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### **Grandparents Become Students for a Day**

St. Michael School held its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Grandparents' Day in mid-September with over 300 grandparents being hosted by their grandchildren to a glimpse of their classroom and school day. Principal Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler started this tradition after experiencing it at her previous school, and it has been very well received. It is a unique and treasured event for many each year, and is put on the calendar a year in advance by grandparents all over the country and even in other countries!

John and Valerie Hall, grandparents of Kayla, Emily, and Sophia Hall, come down every year from Virginia for the opportunity to share this day with them. "There is a feeling of warmth and a welcoming atmosphere from everyone, and it's great to be in the classroom experiencing what our grandchildren are learning. To become a part of that is great; I can't wait until next year already," said Valerie.

For some families, Grandparents' Day truly is a family affair. For example, Millie and Terry Scharon, the proud grandparents of students Hannah, Jed, and Maeve McKenna, not only shared the day with their grandchildren, but their two daughters even work at St. Michael School. As a result, Grandparents' Day at St. Michael School has truly become a multi-generational day too!

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade class grandparents were asked to share with the students what the Catholic Mass was like when they were children. Many of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were surprised to learn that girls once had to wear veils and that they attended Mass every day. It was quite a learning experience for them and led to some interesting conversations.

Students in Pre K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade had grandparents sharing in their class experiences when they attended Spanish, computers, math, religion, language arts, music, and many other subjects. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade Drama, the students were able to give their visiting grandparents a glimpse of the work they do in rehearsals to prepare for a play. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students showed off their abilities as musicians on the wide variety of bells the school has, and after class some grandparents found themselves playing the bells as well because it looked like so much fun. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders also presented a short concert with patriotic songs and a moving song about their faith that brought many to tears.

It's a beautiful sight to see the students walking their grandparents around their school with such pride in the school and in their grandparents. It was a day filled with smiles, happy tears, tender moments, learning experiences, and memories that won't be forgotten.