

Tucker Takes on New Roles at The Mount

BY BRIAN OSTRANDER



In the 2024–25 school year at The Mount, there have been some role changes on the residential side of the school. Conor Tucker, previously the seven-day dean, has taken on the responsibility of junior dean, seven-day dean, and head dean of boarding. With the loss of the former deans, Tucker took the opportunity to step up and fill some roles.

For Tucker, becoming a dean took some inspiration. Former sophomore and junior dean Mr. Trevor Washburn inspired Tucker to take on the role. “Mr. Washburn originally brought up the idea to me. He knew that I had a passion for education and a strong interest in the faith. It was also a good transition from college.”

There is always something for the boarders to do with the deans to make the most out of their time here at Mount

Michael. “The brotherhood here at The Mount is very strong, in my opinion. I feel that I have a deeper bond with my students by being on the floor with them. Being a leader but also being able to grow with them, not only as a person but in the faith, is a huge blessing,” Tucker said.

Balancing the roles of being a junior dean, seven-day dean, and head dean of boarding is a huge responsibility.

Tucker said, “I am still trying to figure that out, really. Since it has only been a brief time, I am still finding better and better ways to do it. I think managing my time has been a huge priority, especially on the days that I do work. Making sure that I have gotten some work done before I have to start deaning again after school is particularly important. So I prepare myself mentally and physically for all the challenges that I might come across. Communication is a key factor, especially with the other deans, just making sure that everyone is on the same page.”

Welcoming New Faces: Orr Joins as Senior Dean

BY ISAAC WEEDER

This year Mount Michael welcomes three new deans to supervise boarding students. One of these new deans is Mr. Shane Orr. Orr attended Roncalli Catholic High School where he played basketball and football. He would go onto play football at Wayne State for three years before transferring to Midland University to play his final year of collegiate football. Last year, while in school, Mr. Orr spent time at The Mount shadowing Mr. Derrik Spooner, current Dean of Students and Athletic Director, and learning what it takes to be a high school athletic director.

Orr returned to Mount Michael this year taking on the job of senior dean. In the early weeks of his career, Orr said the most interesting part of his job is dealing with students' shenanigans in the dorms every night. He looks forward to Monday night open gyms and playing basketball against the borders.



Senior Smiles Ben Weber '25 poses with senior dean Shane Orr. Weber is one of the 29 senior boarders Orr oversees.

Yeezy Season: Kanye the Cat Joins Mount Michael Community

BY AARON DURAN

Mount Michael values student morale highly. One great source of morale is the newest feline addition to The Mount Michael family, Kanye Koubsky. The kitten was brought into the brotherhood by the new freshman dean Kolton Koubsky '20.

"I got Kanye on my birthday this August. My neighbor had some kittens they couldn't take care of, and he just chose me," Koubsky said.

Pets on campus are not a new norm. Previously, there were several dogs, including Mount Michael royalty Gypsi. In years prior, Gypsi would sit in the freshman study hall room to provide support. In a similar way, students look forward to seeing Kanye slowly incorporate himself into their nightly routine.

Pets on campus have been proven to boost morale through their naturally therapeutic presence accord-

ing to Macmillian Learning. Kanye supports student studies from the freshman study hall room where he is often found exploring plant beds and desk tops alike.

One student that has spent a lot of time with Kanye is junior Grant Barna, “I’ve gotten to hangout with Kanye a lot this year. Sometimes he just sits on my desk while I work on homework.”

Mount Michael is lucky to have Kanye and Kolton Koubsky, and the impact of their arrival to Mount Michael will only continue to improve the morale of the classes through their care for the school and its students. Kanye is a welcome addition and will bring nothing but joy through this upcoming Yeezy season.



Curious Kitten Kanye Koubsky focuses on the flame coming from a candle. Kanye is noted for his adventurous nature and frequently spends his time exploring the grounds of Mount Michael.

Senior Reflects on Spiritual, Academic, Athletic Growth

BY J1 REPORTER JAMISON BARRY



Liturgical Ministers David Schmitz '25 (fourth from left) poses with Archbishop George Lucas and his classmates after being ordained as liturgical ministers. Schmitz and Leo Dustin '25 (fifth from left) also filled in as alter servers during the celebratory mass.

David Schmitz, one of Mount Michael's seniors, has grown immensely physically, spiritually, and mentally at The Mount since his first year. “Coming in, you got to find out who you are and what drives you to be the best man you can be,” Schmitz said.

Although Schmitz's faith life was minimal during his first two years of high school, it took a turn for the better during the summer before junior year. “I went

to church camp. I met Father Taylor, a really cool priest, and met a classmate, Leo Dustin '25, and we kind of clicked while at camp,” Schmitz said.

Because Schmitz met Dustin, he was able to proceed in developing his faith life after camp had ended. He was able to use the chapel any time he wanted with friends who shared the same interest in pursuing their faith life. Schmitz said he continues to try to grow in his faith daily at The Mount.

Even though Schmitz has had a very productive high school career at The Mount, he also feels he passed up some opportunities earlier on that he wishes he could go back and do. “I would've loved to have taken more opportunities to spend more time in the chapel,” Schmitz said. Whether this would be morning chapel or Mass, he felt that the extra time would have set him up to be in an even more intimate relationship with God today.

Mount Michael's athletics have also impacted Schmitz. “Through sports, I've learned to push myself a lot and not quit when things get hard,” Schmitz said. The experiences he has undergone while participating in Mount Michael athletics have boosted his overall confidence in his own abilities and have benefited his outlook on the community Mount Michael has built for itself.

Athletics were not the only aspect that challenged Schmitz at The Mount. Schmitz said the workload and “academic rigor,” at Mount Michael forced him to dig deep into his studies to find the success that he and so many people at The Mount value. He also had to figure out who he wanted to be and what values would contribute to that.

If Schmitz could attribute the person, he is today to anyone, it would be to his dad. Schmitz said, “I watch him a lot of times in the way he goes about handling situations and when I am in tough situations I think ‘What would my dad do?’” In addition to modeling his reactions to obstacles life throws, he also feels his faith life could not be where it is today without his dad.

His dad is the one who made him go to church camp and pushed him to do difficult things that he otherwise would prefer not to do. “I can't thank him enough for that,” Schmitz said.

With the support of Schmitz's father, the academic and athletic rigor at The Mount, and the encouraging faith environment he spent high school in, Schmitz feels he has picked up lifelong values thanks to Mount Michael.