 Graduation practice and party
11:30 Dismissal
12:00 Make-up exams (bring a snack)
2:00 Make-ups conclude

While students may be excused following their exams, they are strongly encouraged to remain until 11:30 a.m. each day to take full advantage of review sessions and other class activities (e.g., class picture, etc.).

- ❑ **Dismissal Process:** At 11:30 a.m. each day, normal carpool procedure will be held for eighth graders. As usual, anyone wishing to pick up a student prior to normal carpool dismissal should park in the gymnasium lot and walk up to the office to sign out that student.

Attire: For exam week, eighth graders may dress down as described in the Student Family Handbook.

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IV. Transitioning to Alumni

Class Picture and Party (May 31)

After their final exam and graduation rehearsal on May 31, students will gather to take a class picture and celebrate the conclusion of the school year. Pizza and drinks will be served, courtesy of the Development Office and the students will hear from Mr. Turner, Ms. Coleman, and Mr. Romanik about what it means to be an alumnus/a.

- ❑ **Attire: On this day (May 31), students should wear apparel from their intended high school. Students whose intended high school remains uncertain may opt for St. Michael's spiritwear. This will be treated as a normal eighth grade dress down day.**

Class Capsules

Last year in advance of us becoming ONE.TOGETHER, the School sought to honor its history in meaningful and tangible ways (e.g., the now annual alumni event held in May). As part of this effort, we initiated a couple of new traditions, including class capsules.

During their class party on May 31, a metal cylinder will be filled with mementos of the students' choosing, sealed, and displayed in the Middle School. It will then be opened at the class's ten-year reunion. This is intended as a class-wide communal effort. Thus, we will be asking students to select items that have broad cultural impact (e.g., tickets to blockbuster movies, school playbill, news headlines, list of current slang, list of top ten songs, etc.), not inside jokes for two or three students. **We will be speaking with students about this project in the days and weeks ahead, with the goal of bringing in items on or before the last full day of classes on May 23.**

- ❑ We ask that you discuss this class capsule with your children and encourage them to participate.

V. Outing to St. James (June 3)

On Monday, June 3, parents have invited students to join their classmates at The St. James sports & entertainment complex. Departure is at 7:45 a.m. from Stony Point Shopping Center off Huguenot Road.) Students will return at 6:30 p.m. at the Stony Point Shopping Center. Transportation: Newton Bus Service. Lunch will be pizza, drinks, and gelato.

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VI. **Baccalaureate Service (June 5)**

Another tradition the School began last year is the Baccalaureate Service, which is held at **St. Michael's Episcopal Church on June 5 at 5:15 p.m.** (before the graduation dinner). This service tradition not only affirms the School's special relationship with the Church but sets the perfect mood as we move toward Commencement.

Mr. Hansen will preside over the service, which is open to all guests you wish to invite. Faculty-staff members past and present will attend to mark the conclusion of the Class of 2019's journey.

- ❑ **Attire: Students should treat the service as a dress up day as outlined in the Student-Family Handbook, i.e., either (a) a dress shirt, tie, and long pants with a belt; (b) a dress; or (c) a dress blouse with a dress skirt/pants.**

VII. **Dinner Celebrating the Class of 2019 (June 5)**

We hope that you and your child can join us for the dinner celebrating the Class of 2019 on June 5 (6:30-9:30 p.m.) at Salisbury Country Club. Please note in keeping with School policy, as this event includes students, alcohol will not be served.

VIII. **Graduation (June 6)**

Schedule

- 7:30 a.m. The gymnasium doors are opened.
With the exception of seats purchased at the auction and those for faculty and the graduates, seating is open.
- 8:00 a.m. **Members of the Class of 2019 arrive in the Great Hall for pictures.**
The School has arranged for a professional photographer to take class and individual pictures.
- 9:00 a.m. The graduation service begins.
Following the approximately 30 minute service, all guests are invited to a reception hosted by the Class of 2020 in the Allen Library (Singleton Hall.)

Dress and Flowers

The School will provide students with a red rose or a boutonniere.

- ❑ **Attire: Students are to wear either a white dress or coat & tie.**

Parking

The School recommends that families carpool to the extent possible and allow enough time for drivers to drop-off guests at the gymnasium, seek parking around campus, and then walk back to the gymnasium.

***Congratulations and best wishes to the wonderful Class of 2019!
Remember: Once a Dragon, ALWAYS a Dragon!***