



## Answers to Frequently Asked Freshmen Questions

As outgoing freshmen parents, we want to welcome you to the Mount Michael community. Hopefully you will soon be comfortable with your son's choice of Mount Michael for his high school experience. It's a brave thing you do, letting him board/attend Mount Michael and we want you to be as relaxed as possible during the first year. We have made a list of some of the questions we had last year and have tried to give the answers as we found them during our son's freshman year.

### **Where do the residing boys store their "stuff"?**

Freshmen have two lockers upstairs and one downstairs near the gym. Upstairs, they keep their clothes, food, and majority of their "stuff". The downstairs locker is for gym or sports supplies and a towel. The upstairs lockers are 17"x 20"x 71" in size. Most freshmen bring with them stackable crates measuring 9"x 15"x 16 1/2" or use a 4-drawer plastic storage unit that fits inside the locker. These can be purchased at Target type stores.

### **How many shirts, pant, ties, do they need?**

As many as you want to wash on the weekend! Some boys will wear the same pants, shirts, and ties all week; others will change daily. They can start the year in more casual clothes due to the heat. More information on Mount Michael's dress code is in the student handbook.

### **How do the boys get their dirty laundry items home on the weekend?**

It's a good idea to have them take either a laundry basket that will fit in their locker or a mess/denim laundry bag.

### **What else should I bring to start off the year?**

#1- a fan that attaches to their beds and an extension cord.

#2- a pillow along with all necessary bedding. Some boys like the foam egg crates that fit under the sheets. The bed spread is provided by Mount Michael.

#3- school supplies (spirals, notebook paper, pens, pencils) to get them through the first week. They'll know more about what they'll need by the first weekend.

### **Can they bring food to school?**

Yes, as long as it's dry and not in need of refrigeration. Salty snacks, candy, granola bar type foods are fine. The boys are required to eat it outside of the dorm room and they keep it in their lockers upstairs. There is also a microwave available for their use. Many boys bring a microwave cooking dish; and, when finished with their meal, dispose of any leftovers in a waste container and rinse the dish in a sink. There are also vending machines with drinks in the armory and in the dining room. The candy shop in the armory is open after study hall.

### **How much money do they need?**

Very little. There is a bank available to them to deposit and withdraw money when needed. There is no reason for them to have much money at school during the week. They can order pizzas on Thursdays if they want, so a few dollars is helpful. Twenty dollars or less is the general consensus of how much money they need.

**What time do they need to be back after the weekends?**

9:30 Sunday nights or by 7:30 a.m. Monday mornings. You'll decide which will work best for your family and let the deans know. There will be a form for you to sign stating which option your family will choose. If you will be bringing them a different time, all you need to do is call the dean and let him know.

**Are parents allowed in the freshman dorm areas and if so, when?**

Parents are sometimes hesitant to go up to the freshman dorm area but generally, it's ok. This may change with a dean change; it's best to ask when moving the boys in.

**Do I have to come out to the Wednesday night visits?**

No, but you'll probably want to and your son will most likely be glad to see you, especially if you bring dinner! The boys generally talk with mom and dad, brothers and sisters for a while but don't expect their full attention for long and don't be offended by that! It means they're into the MM routine and happy.

**Do we have to attend sporting events?**

No but it's a great way to meet other parents and support the athletic programs.

**Where are home football games played?**

Varsity games are played at Elkhorn Middle School just west of downtown Elkhorn. Freshmen play on the soccer/football field at Mount Michael.

**Where are other sporting events held?**

Check the MM website for maps to other events. Go to the "Black Zone" (sports), click on the sport and if it's an away game, click on "away" and a map will pop up. Very helpful for finding away game schools for the first time!

**Sports. What equipment will they need?**

Athletic shoes for the specific sport, t-shirt, socks and protective cup depending on the sport. They'll let you know, hopefully before the day of the event, if they need something else!

**Is there a way to keep up with Mount Michael sports news?**

Yes, the Mount Michael web site is an excellent source for scheduled sports events and news. They do a great job of writing up and posting news of a completed event shortly after its completion.

**Can we check our son's homework grades and test/quiz grades online?**

Yes, most teachers keep the grades current weekly if not daily. You will be given a student code and password and can access his grades from the convenience of your personal computer.

**What's the best way to contact our son's teachers if we have an academic concern?**

E-mail or phone. The staff is terrific and will be most responsive to your concerns regarding your son's academic progress.

**Do I need to attend parent/teacher conferences?**

It is strongly recommended. Making that personal contact with your son's teachers, introducing yourselves, and hearing how he's doing is important to your son's perception of how important academic progress is to you. The procedure may be different than you're used to in the elementary setting. At MM, the teachers sit at tables around the perimeter of the gym. As you enter the gym, you're given a listing of your son's teachers. You

stand in line and wait for your turn to talk with each teacher. (While in line, introduce yourself to the parent standing next to you. It's a good way to meet others and it passes the few minutes while you wait more quickly!)

### **Who is Sister Carolyn?**

Sister Carolyn is sometimes referred to as the student's surrogate mother. Her role at Mount Michael is to counsel the boys who are having a tough time adjusting to their new environment. She's a delightful lady, quite approachable and experienced. If you have any questions about your son's transition into the Mount Michael community, don't hesitate to call or e-mail her.

### **Do freshmen usually attend the MM dances?**

Student Council hosts a couple dances during the year. These dances are very informal and held in the armory. They are usually after a football or basketball game and are often attended by freshmen. No dates are necessary. Mother's Club hosts a dance/party the Wednesday night of the week of Halloween. The boys get very creative with their costumes! The evening is open to female guests as well. The vast majority of freshmen attend since it is a weeknight. The Snowball Dance in December is a generally viewed as a date affair (dinner before, corsage). Freshmen are not prohibited to attend but since they require a chauffeur and date, many do not. Spring Prom is for upper classmen only. It's something freshmen can look forward to.

### **What's the Fall Festival?**

Fall Festival is an annual event held on a Saturday in September on the Mount Michael grounds. The outdoor festival with game and food booths, games of chance, entertainment on a stage, a dunking tank, a car show, bingo (and more) raises money for the monastery, some of which also finds its way to the school. Parents are very much involved and will be asked to donate their time to help. Historically, the freshmen parents help out for a few hours in the Kiddie Korral assisting with the games that have been set up. It's actually a great way to get to know some fellow parents and is a lot of fun, unless it rains!

### **What's Mom Prom?**

Mom Prom is one of the most fun evenings of the school year, for the moms, anyway. It's a very nice (dressy) dinner/dance scheduled each year around Valentines Day and held in the gym. There are speeches given by a freshman and a senior, a catered meal is served, and a DJ plays dance music. The boys actually dance with their moms and enjoy (at least pretend to) the evening as much as the moms. Be prepared- there will be a professional photographer there to take photos of moms and sons for a price. The cost of the dinner is included in the activity fee.

### **What is the Night of Knights?**

Night of Knights is an annual dinner/auction fundraiser held in April of each year. It's the major fundraiser for the school (versus the Fall Festival which is for the monastery). Parents are asked to donate auction items or contribute financially and there are plenty of committees to help with, if so inclined. Actually, it's a great way to work with other parents and contribute to our sons' school.

### **Do the boys participate in the Night of Knights?**

Students may volunteer to be "Student Ambassadors" the night of Night of Knights. They need black pants and a white shirt and are provided with a bow tie and cummerbund. They are the welcome committee for those attending and act as escorts for the lady guests down the sidewalk and into the armory. Generally, they are then assigned to a table of patrons and act as bid runners during the dinner and silent auction. What a better representative of what Mount Michael Benedictine High School is all about than the gentlemen who greet and attend to the patrons at the fundraiser?

**For Day Students, where do they stay after school if they're waiting for a sports practice or game?** A Day Room has been provided specifically for Day Students (equipped with lockers and desks) for that purpose.

**Can Day Students eat dinner at MM with the other students and do they need to pay?**

Day Students are allowed to have snacks in the Day Room. Also, they are free to go to the Armory, Freshman dorm, gym, weight room, computer lab, or outside. They can stay for dinner and are not required to pay.

**What's the best way to communicate with our son's dean?**

Phone calls or e-mails. Be sure to introduce yourself to the freshman dean as soon as the opportunity presents itself. He'll be the adult who has the most intimate contact with your son. If you have any concerns, bring it to the dean first. A good time to talk with them is during study hall from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

**What's the best way to communicate with our son?**

Cell phones are allowed but not necessarily encouraged. The boys are only allowed to use their cell phones outside school and study hall hours. You can phone and leave a message with your son's dean asking your son to call at the next opportunity or if it's during the school day and it's urgent, you can ask Mrs. Raabe (the school secretary) to track him down to ask him to call you. E-mails are good, too. You'll be given your son's e-mail address the first week or two of school.

**When do the boys have access to the computer room?**

Early in the morning before classes begin for the day or after 5:00 p.m. until study hall (7:30 p.m.).

**Will there be other questions that need answers that I don't even know to ask yet?**

Yes, plenty! The Mount Michael handbook is a good source of information and we'd suggest you start there. However, feel free to call Mount Michael anytime and get any question answered. We all felt a bit (or very) apprehensive about having our first son attend Mount Michael. We've been there and done that! Be sure to utilize other parents, especially upper-class parents you will meet, to get your questions answered, too.

**Welcome to the adventure of Mount Michael  
from the parents of the Class of 2007!**