

Seton



MAGAZINE

Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church
setonmagazine.com | May/June 2023



Keep Your Eye on the Prize

The Garcia Family

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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,

In this issue, we are tackling some weighty topics.

I asked homeschool expert Ginny Seuffert to address *Academic Integrity* in an article. It is a topic that has been at the forefront of many discussions about the emergence of Artificial Intelligence technology and the sharing of work on Discord servers.

Ginny's article and Theresa O'Connor's *Encouraging Virtue by Making Good Choices Online* will give parents clear guidelines to steer their children away from temptations that can easily send their academic efforts way off track.

We know this is a touchy subject and approached it after much prayer and discussion. I hope you read these articles charitably, knowing that your children's academic success and eternal destination are of primary concern to us all.

Draper Warren presents the latest news about Seton's 2023 Curriculum Updates. New books, courses, and changes are here to help you make wise choices for the new 2023-2024 school year.

The Seton Summer Reading Club is now open! You will find details inside or on our website, **setonmagazine.com/seton-summer-reading-club**, and I hope you will take this opportunity to make reading a fun priority over the summer.

I want to congratulate our 2023 graduates. We are incredibly proud of you all, and you will always remain in our prayers.

"The future is on your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting you to the task, at once difficult and uplifting, in working with him in the building of the civilization of love." – Saint John Paul II.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ellen Barrett".

Mary Ellen Barrett

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Seton
Home Study School



Catholic College Scholarships

What Can You Win?

On August 15, Seton is awarding Ten \$1,500 Scholarships to Seton 2023 high school graduates.

Which Colleges Qualify?

Seton College Partners and other Newman Guide Recommended Colleges or Universities.

When is the Deadline?

Apply by August 1, 2023.

Details at
[Setonhome.org/catholic-college-scholarship](https://www.setonhome.org/catholic-college-scholarship)

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your Questions ANSWERED

FOR HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES

What if we're not finished by June?

There is no need to worry about finishing within the typical school calendar year. If your students are not finished by June, feel free to have them continue to work over the summer to finish.

When families enroll, they have 12 months (plus a two month grace period) to complete all school work.

Focus on what you're required to do, listed on MySeton's courses page as "Graded by Seton."

If your students need help with their assignments or need good study strategies to finish their work, our Counseling Department is happy to help! Feel free to call, email, or live chat for assistance. Each student has their own learning style and pace, so it's okay if students need extra time to finish their work.

Amy Nutt, Academic Counselor

Can students retake or resubmit a test or writing assignment to improve their grades?

Yes, every Seton student is allowed one redo on any test or writing assignment in any course. Students can upload the revised test responses or essays the same way they first uploaded them on MySeton.

In elementary grades, the redo grade is given as the final grade.

In high school, the final grade for the assignment is the average of the initial grade plus the redo grade (For example; initial grade: 80, redo grade: 100, final grade: 90). If the first submission is given an Incomplete, this does not count as a grade because an Incomplete is not a grade. Therefore, the student can still submit a redo after getting a grade for the second attempt. For example, if a student

receives an Incomplete (1st submission) on a book analysis, the student then revises the assignment, resubmits it, and receives a B (2nd submission). Since the first submission was Incomplete, they can still revise and resubmit the assignment a third time to improve the grade.

In short, each student is allowed two graded attempts. An Incomplete does not count as a graded attempt.

Note: Which questions a student can redo on a test can vary depending on whether it was comprised of true/false or multiple choice questions. If you are redoing a test with multiple choice or true/false questions, reach out to Academic Counseling (counselors@setonhome.org) or Grading (grading@setonhome.org) to confirm which test questions can be redone.

Sean O'Connor, Academic Counselor



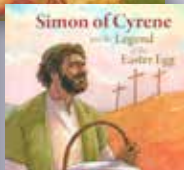
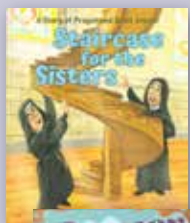
SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Seton supplemental reading lists are a great way to sharpen your student's reading skills and introduce them to great literature.

We have a book list for each grade level from K-12. To request the supplemental reading list for each grade level, feel free to email us at counselors@setonhome.org.

Christina Nutt, Academic Counselor

NEW Saints and Legends Set 2



Use the lives of the saints to teach children about their faith with charming text and beautiful illustrations.

Set of 5
\$54.95

Recommended
Pre K – Grade 5

www.SetonBooks.com

We are working on 4th grade History. The fourth quarter covers State History, but we live outside the United States. What should we do?

For families who live outside the U.S., the State History portion of the course can be modified for your country and region. Feel free to study your national flower, bird, animal, geographic divisions, and any local traditions in your region.

The fourth quarter History test is a state history test. Please adapt it to your region. Instead of the listed terminology in Section A (state, province, chief executive, mayor, etc.), you may cross out these terms and write in the appropriate terminology. Once the test has been completed, please grade Section A, then upload the test to MySeton. Seton will grade Section B of the test. The information for Section B of the test is located in the Fourth Quarter of the Lesson Plan.

For the fourth quarter field trip assignment, pick a place of historical, religious, or cultural interest in your area or region. For the field trip, feel free to visit this place in person, take an online tour (if available), or research and read about it in a book or online. Then your student should write a short, simple paragraph on what was learned about that place. The paragraph may be submitted for the "Fourth Quarter Field Trip(s) Report" assignment when completed.

Christina Nutt, Academic Counselor

We are an International family. How do I get my child's documents authenticated with an apostille?

As the Seton Registrar, I can help our foreign students acquire an apostille, a certificate that authenticates Seton's notary signature on a grade report or transcript for use in another country.

Because Seton has so many international students, I help many families with their apostille. We will work together through the Commonwealth of Virginia on this process, which usually takes 5 to 7 weeks.

Start by contacting me with your request. I will send you a questionnaire that asks who officially requests the documents, what address to send the authenticated documents to, and whether you want your documents in English or Spanish. I will also send a copy of the documents you want to be authenticated for your approval.

After you confirm those documents, I will let you know the total cost, and after payment is received, I will start the process.

International addresses are sent via DHL; if in the U.S., they are sent via USPS. I'll supply you with a tracking number in either case.

It is best to email me at records@setonhome.org; or you can call 540-636-1324 ext. 255.

I look forward to working with you.

Betty Showers, Seton Registrar



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



JOHN PAUL THE GREAT
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



MAGDALEN COLLEGE
OF THE LIBERAL ARTS



THOMAS AQUINAS
COLLEGE



THOMAS MORE
COLLEGE



OUR LADY
SEAT OF WISDOM
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
OF DALLAS



UNIVERSITY
ST. THOMAS
HOUSTON



UNIVERSITY
of MARY



WALSH
UNIVERSITY
A Catholic University of Distinction

setonhome.org/colleges



Ask the Experts:

How Do You Teach Children Virtues?

Three Veteran Homeschooling Moms Share Their Experience

Teaching the Virtue of Prudence...



I cannot stress enough how important rapport with one's children is. While they are learning to practice virtue, it is imperative that kids know they are loved and cherished and parents communicate in a way that fosters a close, trusting relationship. Prudence is "the ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason."

I do three things: talk, listen, and act. I talk about hard subjects with my children and talk often.

“I sometimes let my kids make unwise decisions.”

We have had “hard” age-appropriate conversations since they could speak. Now with teens, we talk about choices and consequences and how some are small and others can be life-changing.

This is easily done at family movie night. I will ask, “Why did this character behave in this way? Was it a wise or foolish choice? Did

anyone get hurt as a result? What could he have done differently?” This opens discussion on this virtue in a non-personal or judgmental way. I also learn a great deal about my children by listening to their answers.

The other way I teach this virtue is much harder. I sometimes let my kids make unwise decisions. When they are small and won't listen to put on a coat on a cold day, I don't bring one for them on a normal errand run or walk outside.

They get cold, which teaches them far more than I could by bailing them out. In the same vein, once they are in sixth or seventh grade, I let them set their school schedule. They check in with me every day or two, but my days of hovering are over.

My kids have spent many Saturday afternoons hitting the books because their work didn't get done, and some finish the school year later than others. In this way, my kids “fail” in the safe environment of the home, where they are surrounded by those who love them and will help set them back on the right path.

Kristin Brown, Virginia

Teaching the Virtue of Self-Control...



When I took a firearm safety class, the instructor talked a lot about muscle memory. He stressed the importance of practicing what we learned to make the movements automatic.

Eventually, the practice would lead to competency and a permanent memory of how to perform the new skills. Teaching the virtue of self-control is similar. We give children repeated opportunities to exercise self-control in small ways so that, over time, it becomes their default response.

In our household, a particular setting comes to mind for teaching self-control: the dinner table. Decades ago, we established rules for suppertime. The rules are unchanging and predictable, so everyone knows what they are and is expected to follow them.

Specifically, everyone eats only the food presented, no one leaves the table without being excused, and everyone remains until the last person has finished eating. It is helpful to offer children limited choices so they have a sense of autonomy in decision-making.

Therefore, my children can obey the table rules or forfeit dessert. In other words, we can exercise the virtue of self-control or suffer the consequences. I allow my children to experience the consequence (dessert or no dessert) of their decisions.

Eight children and countless mealtimes later, it is rare for any of my “students” to not automatically exercise self-control around the dinner table.

Peaceful family dinners are the norm. Of course, it took consistent practice in the earlier years, but the result was well worth the effort.

Tara Brelinsky, North Carolina

Teaching the Virtue of Temperance...



As with the teaching of all virtues, temperance must first be modeled by the parents. I failed in temperance as a child and had the physique to prove it. By the grace of God, I overcame my childhood shortcomings.

Being sensitive then, to the need for this virtue in raising children, I have made sure that it is taught from a very young age.

Temperance is usually considered necessary in our food consumption but is also needed in all areas of our day. I try to make sure that my children's days have time for prayer, schoolwork, free time, exercise, chores, proper mealtimes, and adequate rest.

“*Temperance...is needed in all areas of our day.*”

I have made sure to be aware of what are proper amounts for each child's needs, to teach them by my example, and to set standards for them to adhere to until they get to an age to regulate themselves. If necessary, I will give gentle reminders when I see something that needs to be brought to their attention.

So far, I am impressed at how well they do, as I remember my lack of this virtue in my childhood.

Temperance is a virtue that will help our children to grow up to be adults who are healthy in mind, body, and soul.

Susan Brock, Virginia

THIS IS WHY WE HOMESCHOOL



“

Homeschooling enables us to use family and community as the main support system in our educational efforts.

We chose Seton because it was rigorous, affordable, and had a balanced schedule.

We love the engaging and Faith-based material as well as the intriguing literature for the reading subject.

The Jilek Family, Augusta, GA

”



Academic Integrity

An Essential Virtue in Our Homeschools

BY GINNY SEUFFERT

Many children get their first formal lesson in integrity from *Horton Hatches the Egg* by Dr. Seuss. By being true to his word, Horton, the Elephant, saves the egg, despite nasty weather and ridicule from other animals. “I meant what I said, and I said what I meant, and an elephant’s faithful 100%.”



Integrity can be defined as the quality of having a strong moral code and following it even when it is tough, when no one is looking, or when others mock or ridicule you.

A person with integrity can be said to have no difference or conflict among his or her beliefs, words, and actions. This is an essential virtue in our homeschools.

Instilling this virtue in our homeschooled children has become more critical in recent years. Avoiding the opportunities to weaken our moral code has also become more challenging as well.

Strength in Character

A case in point is the recent development of a new artificial intelligence chatbot called ChatGPT. A student can now enter an assignment into ChatGPT, and it churns out an original essay with no spelling or grammatical errors. Presently, no school, including Seton, can reliably detect a ChatGPT essay.

To address this growing problem, it is good to remember the second definition of integrity. We speak about a building or a bridge having integrity when it is whole and sound – not liable to collapse, even under stress. This is how we want our child’s character to be – strong and unwilling to yield under pressure.

It is critical that we teach our children this virtue, and these days we need to teach it early and aggressively. Our children must stand for truth and virtue and not collapse even under stress. Let our kids know that solid effort is far more important than top grades. “I am proud of you when you work with such diligence.”



Seek out readings and movies that stress integrity. Point out connections between the character's actions and the virtue of integrity. Aesop's fable about the boy who cried wolf helps even toddlers understand what can happen when a person is not trustworthy.

Lessons in Integrity

Profiles in Courage, by John F. Kennedy, recounts true stories of men who stood by their convictions, even when forced to pay a steep price for doing so. It is appropriate for junior and senior high school students.

The lives of the saints offer many examples of doing the right thing and not bending to pressure. Seton high school students read *A Man for All Seasons* by Robert Bolt, the story of St. Thomas More.

St. Thomas refused to affirm the king's lie that his marriage was invalid. For this, he lost his position as Lord High Chancellor of England, his income, his freedom, and eventually his life. But kept his integrity!

Start today to form your children into adults with character and integrity.



Ginny Sueffert co-hosts *Stay-at-Homeschooling Mom*, a podcast for Catholic home educators with Mary Ellen Barrett. Ginny has written five books for Catholic homeschoolers and has lectured on homeschooling across the United States. She and her husband Ed are the parents of twelve children and have 32 grandchildren.

When Parental Help is Okay

BY SETON STAFF

Parents want to help their children do well in their studies. Because of this, parents often ask what type of help is okay.

Here are general principles. For more specific information, please contact a counselor. If you are enrolled in the Special Services Program, please contact that department with questions.

When parents give help to students, the important thing is to make sure that the help is not covering up an underlying issue.

To get done more quickly, we often suggest that parents cut down on the number of problems a student does on a workbook page or other assignment if the student understands the concept.

Audiobooks

However, for something like a book report, it might be a temptation toward efficiency to let the student listen to the book on audio. But that isn't helpful because the assignment is about reading, and a student who listens to a book isn't reading.

In the same way, for early elementary math tests, the student should not use a calculator (although calculators are often okay for advanced math).

Test Help

It is absolutely legitimate for a parent to review a test before a student takes it and tell the student the kinds of questions that are on the test. For example, a parent might say, "For the second quarter math test, you will need to know long division."

For a history test, a parent might say, "You will need to know about the *Edict of Milan*." However, giving the test or actual questions from the test would not be considered legitimate.

Plagiarism, looking up answers online or in the book (unless it's an open-book test), copying from another student's work, etc. is never legitimate. Parents should never knowingly permit their students to do these things.

Parent-Graded Work

There is an area where parents can give whatever grade they deem appropriate. Some parent-graded assignments or tests provide directions for how to grade, but those are suggestions.

For example, if a written assignment says that 50% of the grade should be based on good spelling and 50% on content, a parent could still base 100% of the grade on student effort—or on any other important factor.



Transforming Lives Through Education

Seton Scholarship Fund 2023

Together, we can ensure that every family can experience the transformative power of a Seton Home Study School education.

At Seton Home Study School, we firmly believe in the power of a high-quality Catholic education to transform lives and shape future leaders. Our mission is to make this education accessible to as many families as possible. However, financial hardships can create barriers for some families, preventing them from accessing an affordable and exceptional education for their children.

The Seton Scholarship Fund

To address this financial hardship challenge, we have established the Seton Scholarship Fund. This program is dedicated to providing financial assistance to families facing hardships, allowing their children to benefit from a Seton education and to foster a love of the Faith.

In line with our Catholic values, we are committed to helping our brothers and sisters in Christ overcome financial barriers and to supporting their homeschool journey.

Impact of Financial Aid

Last year, Seton was proud to award over \$70,000 in financial aid to help 382 students in need.

This support has had a significant impact on the lives of these students, enabling them to start or continue their Catholic education and thrive academically, spiritually, and personally.

As we see our students grow in faith and knowledge, we are reminded of the importance of our financial aid program and its crucial role in the Church's future.

But, while 382 students might sound like a lot, many more are waiting for our help.

Your Role in Supporting Our Mission

We are kindly asking our Seton families to help us help others. Your generosity and compassion can make a significant difference in the lives of fellow Catholic families facing financial challenges.

Supporting our financial aid program not only provides immediate assistance to those in need, but your contribution also contributes to the growth and enrichment of the Church.

As Catholics, we are called to love and serve one another. By supporting Seton Home Study School's financial aid program, you embody this call and make a tangible difference in the lives of fellow Catholic families.

We are deeply grateful for your support and commitment to our mission, and we are confident that, with your help, we can make a lasting impact on the next generation of future saints and leaders.

We invite you to visit our website www.setonhome.org/scholarship-fund-2023 and follow our social media channels for updates on the impact of our financial aid program and stories from the families you are helping.

Let's celebrate our successes together and continue to build a supportive, thriving community that values and uplifts every student.

A Grateful Family's Testimonial

We receive many testimonials from families who have benefited from our financial aid program.

This note of thanks shows the change your gift can make.

“

My husband is a Veteran and suffers from PTSD, depression, and other health issues. He is our main income provider, and due to all that he deals with, it has been difficult to make ends meet for months at a time.

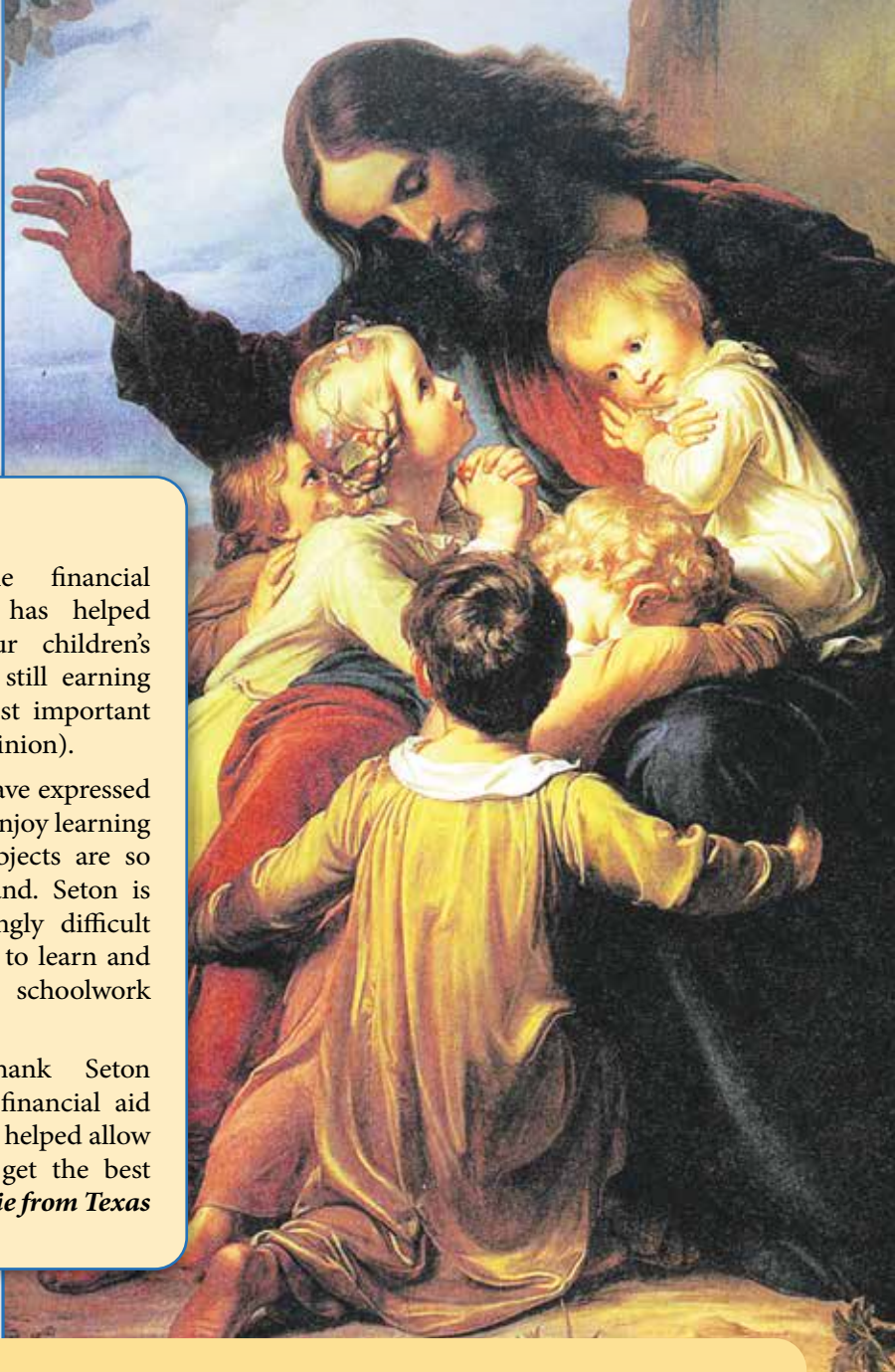
We fell behind on many bills and thought we couldn't afford to continue to provide our kids the best curriculum that Seton has to offer.

I emailed and asked if there was any sort of discount or some way we could continue the education for our children; we were thrilled to find out we qualified for financial aid.

Receiving the financial aid program has helped us continue our children's education while still earning religion (the most important subject, in my opinion).

My children have expressed how much they enjoy learning and the way subjects are so easy to understand. Seton is not overwhelmingly difficult and allows them to learn and complete their schoolwork independently.

I cannot thank Seton enough for the financial aid program that has helped allow my children to get the best education. – *Annie from Texas*



Join Us on this Vital Mission

Ways to Support the Financial Aid Program

1 Make a One-time or Recurring Donation

Any amount, no matter how small, will make a difference in supporting our financial aid efforts. Your donation will directly benefit families in need, ensuring they can continue to access quality Catholic education. Seton is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

2 Share Our Mission With Others

Help us spread the word about our financial aid program by sharing our cause with your friends, family, and fellow parishioners. The more people are aware of our mission, the greater the impact we can make together.

3 Pray for Our Efforts

Please keep Seton Home Study School, our students, and our financial aid program in your prayers. As we work to support those in need, we trust in the Lord to guide our efforts and bless our community.

Visit our Website:

www.setonhome.org/scholarship-fund-2023/

in the **Schoolroom**

Summer Reading Ideas

BY MARY ELLEN BARRETT



My Nana was a big part of my being a voracious reader as a child. She married young and raised a family in a small apartment in Brooklyn having graduated high school right at the start of the Great Depression. She was not highly educated, but always managed to fit in some time for reading.

When I was a child, she delighted in reading to me, and as I got older, she loved sharing her favorite books with me. Nana loved a good series. She is the one who introduced me to Betsy Tacey, Laura and Mary Ingalls, Nancy Drew, and my very favorite, *Anne of Green Gables*.

I remember the freedom of summer afternoons lounging in the big blue chair in my living room or at the beach or the lakeside cottage in Maine we went to most summers reading about Anne and Diana's adventures, Anne and Gilbert's romance and eventually Jem, Walter, Shirley, Di, Nan, and Rilla, Anne's children.

It was a gift I could not wait to give my own children and one which, fortunately, they gladly accepted.

Flipping a switch and entertaining the children through the long summer days is so easy. A movie here and there is a welcome respite from summer's heat and humidity, but the gift of a lifelong love of reading is far better.

The Summer Reading Club

Summer reading should be playful and adventurous. It should spark imagination, inspire pretend play, and create an appetite for more.

Seton knows how important fun summer reading is in a child's life. Relaxed summer reading is the well from which great thoughts and writing flow later in life. Fairy stories and tales of mysterious, adventurous, exotic, and exciting locations breathe life into summer days and are the reason we created the *Summer Reading Club*.

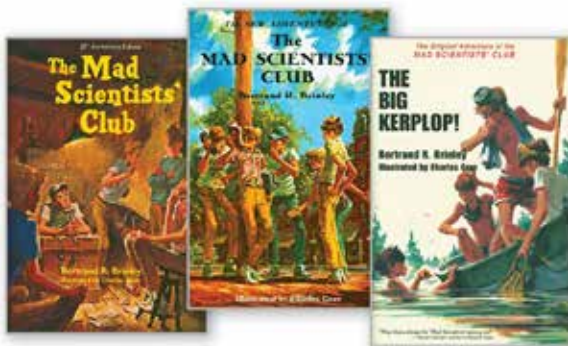
Summer Reading Club

Mary Ellen's ✓ Checklist

- ✓ Gather your books.
 - Ask your Nana.
 - Choose your own.
 - See what's at www.SetonBooks.com
- ✓ Read your books.
- ✓ Write a short summary or give an oral presentation on each book.
- ✓ Parent authenticates that all the work is completed.
- ✓ Print and Sign the *Achievement Certificate!*
- ✓ Send us a photo of you and your books.
- ✓ Celebrate! You did it!



Grades 4 and Up



Grades 5 and Up



Books for
All Ages!



Pre-K - Grade 4



Grades 6 and Up



KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE PRIZE

I was recently asked what I have found to be the greatest benefit of homeschooling. My emphatic answer was, “Growth in our Faith!!!!!!”

Can I even express this enough? I am SO grateful to God. Despite their parents’ failings and imperfections, our children bear fruit in this godless world!! I am still in awe!!

Homeschooling has made it possible for our family to be active in church life. That lifestyle has been instilled in our children even into adulthood and secular college. But that doesn’t mean we can let our guard down--even in college!

How We Keep Our Guard Up

Pray constantly for your spouse, your marriage, and your children. Daily re-give your children to the Lord, for they are His children. Ask daily for Our Lady’s protection. Ask Him daily for the graces to be the parent your children need, for He knows what they need before we do. Then don’t worry and enjoy the ride!

Our two college kids have continued to be active in their Catholic campus ministries, specifically lecturing at Mass and being involved in the pro-life movement.

My daughter helped start a Students for Life Chapter at the Newman Center in Hawaii, where there had yet to be one. In addition to being involved in the pro-life movement, my son helps run retreats at his campus.

My high schoolers are still attending Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, and praying their Rosaries ON THEIR OWN!!! That and keeping each other accountable! I am sure this would never have happened without homeschooling and God’s grace.

How to Integrate Accountability

Confession! Frequent confession and living a sacramental life are so important. I often tell my children and others that the greatest gift in homeschooling is receiving Jesus, God Himself, daily in Holy Communion-- NOTHING is more significant! I can’t emphasize this enough. NOTHING is greater than the gifts Jesus has given us in the Sacraments, especially Holy Communion and Reconciliation. Once this perspective is in place, everything else falls in line.

Reaching Their Potential

Homeschooling has allowed us to tailor our children’s education to their interests. My oldest loved robotics, and we learned about robotics and ended up running an underwater robotic club ourselves. He is working on his master’s degree in civil and structural engineering.

*“Homeschooling
has made it
possible for our
family to be active
in church life”*



Our second child loved the sciences, so we held science co-ops with their friends. She had extra time to work with the medical school outreach programs and volunteer at the local hospital. She has now been accepted into medical school and will attend in the fall.

I have two teens. One is in Civil Air Patrol because she is interested in flying. The other is on a Debate team. We will see what is in store for the little one. She LOVES animals and has a perpetual pet hospital, nursing every lizard, gecko, mouse, and bird the cat didn't finish with. She would never be able to do this if she was in school.

Why I Chose Seton

I was asked why I chose Seton Home Study School. My mentor at the time said Seton and homeschooling are saving two generations: the parents and the child.

At that time, we also had two very holy retired priests, spiritual advisors of our homeschool group, who were very interested in getting the homeschool movement going. They looked closely at the Seton curriculum and recommended it. Dad approved because he said it looked the most rigorous of all the other curriculums at the time.

What I love most about homeschooling is being able to attend daily Mass. This practice led to an awareness of the accountability we have to each other about living a sacramental life.

But what I love most about Seton Home Study School is that it has taught Mom and Dad (who were poorly catechized as children) about the faith. I love that, having five children, I now pretty much “know” what is expected of them through Seton. The older children help and encourage the younger ones. It is easy to follow and allows you to trust your parental instincts.

Your Homeschool is Unique

Over the years, I have received good advice from *Seton Magazine* and Dr. Mary Kay Clark's book *Catholic Home Schooling*. I appreciate Dr. Clark's advice that our homeschooling is unique to our family, not to compare ourselves to schools or other homeschooling families, and to be confident.

She also reminds us that a mother's place is always in the home first. Our first and most important ministry is to our spouse and children to create a happy, peaceful home. Only when that is firm is it appropriate to take on other ministries.

Finally, be patient and forgiving of yourself and your family, and keep your eye on the Prize!



Encouraging Virtue by Making Good Choices Online

BY THERESA O'CONNOR



It's a question many concerned parents ask themselves: How can I prevent my child from visiting objectionable websites or using valid websites in objectionable ways?

This concern can persist even when a family has installed protective software or blocked certain websites. It can persist even when the student's access to the internet is limited or monitored.

Making good and virtuous choices on one's own is a sign of maturity.

After all, most young people are more tech-savvy than most parents and can always borrow a friend's device. No one wants to supervise their children full-time; we want to trust them to make good choices, even when we're not watching them. Making good and virtuous choices on one's own is a sign of maturity.

Besides modeling it for them, how can parents and guardians help their students develop this maturity? How can we encourage them to choose good and, on the other hand, discourage them from making bad choices?

Firstly, we can tell them why they should avoid an objectionable website—or avoid misusing a legitimate site. For example, while study-help websites and Chat GPT have legitimate uses, cheating by plagiarizing material from these websites or using Chat GPT to write an essay robs the student of the learning opportunity the assignment provides and wastes time they have to develop their understanding.

Additionally, plagiarizing harms others by taking their work and claiming it as one's own. Explain to the student that you want them to take advantage of the time and learning opportunities they have.

Ways to Help

Secondly, address any underlying issues. Why does a student want to visit or use an objectionable website? Continuing with the cheating example, is it because it's faster, and they don't feel they have time to complete an assignment? Work with them to make time.

Do they feel the work is beyond their skill level? Help them develop the study skills, writing skills, or organizational skills they lack. Encourage them to contact the Seton academic counselors for help or perhaps find a tutor.

Is it curiosity? Curiosity is not a virtue – nor is it a vice. Curiosity can lead us to good or to evil. Students need to learn to recognize where curiosity is leading and train themselves to avoid following it to unsavory places.

Can your student walk past someone else's open mail, open journal, book, or assignment and not read it? Can they walk out of earshot of someone else's private conversation? The ability to do these is good training for passing over websites they have no business being on.

Is it peer pressure? Are they going to certain sites or following certain internet trends because everyone else is? Acknowledge that everyone feels peer pressure, even adults. The temptation to go with the flow will not disappear in some distant (to them) and magically virtuous adulthood.

Raising Strong Adults

Encourage them to practice being a strong adult by being a strong child or adolescent. Acknowledge, too, that all humans are created as part of a community and are called to communion with God and each other.

We are meant to have family and friends to learn from and be accepted and loved by. Not all 'friends,' however, are good for us. Who are the people in their life that they admire and want to be proud of? Children need people—peers, adults, saints, and especially Jesus—whose friendship and good opinions are worth having.

Make sure they know these people and encourage them to behave in a way that their real friends could be proud of. Make sure they know that they are God's beloved child, that Jesus loves them, sees the good in them despite their weaknesses, and that they can always turn to Him before or after a fall.

For Discussion if Children Visit Objectionable Sites:

- Are they looking for time-saving shortcuts?
- Is the work beyond their skill level?
- Is it curiosity?
- Is it peer pressure?

Choosing virtue is a challenging feat. If a student is straying on the internet simply because it's there and easy to access, put up controls, certainly.

But also remind them that virtue is not weakness but heroism. It requires interior strength and maturity. They are called to be strong and mature heroes.



Theresa O'Connor holds a B.A. in Political Philosophy from Thomas More College and an M.A. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Pittsburgh. She enjoys trying to beat her husband at games, visiting with family and friends, admiring the outdoors, and growing things.

The Seton Summer Reading Club

Now Open
Through
August 31, 2023

A fun way to keep up reading skills over the summer!

The Summer Reading Club helps parents encourage their kids to keep reading when school is out. From early elementary to high school, you'll find books for students of all ages to choose from.

More details online!

setonmagazine.com/seton-summer-reading-club





ALUMNI PROFILE



Editor's note: In March 2023, the *National Catholic Register* and *LifeSiteNews* featured 2019 Seton grad Jacinta Hamilton's work to build awareness of World Down Syndrome day.

In the *NCR*Register, she said, "It's World Down Syndrome Day, and I'd Like You to Meet My Brother Gabriel." We thought you would like to meet Jacinta and learn what motivates her to do great things.

You can find links to her Register and LifeSite articles at setonmagazine.com.

JACINTA HAMILTON

Tell us about your Seton experience.

I was homeschooled K-12 through Seton. I loved that the Catholic Faith was integrated into every subject's content and the sacred art. I am also extremely grateful that it was all accredited, making it easy for high school dual enrollment and college applications.

What did you do after high school?

I am in the final semester of my senior year at the University of Iowa, majoring in Elementary Education. I will be graduating with highest honors in May. I am currently student teaching 4th graders in a Christian school, and it is extremely rewarding.

How did Seton prepare you?

My Seton education gave me a firm foundation in my Catholic Faith through full integration into every subject and whole-person development. Knowing how to take the initiative and work independently is a huge asset and lifelong skill for anyone in college or the workplace. I am so happy I have naturally gained this from being homeschooled.

What are you doing now?

I am finishing student teaching and will graduate in May with my BA in Elementary Education from the University of Iowa. I have accepted an elementary teaching position for the fall, which is exciting! I will start my Master of Education in School Administration from the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, this summer.

I have been a ballet instructor since my senior year of high school, which has been an absolute joy! I have taught and created courses and curriculum for students aged 2-70. I teach multiple weekly classes with students typically spanning ages 5-9. Teaching ballet is a passion of mine, and I plan to continue.

What motivates you?

I have always had a specific interest in being an elementary school teacher, and this is an area where I can thrive because it utilizes my gifts, skill sets, and talents.

Being the oldest of seven children in my family meant I naturally helped my younger siblings with life and learning, which I enjoyed. Gabriel, my younger brother who has Down Syndrome has positively influenced all areas of my life. He has showed me in a profound way the necessity of whole-person development and the beauty of authentic diversity in learner differences and modalities.

As a teacher, I want to value who my students are as children of God and not just what they can do. I want to positively influence children's lives during a developmentally pivotal time. It invigorates me to imagine working with children every single day. They make me better person, for which I am grateful.

I want to be a teacher to reach children, help them flourish, and thrive spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially, and physically—and most importantly, let them know they are cherished. My Seton education profoundly helped me cultivate my skills and talents for teaching in various environments, and I am eternally grateful!



Any advice for Seton High Schoolers?

Value the curriculum's structure, but don't become consumed by it. Realize the eternal perspective of education—education is not the end, in and of itself; however, it should be a beautiful means to guide us toward Heaven.

Realize that the time spent together as a family will be rewarded even if the day-to-day work feels daunting. Seton High Schoolers should feel confident they have the skills to do well in all areas of their life because they prioritize faith, family, and a healthy school, work, and life balance.

The ability to be self-motivated, take the initiative, and find intrinsic motivation in what you are doing will serve you well in all areas of your life. Seton's content and structure prepared me well for that. Realize, too, that you are developing and growing as a whole person.

The dignity of the person and their spiritual, academic, social-emotional, and physical development is the inherent value of homeschooling. I believe it is a path that addresses these elements that make us whole persons. I cannot recommend homeschooling with Seton more highly.



SETON STAFF SERIES



A chat with those who serve you!

Mary Healey - Special Services Counselor

I am Mary Healey, and I love working as a Special Services Academic Counselor at Seton Home Study.

When speaking with parents, I often reflect on one of my favorite saints, St. John Bosco, and his system of educating the young. Don Bosco's system is rooted in St. Paul's instruction, "Love is patient, love is kind it bears all things ... hopes all things, endures all things." *1 Cor. 13:4.7*

St. John Bosco began his mission around 1850 in Turin, Italy, an industrial town where poverty and child labor was prevalent. Young boys often had to fend for themselves, working long hours, earning low wages, and frequently living on the streets. Their lives were hard and stressful.



Their plight touched the great saint. His inspiration was to show the child God's love, using religion and reason to introduce and maintain a peaceful order. He was so successful under stressful conditions, that I often borrow from his Salesian preventative way. I hope to relay these methods to parents so that they may use them to succeed like Don Bosco.

The first and most important application starts with the frequent visit to the sacraments of confession and the Holy Eucharist. Another application is to give children ample liberty to jump, play sports, gymnastics, music, and hikes.



Modern Struggles – and Solutions

Today's parents can struggle with similar challenges as the families in Turin. Our families may have a single-income, multiple school-age children, and young children that need attention.

Add to this a child with special needs that requires so much of the parent's attention. Is it any surprise that parents may think their child with special needs is a candidate for the brick-and-mortar school system?

I've found, though, by working in Seton Special Services, that we have resources to help parents achieve the orderliness and peace similar to that found in St. John Bosco's schools. We can help with the greatest challenges, calming the waters and enabling families to keep their children educated at home.

For me, providing Seton's Special Services resources to keep the family together and at home is a joy beyond measure.

If you think we can help, please get in touch. We are ready to lift you up. SSDept@setonhome.org or 540-622-5576

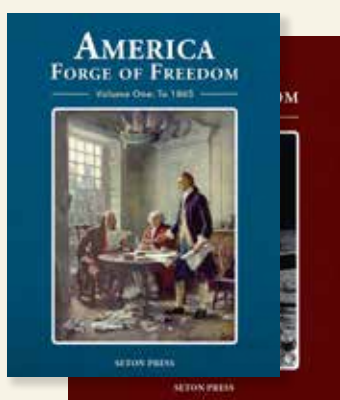


The Excitement Builds...

2023 Curriculum Updates

New!

BY DRAPER WARREN



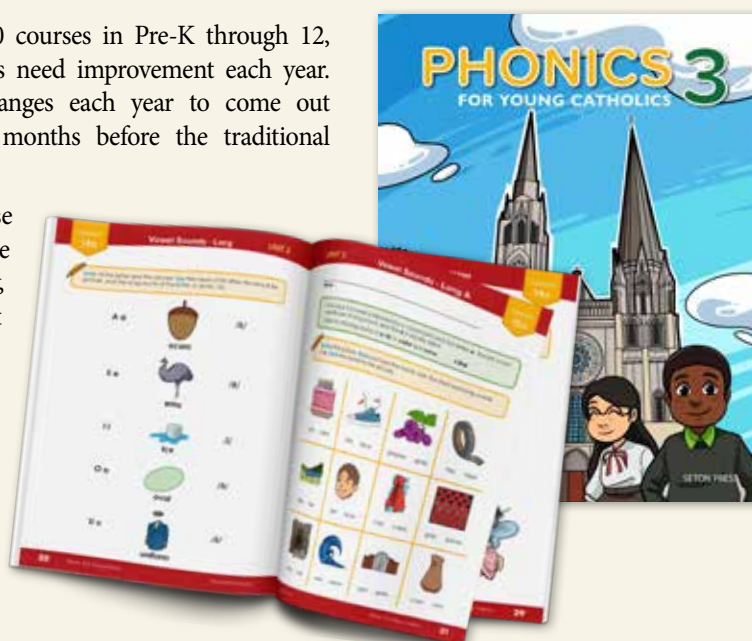
their applications on June 1 or later to ensure they receive the updated courses.

While I will break down the changes by grade level, two changes encompass many courses. First is our project to colorize and improve formatting for all the default elementary and junior high courses. We started this project two years ago and are now approaching completion.

Helping parents provide the very best Catholic education for their students is a heavy responsibility for us at Seton. Perfecting our courses and ensuring parents and students receive the best quality materials is how we live out our mission.

Seton offers over 200 courses in Pre-K through 12, so some courses always need improvement each year. We coordinate the changes each year to come out simultaneously, a few months before the traditional school year.

Unless otherwise stated, all changes are releasing June 1. Ideally, parents should start



Elementary

The second significant change concerns the music program for Grades 2-8. Admittedly, music is not Seton's strongest area. Parents often have students take private music lessons to learn an instrument or otherwise have their own plans for music instruction, so our Seton courses have been less high a priority.

Seton has always provided the traditional *We Sing and Praise Music* series for Catholic Schools, but our most frequent request is for recordings of what the songs should sound like.

Sheet music is of limited benefit if parents need to become more familiar with reading music or do not have instruments available to demonstrate.

Technology has made the music available now without having to hire an orchestra.

Seton is now providing videos of each song in the music books, but the real beauty is that the videos show the notes being played,



and the notes on the screen light up when their sound is being played to help students follow the musical notation and distinguish parts when there are harmonies.

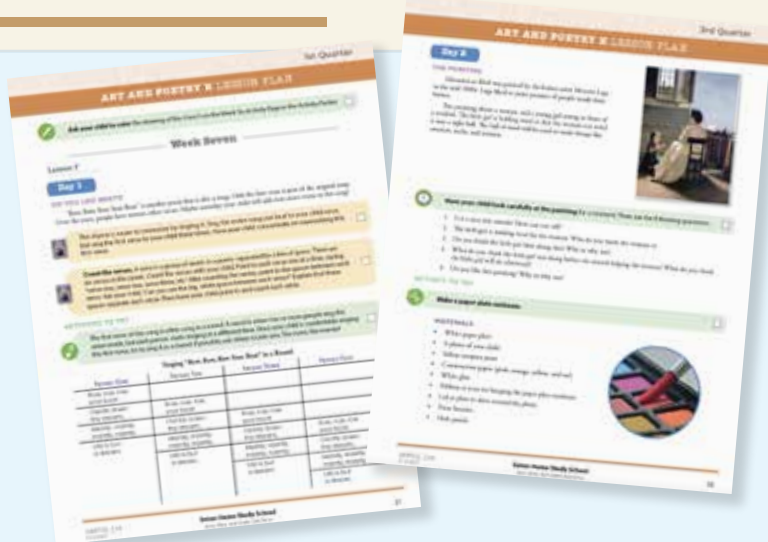
These videos are available for each course that uses one of the *We Sing and Praise* series, that is, Grades 2-8. You will find the music videos in your **MySeton** course resources.

The following are significant changes by grade level of which parents might like to be aware:

KINDERGARTEN



Art and Poetry K is an entirely new book and course. The book shows a work of art and an associated poem for each week. The lesson plans are extensive, and help guide the student in



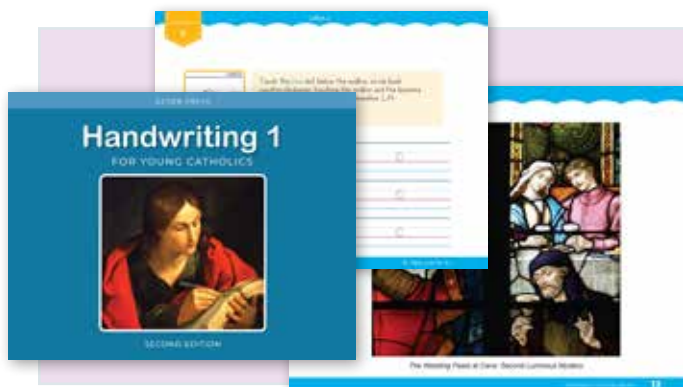
appreciating the art and poetry, as well as providing a related craft or art project for each week. It includes an activity pack with the necessary paper cut-outs and coloring pages.

The new book and resources add substantial value for parents. The lesson plans alone have over 100 pages. The previous two coloring books for the older version of the course are no longer being used.

FIRST GRADE

Handwriting 1 for Young Catholics

This new Handwriting 1 book came out at the end of fall 2022 but was not listed in last year's changes. This book has pedagogical and formatting updates but is still based on the older book.



SECOND GRADE



The new *Passport to the World* main textbook marks a significant change to History 2. This book takes kids on a journey of exploration through all continents and 15 specific countries examining the physical features, animals, food, and Church in depth.

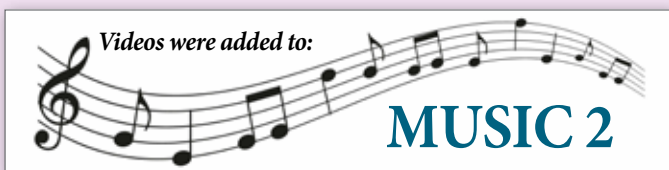
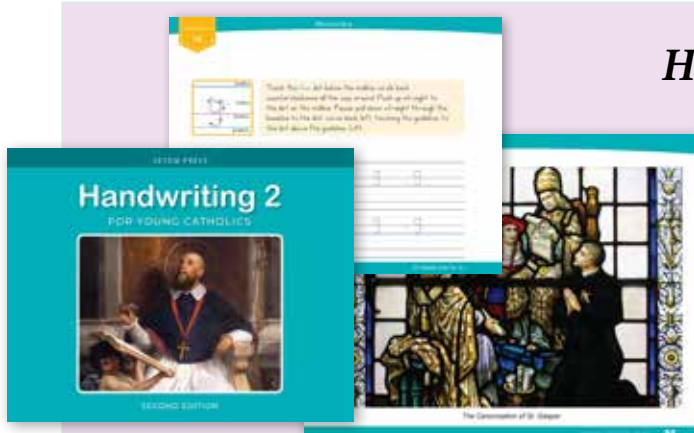
This course is now more of a social studies/geography course than a history course and also uses the *Geography Skills 2* book, which

came out last year. The Passport book includes a little children's passport and stickers for each country they "visit" so they can fill out their little passports.

This book is visually stunning and exciting. It is also about three times the size of the previous *Great Saints in World History* book, which it replaces.

Handwriting 2 for Young Catholics

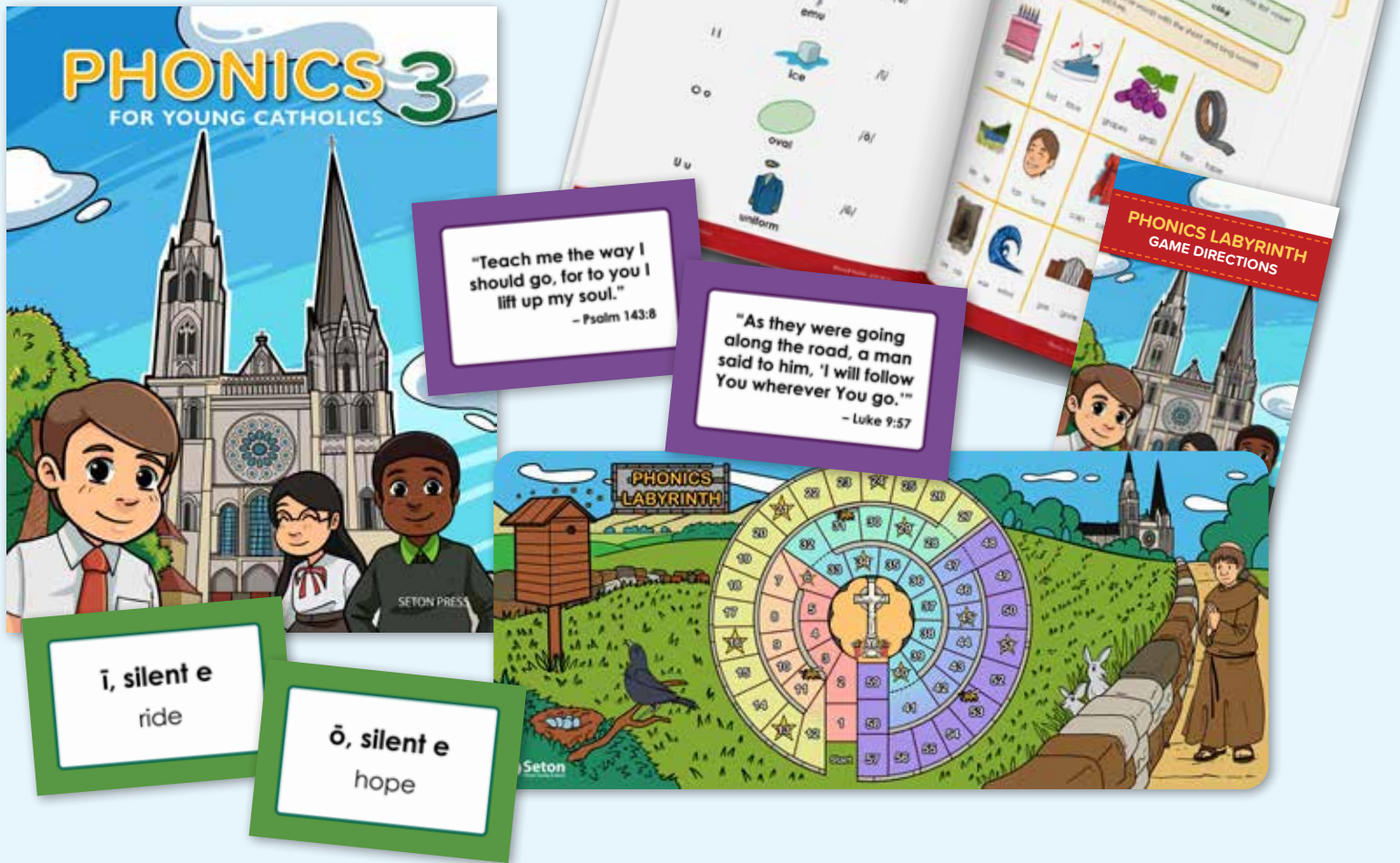
This new Handwriting 2 book came out this past winter but was not listed in last year's changes. This book has pedagogical and formatting updates but is still based on the older book.



Elementary

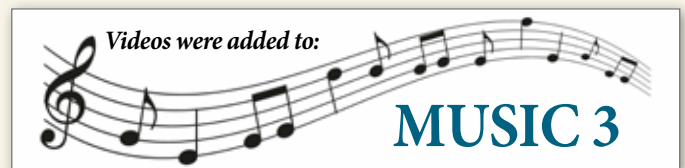
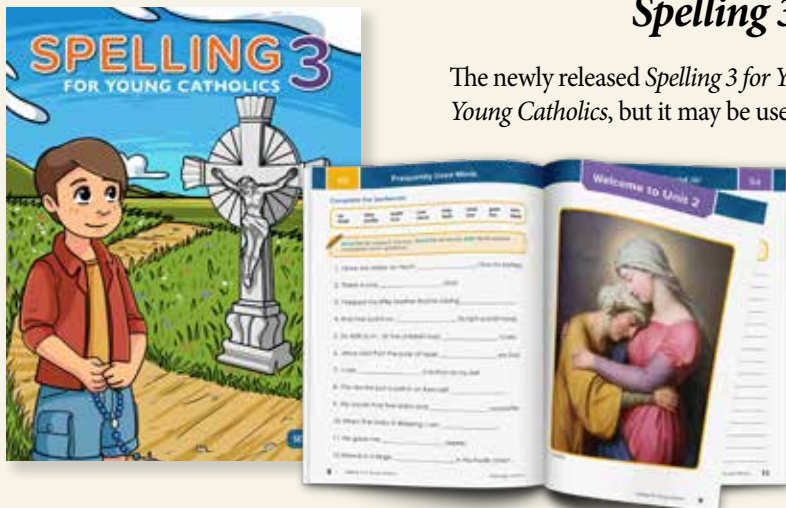
THIRD GRADE

There is a new Phonics 3 book and game in the style of the new Phonics 2 that came out last year. The lessons are filled with colorful drawings, games, and verses, making learning exciting and enjoyable. The cast of phonics friends are a year older and appear throughout the book.



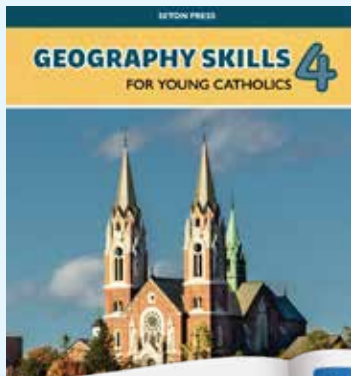
Spelling 3 for Young Catholics

The newly released *Spelling 3 for Young Catholics* is designed to accompany *Phonics 3 for Young Catholics*, but it may be used independently of the phonics book.

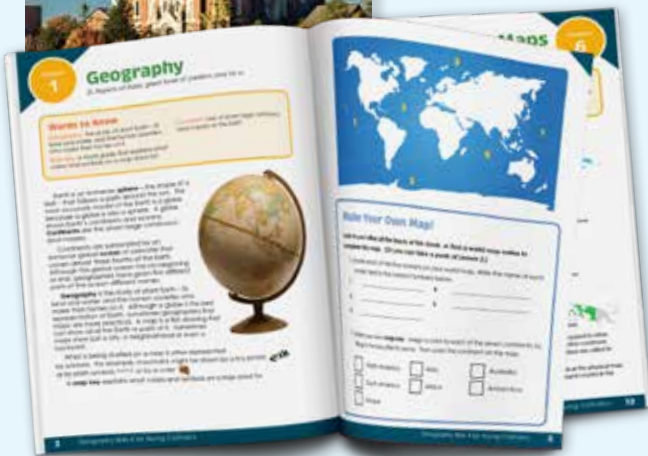


Newly colorized Lesson Plans in Grade 3 this year include Math 3, PE 3, Reading 3, and Religion 3.

FOURTH GRADE

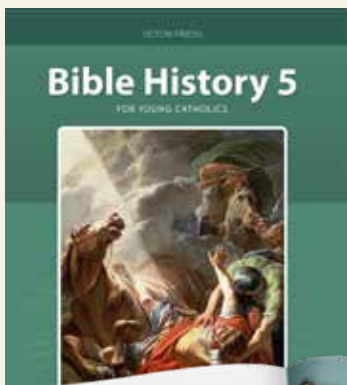


The History 4 course has a new *Geography Skills 4* workbook covering the eastern half of the United States. It teaches students to locate each of these states on a map, their postal abbreviations, and other state information.



Newly colorized Lesson Plans in Grade 4 this year include Art 4, English 4, Handwriting 4, and PE 4.

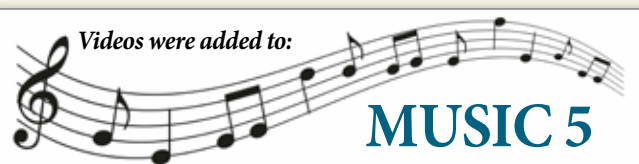
FIFTH GRADE



A new *Bible History for Young Catholics 5* covers the Acts of the Apostles and the Early Church. This book completes our Bible History series and replaces the *Concise Bible History* we used from another publisher.

History 5 has had substantial content added to the lesson plans to supplement material that was insufficiently covered in the textbook.

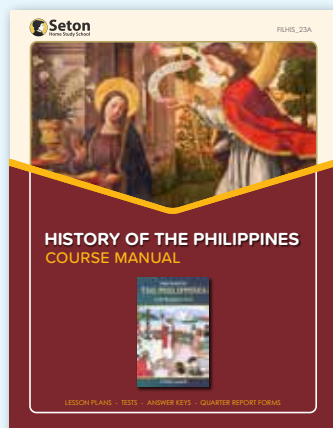
This next change is a change by way of subtraction. We are no longer using Phonics 5 in the curriculum. Last year we took some of the best parts of it and incorporated them into Phonics 4, so this is the year Phonics 5 is being discontinued, though it will be available as a supplemental option.



Newly colorized Lesson Plans in Grade 5 this year include Art 5, History 5, Reading 5, Science 5, and Vocabulary 5.

Elementary/High School

SIXTH, SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADES



There are no significant changes in these grades other than the music videos and colorization of lesson plans already mentioned. However, there is one special new course for our Filipino students to enjoy.

We have created a new Philippines History course for Junior High. This would likely be taken in place of U.S. History in 8th Grade,

but we recommend a little change in the order of history courses.

For those taking the Philippines History, we recommend it be taken in 6th Grade both due to the reading level of the course and so that it aligns with the Philippines DepEd national curriculum.

Those students would then take Seton's History 6 (the first part of world history) in 7th Grade and our History 7 in 8th Grade.

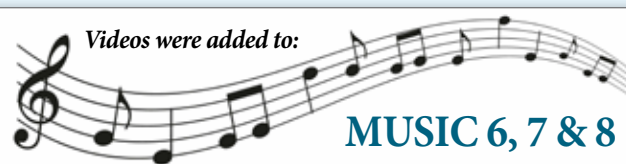
The Philippines History course is based on a fun narrative-style book from author Phillip Campbell published by Arx Publishing. Mr. Campbell has written lesson plans and tests exclusively for Seton.

Newly colorized Lesson Plans this year include:

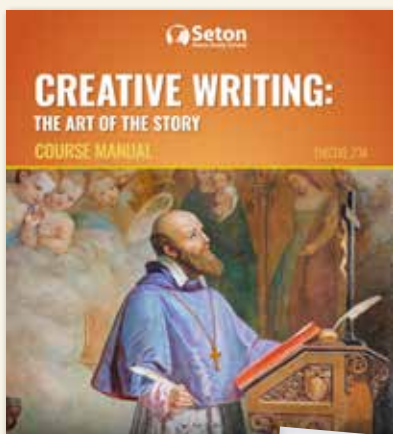
In Grade 6
Art 6
Reading 6

In Grade 7
Reading 7
Spelling 7
Vocabulary 7

In Grade 8
Math 8
Reading 8
Spelling 8
Vocabulary 8



CREATIVE WRITING



This is a new ½ credit elective course for high schoolers.

To get the full benefit of this course, students should have learned some of the skills in our *Literature and Composition I* and *II* courses, so those (or equivalents for transfer students) are prerequisites.



From one of our course authors:

"*Creative Writing: The Art of the Story* is a fun, fast-paced introduction to the basics of storytelling. The course method is based on the Catechism's description of art as a blend of knowledge and skill. Students gain knowledge through selections and advice from over fifty classic authors and modern-day creative writing teachers.

Skill is developed through daily exercises and graded submissions like a character backstory, a dialogue, and a short story. Students will gain expertise in character-building and plot-making whether they are interested in writing novels, plays, or scripts."



U.S. HISTORY



We are finally releasing our long-awaited new U.S. History textbook and course. This text and course will be the default for 11th Grade. The new book is called *America: Forge of Freedom* and is in two volumes.

This textbook is a project Ken and Bruce Clark had worked on closely together before Bruce passed away.

This course has weekly tests that are multiple choice with two very short written questions. All questions are strictly based on the review

questions found at the end of each chapter, so students should know exactly what to study.

We are calling this one *U.S. History* as opposed to the older one, which was called *American History*, because it is more tightly focused on the U.S.

This course is a vast improvement over the older course. *America: Forge of Freedom* is thoroughly Catholic, and the lesson plans have extensive optional content. The new text has an abundance of maps and images.

This new course is aligned, so it is available in SetonOnline.



WORLD GEOGRAPHY

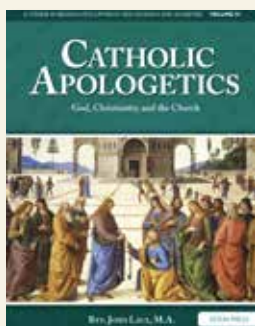
We made some lesson plan and critical test changes to this course. An insight that parents shared was that there was too much material to study for each test. To address that concern, we have moved from only having two tests per quarter to having weekly tests (still multiple choice).

Test questions are now based on the review questions found in the text. These questions now function as study guides.

AMERICAN HISTORY

The older Anne Carroll course is still available for anyone who wants it. We have made some test improvements to this course, but at the same time, it has been unaligned, which means it will no longer have a SetonOnline layout.

CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS



Seton Press is publishing the Fr. Laux book used in the Apologetics course. This is the same book we have always used, but we are returning to the original title, *God, Christianity, and the Church: Apologetics for High School*. While the text is the same, we have added color images and improved the formatting. If you own a copy of the older version, it will still be compatible with the course.

HONORS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

This honors course is being discontinued. The textbook we used with it will now be used in a new course called *Foundations of American Government*.



High School

FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

In January 2023, we changed the diploma requirements to only require a ½ credit of American Government. We made that change in anticipation of this new course which is now a ½ credit. This course uses the ABeka Government

text that used to be part of the Honors American Government course.

Thanks to the Dobb's decision, there is no Roe v. Wade paper or essays in this new course. The new test format is mainly multiple choice with just a few short written questions. There are a total of 4 tests, 2 in each quarter. Because of the changes, this course will no longer be restricted to seniors only.

Note: Seton will continue to offer the one-credit American Government Online course as well as this new half-credit American Government course. Completing either course will satisfy the American Government diploma requirement; however, completing only half of the one-credit course will not satisfy the requirement.



Special Thanks and Acknowledgments



I want to give special thanks and acknowledgment to John Adams, his Curriculum Development team, Joe Sparks, and his Visual Arts and Online Courses team. These two departments labor intensively each year, trying to make as many improvements as possible. The colorization of the lesson plans has been an enormous project. Seton is absolutely committed to producing the best possible experience for our students and their families.



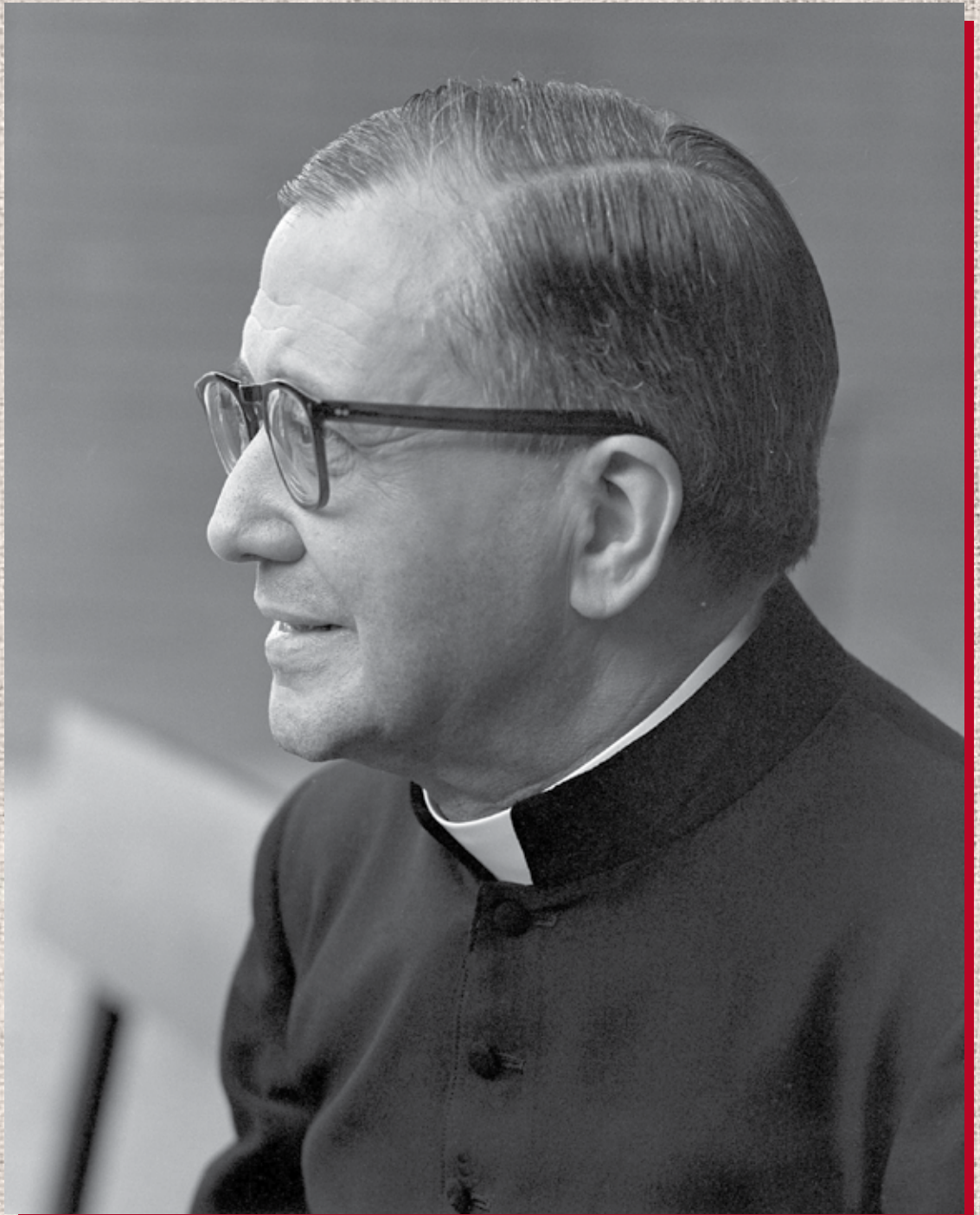
Draper Warren is the Director of Admissions at Seton and the Admin of Catholic Harbor. He is a Seton alumnus and graduate of Christendom College. He has worked at Seton for over 25 years, earned an MBA, and is currently completing a doctoral degree in educational leadership at Marymount University.

FOUNDER OF OPUS DEI

PATRON SAINT OF THOSE WHO SUFFER WITH DIABETES

SAINT JOSEMARÍA ESCRIVA

FEAST DAY - JUNE 26



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or else we shall never find Him."



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Supporting the Freedom to Make Right Decisions

The goal of education is to guide and support the development of the freedom to make right decisions, which may run counter to widespread opinions, the fashions of the moment, or forms of political and religious ideology.

This is the price of building a culture of peace!

**Pope Benedict XVI,
Speech to Government Members and
World Leaders of Culture,
September 15, 2012**

