



## The Cornerstone of School Spirit: The Student Body

BY EASTON CROUSE & AUGIE KNOBBE

Every student pours their soul into every chant, making it impossible to find a Knight after a sporting event talking without a rasp in their voice. Head Yell Leader Stefano Anzalone '25 is the perfect embodiment of the Mount Michael student section.

“It is really about bringing everyone together to support our classmates,” Anzalone said. Not only does Anzalone go to every game with the intention of being the loudest student there, but he also unites the entire student base and ensures every student is not only capable of participating, but also is doing so to the best of their ability.

The Mount Michael student section is one of the school’s greatest prides at sporting events. There will not be a soul within a mile radius unaware of the deafening roar produced by these passionate fans.

While onlooking spectators may only view a sea of color (following whatever theme was set for that game) filled by crazed high school students, for every student this is a special night of the week.

It is a time to be fully engaged with every other Mount Michael student fully committed under one goal: be louder than anyone else. “Being in the Mount Michael student section is special because the community built comes into fruition,” Will Storbeck '25 said.

There is a reason Mount Michael has one of the largest home court advantages in many sports, but particularly basketball, and it is definitely not size. Mount Michael students, fueled by school spirit, are willing to go above and beyond in their chants.

Athletic events are not the only events where school spirit thrives at Mount Michael. Pep rallies, though less frequent, unite the school in shared enthusiasm. “The Mount Michael pep rallies are special because they bring everyone together to cheer for our athletes, which is a large majority of the students,” Derek Brewer '26 said.

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- Will Storbeck '25

During these pep rallies there are a variety of games for each grade to compete in. This results in an extremely competitive environment, filling the gym with liveliness and thundering noise. Rallies create an amazing atmosphere and provide an opportunity to cheer on classmates in an exhilarating manner.

While all of these activities are fun and engaging, school spirit does not just mean being loud and chanting for the school. It is also shown through tradition. An example is Catholic Schools Week.

Catholic Schools Week provides students the chance to dress down during school in accordance with a theme for the day. Due to The Mount’s dress code, this week is taken extremely seriously.

Some of the basic themes are U.S.A. and Hawaiian. During these days students show off onesies, their brightest colors, festive polos, pants, shoes, and every accessory item one can imagine.

It is truly special to walk into school and see every student fully committed to fitting a theme. Seeing classmates in clothes that would never otherwise be worn brings out a unique energy.

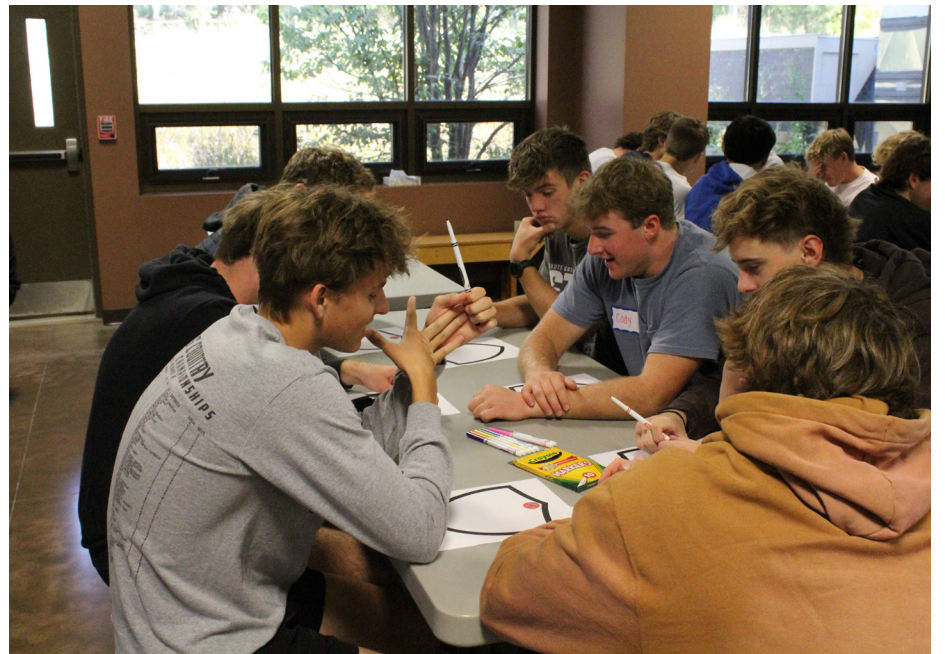
School spirit is something Mount Michael will never lack. It can be seen in the everyday lives of students, whether it is simply interacting in the hallway as people walk to class or going all out in a student section filled with raving teenage boys. The community is something special that is appreciated by every student to walk through the Mount Michael doors.

The most emphasized part of any middle school recruitment by Mount Michael is “brotherhood.” To students attempting to choose their high school, the word may sound corny and cliché. Those who choose to attend Mount Michael are lucky enough to realize the significance. There truly is no other place where one word can define how an entire community is completely united.

Due to the small student population, every student will know practically every name of every student. This leads to interactions between underclassmen and older students not seen in other schools. Every student is included and expected to support their classmates, leading to an unmatched level of school spirit and unity.



**Rooted In Service** Spirit is shown through the Benedictine value of service. Students are eager to volunteer during community events like the Fall Festival cake walk.



**Rooted In Spirituality** Seniors show school spirit during a drawing activity at their class retreat. Each grade level created shields that represent the Knights.



**Rooted in Support** The Mount Michael student section, captained by Stefano Anzalone, shakes the Palace with their cheers. The Knights took on Elkhorn North during the loudest game of the season.



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