



Learn. Grow. Belong.



**ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL**

SINCE 1965

# ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL

## welcome

Welcome to St. Michael and thank you for your interest in our school. On these pages you will discover what makes our school so unique--it is our students! Our centrally located campus, in the lower Garden District of New Orleans, serves approximately 225 children and adults. It is a welcoming, faith-filled, safe, nurturing, joyful community, where each member is valued and cared for. St. Michael is a school where students learn, grow, and belong.

**Learn-** Students learn through an individualized program designed for student success and academic progress. Small class size led by a team of highly qualified professionals and service providers offer a comprehensive program of studies.

**Grow-** Students will have many opportunities to discover and develop personal strengths. Clubs, activities, and community involvement assist students in finding their interests. This builds confidence and self-esteem as our children become the people God intended them to be.

**Belong-** Building meaningful relationships and true friendships among students is a hallmark of the St. Michael experience. Your family will be welcomed into a supportive community of life-long friends where there are opportunities for social interaction and parent networking. St. Michael is not just a school, but a warm, inviting home.

We encourage you to come visit our campus, meet our community, and discover why St. Michael is known as the flagship for educating students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. You will walk away having experienced a place where everyone is appreciated, accepted, known and loved!

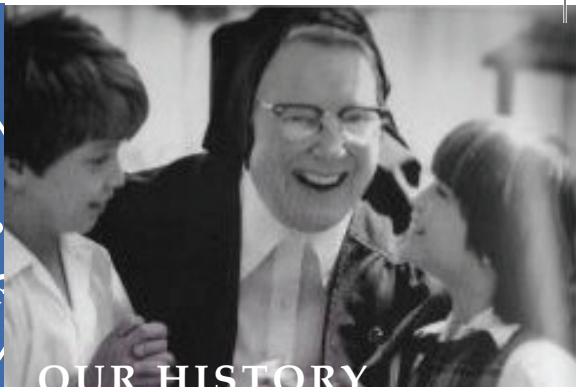
Gratefully,



Elizabeth C. LaForge, Ph.D.  
Head of School



*The Sacred Mission of St. Michael School is to provide a Catholic environment where students with developmental disabilities are able to grow in faith and reach their full potential – academically, socially, and physically.*



## OUR HISTORY

St. Michael Special School was established in 1965 by Sr. Lillian McCormack of the School Sisters of Notre Dame with support from the Archdiocese of New Orleans to serve children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The location of the old St. Michael Parish was chosen because of its central accessibility. Just before the school opened, Hurricane Betsy made landfall. The rectory of St. Michael was destroyed, the beautiful church very badly damaged, properties all around battered, but the newly built St. Michael Special School stood untouched. God had his protective hand on us.

Since 1965, St. Michael Special School has been able to educate over 6,000 students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and minister to their families. This has only been possible with the support of the local community. There are many stories that will touch your heart. Our school has been blessed with dedicated teachers and staff who take care of our precious blue roses, so that they may blossom and become all God intended them to be.

*"If there were such a thing as a Special Blue Rose, with what care it would be nurtured. Our children are that special."*

-Sr. Lillian McCormack, SSND





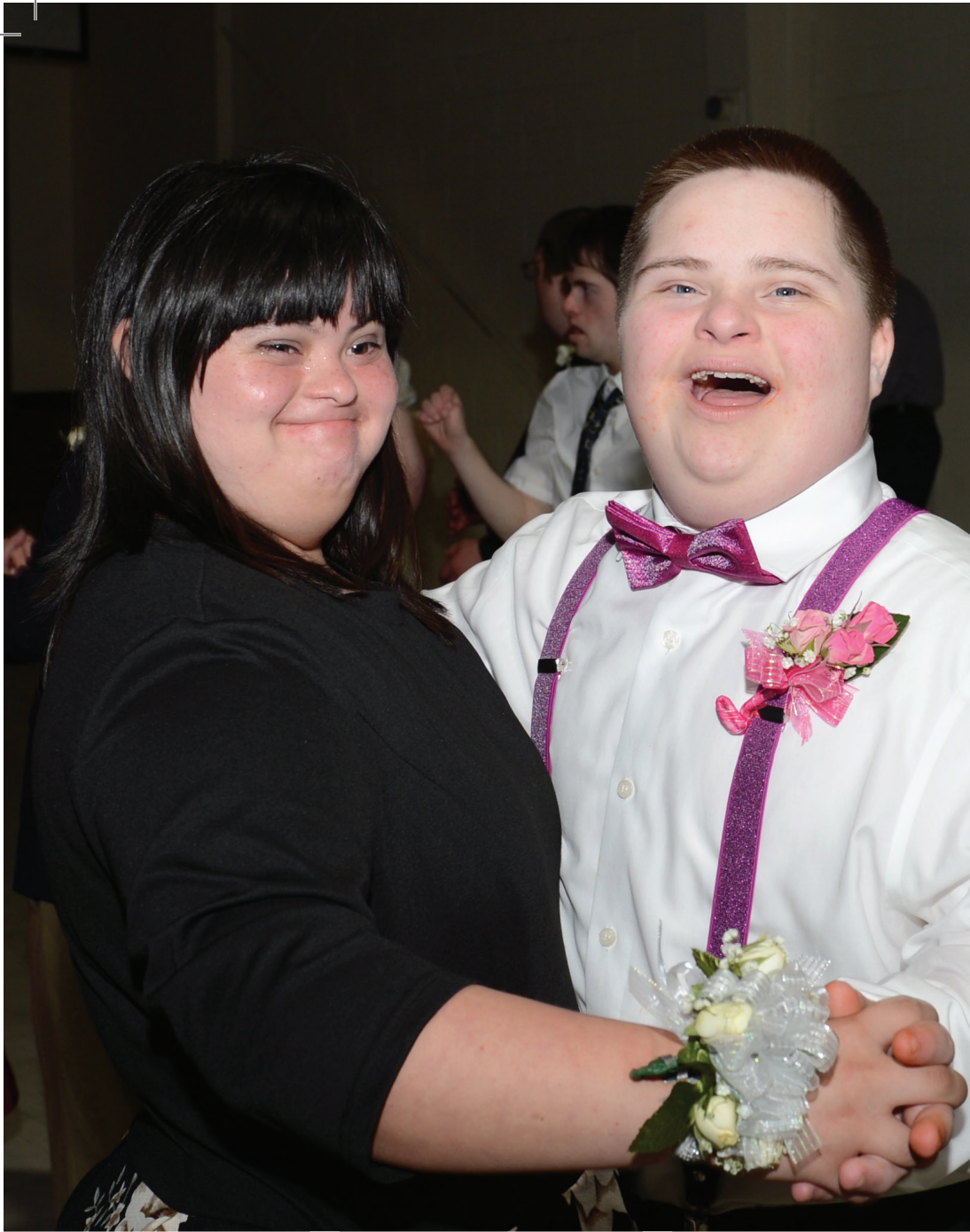




# LOWER SCHOOL

The Lower School provides a foundation for personalized learning with an emphasis in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students (ages 6 to 15) are placed in age and developmentally appropriate self-contained classrooms for the majority of their academic day. In addition to literacy and numeracy, students also engage in art, music, adapted physical education, technology instruction, and inclusive social activities. Instruction in all classes meets the needs of the learner through differentiation and small group instruction. As students grow to meet their full potential academically, a focus on self-responsibility, daily living skills, and social appropriateness support the student as they progress towards advancement and application of skills.







# UPPER SCHOOL

Upper School serves students 16 to 21 years of age in a high school-like setting. Academic classes are departmentalized. Students are grouped by ability for core academic subjects and have the opportunity to deepen skills in additional classes: art, music, adaptive physical education, technology, cooking, industrial arts, community based instruction, and life skills. The focus of the academic program is to prepare graduates for their individual level of independence as they complete their schooling. Additional opportunities for independence are provided through extracurricular activities including Student Council, cheerleading, clubs based on interest, and intramural sports to support the development of the whole student.







# EXPLORATION ACADEMY

Exploration Academy assists students with their transition to employment/volunteer opportunities within our New Orleans community. Students explore their career interests and develop the independent living skills that will help them to live and work in the community. The scaffolded program encourages students' participation in community training and job exploration at off campus sites at least twice a week; working towards the ultimate goal of release from the school program through job placement. The ideal applicant will be between the ages 18 to 25, have completed St. Michael's Upper School or a high school program of studies, and have a desire to participate fully in a community work setting.



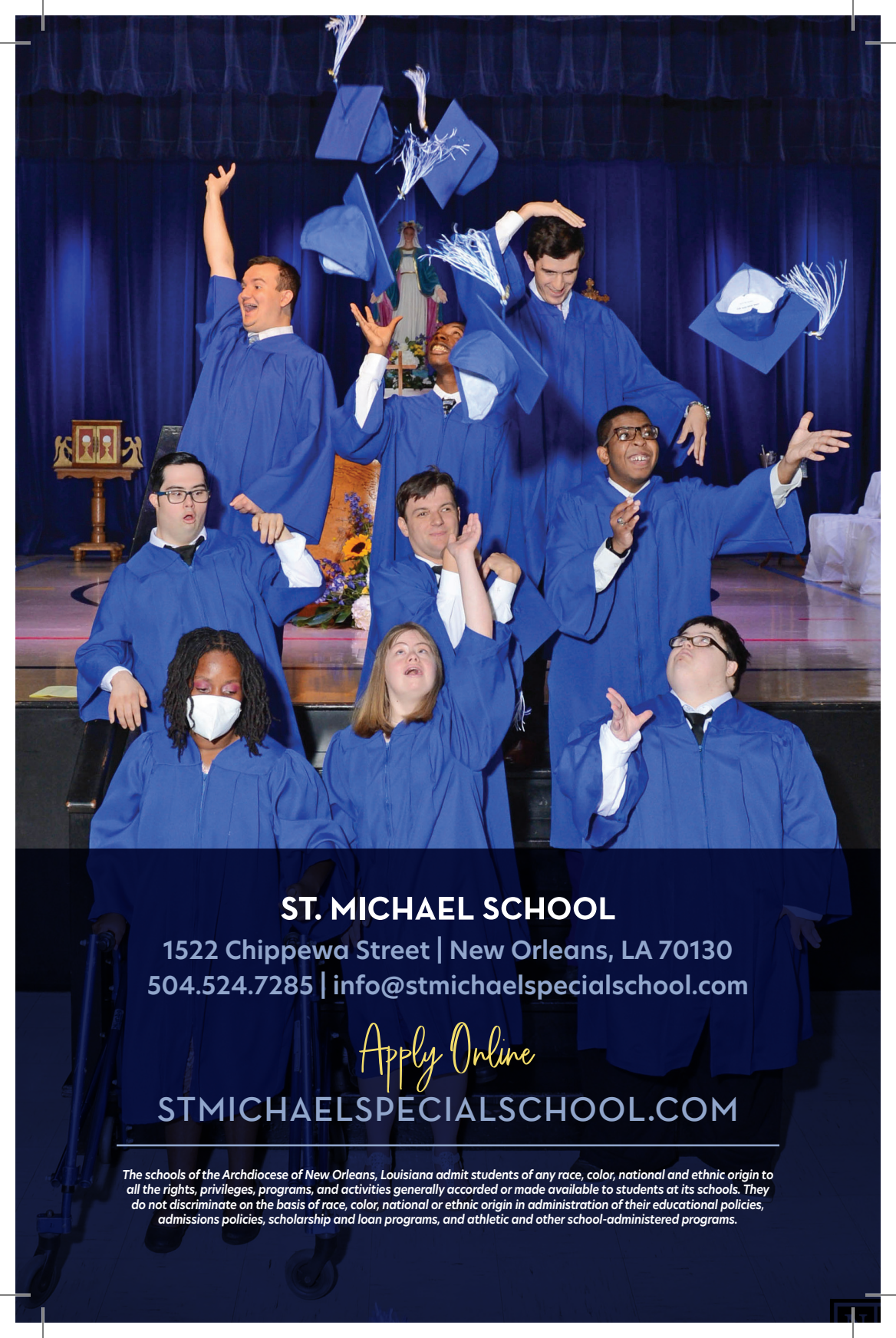






# JOY ACTIVITY CENTER

The Joy Activity Center serves St. Michael graduates who seek continued cognitive engagement, social activities, and personal responsibility in a safe, caring, Catholic environment. In addition to the daily group schedule, participants have the opportunity to continue their enrichment in cooking, crafts, computer, health and wellness, music, dance, sign language, and sports. Everyone in this program serves as an ambassador for the school with a variety of on and off campus responsibilities including campus work opportunities, community fundraiser projects, and cultural enrichment.



## ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL

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*Apply Online*

[STMICHAELSPECIALSCHOOL.COM](http://STMICHAELSPECIALSCHOOL.COM)

*The schools of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Louisiana admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of their educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.*