



Year-End Planning Information for Eighth Grade Families

It is hard to believe that we are within a month of our children 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 2018's time at St. Michael's. The topics covered here are:

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I. Year-End Calendar

14 <i>Deadline for Busch Gardens sign-up</i>	15	16	17	18 <i>Deadline for Busch Gardens checks</i>
21	22	23 <i>Honors Assembly, Yearbooks distributed, Dinner RSVPs due</i>	24 <i>Last full day of class, Class capsule items due</i>	25 <i>Spanish exam, 11:30am dismissal</i>
28 <i>(Memorial Day)</i>	29 <i>Geography exam, 11:30am dismissal</i>	30 <i>Math exam, 11:30am dismissal</i>	31 <i>English exam, Locker clean-out, 11:30am dismissal</i>	1 <i>Science exam, class party & picture, 11:30am dismissal</i>
4 <i>Busch Gardens</i>	5	6 <i>Baccalaureate 5pm & Dinner 6:30pm</i>	7 <i>Graduation 9am (arrive 8am)</i>	8

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 2018 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:

- ☐ 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.



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- ☐ 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.
- ☐ If you have questions about high school credits, course placement, or SOL testing, please reach out to Mr. Turner.

III. Eighth Grade Exams (May 25-June 1)

Friday, May 25

8:00 Study Hall
8:20 Spanish exam
10:20 Recess
10:40 Geography review session
11:30 Dismissal

Tuesday, May 29

8:00 Study Hall
8:20 Geography exam
10:20 Recess
10:40 Math review session
11:30 Dismissal

Wednesday, May 30

8:00 Study Hall
8:20 Math exam
10:20 Recess
10:40 English review session
11:30 Dismissal

Thursday, May 31

8:00 Study Hall
8:20 English exam
10:20 Locker clean-out
10:30 Recess
10:45 Science review session
11:30 Dismissal

Friday, June 1

8:00 Study Hall
8:20 Science exam
10:20 Graduation rehearsal
10:40 Class party and picture
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 and the Class Gift

Class Picture and Party (June 1)

After their final exam and graduation rehearsal on June 1, 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 and Mrs. Coleman about what it means to be an alumnus/a.

- ❑ **Attire: On this day (June 1), 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 Gift

As you may know, each year the eighth grade, using funds raised from concessions at the winter musical and the eighth grade dance, offers a gift to the School in appreciation of what St. Michael's has done for them. Special thanks this year to Julie Ann Wash who chaired the eighth grade gift committee.

The committee has selected two benches to be placed in the new central green between the Middle School and Hubbard Hall. The green will serve as the main outdoor gathering place for the St. Michael's community, hosting everything from the all-school blessing of the backpacks at the beginning of the year to Magic Dragon Day's Maypole dance near the end. The benches will provide a spot for students, teachers, parents, and alumni to enjoy and participate in our shared community.

The gift will be formally presented to the School at the Honors Assembly on May 23.

Class Capsules

Amidst the pending move, the School's is striving to honor its history in meaningful and tangible ways (e.g., the recent alumni event to say goodbye to the Bon Air campus). As part of this effort we are initiating a couple of new traditions, including class capsules.

During their class party on June 1, a metal cylinder will be filled with mementoes 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., a fidget spinner, a picture of a bedbug!), 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 24.**

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



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V. Outing to Busch Gardens (June 4)

On Monday, June 4, parents have invited students to join their classmates at Busch Gardens. Everyone will meet at the middle school at 8:15 a.m. and return between 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. (the park closes at 6 p.m.). The cost of the trip is \$49.00 per student. Those who have a season pass or fun card do not need to purchase a ticket, but should sign up for rides. Those who need a ticket may purchase one/some at a group rate. Meredith Turner is facilitating the purchase of group tickets. **Tickets will not be purchased at the gate. All children must have a ticket before departing for the outing.**

- ☐ [Sign up your child for the trip using this form by May 14.](#)
- ☐ Those purchasing a group ticket should send into the school office **by May 18** a check payable to Meredith Turner, or Venmo funds to Meredith Turner at 215-266-7988.

The trip organizers are also looking for a couple of drivers. If you are able to drive/chaperone, please include yourself and any guests in the ticket cost that you are sending. Drivers must remain in the park for the duration of the trip. However, drivers need not stay with the eighth graders in their carpool while in the park. Eighth graders may separate from the carpool as long as they stay with at least one other person. Last year there was wifi so that you could work remotely. Parent chaperones will collect students' mobile phone numbers to facilitate communication.

- ☐ [Use the same registration form to volunteer to chaperone and/or drive.](#)

VI. Baccalaureate Service (June 6)

Another new tradition the School is beginning this year is a Baccalaureate service, which will be held at **St. Michael's Episcopal Church on June 6 at 5 p.m.** (before the graduation dinner). The primary reason for this new tradition is to reaffirm the School's relationship with the Church as we prepare to move.

Rev. Godsey and 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 2018'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 2018 (June 6)

By now you should have received an invitation for you and your child to attend a dinner celebrating the Class of 2018 on June 6 (6:30-9:30 p.m.) at Salisbury Country Club.

- ☐ If you have not done so already, please RSVP including meal selections, to Shearer Pettigrew via the School office. Please be sure to enclose a check for \$45.00 per person. **Replies are needed by May 23.**

Please note in keeping with School policy, since this event includes students, alcohol will not be served.



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Photos and Videos

Joshua Jeyasingh has set up [a Google Drive folder](#) to collect photos and videos of the students. These will be used in a slide show shown at the dinner and provided to each family. He has set up subfolders for each year (grade).

- ❑ Please share photos and videos using the [Google Drive folder](#). Mr. Jeyasingh has asked that if you are not sure of the year or do not have the time to sort, if you would please place all content in the “Unsorted” folder. You may also forward to him (joshuajeyasingh@gmail.com) other links for photos or videos.

VIII. Graduation (June 7)

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 2018 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 2019 in Allen Library.

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

All schools struggle with parking for major events such as graduation. St. Michael's is no different, and parking at graduation has always been a little thorny. This year, construction offers both opportunities and challenges. Compared to previous years, new parking is now available along the road on the south (lake) side of the Middle School, including the loop where afternoon pick-up has occurred since September. Conversely, some parking has been lost in the old lot between the Middle School and the new Hubbard Hall. As always, parking is available in the gymnasium lot, and along the road entering the campus.

The School has arranged for limited construction work on the day of graduation. So some parking generally not available on regular school days may be available on June 7. However, 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 2018!
Remember: Once a Dragon, ALWAYS a Dragon!