



Dear Lower School Parents and Guardians:

I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2022–2023 school year at St. Michael's School! The campus has been buzzing with activity from summer programs, cleaning, repairs to the church entrance, and teachers popping in to organize and prepare. We're just missing all those energetic kids!

This is my fifth year at St. Michael's and my twenty-seventh (!) in education. I grew up in Maine and began my teaching career there as a middle school special education teacher. In the years since, I have taught in Maine, Massachusetts, Hawai'i, and Arizona as a classroom teacher, special educator, and team leader. This year, I'm very excited to move into the role of Lower School Director and look forward to getting the school year underway.

We will be welcoming our Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and K students and families for **Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, August 11**. This orientation will include time to meet teachers and administration and learn a bit about our school. **The first day of school for grades 1–8 will be Friday, August 12**. The school day for Lower School is 8:00 AM–3:10 PM. We recommend arriving at 7:45 to allow students to be settled and ready for the day. Specific procedures for morning drop off and afternoon pickup will be sent home prior to the opening day.

Classroom placements were communicated by email last week from your child's teacher. If you haven't received a message yet, please let me know.

For **Lower School news and updates**, I'll be keeping a weekly blog. Information on how to access it is coming soon. I look forward to sharing all of the exciting work of our Lower School with you! You may also reach me by email (agould@stmichael.net) with any questions you may have.

Our Lower School **Curriculum Night** will be held on Thursday, September 15 from 6–7:30 PM. This event will provide opportunities for families to meet classroom and enrichment teachers, as well as administrators like me. We look forward to seeing you there!

In the first trimester, I will be reaching out to set up **informal parent meetings**. These conversations give me an opportunity to hear about your St. Michael's experiences and will help inform my thinking as the year proceeds. I look forward to getting to know you and your children and can't wait to see our kids back on campus!

Best wishes,

Aaron Gould
Lower School Director