

MOUNT MICHAEL



BENEDICTINE ABBEY AND SCHOOL

School Overview

Name: Mount Michael Benedictine School
Address: 22520 Mount Michael Road, Elkhorn, NE 68022
Phone: (402) 289-2541
Website: www.mountmichael.com
School Type: Private, Catholic, College-Preparatory, All-Boys, Boarding and Day School
Grades: 9-12
Accreditation: Cognia (AdvancED)
CEEB Code: 280-757

Community and Setting

Mount Michael is situated on a serene, 440-acre campus in Elkhorn, Nebraska, just outside of Omaha. Our unique environment offers students the opportunity to live, study, and grow in a peaceful and supportive setting that encourages both academic excellence and personal reflection. The proximity to Omaha allows access to cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities.

Head of School

Dr. David Peters
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Dean of Students

Derrick Spooner
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Counselor

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College Counselor

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Director of Enrollment

Tim Carlson '10
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Prayer Life

At Mount Michael Benedictine School, prayer and spiritual reflection are essential aspects of daily life. Rooted in the Benedictine tradition, prayer provides a foundation for students to connect with their faith, develop their personal spirituality, and foster a deeper relationship with God.

Mission Statement

Mount Michael Benedictine School is a Catholic college preparatory residential/day high school rooted in Benedictine values for young men committed to excellence. Students develop spiritually, intellectually, and socially through the comprehensive curriculum and communal experience to become future leaders.

Our Beginnings

The school began as a high school and junior college for men preparing for the priesthood and was called St. John Vianney Seminary. In the spring of 1970, the monks decided that their resources and talents would be better utilized by the creation of Mount Michael Benedictine School, a Catholic residential high school encompassing grades 9 through 12 with a focus on college-prep curriculum. The school has grown steadily from an enrollment of just over 100 in the early 1970s to around 250 today with an enrollment goal of approximately 240-260 highly qualified students.

The school has become known for its family atmosphere, spiritual environment, and high academic standards and expectations.

Benedictine Values at Mount Michael

At Mount Michael, the Benedictine values form the foundation of our students' moral and spiritual growth. These principles guide students in their daily lives and prepare them to lead with compassion and integrity in the world.

Integrity

Mount Michael students are taught to live truthfully, act responsibly, and uphold ethical standards. Whether in the classroom, on the field, or in their personal relationships, integrity is central to every decision they make.

Moderation

Our students learn the importance of balance in all aspects of life, from academics and extracurricular activities to personal reflection and relaxation. Moderation fosters self-discipline and a grounded approach to handling success and adversity.

Service

Service is a key expression of our faith. Mount Michael students participate in local and global service projects, actively seeking opportunities to help those in need and putting others before themselves.

Hospitality

Benedictine hospitality teaches students to welcome others with open hearts and minds, whether they are classmates, visiting families, or community members. Respect, kindness, and inclusivity are hallmarks of a Mount Michael student's character.

Community

The Mount Michael community is rooted in mutual respect and shared responsibility. Students support one another through collaboration, teamwork, and active involvement in school life, while building lifelong relationships within the broader Benedictine family.

About Our School

At Mount Michael, the core of the academic program enables students to become inquiring learners, appreciative of their heritage, responsive and committed to the challenges of the future. The monks, lay faculty, and staff instill the value of moral leadership so that they may live in harmony with each other, their families, and the community at large. The search for God is fundamental to understanding the meaning of life: Christian charity is grounded in our relationships with ourselves, our families, and all whom we meet. As gifts of God, individual talents are to be developed fully and shared generously.

School Culture

Mount Michael offers a unique, close-knit environment where students are encouraged to grow academically, spiritually, and socially. The school's rich Benedictine heritage, combined with modern educational practices, creates a supportive and transformative experience for young men.

All-Boys Education:

As an all-boys school, Mount Michael creates an environment tailored to the developmental needs of young men. This approach fosters confidence, camaraderie, and focused learning, empowering students to pursue excellence without distraction.

Boarding and Day School:

With both boarding and day students, Mount Michael offers a residential experience that nurtures independence, responsibility, and a sense of community. Boarding students enjoy a structured environment that balances academic rigor with personal growth, while day students benefit from the same supportive atmosphere during school hours.

Leadership Development:

Mount Michael emphasizes the development of leadership skills through various programs, clubs, and activities. Whether on the student council, in athletics, or through community service, students are given ample opportunities to practice and refine their leadership abilities.

Discipline and Character Building:

Rooted in the Rule of St. Benedict, Mount Michael's discipline approach focuses on shaping character rather than simply enforcing rules. Students learn to take ownership of their actions and grow from mistakes, building resilience and strong moral foundations.

Tradition of Excellence:

With a long-standing history of academic achievement, spiritual formation, and athletic success, Mount Michael continues to uphold its tradition of developing well-rounded young men who excel in college and beyond. The school's emphasis on academic challenge, personal growth, and faith ensures that graduates are prepared for the demands of higher education and the world beyond.

At Mount Michael, students not only receive a top-tier education but also become part of a vibrant, faith-driven community that will support them for life.

Academic Profile

Mount Michael offers a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum designed to challenge and engage students. Our course offerings encourage critical thinking, creativity, and intellectual growth.

Faculty Overview:

- 31 teachers on staff
- 22 of them have one or more master's or another advanced degree.

Quick Facts:

- 5-year ACT average 26.54 (27)
- In 2024, we had 91 AP students who took 170 exams. 92% of these testers scored a 3 or higher.
- We had 25 students who achieved AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, or AP Scholar with Distinction. Of those, 13 students were AP Scholars with Distinction. [Students who receive an average score of at least a 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on 5 or more of these exams].

National Honor Society:

- Membership requirements of 3.5 cumulative GPA, minimal disciplinary issues, current on service hours.
- Currently there are 67 members between the junior and senior classes.

Academic Decathlon:

- 12 straight regional championships (2013-2024)
- 11 straight state championships (small school) (2014-2024)
- 2 overall state championships (2017 and 2022)
- Top 3 finishes in our division at nationals three times

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:

- AP African American Studies
- AP Biology
- AP Calculus I
- AP Chemistry
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP English Language
- AP English Literature
- AP Government
- AP Music Theory
- AP Physics
- AP Statistics
- AP U.S. History

Honors Courses:

- Honors Academic Decathlon
- Honors Calculus
- Honors Calculus II
- Honors Calculus III
- Honors Commercial Architecture & Engineering
- Honors Engineering Design & Development
- Honors French III
- Honors French IV
- Honors Physics
- Honors Residential Architecture & Engineering
- Honors Spanish III
- Honors Spanish IV
- Honors Journalism II
- Honors Journalism III

Dual Enrollment

Mount Michael offers 12 courses through Creighton University, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and University of Nebraska - Omaha.

STEM

We have a 4 year Architecture and Engineering program that works with "Project Lead the Way" and is devoted to both architecture and engineering.

Mount Michael offers a comprehensive and competitive athletics program that fosters teamwork, discipline, and leadership. Our sports offerings challenge students to excel individually and as part of a team, preparing them for success in both sports and life.

Athletic Profile



Fall

Football
Cross Country
Tennis

Winter

Basketball
Swimming
Diving
Wrestling
Bowling

Spring

Soccer
Baseball
Track & Field
Golf
Trapshooting

47 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – 18 TIMES RUNNER-UP

Recent Championships

- 2024 Baseball State Runner-Up
- 2023 Nebraska Academic Decathlon State Champions
- 2023 Conference Swimming Champions
- 2022 District Cross Country Champions
- 2022 River Cities Conference Tennis Champions
- 2022 Golf District Champions
- 2022 River Cities Conference Golf Champions
- 2022 Soccer District Champions
- 2022 National Academic Decathlon: Small School Division: 3rd Place
- 2022 River Cities Conference Soccer Runner-up

Facilities Overview

- Football Field
- Track & Field Stadium
- Baseball Field
- Soccer Fields
- Indoor Gymnasium
- Weight Room
- Wrestling Room

The Mount Michael gym, The "Palace", is considered one of the state's top locales for basketball excitement.

Why Mount Michael

From 2019 to 2024, these were the most common/popular colleges students were accepted to:

Benedictine College, Boston University, Colorado School of Mines, Creighton University, Drake University, Duke University, Fordham University, Grand Canyon University, Harvard University, Iowa State University, Johns Hopkins University, Kansas State University, Loyola University of Chicago, Marquette University, New York University, Notre Dame, Penn State University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Southern Methodist University, Stanford University, St. Louis University, St. John's University, Texas Christian University, U.S. Military Academy of West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, University of Alabama, University of Arkansas, University of California at Berkeley, University of Kansas, University of Michigan, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, University of Southern California, Vanderbilt University, William Penn University

At Mount Michael, service is at the heart of our Benedictine values. Students are encouraged to actively participate in service projects that impact both local and global communities. From volunteering at food banks and homeless shelters to organizing school-wide service events, our students are given numerous opportunities to give back. These experiences foster a sense of responsibility, empathy, and leadership, shaping young men who are prepared to serve and contribute to the world around them with compassion and integrity.

Mount Michael's rigorous academic curriculum is designed to challenge students at every level. Here are several key reasons why this happens:

- Higher Academic Standards
- Advanced Coursework and AP Classes
- Holistic Evaluation
- Competitive Peer Environment
- Long-Term Value of Grades

Over the last five years, Mount Michael has had 12 National Merit Finalists; 8 Commended Students; and 8 Semi-finalists.

Class of 2024 Achievements

- 100% Graduation Rate
- 2 National Merit Finalists
- 2 Commended Students
- Earned over \$11 MILLION in scholarship dollars