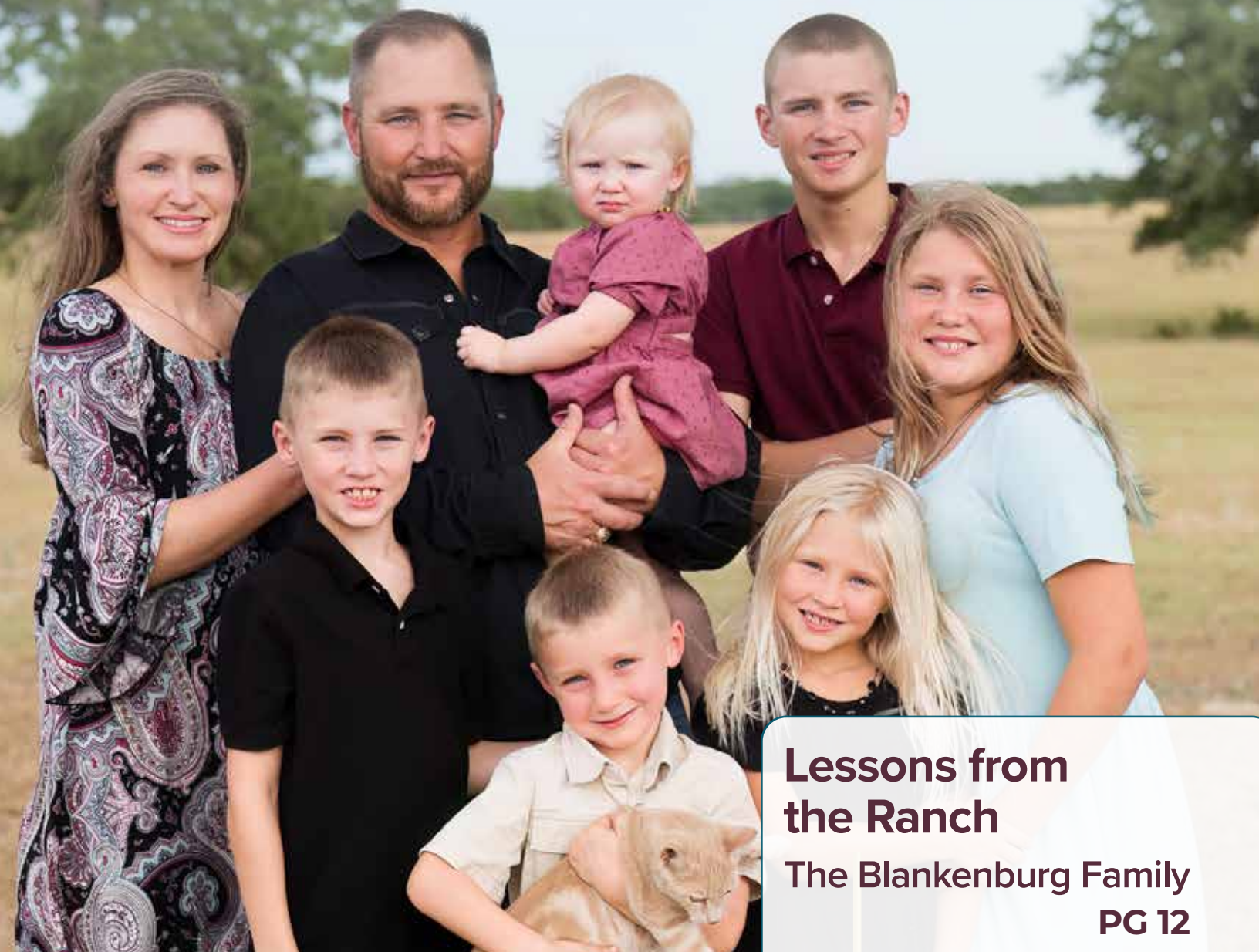


Seton



MAGAZINE

Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church
setonmagazine.com | March/April 2023



Lessons from the Ranch

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PG 12

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Seton Home Study School, an international Catholic institution, is to ensure that all of its students thrive intellectually and spiritually using a Christ-centered, educational program that empowers them to live the Catholic Faith while embracing the academic and vocational challenges of the twenty-first century.

**LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR**

Dear Readers,

Spring is upon us, at least I think it is. We have had an absurdly warm winter in the northeast where I live, and the daffodils bloomed early only to be snowed upon in early March. Spring weather is so very unpredictable. What is not unpredictable is a Seton mom who is so devoted to her children that she inspires me to want to share her story with all of you.

Leigh Blackenburg is just such a mom, a Texas ranch wife, and a mom of six (that baby is the cutest). Her story is so encouraging, and her manner so upbeat. I know you will enjoy it as much as I did.

For a fuller account of her “Lessons from the Ranch”, check out the complete version at www.setonmagazine.com.

This is the time of year when many parents often start to feel behind, particularly if you follow a traditional September to June school year. We have some tips in this issue to help you take control of the situation and finish up in a time frame with which you are comfortable.

I urge you to check out the Seton College Partner featured in this issue, Thomas More College of Liberal Arts. I must admit to some bias as my oldest daughter Katie is a graduate (2018), and I love everything about this wonderful school.

The article by our Seton alum, John Shanley, may inspire one of your high school students to consider TMC.

Finally, dear readers, remember that you are prayed for each and every day at Seton Home Study School and that we are grateful to have all of you be part of our school family. We wish you all a joyous Easter, and remember Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia.

Blessings,

Mary Ellen Barrett

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SETON 2023 GRADUATION

What You Need to Know

To participate in the Seton 2023 Graduation held in Front Royal, Virginia on June 17, 2023, students must:

- Be enrolled in 12th grade.
- Be taking courses that will fulfill the Seton graduation requirements.
- Have earned a minimum of 15 High School credits.
 - Expect to complete all High School work within 2023.
- Be current on any payments due to Seton.

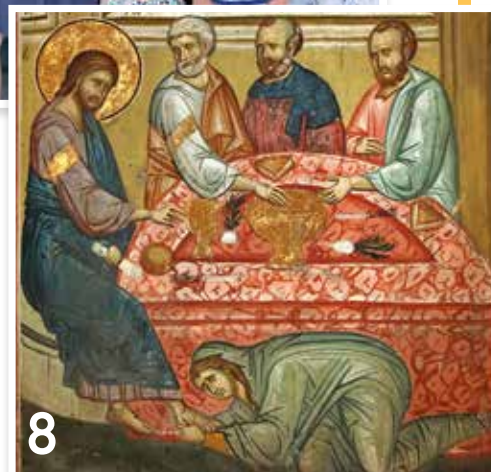
*We look forward to welcoming
all our graduates this year!*

Students who completed the Seton diploma requirements on or after July 1, 2022, are invited to join us. Families must have paid the registration fee and be registered by May 15, 2023, to participate in the 2023 Graduation.



For more graduation information:

<https://www.setonhome.org/student-life/graduation-2023/>



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Is it true that a student no longer has to take the American Literature course? Also, if a student is already taking American Literature, do they have to finish it?

Yes, to your first question, it is true that Seton students no longer have to take the American Literature course to graduate with a Seton diploma.

We previously required American Literature to graduate with Academic or Advanced Academic Diplomas. We are now emphasizing a single HS diploma track, the Academic Diploma track.

This is the original track Seton has offered and is still the one most students take today. The General Diploma and Advanced Academic Diploma tracks are still available for families that want them but are de-emphasized.

Students can still choose to take American Literature and follow the old diploma tracks if they choose to. A staff member has provided a detailed explanation for these changes on our website: www.setonhome.org/diploma-track-changes-2023/

Concerning whether a student currently taking American Literature must finish the course, if they have already completed 1 or 2 quarters, we can close out the course and give a quarter or half credit.

However, when considering removing any course, remember that the student still needs 22 credits to graduate.

With American Literature removed, students may need to substitute it with another elective or course to ensure their total credits reach 22.

Sean O'Connor, Academic Counselor
We are running out of time to complete our high school student's school year. Can you help me?

Yes, I have several suggestions that can help you.

First, many high school students have found it helpful to quicken their pace by incorporating a block schedule.

Instead of doing each subject for about an hour each day, concentrate on one or two subjects and do only those all day for several weeks until that subject is done!

Second, focus on requirements for the quarter, and work toward completing those items. If it is a quiz or paragraph in a book, read it right away.

Third, as soon as you are done reading it, do the assignment. Waiting even a few days makes you more likely to forget some aspects of the story.

Fourth, upload a completed assignment as soon as possible to eliminate the possibility of losing it. Fifth, if you can do an assignment online, do it that way. You won't waste time looking for it later; it will automatically save your progress.

Sixth, because it is essential in high school to finish the work to earn credit, we can't just skip a subject. Still, you have the flexibility to work on subjects from different years simultaneously, which may help add some efficiency.

I hope these ideas help, but I emphasize that if you or your student are having trouble in any subject, especially in high school, don't hesitate to get in touch with the counselors. We are more than happy to help you with solutions tailored to your family!

Laura Clark, Academic Counselor

WHEN CAN I ENROLL MY CHILD IN SPECIAL SERVICES?

We accept Special Service enrollments throughout the year and encourage families to contact us for details.

Should I wait for my child to finish their current grade level before re-enrolling with Special Services?

If your child has finished at least two quarters of each subject, you may call us to discuss the curriculum for next year.

You can then choose to re-enroll immediately and customize the start date and the shipping date, or you can re-enroll later. If you want to start the new school year in August or September, spring and early summer are the perfect time to plan for the new year!

We typically have our "early bird" phone calls in March through June. To schedule an "early bird" call with Special Services, please call us at 540-622-5555.

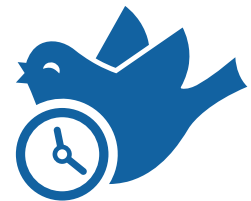
The "Early Bird" Phone Calls

During an "early bird" phone call, you can speak with a Special Services counselor to map out your child's curriculum for the following year.

Your counselor will discuss curriculum options/modifications for each subject. This conversation will also be your opportunity to share how the previous school year went for your child and if there is anything you would like to do differently for the following year.

When Can I Pay for My Next Year?

You may pay for the upcoming curriculum at this time or when we send your curriculum to you.



Special Services Staff



Seton instructed me to use the Parchment service when sending my daughter's transcript with her college application.

When I go to Parchment's "Order your Transcript" page, I see her transcript, but the data is incorrect. How can I ensure that the transcript sent to our college is correct?

Thank you for your question about using the Parchment transcript service. For those families unfamiliar with it, Parchment is a transcript service we have found reliable, efficient, and respected by colleges.

Each time you order a transcript at Parchment for yourself or to be sent to a college, the image on your transcript link is updated. The image of the transcript you see is the last transcript you requested.

If this is your first time to use the Parchment service, there will be no transcript yet.

If you have completed some courses since you last ordered a transcript, the link will show the last order, **but the transcript sent will have your most current data.**

Before ordering the formal transcript to be sent to a college, if you

prefer to see the current transcript on Parchment rather than MySeton, you can click the transcript image, then click the UPDATE button near the bottom of the transcript.

Clicking UPDATE will generate an order for Seton to update the transcript. It should take no more than 2 – 3 business days for Seton to get this order and send it back to Parchment. Please do not expect immediate, real-time results.

Preview the Unofficial View

You can also visit your MySeton page to see your cumulative high school grade report. Go to the student's COURSES page, where there is an icon of three fanned-out pages of paper.

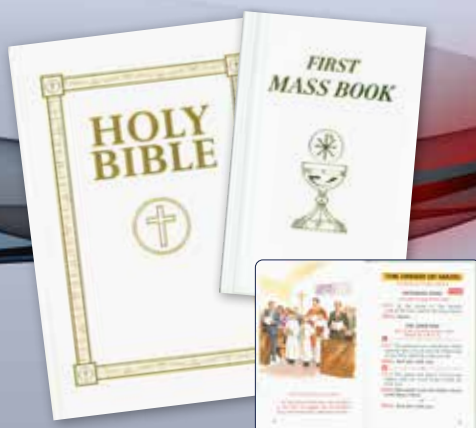
When you place the cursor on this icon, the text will tell you that here you can "View the cumulative high school grade report." The course data on this page is current, with all graded items.

*Deacon Gene McGuirk,
Director of Academic Counseling*

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The Seton College Partner Program is a way to encourage students to continue their Catholic education by attending solidly Catholic colleges after high school.



setonhome.org/colleges

Holy Wednesday: All are Invited to Holy Unction

BY BOB WIESNER



THE services of Holy Week in the Byzantine tradition are rather more extensive than in the Roman Church. Each day is dedicated to one aspect or another of Jesus' final week before the events of Good Friday.

The three days following Blossom Sunday or Willow Sunday (known as Palm Sunday in the West) commemorate aspects of the Lord's teachings during his final visit to Jerusalem. These three days are dedicated to Christ the Bridegroom, Who is about to consummate His marriage to humanity in His life-giving death.

DEDICATION TO THE BRIDEGROOM

Monday of Holy Week is dedicated to the Patriarch Joseph, who prepared the founding of the nation of Israel in Egypt. The Gospel for the day relates the fate of the barren fig tree. Finding no fruit on the tree, Jesus curses it; it is later found to have withered.

The story has long been interpreted as the end of the Old Covenant with Israel, which rejected the Messiah and thus has withered away spiritually; this sets the stage for the inauguration of the New Covenant, a new Israel, ratified by the Blood of Christ.

Tuesday carries on the theme of judgment with the tale of the lamp-bearing virgins who did not prepare for the coming of the bridegroom; they are shut out of the bridal party while the watchful virgins who conserved their oil are welcomed with joy.

Again, the torch is being passed. An unfaithful and heedless Israel no longer has a place in the New Covenant, while those who recognize the bridegroom's coming find a place of honor in the bridal party.

The highlight of these three days comes on Holy Wednesday when the commemoration of the sinful woman anointing the feet of Jesus is celebrated. Also called Spy Wednesday, it recalls the betrayal by Judas.

The theme of judgment continues as the unrepentant Judas comes to a very bad end; the sinful woman, in contrast, comes to salvation through her penitential tears and service of anointing Jesus' feet.

The Lord rebukes Judas for thinking in material terms on this occasion; service to God must take precedence over pragmatic attitudes toward material riches. The costly nard could find no greater use than the anointing of Jesus, Who remarks that the woman has anointed Him for His death. This observation by the Lord gives rise to one of the most beautiful customs in the Byzantine churches.

Holy Unction (Anointing of the Sick or Extreme Unction in the West) sees far greater use among the Eastern churches than is usual among Roman Catholics.

One need not be fatally ill to request Holy Anointing; the *Epistle of James* does not specify deadly illness as a prerequisite for the sacrament. Of course, in practice, a condition should be somewhat serious before a priest is summoned; one should be wary of trivializing a sacrament, after all!

*All are invited to receive
Holy Unction for the healing
of soul and body.*

But the most serious illnesses afflicting the human race are not physical. Whatever one's physical state of health, all can be certain that the spiritual ills of the soul are far more likely to cause deadly harm; no one is immune to the ravages of moral disease, of sin.

A HOLY INVITATION

So it is that among Byzantine Christians, a special service is held on Wednesday of Holy Week when all are invited to receive Holy Unction for the healing of soul and body. In remembrance of the service rendered by the sinful woman, vespers is served along with ample opportunity for Confession, followed by the anointing of all who choose to approach.

Thus, a suitable preparation is made for the events of Good Friday, when all should recall our Baptism when we died with Christ in order to rise with Him.

According to canon law, all Catholics are privileged to receive sacraments in any Catholic church without regard to ritual differences. Thus, Roman Catholics are free to participate in the Holy Wednesday services in any Byzantine Catholic church. Most Byzantine priests are familiar with the Roman form of Confession, so the Eastern form need not be known.

*Roman Catholics are free to participate
in the Holy Wednesday services in any
Byzantine Catholic church.*

St. John Paul II repeatedly urged Roman Catholics to become familiar with the riches of Eastern Christianity; Holy Wednesday offers a wonderful opening for a beautiful introduction to the Eastern spiritual outlook.

If there is a Byzantine Catholic church near you, feel free to call them for the time of Holy Wednesday services and partake of this splendid opportunity to expand your knowledge and appreciation for the universal Church!



Bob Wiesner earned a B.A. in Philosophy from Christendom College and his M.A. in Theological Studies from Maryknoll School of Theology. His passions include classical music, iconography and history.



Ask the Experts:

What is the Greatest Lesson I Have Learned in Homeschooling?

Three Veteran Homeschooling Moms Share Their Experience

Have You Prayed Today?



What a timely question. This morning I got up, scrubbed the bathrooms, vacuumed, then hurriedly showered and rushed out the door to get daughter number two to the orthodontist. Then I went to the grocery store, came home, arms full of groceries, mentally recovering from the astronomical bill, and I stopped in my tracks.

“He never fails to teach me, I cannot do this alone.”

My darling children had stacked the dirty dishes in the sink, with milk and soggy cereal dripping everywhere, when right next to the sink was.... an empty dishwasher. I broke down in tears and did what I always do when I lose it. I called my husband, the principal, and I sobbed my heart out my entire morning.

He listened patiently and empathized but then gently said, “Have you prayed today?” And know what? I hadn’t. I had such an early morning that I skipped my morning Bible study and didn’t go for my regular half-hour rosary walk with some or all of my children.

“Find your tribe.”

So, the lesson I learned, the most valuable one I have ever learned, that He, in His infinite mercy and goodness, never fails trying to teach me, is that I cannot do this alone. Raising children in today’s society is hard enough, multiply that by a thousand, and you have those of us who have bravely taken on their children’s education as well.

Lean on God. Involve your spouse and children. Share the load. Find your tribe. I can’t do this alone.

Neither can you. And we were never meant to do so.

Kristin Brown, Virginia

Learning is a Lifelong Process...



When I began my homeschooling journey 2 ½ decades ago, I thought I understood the purpose of education.

Back then, I believed it was about teaching my children how to read, write, add/subtract, and practice their faith. I thought the end goal was to graduate students who could go on to college and/or perform well in their careers and vocations.

But I've learned that education is about so much more than that. Of all the lessons I teach my children, the most valuable is that learning is a lifelong process. And rich or poor, brilliant or challenged, everyone can continue learning. Education is not just about ABCs and 123s. It is not just about obtaining a diploma or degree.

Education is about discovering the truth, beauty, and goodness in this vast world and, by extension, encountering the Author of it all. Education is about learning to live with your eyes open and your heart receptive, albeit discerning.

Eyes Wide Open

And for all the lessons I have taught my children (in grammar, math, spelling, and religion), I've learned in equal measure (compassion, patience, gentleness, and forgiveness). Indeed, when days are hard and doubt whispers in my ear, this understanding keeps me moving forward as a homeschool educator.

Because homeschool, by its very nature, leads students and teacher alike to see education as a process in which they are both responsible for and engaged.

Tara Brelinsky, North Carolina

God's Grace will Come Through...



The greatest lesson I have learned in my 22+ years of homeschooling is: God's grace will come through.

In the beginning, I didn't see it, but after experiencing so many instances where things worked out well even though I thought they wouldn't have, I see God's loving hand Who made everything work out.

I've seen His Providence take care of all the little things that happen throughout the day and this helps to see God's Providence in the bigger things, such as when I had very serious health issues for three years. I was in survival mode and not parenting or schooling to the same level of expectations that I have for myself.

“I see God's loving hand who made everything work out.”

But God's Providence took care of us, the five-year-old learned how to read, and any gaps in the kids' schooling were filled in in the years after I was healed. I've been taking the kids to daily Mass for the last five years, and with a large homeschooling family, it would be easy to say there isn't enough time. But I have trusted in God that His grace will see us through, and it has.

Not only does everything get done, but we frequently have time left over. Plus, I think the kids have done better in their studies. God's grace is sufficient, even superabundant when there is trust in Him.

Susan Brock, Virginia

THIS IS WHY WE HOMESCHOOL



“

We love being able to attend daily Mass. And the accountability we all have to each other about living a sacramental life.

**Growth in our Faith!!!!!!!
I can't express this enough!!**

I am sure this would never have happened without homeschooling and God's grace.

The Garcia Family, Kailua, HI

”



Lessons from the Ranch

I wanted to write this article for *Seton Magazine* a few years ago, but I stopped myself. I thought, “Even after homeschooling for years, what advice and experience can I provide when most days I feel like I’m still trying to figure it all out?!”

But then God helped me realize that many homeschooling families probably feel the same. So, what can we do? We must “take the bull by the horns” and keep moving forward one day at a time.

Hi! I’m Leigh Blankenburg, a wife to my sweetheart, Ace, of seventeen years and a mother to eleven children (six on Earth who are 16, 13, 10, 7, 5, and 22 months; and five in Heaven). We live on my husband’s family’s ranch in a rural town in Texas.

We thoroughly enjoy raising our family in the country lifestyle and the valuable and moral life

lessons involved. We have been homeschooling for thirteen years and have used *Seton* for twelve, and we love how each day is a rewarding challenge or a challenging reward.

Homeschooling was our call from God when our oldest was three years old and was ready for preschool.

We trusted God as Psalm 16:11 says, “You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.” We very seriously took the vows at our wedding to raise our children Catholic and that the Church declares that parents are their children’s first teachers.

A few life lessons that I have learned from homeschooling thus far by “taking the bull by the horns” and knowing that God will help us to overcome adversity are:

1. What Works With One Child Might Not Work With Another

This lesson applies to knowing that what tactics might work with one child might not work with another, as one child might be more of a visual learner as opposed to another being a more auditory learner.

Parents and children will have different strengths and weaknesses in certain subjects too.



One example I use is splitting up the math problems on worksheets, as my children often have tunnel vision when seeing more than ten problems. I have them do one line (or two) at a time, and then we move on to another subject.

When that subject is finished, they go back to do another line or two in math, and we continue this cycle until the school day is done. This method works equally well with handwriting. I have found that this helps to keep them calmer (and me calmer, too) and to provide a smoother day.

Thankfully, Seton's lesson plans are easy to follow and lay all the instructions out to be tailored per child by the parents.

2. The Children Will Never Be the Same Age or in the Same Stage Next Year

Like the song *Let Them Be Little* by Billy Dean, children will do childish things. I must remind myself that children do not think or act like adults.

Our homeschool schedule has had to be tailored around newborns and their nursing on demand and varying nap times, which is when keeping them close to my heart in a sling has made teaching the older children easier.

I allow our toddlers to color or play while we do school or watch an educational show in a nearby room. Dr. Ray Guarendi's book *Discipline That Lasts a Lifetime* has been a great help in our home for all ages and stages.

3. A Season for Everything

Babies may be born, appliances may break, people may get sick, and family members or friends may sadly move or pass away. Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3 reminds us there is a time for all things, and "God has made everything appropriate to its time" (verse 11).

We sadly had a miscarriage this past November, and this caused our family to pause for a brief time. We grieved, healed with God's grace, and took the time to enjoy each other and our loved ones during the holidays.



We embraced starting school again when the new year began and dove right into the books, knowing that we were not moving on but rather moving forward.

I hope this list can help you to realize that by "taking the bull by the horns," you can take it one day at a time.

Also, reach out to those around you and the resources you have for help. Be willing to try different approaches to teaching tailored to each child. Most importantly, take good care of your health to be the best homeschooling parent your children need.

That's all that God is asking of each of us, so like Saint Paul, we can say,

"I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on, the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance." (Timothy 4: 7-8)

If you've found these three life lessons for homeschooling helpful, please see the full version "Ten Lessons from the Ranch" at SetonMagazine.com.

- Leigh



How Do I Get There From Here?

Counselor Tips on Getting Ahead... When Your Elementary Student is Behind

April is upon us! How did that happen? As a homeschooling mom, I tell myself that the calendar is meaningless and that my children should go at their own pace, but the reality is that as a person who went to school myself, I feel like I should be finishing up the 3rd quarter

now. If I want these kids to finish high school before they're 20, they need to buckle down and get serious about finishing the year. But what do you do when there are technically less than two months left in the school year, but you're still in the 2nd quarter???

First of all, breathe. It's okay.

Then remember, the only things that Seton requires you to do are the items listed on your MySeton page or the Quarter Report Forms as "Seton graded." You have to do some things to be able to do the Seton graded items, but you don't have to do every assignment!

For instance, you have to read a history chapter to do the test, and while it might be beneficial to look over the review questions to help you study for the test, you do not have to have your students write down all their answers.

Breaking it Down - By the Subject

Let's go over by subject how to help your elementary students catch up.

For English, Phonics, and Math, your students must learn the material in the lessons. They should do most of the pages; however, if they thoroughly understand the material, they can do only some problems in the assignments.

If you have time, sit with them and ensure they grasp the concepts, do half the problems, and then move on to the next page – you'll get done twice as quickly! Sometimes, you can also do the pages orally, which will go much faster.

Instead of taking the entire quarter test at the end of the quarter, mark out which parts of the test go with which chapters, and take those parts of the tests as soon as you complete the chapters.

For History, Science, and Religion, especially in the younger grades, try reading the assignments out loud to them, then go over the questions orally. Chances are they will do better on the test because it is fresh in their mind and will take less time than doing the whole test at the end of the quarter.

For Spelling and Vocabulary, give the weekly test at the beginning of the week. If they ace it, skip the workbook pages for that week, and move on to the next lesson. If they are very good at these subjects, you can give them the quarter tests before doing any of the work for that quarter!





If they do well on them, you've just completed a whole quarter of Spelling or Vocabulary! If you have the time, you can have them review and do some of those lessons to reinforce spelling rules or definitions, but that's up to you. The quarter tests are the only assignments required for those subjects.

Finally, Reading. Without a doubt, the biggest challenge for Seton students is getting those book reports done. However, again, notice that the only required assignments for each quarter in reading are the quarter comprehension test and the book report. Nothing else is required.

Tips for Your Book Report:

So concentrate on that book report! Have them begin each quarter reading the book they have chosen for the book report.

While reading, have them look at the chapter notes or the review questions. It will help them to think about the important themes of the books. Also, be sure they read the introductory paragraph and topic sentences of their book report for their chosen book before reading the book itself. **A Helpful Hint:** Put a piece of paper or a sticky note in the book for them to jot down page numbers that will serve as examples for their middle paragraphs.

Also, have them look over the book report worksheets that should be in their Book Report Handbooks (if you have lost them, there should be a PDF under resources on their MySeton page). These can help them organize their thoughts while reading and thus help with writing.

All this will help them to finish their book reports in just a few weeks, and then they can do their quarter comprehension test. If you have "extra" time for reading, they can read the stories in their readers or work in their *Reading Comprehension* or *Thinking Skills* books. But it's up to you as these would be optional now.

Finally, if you are very behind, think about which are the most important subjects – I would say they are Language Arts (especially grammar for older elementary students and Phonics for the younger ones) and Mathematics.

If your state doesn't require proof of progress in those subjects, move on – the material will most likely be covered again in more detail another year. If your child doesn't finish his Science or History book, it's not the end of the world. He just won't get a grade in that subject for that year.

We're Here to Help - Really!

As always, if you or your student needs help in any subject, please contact the counselors. We are more than happy to help you. **I have more ideas for speeding things up for your high school student on page six in "Your Questions Answered!"**



Gabrielle | Gabrielle raises and breeds parakeets. Her 4-H project, pictured here, won a first place in Seneca and she went on to represent Seneca County at the Ohio State Fair.



Aaron | An altar server since August of 2022, Aaron recently served for Cardinal Wilton Gregory at his parish's Centennial Celebration.

Submit your photo, your achievement, and how homeschooling has helped you succeed!

setonmagazine.com/students

The Guild Program at Thomas More College

BY MICHAEL YOST



THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
OF LIBERAL ARTS



Thomas More College of Liberal Arts, located in Merrimack, New Hampshire, is a unique institution that emphasizes the study of the Great Books, seminar-style discussions, and a close-knit community of students and faculty.

One of the distinctive features of the college is its Guild Program, which provides students with opportunities to pursue interests outside of the classroom and develop practical skills through hands-on learning.

Our Guilds offer a unique balance of intellectual inquiry and practical application, enabling students to engage fully in the life of the mind while also putting their knowledge into action. The Guilds at Thomas More College are designed to help students cultivate the virtues that are essential to living a flourishing life, emphasizing the importance of the incarnational nature of practical skills learned in the Guilds.

The Guilds program at Thomas More College is rooted in the belief that practical skills, such as woodworking, painting, and music, are essential components of a well-rounded education.

These skills are not just means to an end but are valuable in themselves, as they allow us to engage with the world in a tangible way and develop a deeper appreciation for the beauty and complexity of God's creation.

The Focus of the Guilds

The Guilds focus on activities such as woodworking, sacred art, folk music, and poetry. The Woodworking Guild, for example, provides students with the opportunity to learn traditional woodworking skills and techniques, while the Sacred Art Guild focuses on the creation of art that reflects the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith. The Folk Music Guild is dedicated to preserving and promoting the traditional music of New England, while the Poetry Guild allows students to explore the world of poetry and creative writing.

What sets the Guilds at Thomas More College apart is their focus on the incarnational nature of practical skills. In other words, the Guilds emphasize the importance of the physical world and the role of our bodies in engaging with it.

By learning practical skills, students are not just acquiring knowledge but are also tangibly engaging with the material world, developing a deeper appreciation for the incarnational nature of reality. This approach is rooted in the Catholic understanding of the world, which sees the material world as good and worthy of our attention and care.

The Guilds also allow students to develop virtues such as patience, perseverance, and attention to detail, which are essential to living a flourishing life. By engaging in activities that require concentration and attention, students learn to focus their minds and develop the habit of attentiveness. This habit is essential for a life of contemplation and a key component of the intellectual life.

Moreover, the Guilds at Thomas More College are grounded in the belief that practical skills are not just a means to an end but are valuable in themselves. By learning how to make things with their hands, students develop a deeper appreciation for the beauty and

complexity of the world around them. They also gain a sense of satisfaction and pride in their work, a key component of human flourishing.

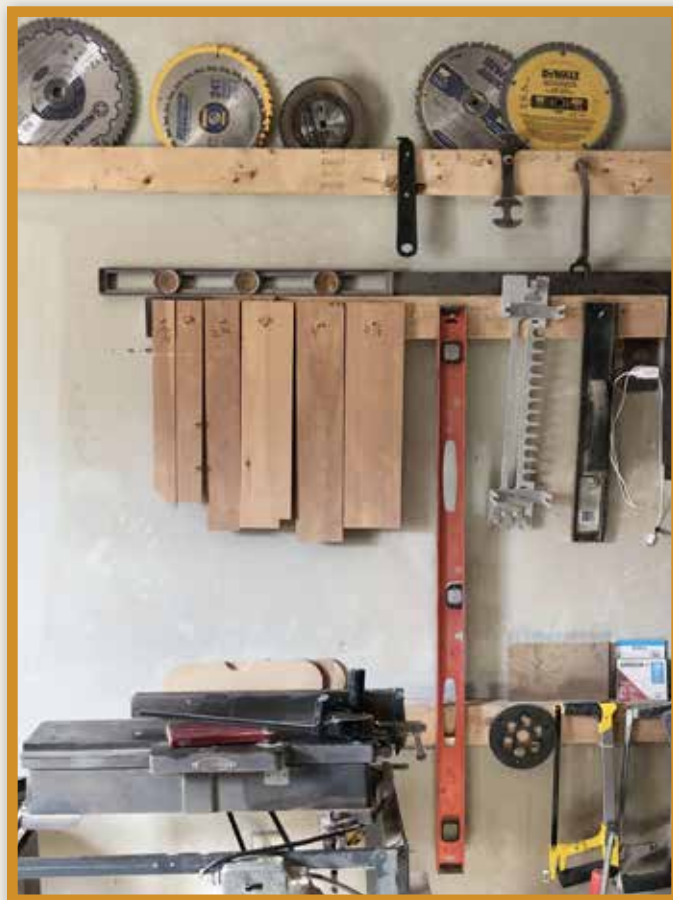
Essential Skills for a Flourishing Life

Finally, the Guilds at Thomas More College are part of a larger vision of education that emphasizes the unity of knowledge and the interconnectedness of all things. The Guilds provide students with opportunities to see the connections between different disciplines and integrate their knowledge practically. For example, a student who learns woodworking may also gain a deeper understanding of geometry and mathematics, while a student who studies poetry may develop a better appreciation for the beauty of language and the power of metaphor.

In conclusion, the Guilds at Thomas More College offer students a unique opportunity to engage with the world in a tangible way and develop practical skills essential to living a flourishing life. By emphasizing the incarnational nature of practical skills, the Guilds help students develop a deeper appreciation for the material world and the important role that their physical bodies play in engaging with it. This approach to education is rooted in the belief that a well-rounded education should cultivate both the mind and the body and that practical skills are essential to a flourishing life.

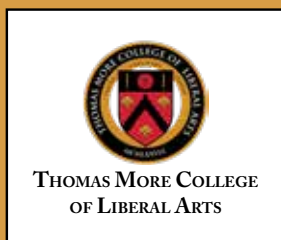


Mr. Michael Yost, Thomas More College class of 2018, is currently pursuing his MFA in the Creative Writing program online at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. Mr. Yost resides in New Hampshire with his wife and children.



Alumni Profile:

John Shanley



As my high school senior year approached, I knew I wanted to receive a higher education. It wasn't because there was a specific field of work I wanted to study but because the idea of going straight from high school to being an active part of society felt unsettling.

At the time, I didn't quite understand why I felt this way, but I can now see that without realizing it, I lacked much understanding of the good, the true, and the beautiful. If I stayed unacquainted with them, I would lack understanding of God, His providence, and His love for humanity. Even worse, I would not know how to reciprocate that love for Him and His creation. Without these understandings, it would be impossible for me to play a positive Catholic role in society.

Through God's most gracious providence, I soon found myself a freshman at Thomas More College. To this day, I truly believe it to be the best decision I could have made to helping to prepare me to be better acquainted with the goodness, truth, and beauty God has gifted the world.

Thomas More has one set curriculum, carefully designed to allow the student to progress from the more tangible studies to the intangible slowly. You begin freshman year by studying the

goodness, truth, and beauty God gives us by studying His creation in natural history and reading the sacred scriptures. You will also see how these three gifts of God shine through man by exploring the beauty of art and sacred music.

Studying the Greco-Roman humanities teaches you to find what is true through euclidean geometry and see how God's providence and love work throughout civilization. You then spend the following six semesters studying the humanities as a core and following God's inner workings through society until the modern era, continuing to build your way up to more abstract philosophies such as metaphysics while moving from the scriptures to studying the mystery of divine life.

A Little about the Community

And while we study hard, there are many opportunities for fellowship, camaraderie, and a festive and jovial atmosphere, with many feasts, dances, folk jam sessions, bonfires, and more. Because Thomas More College has only about 100 students, you can form relationships with everyone. This results in a very tight-knit community, with all of us in the common pursuit of Truth and, even more importantly, of God.

How Seton Prepared Me

Seton immensely helped prepare me for Thomas More College. Through Seton, I developed my reading and comprehension and, perhaps more importantly, learned how to take what I read and make original conclusions.

I am so thankful that I was encouraged to be an independent thinker, push a little harder, and always try to discover another perspective to find the Truth through Seton.





Our Rome Semester

Rome is one of the most pivotal points in our college career here at Thomas More. Not only does it bring the Roman humanities, which we studied during freshman year, to life, but it also gives us the starting point for the rest of the humanities cycle, which we will be studying for the following six semesters.

In addition to being the birthplace of western culture, it is, more importantly, home to the Catholic Church. It is the center of Christian pilgrimages and home to the greatest churches in the West. It is here that Saint Peter settled, ministered, and died.

One of the main courses in Rome is art and architecture. Twice a week, you have class outside where you get the opportunity to study ancient Roman structures and churches, seeing firsthand how civilization has progressed from the ancient era through the medieval, Renaissance, and modern.

Because Rome plays such a vital part in our curriculum, every sophomore gets to go at no additional cost.

I can attest that my semester in Rome has only heightened my appreciation of Thomas More College's immersion in the good, true, and beautiful.



in the Schoolroom

BY MARY ELLEN BARRETT

Divine Mercy



In 1931 a Polish nun named Sr. Maria Faustina received a vision of Jesus in which he told her to paint an image that he revealed to her.

The image was to be signed, “Jesus, I trust in you,” and was to be venerated all over the world. Jesus told Sister Faustina that the image was a reminder of God’s great love and mercy and a vessel to obtain graces.

It took three years for Sister to have the painting done. Jesus taught Sister the prayer called the Divine Mercy Chaplet and promised that those who recited the prayer would receive great mercies at their death.

Sister Faustina began to fill a notebook of her conversations with Jesus, eventually filling seven of them. These are known as Saint Faustina’s diary.

This image reminds us of God’s love and wishes to have us with him in heaven.

Having the children make their own Divine Mercy poster to hang in their room, or the schoolroom, will help remind them of the importance of confession and penance and the great reward awaiting us in heaven.

1.



Gather your materials:
paper, scissors, pens or crayons, and glue.

2.



Cut a heart out of your red paper.
It is easy to fold it in half, draw a heart shape
and then cut.

3.



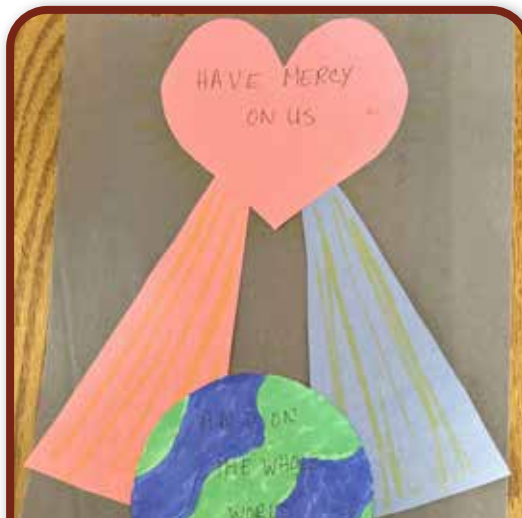
Glue the heart at the top of your black paper, short
side up, with triangles coming from the bottom—
the red on the left and the blue on the right.

4.



Draw a few squiggle shapes to color green for land
and color the surrounding area blue for water.
This will be your "world."

5.



Use your yellow crayon to draw lines
on the rays coming from the heart and around it
to show it glowing.

6.



Write "Have Mercy On Us And On The Whole
World" on your poster.

STAFF SERIES

*A chat with those
who serve you!*

Mary Connolly- High School English

With four brothers and five sisters, I come from a large family. My parents are originally from New Jersey, but we moved south to the Atlanta suburbs when I was a small child.

As the surname “Connolly” may suggest, my father’s side of the family is very Irish. I am also Irish on my mother’s side, in addition to Swiss, German, Ukrainian, and Finnish. I enjoy learning about my ancestors and have even started learning the Irish language.



Now, I live in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley with my older sister while the rest of my immediate family is still in Georgia. Although there are about 500 miles between us, I love spending time with my family whenever possible.

Seton has played a vital role in my education. My mom started using Seton’s curriculum before I was born. I was a Seton student from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Before graduating from Christendom College, I worked in Seton’s Guidance & Records department.

I became a high school English counselor a year ago. Despite years of experience with Seton’s curriculum as a student and a teacher for my younger siblings, I still find myself learning new things to help families every day. I now and again like to spread positivity throughout the office via bubbles.

The Best Things

One of the things I enjoy about working at Seton is helping our students. Seeing substantial improvement from a rough draft to the final draft is one of the best things about being involved in education.

Our English curriculum is challenging, and students often email or call us asking for guidance. Hearing the change of tone when a student has had a “eureka moment” brings one of the best feelings in the world.



My advice to students and their families is twofold. First, to take advantage of homeschooling’s flexibility. Second, it’s not necessary to homeschool as closely to traditional schooling as possible.

A Wonderful Opportunity

Homeschooling is a wonderful opportunity for parents to teach their children how to balance responsibilities with inevitable, unpredictable life events. If it works best for your family to start the school year in February and take off three weeks here and there through the year, do it! One of the beauties of homeschooling is that you can do things at your own pace.

That homeschooling benefit leads to the second point: being a little behind is okay. There is no “one-size-fits-all” for education; not everyone learns all of their subjects at the same pace.



I sheepishly admit I was one of those students who was behind. I graduated high school a year after most people my age did, but since then, I have suffered no disadvantage. I got accepted to the college of my choice and graduated with honors.

After years of worrying, I discovered that it did not matter. I did not have to worry about these things, nor do you. As long as you trust God and try your best, He will take care of you, and it will be okay.

Patron Saint of Bodily Illness, Shepherds, and Lourdes, France

Saint

Bernadette

Soubirous

• April 16 •



Visionary of Lourdes

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“These two women have shaped my homeschooling.”

The Right and Duty of Parents

The right and duty of parents to give education is essential, since it is connected with the transmission of human life; it is original and primary with regard to the educational role of others, on account of the uniqueness of the loving relationship between parents and children; and it is irreplaceable and inalienable, and therefore incapable of being entirely delegated to others or usurped by others.

John Paul II
Familiaris Consortio
November 22, 1981



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