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Author Sydney Heller – 8th Grade

Seton is a Fun School

When you think of the word "school," you probably experience a feeling of dread. With Seton Catholic School though, it's different. While Seton still teaches the required curriculum, there are fun activities used in the lessons too. In addition to base classes, physical education, art, music, and computer classes are also included in the daily schedule.

There are many extracurricular activities offered at Seton including the following: academic teams, sports, choir, newspaper, robotics, etc. Seton also presents many competitions for students to participate in. The Geography Bee, Math Olympiads, and the Contig Tournament are some of the more popular competitions. Older students may also take part in the Current Events Competitions and the Optimist Speech Contest.

One of the main differences between Seton Catholic and other schools is its emphasis on faith, morals, and values. Every day, students learn more in depth about the Catholic faith. They gain a better understanding of the faith and how to live it. Students pray often, and good, moral behavior is strongly encouraged by teachers and staff.

Another difference that can be found at Seton is the academics. Teachers really push their students to reach their full potential. Intelligence and good work ethic are rewarded, and there are varying classes that students may take depending on learning speed.

Overall, Seton has a lot to offer. There is a variety of classes and extra events that students may take part in depending on their interests, and people of different personalities can form friendships and memories that will last for years.

Author James Naert – 8th Grade

A Reflection

I've always tried to do my best in life, but there's always that human part of me that has messed some things up. It causes other people to make mistakes too. Sometimes we just need to remember who we are and what kind of person we want to be.

We need time to reflect. I look into the mirror to see what I value. Values such as my faith, respect, honesty, selflessness, and kindness. I remind myself how these gifts are essential.

They all have their own part to play. My faith is like the center of everything to me. Respect is what gives me a good record. It's just common sense that if you want to get anywhere in life you have to be respectful. Then that respect leads to kindness. Kindness is what makes my day. I talk to a lot of people who have that kindness that just makes your heart rejoice because you are reminded that someone else cares about you, and you see how you and others have spread that feeling. But for that kindness to be

true, there has to be selflessness. Selflessness is what makes others happy. That state of abnegation really just reminds everyone else about how much someone cares about them, but still you have to have honesty, honesty builds trust.

Those things all build a person with good values that God wants us to have. It's hard to follow them though. It's happened before where one mistake like that may seem the size of a pebble, but it can lead to a rippling affect that changes the balance of that puddle of values.

Those pebbles can slip easily. But once they've stopped, it's easier to see a reflection. No matter how many pebbles have been dropped into the pond, I still see a person God created looking back at me. I see someone God made with love. Now I see that I need to help others see their reflection in their pond.

Author Dalilah Ramos – 8th Grade

Seton Has Improved My Faith

Although I am far from being a hundred percent pious, I feel Seton has helped me develop a life of faith and prayer. Prayer is widely encouraged at Seton. We pray at the beginning of the day, before lunch, before a school day dismissal, and anytime in between when we can. I am very appreciative and lucky to have the opportunity to pray in unity with my classmates every day at school, instead of hiding my love for God and being afraid that I will be made fun of because of my beliefs. Through prayer and religion I have learned that I shouldn't always focus on myself. Instead of praying for things that will allow me to indulge in pleasurable things, I should rather take into consideration those who lack many resources and pray for those in need. Because Jesus cleansed our sins, our prayers should come from sincere hearts that truly believe that god will answer us.

Respect is another thing that is promoted at Seton. Respect is earned, not given. In order to receive respect, you must administer it too. Its common sense that you should treat others as you would like to be treated. Seton takes that lesson to the next level. Respect is when you admire or honor someone because of their accomplishments and abilities. Seeing a member of the Seton community show respect to others can often influence the actions of people to do similar things. It's like a chain reaction of positive morals.

Leaving your mark on the world is important. One way of leaving your mark is by community service. As a part of Seton's reputation, every year the Seton students participate in service projects. The Seton 8th graders recently went to Hope Creek Care Center, a nursing home, to spend time with the elderly by engaging in activities appropriate for both ranges of ages. Although recreation such as this may not be important to some people, for others a day filled with happiness and laughter could make all the difference.

One of the many good sides of attending a private school is the uniform. In my opinion, having a school uniform takes away the stress of picking a different outfit every day and buying expensive, name-brand clothes that is accepted by your peers. Having a school uniform is a badge of pride, which creates an identity for Seton. It shows that I am a part of an organization united by Jesus Christ. I believe wearing a uniform eliminates distractions in classrooms, allowing students to perform more efficiently, academically.

Our Seton teachers, faculty, and staff are a major part of the school. They are what keeps this institution of education functioning. They are the face of the school. Their personalities and attitudes set the standard mood throughout the facility. Teachers are sharing their time and knowledge with our generation to enrich minds to ensure that our future is a place that is safe and secure for every person in the society.

Knowing what I believe matters is important to me. It lets me know that there is a purpose for life and that my journey on earth is not useless. It motivates me to do my best to meet my ultimate goal; heaven. I can only imagine that there is no sweeter feeling than living with God for eternity. Knowing that I have succeeded in life is what makes it all worth it in the end.

I am happy to say that Seton has shaped me into the educated and responsible young lady that I am and I will be forever grateful. I am proud to say that I am and always will be a part of the Seton family.

Author Caitlyn DeBlaey – 7th Grade

Seton Helps Me Understand My Beliefs

Knowing what I believe in matters. Sometimes knowing what I believe in can be tricky. Seton School helps me understand what I believe in and why I believe it.

Seton teachers and staff help me understand all the aspects that make up my faith. They teach me to be kind, to respect others, and much more. The teachers at Seton not only teach us about being kind, but they also teach us about what they believe in.

The most important value that we are taught at Seton is what it means to be a Catholic. Knowing what it means to be a Catholic can be hard to understand. With the help of our teachers and staff they make sure that we know about our faith and what it means. Seton is a great school and strives to help students know what it means to be a Catholic and a great student.

Author Jesse Dyer – 7th Grade

Seton is a School of Faith and Caring

It was midwinter about two months ago and I got the flu. I stayed home from school with a fever of 101 and was throwing up constantly. I felt terrible the whole day, but after school I started getting text messages from classmates at Seton School about homework and a big project. Classmates asked about how I was feeling and said they hoped I felt better soon. Their care and concern for me wasn't surprising. That's how most everyone is at Seton Catholic School.

Once when I slipped on the ice during recess and injured my right knee badly, a group of students immediately picked me up and brought me to the nurse's office. This is what Seton community is all about. The students who helped me were living and growing in their Catholic faith. That's what we learn from Father Mark when we go to Church, religion class, and from our teachers and all the staff at the school. They're all role models for us. They help us to understand the message and teachings of Jesus in the Gospels. But we don't just learn the words. We don't just read about the message of Jesus. We live it. We put those words in practice and grow in our faith. Every day at Seton we're greeted kindly by the

people who work there. They welcome us with a smile in morning and when we leave to go home after school, they wish us the best. Every day all of us students greet each other in that same way. We're taught to be polite, to have manners, to be considerate of each other. Above all, we're taught to say that we're sorry when we do something wrong or inconsiderate. We're taught not to be bullies and to protect others who might be getting bullied. We're taught to look out for those less fortunate than us.

Our school does a great job promoting those values. That's what it means to be a member of the Catholic Church. That's what it means to be a part of Seton Catholic School's Christian family. We're a living community working to grow in our faith each and every day.

Author Brennen O'Keeffe – 7th Grade

Why I like Seton

I am in seventh grade, and I like Seton in many ways. Seton shows students how to respect others, how to live our faith, and how to be successful students.

Seton teaches us how to show respect. The teachers and staff really try to push us to be kind and respectful, not just to students, parents and teachers, but everyone! They teach us to listen to peoples' opinions no matter what they say. Also, our school is a "No Bully Zone," so we are taught to step up and stop bullying if we see it, and to be kind to one another.

Our faith means a lot to the students and staff at Seton. Therefore, we are fortunate to be able to go to Mass on Thursdays for the elementary school and Fridays for the middle school. We also have religion class, where we learn how to pray, different ways to pray, how to live God's word and how to love others. We pray in the morning to start our day, then again before lunch, and once more before we go home. Seton teaches us not just about our faith, but also how to live it.

Finally, Seton teaches us how to be successful students. The teachers show us how to take correct notes and how to develop good study skills. By taking good notes, you have accurate information to study. The teachers expect us to study hard so that we will do well on our homework and tests. They want us to use these skills throughout life so that we can succeed in high school, college and beyond.

In conclusion, Seton is a school that teaches students how to respect others, how to live our faith, and how to succeed in school. I am grateful that I get to go to such a great school!