



# PANTHER PRINTS

September 2024

## A note from Mrs. Organ:

As we begin the month of September, and the first full week of school is under our belts, I certainly hope that your children are developing a routine that is working for you and your family. I realize it can be difficult to transition from a relaxing summer schedule to one that is very demanding on students and parents alike. It may seem that students are coming home tired and may become a bit overwhelmed as they try to schedule homework into busy routines along with their extracurricular activities.

The beginning of a new school year is a great time to try and help your student to establish some routines that will help him/her to be successful as we begin the year. Please encourage your child to find a quiet place to complete homework and set aside time in the evening schedule to complete it. Reviewing homework folders and teacher notes with younger students each day and checking planners and Google classroom with the older students is the best way to keep up with teacher expectations and assignments. If you have questions about homework or assisting your student with their academics, please contact the teacher for clarification. A general guideline for students and homework expectations is:

Grades K-3 (20-40 minutes)

Grades 4-5 (45 minutes-1 hour)

Grades 6-8 (2 hours max.)

If you see that it is taking your child an inordinate amount of time to complete their homework, please contact the teacher for assistance.

I am hopeful that you were able to attend our Back to School Nights this week and learn more about your child's schedule and meet with the teachers. I cannot stress enough the importance of developing a good relationship with teachers to communicate any concerns that may arise early on and show your student that we are working together to help in his/her success.

I also hope that you and your family have been able to get involved in many of our Back to School events that have taken place over the last several weeks. I would like to thank our PTO, our Welcome Committee and the Carnival Committee for all of their assistance with the Kindergarten Picnic, Back to School Night, and the Back to School Carnival. I know a great deal of work and planning goes in to making these things happen, and your time and assistance is so appreciated.

If you are looking for more ways to get involved at OLP, we are always looking for volunteers. In particular, we could use assistance with our Parents on Patrol program, morning crossing guards and lunchroom assistance. Please contact the school office if you have any questions about these opportunities. If you are able to attend the PTO meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 3, they can also provide you with more information about opportunities to get involved.

Without the help of our wonderful families, all that we do would not be possible. Thank you for all your support and your eagerness to help serve our students!

Thank you for trusting and sharing your children with us.

Grace and Peace,  
Marianne H. Organ



## AFTERNOON DISMISSAL

3:00 p.m. (grades K, 1, and 2)

3:05 p.m. (grades 3,4,5)

3:10 p.m. (grades 6,7,8)

If you are a parent with an older student, it is perfectly fine to plan to arrive at 3:15 or 3:20 for pick-up. If students remain at 3:30 p.m. parents will be called.

**\*If a student must leave early for an appointment at the end of the day, please refrain from picking them up after 2:30 p.m.**

## This Issue:

September Calendar/Lunch Menu  
Meet OLP's New Staff  
Volunteer Opportunities  
School News  
PTO - Scrip & Updates  
Parish Information  
Community Happenings



## A message from Father Tom Holder...

It has been a blessing to welcome all of our students for the beginning of another school year. I hope things are off to a great start for your family and pray that this will be an amazing year for everyone. We are grateful you have chosen Our Lady of the Presentation and we appreciate all the ways you help make our school a great place for our students to grow and learn.

The Carnival this past Saturday was a fun way to kick things off and see the excitement and energy of our students. We are grateful to the PTO and all the volunteers for organizing the event. As you know, there is lots of activity this time of year in a parish with a grade school and early childhood center. I really encourage you to stay connected to the parish and make a commitment to worship as a family every weekend. Our parish and school benefit from your involvement and we have plenty of ways for you and your family to not only be active in school activities, but also our parish ministries and programs. Make an effort and good things will follow.

I especially encourage you to get involved in our Presentation Family Ministry which has really grown over the past couple of years and provides ways for families with grade school age and younger children to connect and be of support to one another. The new year is filled with lots of possibility so please your gifts, time, and talent to enhance the good things happening in our school and parish. We are excited to partner with you in the important work of passing on the faith and helping our students grow in their love for Christ.

Once again this year we have a parish-wide theme we will be using throughout the year. This year our theme is "Cultivate Hope". We officially introduced the theme with our students at the school Mass on Wednesday. The logo for our theme incorporates images of the Cross, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and an Anchor. We will be using these images to remind us that we find our hope in Christ and that we become examples of hope for others when we imitate Christ in our lives. I will be giving the children a "Hope Habits" challenge at each Mass. Be sure to ask them how they are being signs of Hope for others.

May this be a hope-filled year for all of us.

Many Blessings!  
Fr. Tom Holder



## September Lunch Calendar



### All School



## Mass Schedule

**Date:** Wednesday, August 28

**Class:** Haggerty

**Lector:** Lottie VanDolah

**Senior Server:** Dominic Sonderman

**Servers:** Lizzie Nurrenbern & Paul Wheeler

**Date:** Wednesday, September 4

**Class:** Coleman

**Lector:** Tilly Van Dolah

**Senior Server:** Sam Krause

**Servers:** Jack Foster & Jackson Stringer

**Date:** Wednesday, September 11

**Class:** Connors

**Lector:** Maddie Ciaccio

**Senior Server:** Julia McNamara

**Servers:** Emma Kakuske & Jacob Tran

**Date:** Wednesday, September 18

**Class:** Connors

**Lector:** Addie Pearson

**Senior Server:** Annabelle Fenwick

**Servers:** Lucca Abreu & Maddie Ciaccio

**Date:** Wednesday, September 25

**Class:** Connors

**Lector:** Mitch Seelbrede

**Senior Server:** Isaac Ciaccio

**Servers:** Jackson Bushell & MJ Nurrenbern

# September

## Important Dates to Remember

2

NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

4

All School Mass

Students may wear Cultivate Hope shirts with uniform bottoms.

11

All School Mass

Students may wear Cultivate Hope shirts with uniform bottoms.

13

Golf Ball Drop, 3:00 p.m.

Students who have purchased a golf ball chance may dress down. Please adhere to Dress Down Guidelines.

18

All School Mass

Students may wear Cultivate Hope shirts with uniform bottoms.

20

NOON DISMISSAL

Students may wear OLP Spirit Wear w/dress down bottoms.

PTO Golf Tournament, 1:00 Tee Off

25

All School Mass

Students may wear Cultivate Hope shirts with uniform bottoms.

27

Mid-term

# Welcome!

## NEW OLP STAFF

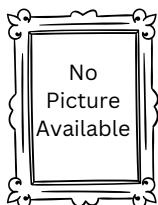


### Bridget Cackler - 4th grade

My name is Bridget Cackler and I am so excited to be teaching 4th grade at OLP! This will be my 13th year teaching in Catholic Schools. I previously taught at Our Lady of Unity in Kansas City, KS and St. John Lalande in Blue Springs before taking a leave from teaching to raise my children. The last three years I substitute taught in the Blue Springs School District. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Benedictine College and my Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction from UCM.

My husband and I live in Blue Springs with our four children; Zachary (20), Ben(18), Bethany (13), and Ella (8). We love to travel as a family and were fortunate enough to spend a month in Australia last summer. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, reading, and watching my kids participate in sports and theater activities.

I look forward to a wonderful year at OLP!



### Trudy Jonas - Middle School Writing

I started my career teaching First grade at Nativity of Mary in Independence. I took a short break when I got married and had children. When my eldest was ready for kindergarten, I took a position as the fifth grade teacher at St. Ann's in Independence. After four years, I moved to middle school and taught 6/7/8 Communication Arts.

I worked at St. Mary's High School in Independence for nine years first as the Development Director and then as the Principal. After leaving St. Mary's, I was an educational consultant for a publishing company and traveled throughout the country training teachers to interpret data to increase student learning. Our Lady of Presentation School was one of my accounts.

Before coming to Presentation this year, I was part of the Advancement Team at Cristo Rey Kansas City. I am married. My husband and I have two grown children and one granddaughter.



### Anderson Feld - P.E.

Hi! I am Anderson Feld and I am teaching PE this year at OLP! I am so excited to be joining the OLP team! I taught 1st grade for a year and Kindergarten for a year before I joined OLP last year as a para. I am from Pleasant Hill, have been married for almost 2 years now to my husband, Ian, and we have a 7 month old daughter, Adrianna. I am so excited to see how much fun we have learning in the gym this year!

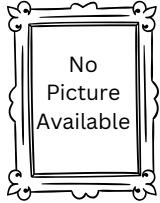


### Mayci Huggins - 6th grade

My name is Mrs. Huggins and I am the new 6th grade math and science teacher! I am so thrilled to be here after graduating college at Northwest Missouri State University last April! This is going to be such a great year with the kids, and I am stoked to grow the next generation of leaders!

# Welcome!

## NEW OLP STAFF



### Carolina Martinez - Spanish

We are excited to welcome Mrs. Martinez as the new Spanish teacher at OLP. Mrs. Martinez will be teaching Spanish to grades K-6 Monday-Wednesday and to Middle School students on Thursday and Friday. Mrs. Martinez comes to us from the Presentation Early Childhood Center.



### Lisa Ruffini - Nurse

Hi! My name is Lisa Ruffini and I am excited to join Jennifer Lepage in the Health Room this year to help keep the OLP students healthy as they pursue their education. I am a nurse graduate from Avila University. I have previously worked as a school nurse at Nativity Parish School in Leawood, KS and just recently retired from Children's Mercy Hospital after 20 years of service. I feel blessed to be at OLP and look forward to working with the students, staff and families to promote health and well being to all.



### Nina Sirna - 1st grade

Hi everyone! My name is Nina Sirna and I am very excited to be teaching 1st grade this year. This will be my first year as a teacher, after graduating with my Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Avila University this past Spring. I am ready and excited to have an amazing year filled with laughter, learning, hard work, and growth.



### Katie Reddig - Para Educator

My name is Katie Reddig and I am thrilled to be joining the OLP staff for the 2024-2025 year! My husband and I have 4 wonderful children and a sweet dog. I love reading and watching movies and attempting to garden. Our family has been part of OLP school since 2011 when our oldest daughter began 1st grade. Now our youngest child is in 6th grade. Over the years I have seen how amazing our school is through various volunteer positions and in the last few years as a substitute teacher. I have a passion for our faith and volunteer as a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd catechist for our Kindergarteners, 1st Graders and 2nd Graders. I look forward to working as a para and helping students find the pathways for learning that will allow them to be the most successful!



### Julie Swank - Middle School Science

My name is Julie Swank and I am excited to join the Upper Middle School family here at Our Lady of the Presentation School. My background is in elementary education, and I am looking forward to teaching Science to 7th and 8th grade students. I have a Business Degree from UMKC, a Post Baccalaureate Certification from Central Missouri State University, and my Master's Degree is from William Woods University. It is in Educational Leadership. This is my 28th year in education and looking forward to getting to know my students, staff, and parents. I feel blessed to be teaching here and look forward to a fabulous school year!

LET'S

TALK

ABOUT IT

FROM MS. PIERSON.  
SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER



As a new school year has begun I wanted to take this time to talk with you about Friendzy, our Social Emotional Learning curriculum here at OLP. This is our 2nd year working with Friendzy and we could not be happier with the impact it is making. Friendzy is a school-wide classroom resource designed to transform school culture and support the development of character, social skills and emotional intelligence. Each classroom will complete one lesson a week on Wednesday afternoons with their homerooms. Friendzy lessons are rooted in scripture and nurture both academic and personal growth. With the use of Friendzy we hope to assist students in building healthy relationships and reducing stress. Every Friendzy unit comes with a list of books that complement the topic of the lesson. Listed below are the books recommended for Unit One, as we highlight how we can all be together. Many have a read along on YouTube if that is something you would be interested in for your family. I will send out a monthly newsletter sharing the theme of the month and key catchphrases that we are using at school. I look forward to sharing our Friendzy journey with you! Please reach out with any questions you may have, [kpierson@olpls.org](mailto:kpierson@olpls.org).

Kelley Pierson  
Social Worker

- [Boxes For Katje](#) by Candace Fleming
- [Maybe Something Beautiful](#) by F. Isabel Campoy
- [Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History](#) by Vashti Harrison
- [Good Morning Neighbor](#) by Davide Cali
- [Never Too Young](#) by Aileen Weintraub
- [One Big Heart: A Celebration of Being More Alike Than Different](#) by Linsey Davis
- [We've Got the Whole World in Our Hands](#) by Rafael Lopez
- [Together We Can](#) by Caryl Hart
- [Everybody Always for Kids](#) by Bob Goff

# Our School

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

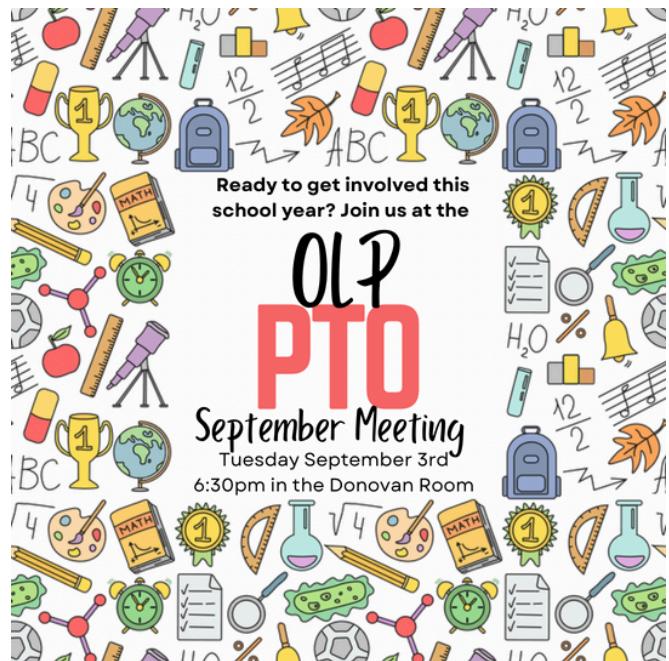
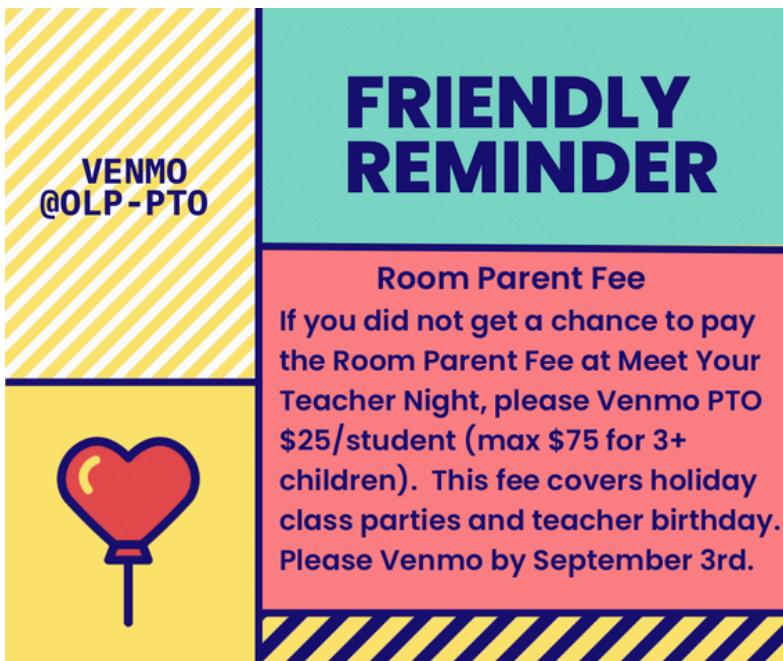
\*\*All volunteers are required to complete Virtus Training ([virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) and <https://protectmokids.com/>). Both are available online and when completed certificates need to be emailed to or dropped off at the school office. These are both diocesan requirements for volunteers in any school.\*\*

[Safe Environment Requirements>>](#)



**CAFETERIA HELPERS** are needed to assist with serving lunch each school day. All volunteers must be Virtus trained prior to signing up.  
[Cafeteria sign-up](#)

**CROSSING GUARDS** are needed to help with morning drop-off 7:30-8:00 a.m. If you are interested in helping get students through the parking lot safely before school, please email Mr. Podjenski, [dpodjenski@olpls.org](mailto:dpodjenski@olpls.org).



## Scrip Update:

**Create your free RaiseRight account in minutes to start earning**

A RaiseRight account gives you access to fundraise your way—simply by using gift cards on everyday purchases.

- Unlimited earning potential
- Earn more than shopping with credit cards
- Hundreds of popular brands to choose from

**Step 1: Get your enrollment code**

To sign up and tie your earnings to the correct fundraising program, you will be asked for your organization's unique enrollment code. If you don't have this, you can request it from your program's coordinator.

In addition to the enrollment code, you only need a few more details to sign up, including:

- First and last name
- Email address
- Phone number (for 2-step verification)

**E2LF4D9C8846**

**Step 2: Sign up online**

- Complete the quick sign-up form either on our website or mobile app
  - Download the RaiseRight app
  - Visit [RaiseRight.com/enroll](http://RaiseRight.com/enroll)
- Select "Join a Program"
- Enter your organization's unique enrollment code to tie your earnings to your organization
- Complete the fields to create your account
- Enter and verify your phone number for 2-step verification (2-step verification protects your account if you forget your password or someone is using your account without your permission)

Congratulations! You've created your account.

**E2LF4D9C8846**

**Step 3: Set up online payment**

- Pay online with your bank account.
  - From your Account page, choose Settings > Payment Options > Add Bank Account
  - Follow the steps to automatically link your bank account
  - There is a \$0.29 convenience fee on each transaction
- Pay online with your debit or credit card.
  - Visa, Mastercard, and Discover accepted
  - Option to add your debit card at checkout and save for future purchases. (1% convenience fee on each transaction)
  - Option to add your credit card at checkout and save for future purchases. (3% convenience fee on each transaction)

**Scrip Coordinator Update for 2024-2025**

SCRIP UPDATE: For the 2024-2025 school year, Scrip gift card rebates will be earned through e-gift cards on the Raise Right app and ship to home gift cards.

**We will not be offering a purchase from coordinator option.**

What is Scrip? Scrip is a fundraiser where you buy gift cards - at face value - for items you are already purchasing and a percentage of the total gift card is returned as a rebate. The PTO receives the first \$25 of rebates and then all rebates after that are split 50-50 with half going to the PTO, the other half being applied to your child's tuition the following school year. PTO uses this money to help take care of our teachers, put on events for your children and family, and purchase much needed supplies. Does it take a little planning? YES! But it is so worth it! If used consistently, rebates REALLY do add up fast!

Download the app at: [https://bit.ly/DownloadApp\\_RaiseRight](https://bit.ly/DownloadApp_RaiseRight) to see available e-cards and ship to home gift cards.

If you have any questions regarding Scrip, please contact the Scrip Coordinator, Nicole Thomas at [scrip@olpls.org](mailto:scrip@olpls.org)

**RaiseRight**  
 Simply the right way to fundraise.

# Our PTO cont.

Join us for  
6th Annual  
**OLP Helicopter  
Golf Ball Drop**



**Friday, September 13th 2024**  
3:00pm at School pick up

The lucky winner will receive 4 Chiefs tickets  
(Game TBD) along with a pizza party and  
dressdown day for their class!

Provided by St. Michaels The Archangel

Questions- Kelly or Nicolette  
[golf@olplsschool.org](mailto:golf@olplsschool.org)

**GOLF BALL HELICOPTER DROP:** Get ready for the 2024 Golf Ball Drop to benefit the PTO Golf Tournament. A helicopter will drop golf balls over the target in the OLP field at 3:00 p.m. on **Friday, September 13**. The student whose golf ball lands nearest the target will win 4 Chiefs tickets (game TBD) provided by Saint Michael the Archangel High School and a pizza party/dress down day! Golf ball chances will be available for purchase at afternoon dismissal **August 29** and **September 6**.

Join us for  
The 36th Annual  
**OLP Golf**  
Tournament



**Friday, September 20th 2024**  
1:00 pm shotgun start

Shamrock Hills Golf Course  
3161 SW M 291 Hwy  
Lee's Summit, MO 64082

All Panther Partners will receive early bird registration through 8/25. Then, it will open up to the public on a first-come, first serve basis until the tournament is full.

Questions- Kelly or Nicolette  
[golf@olplsschool.org](mailto:golf@olplsschool.org)

**GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATE:** Thank you to all who registered early. Our generous Panther Partners were able to have early bird registration access filling half of the allotted slots. The link opened to the public on August 25 and within 36 hours, the tournament was full. We do still have a couple of single or double spots left to fill. If you are interested in joining an existing registered team with openings or would like to be put on our waiting list, please email [Golf@olplsschool.org](mailto:Golf@olplsschool.org).

# Our Parish

## Do you have a 2nd Grader?



It's time to register them to receive their Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion!

Use the link below to register them today.



The first Parent Meetings are September 25th and 26th, so don't wait to register!



## SAINTS IN THE MAKING

**SIGNS OF HOPE**

The Little Sisters of the Poor have a home at 87th and Blue Ridge. To volunteer - once or regularly - check their web page <https://www.littlesistersofthepoornksacity.org/volunteer/>

Creating and sending kind notes to elderly people in your family shows that you value them. It will also give your children practice in writing hopeful notes!

Involve your children in service. For different groups of people. In serving others, they may find a goal for their future.

Serve a simple French meal. As your family enjoys the meal, share how you find hope during difficult times.



We celebrate St. Jeanne Jugan, founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor, on August 17.

Born during the French Revolution, one of eight children raised by her mother after her father died at sea, Jeanne had a tough life. As a teenager, she went to work as a kitchen maid for a family that cared for their own members as well as serving the elderly and poor. This experience eventually led her to a vocation serving the elderly and poor. Before she died, there were more than 2,400 Little Sisters of the Poor serving throughout the world.



St. Jeanne Jugan

A prayer for elderly people

Gracious God, we ask you to bless your children who have grown old. When they can no longer care for themselves, send them loving caretakers who appreciate their wisdom and the richness of their experience. Send your angels to keep them safe as long as they live and to lead them home to you when the time comes. Bless the family of the elderly with insight and good judgment. Send your Holy Spirit to help them make wise decisions, and grant them the patience to care for those who once cared for them. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## Couples Retreat

Hosted by OLP Young Family Ministry-

Come join other OLP couples with elementary age and younger children for an evening of faith, fellowship, and fun!

**September 27th**

**6:30 - 9:00 PM**

in the Mulligan Room

**6:30 PM** Cocktail Social Hour with snacks

**7:00 PM** Retreat

I have found the one whom my soul loves  
Song of Solomon 3:4

**RSVP by Sep 20th**



**For more info:**

Karena Coatey  
[kcoatey@olps.org](mailto:kcoatey@olps.org)

**\$20/couple**

Note: This is an adult only event so please plan accordingly, as we hope to see you there!

## SIGN UP FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Lee's Summit, MO

[www.olps.org](http://www.olps.org)

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:**  
OPEN TO 6TH & 7TH GRADERS IN THE 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR. YOUTH THAT REGISTER FOR CONFIRMATION, WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REGISTERED FOR YOUTH GROUP.

**YOUTH GROUP:**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL GROUPS WILL MEET IN LARGE AND SMALL GROUPS.

# Our Community



ST. MICHAEL  
the ARCHANGEL  
- CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL -

## 5th – 8th Graders

Join St. Michael the Archangel for Open House on Sunday, October 13 from 12:30 – 3:00. Families of 5th – 8th graders are welcome! Come see the amazing place SMA is where students are seen, known and loved!

## Middle School Night!

5th - 8th graders are invited to join in the Guardian spirit! Students are encouraged to wear their middle school spirit shirts and bring a friend to cheer the Guardians to victory. No registration is needed, just check in at the gate. FREE admissions for middle school students!

Volleyball (girls) vs. Sion, September 26

Everyone is invited to any sporting event to cheer on the Guardians! Check the website for schedules. [smacatholic.org](http://smacatholic.org)

## 8th graders:

Spend the day with us shadowing a Student Ambassador and experience what it's like to be Guardian for a Day.

Registration is open now. Tuesdays and Fridays are available this fall. Space is limited and spot fill up fast so register early!

We have students attend St. Michael from 26 different middle schools. Your new future awaits!

[smacatholic.org/admissionevents.org](http://smacatholic.org/admissionevents.org)

High School Placement Test (HSPT) registration is open now. This is a required test for 8th graders. We offer a FREE HSPT prep course for future students who take the HSPT at St. Michael. For early acceptance, please select the Dec. 7 test date. January 11 is a backup option. [smacatholic.org/admissionevents.org](http://smacatholic.org/admissionevents.org)

Applications for admission open on Oct. 1

