

Saint Michael Academy
VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM (VPK)
2016 – 2017

VPK PROGRAM HOURS: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

EXTENDED CARE PROGRAM:

BEFORE SCHOOL 7:00 – 8:00 A.M.

AFTER SCHOOL 12:00 – 6:00 P.M.

Our Pre-Kindergarten Program is approved by the Diocese of St. Augustine and accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference and the National Association for Non-Public Schools. In addition to the VPK core curriculum, St. Michael Academy offers an integrated program which includes additional classes in art, music, PE, computer and religion.

The State of Florida Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten-4 Program will pay for only 540 hours of instruction during the school year. St. Michael Academy provides an additional two months of instruction during the school year. There is a fee of \$500.00 to cover the additional hours of instruction: payable in one installment thru FACTS Management on September 1, 2016 OR 10 monthly payments through FACTS Management beginning in August. This fee applies to all PreK-4 students. If you choose not to pay this fee, your child will attend only the 540 hours provided by the state. You will be withdrawing your child from St. Michael Academy at the end of the 540 hours of instruction on April 7, 2017.

Requirement for VPK: In order to participate in this program, parents must complete a Certificate of Eligibility online at <https://vpkcp.floridaearlylearning.com/> Your child must be four years old by September 1, 2016. After registering at this site, you will be issued a Certificate of Eligibility for attendance. Please sign & date the form (box 24 & 26) and bring this certificate to St. Michael Academy office in the main building at 228 N. 4th Street. **You must complete the online registration, as well as the St. Michael Academy registration, prior to your child being accepted.**

BENEFITS OF EARLY EDUCATION AND THE VPK PROGRAM:

- The most important growth and development in the brain happens by the age of five.
- The early years are the learning years. A child's ability to be attentive and to follow directions emerges in the early years. Structured early learning fosters these abilities for later success in school and in life.
- Pre-K prepares children to be ready for school. Children who participate in high-quality early childhood education programs develop better language skills, score higher in school-readiness tests and have better social skills and fewer behavioral problems once they enter school. They are also better prepared for Kindergarten, especially in the areas of pre-reading, pre-math and social skills.
- Pre-K promotes a love of learning in children. Pre-K enhances what a child learns at home and instills a love of life-long learning