

## **St. Michael Advisory Council**

Principal Report

November, 2019

It is pretty amazing for a school whose varsity program is just two years old to **win a state championship**, but our boys' cross country did exactly that last weekend, edging out Bayside Academy to win the 3A state crown. My congratulations to Jon Hall, our CC coach and Physics teacher, to our entire team, and to our seniors, Michael Garriz, Nick Barrios and Jack Phelps, who finished as our top three finishers. It was truly a team win— the key to our victory was our 4-7th place finishers, all of whom finished in the top 30. To our coach's great credit, all ten boys running in the championship posted "PR's" (personal records) in the event. That's peaking at the right time!

**Football and volleyball seasons** have ended. Our volleyball team qualified for the playoffs and won their first game in sub-regionals, but lost in the second, ending their season. The football team beat Elberta in the last game of the season, their second win. Their win-loss record is a bit deceiving, as their competitiveness, offensive scoring and margin of loss improved markedly from last year. With every sport, our athletic director meets with the athletes at the end of the season and asks them to complete a form (anonymously) to evaluate the season, with specifics including off season programs, team development, individual development, organization of practices, player-coach relationships, communication with families and players, and the enthusiasm/commitment of the coach. Students are invited to comment, if they wish. He then summarizes this data, and uses the data as part of his end of season evaluation with the coach, adding his own views, with a targeted improvement plan for next year. I have used an instrument and process similar to this for over a decade, and have found the students to be unusually forthcoming and perceptive in this process.

**Our new band director**, Mark Laird, is adjusting nicely. We have moved the Christmas band concert to December 10 (previously scheduled on November 20) so as to give him more time to prepare for the program, given his mid-year start. Like Mr. Pryor, he visits the three Catholic elementary schools four mornings a week, then teaches band here at St. Michael in the last two periods of the day. He and I are in agreement that the priority for the Fall is "Pep band" music, and next year, we will half-time performances (stationary, without the choreography) at football games. During Friday night home games this basketball season, we will also have a pep band playing. In Mr. Laird's words, pep music makes things "fun." But we're also committed to the symphonic band learning challenging new music and participating in festival competitions in the spring. That emphasis changes in late October in a normal year.

Input sessions for the **2020 Strategic Plan** are on-going. I am grateful to our Planning and Policy committee for hosting two parent input sessions, and they're aiming to meet with the students to do something similar before Christmas. I'm going to use our January 3, 2020 professional development meeting to work with faculty for their ideas. Once we have all that data, the PP committee and I will begin meeting to put together a draft plan, the elements of which we'll seek Council approval for in May.

**Council Web Page**—Once I have everyone's "head shot," I'll put together a web page for our Advisory Council on our school site. It'll include your name, picture, parish you represent, and email address if parents want to reach you. I'll also include some introductory material on how the Council functions, how it's different from a Board of Trustees or Board of Specified

Jurisdiction, and explain the work of our Councils in the archdiocese. I will include a copy of my principal report each month, and will likely include the Council constitution, as signed by the Archbishop.

**Field house update:** Though everyone is anxious to begin building, it takes time to do the civil engineering, design the field house, complete the specs, get approvals from both the archdiocese and the county. Here's where things are:

We have employed an architect, who has worked with us for 6 weeks or so to design the interior of the field-house. We now have an agreed upon design, which I showed you in October. He is now developing the detailed "specs" to get ready for the bidding process to take place in the spring. Meanwhile, Cowles and Associates has completed all the civil engineering for the site development, and We've sent this to the archdiocese to ask for permission to move forward with the bidding process. After securing the bids, we'll need to get approval to begin digging. Once we have that approved, we should be able to start digging. I expect the site work to begin soon after new year's, and the construction for the field house to begin in the late Spring.

*Faustin N. White*