



700 N. Walnut Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

135TH ANNIVERSARY 1890 - 2025



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OUR MISSION

St. Michael's School and Nursery is dedicated to building a strong foundation for all children in the first five years of life and to supporting families as their educational journey begins.

We are committed to the community we serve and believe a sense of community is a core strength for children, families and educators.

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135TH ANNIVERSARY 1890 - 2025

the school

SCOOP

WINTER 2026

135 YEARS OF IMPACT AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Delaware History Museum provided a beautiful and fitting backdrop for St. Michael's 135th Anniversary celebration on September 25. The event recognized St. Michael's history of impact and partnerships, with Kenyetta McCurdy-Byrd, COO of REACH Riverside, moderating an engaging dialogue among community leaders.

Many thanks to our Panelists:

- Julie Bieber, Director of Educational Strategies, REACH Riverside
Dr. LaRetha Odumusu, Director, Office of Educational Advocacy, City of Wilmington
Jon Sheehan, Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Matt Meyer
Dr. Meghan Walls, Associate Vice President of External Affairs, Nemours Children's Health

Thank You to our Event Sponsors:

- Corporate: Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Solin Law, Blue Valor Consulting Services, and City of Wilmington
Individuals: Elaine Archangelo, Wil and Susan Sherk, Cal and Ann Wick; Heidi Beck, The Rev. Canon Lloyd Casson and D-L Casson, Dr. Michael Holick and Dr. Dexter Richardson; Stephen and Marybeth Johns, Lucinda Ross; Geoffrey and Alice Sawyer and Tom and Betsy Scott.

Special thanks to Jack Stucker, Board President and event MC, Rev. Patrick Burke, Susan Sherk, Kathie Stamm and U.S. Senator Chris Coons for offering compelling remarks as well as the Offices of Senator Elizabeth "Tizzy" Lockman, Rep. Sarah McBride, and U.S. Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester for providing thoughtful tributes for the important milestone.



L to R: Kenyetta McCurdy-Byrd; Dr. LaRetha Odumusu; Dr. Meghan Walls; Lucinda Ross; Julie Bieber, Jon Sheehan.

Advertisement for Black History Month event: In Celebration of BLACK HISTORY MONTH. St. Michael's School & Nursery invites you to join us for the Unveiling of our 135-Year Timeline on Friday, February 27 at 10:30 A.M. at 700 N. Walnut Street, Wilmington.

stmichaelsde.org | 302.656.3389 | admin@stmichaelsde.org



Advertisement for Delaware's Giving Day 2024: MORE 24 MARCH 5-6. Delaware's Giving Day. DELAWARE. The foundation for life success and healthy outcomes begins in the critical years from birth to age five. WHEN CHILDREN THRIVE, WE ALL DO. Please plan to support St. Michael's. Thank you!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MARCEL BROWN 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

“You belong here.”

Those were the words former Executive Director Daphne McDermott shared with Marcel Brown back in 1986 as Ms. Brown was considering a new job. Forty years later, those words feel nothing short of prophetic.

At the time, Ms. Brown was working next door at the Layton Home for the Aged (now the Pearl Center). From her window, she could see the children at St. Michael’s School playing outside. “I would watch them on the playground and think, that’s where I want to work someday,” she recalls. Fortunately for generations of children and families, that someday arrived.

This year, Ms. Brown celebrates her 40th anniversary - a milestone that reflects not only longevity, but extraordinary dedication. In December, she plans to retire, leaving behind a legacy that has shaped the heart of the school community.

Over the decades, Ms. Brown has worked with every age group at St. Michael’s — from infants to primary students — and in nearly every corner of the building. Still, her true passion has always been pre-schoolers.

“That’s where I believe I can make the most difference,” she says. “I just love working with kids. The children have taught me as much as — if not more than — I have taught them.”

Her impact extends far beyond the classroom. A lifelong Wilmington resident, Ms. Brown often encounters former students who are now adults. “I have adults walk up to me today who I taught as children and thank me,” she says. “The fact that they remember me after all those years and tell me I made a difference in their lives is the most satisfying part of my job.”

Colleagues echo that sentiment. Johanna Seda, St. Michael’s Director of Facilities — who began her own career at the school as a classroom teacher in 2000 — describes Ms. Brown as a steady and inspiring presence. “Ms. Brown has always been positive, dependable, respectful, and responsible,” Johanna says. “Without fail, she arrives at 6:20 a.m. every day. She rarely calls out. She is a gifted teacher with a passion for working with our older students. She continually looks for ways to mentor and support younger teachers so they can be more effective in their work.”

As for retirement? Ms. Brown is looking forward to a little shopping and a cruise with her sons — at least to start. After that, she plans to return to the classroom part-time. “There is no other center like this in the city,” she says. “I’ve had opportunities to pursue other jobs in my career, but St. Michael’s is where I want to be.”

Thank you, Ms. Brown! Your forty years of steadfast service have left an enduring mark on St. Michael’s and the children we serve.



St. Michael’s property is now a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the Delaware Nature Society (DNS) and National Wildlife Federation! The certification is part of our continued partnership with DNS that provides opportunities for educational workshops, gardening resources, and connections to a network of other city community gardens. *Kudos to our Wellness and Outdoor Enrichment Coordinator Diana Torres for this exciting achievement!*

BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear St. Michael’s Community,

In September 2025, Lucinda Ross, our current Executive Director, announced her intent to retire by June 2026. At that time we launched a search process for our next Executive Director with the support of Educators Collaborative. We are deeply grateful for Lucinda’s continued leadership and the thoughtful process that ensued.

Today, St. Michael’s School and Nursery is thrilled to announce that **Margaret Jackson has been selected as our next Executive Director.** Facilitated by Educator’s Collaborative, our search was driven by a commitment to finding a visionary and experienced leader who shares our values of nurturing the development of young children, building strong partnerships with families, and creating a vibrant community environment. We are confident we have found that leader!

Margaret brings deep expertise in early childhood education, leadership, and strategic growth. In addition to leading programs, she is a seasoned early childhood education and leadership consultant. She has worked with a wide range of schools and nonprofit organizations to improve operations, design professional development programs, and implement school improvement strategies. Her experience also includes supporting the operational, financial, and educational success of early learning centers in Washington, DC and the surrounding area.

During her site visit, Margaret’s connection to St. Michael’s mission was palpable. Compiled feedback received from her site visit provides a compelling portrait of Margaret’s fit:

Margaret has a great spirit.

The children and staff were really drawn to her presence on our tour.

Her professional, personal, and educational experiences align so well with St. Michael’s.

St. Michael’s requires wise leadership. Margaret comes with a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to take the institution to the next level.

Beyond her educational leadership, Margaret is the founder and Executive Director of RJ Smiles, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to educational equity and community uplift. This initiative has further solidified her commitment to the development of programs that serve both children and families in meaningful ways.

Margaret’s references spoke to her outstanding leadership skills, emphasizing her ability to connect with both parents and children, mediate challenging situations, and inspire collaboration. Described as grounded, capable, and passionate, current and former colleagues highlighted her ability to create a caring and inclusive environment and her thoughtful approach to leadership.

In her new role, Margaret will continue our mission to provide exceptional early childhood education in a warm, nurturing environment. Her broad experience, coupled with her deep respect for the diverse needs of children and families, will continue St. Michael’s legacy of excellence.

We would like to express deep appreciation to the St. Michael’s staff, families, and community for their thoughtful participation in the search process and continued support. Kathie Stamm, Dr. Bridget Peters, Rev. Patrick Burke, and Candice Buchanan provided invaluable support and guidance as our Search Committee members, facilitated by the steady hand of George Sanderson from Educators Collaborative. *Thank you!*

We are confident that Margaret Jackson’s leadership will help us continue to grow and thrive as a cornerstone of early childhood education. Please join us in welcoming her to our community and stay tuned for more updates as we move forward together.

Warmly, on behalf of the St. Michael’s School and Nursery Board of Directors,

Jack Stucker

Jack Stucker
*President, Board of Directors
Chair, Search Committee*

