ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL
A CHESTERTON ACADEMY

St. Michael High School Retires the Last of Its Remaining Debt



PETOSKEY – November 19, 2026 – St. Michael High School (SMHS), the only Classical Catholic high school in Northern Michigan, is delighted to announce that it has retired the last of its remaining debt.

"Paying off the last of our once-substantial legacy debt is a major milestone for our beloved school," stated SMHS Executive Director Larry Rudnicki. "Bolstered by a joyful, well-run schoolhouse and fueled by incredible results from our recent Galas, our financial position has seen a remarkable rebound over the past two years, even as we've grown and improved the school, its personnel, and its offerings."

Mr. Rudnicki continued, "I've looked forward to making this announcement for a long time and am filled with gratitude as we do so today. I offer our most humble thanks to our amazing, faithful benefactors, as well as to St. Michael families and staff for sticking it out and seeing us through to this day. Thanks also, of course, to God for His providence and guidance, animating us all to persevere through formidable difficulties."

SMHS Board President Josh Mercer concurred that today's announcement underscores a dramatic turnaround.

"Over the last several years, we've endured challenges of an existential nature. Thankfully, our community has recognized the importance of forming joyful Christian warriors through Catholic secondary education, rallying in support of our school and its wonderful students. Through sacrificial giving and tireless effort, we've weathered all variety of storms through to today and the retirement of our debt. We give thanks to our Lord and ask for the continued protection of our patron, St. Michael. We believe the best days of our school are yet to come."

For more information, please feel free to contact SMHS at info@stmichaelchesterton.org or 231-489-3302.

St. Michael High School is ***High School with a Higher Purpose*** and a proud member of the Chesterton Schools Network. Established in 2013, the St. Michael mission is to nurture and elevate a new generation of joyful leaders educated in the Classical tradition and truth of the Catholic faith. For more information, please visit the SMHS website at stmichaelchesterton.org.