



23 St. Charles Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518-825-7386

September 2017 Newsletter



Our Seton PreK-12 family of faith fosters academic excellence, nurtures personal responsibility, and encourages service to others in the spirit of Jesus

Seton Academy's Mission Statement:

- Encourage respect for everyone;
- Apply Biblical teachings to real life situations;
- Promote appreciation for the community celebration of the Eucharist;
- Foster a sense of community.

Dear Parents,

It's September and time to begin another school year.

I want to welcome all of you, especially those families that are new to the school. Know that you are welcome and we're glad that you joined our school family.

Our theme for the year is: "Serve with joy!"
This is going to be the best year ever!

September Prayer Intention

(suggested by our Holy Father)

Parishes (that our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen)

September Dates

Tues. Sept. 5: Staff Development Day for teachers and staff of Seton Academy

- Meet the Teacher (5:00-6:00)

Wed. Sept. 6: First day of school for students:

There will be no buses for the first day of school. We ask parents to arrange for their child's transportation.

Fathers Bring Your Child to School on the First Day

(This includes fathers, grandfathers, foster fathers, stepfathers, uncles, etc.)

Why: The presence of fathers at school supports positive learning environments

- **1:30** - Prayer Service and Blessing of Seton Academy

Fri. Sept. 8: Mary's Birthday



Fri. Sept. 29:

9:00AM Opening School Year Mass at St. Peter's for Seton Academy and Seton Catholic celebrated by Bishop LaValley.

Sat. Sept. 9:

- 10:00-12:00: "Protecting God's Children Workshop" at Seton Academy. All parents, grandparents, etc. who plan to go on a school field trip must attend this workshop (unless they attended previously). Even those who are only driving their own child need to attend.
- **Battle of Plattsburgh Parade:** Seton Academy & Seton Catholic will join together for this GREAT opportunity to march united. Please wear your Seton Academy tee shirt or a regular school shirt (preferably blue or green) and school pants/shorts/skirts. We will meet at Wilcox Dock at about 12:30.

Sun. Sept. 10: Grandparents Day

We ask God to bless all grandparents and bring them the joy they deserve. They are very special people and they do serve with joy.

Wed. Sept. 13: "Protecting God's Children Workshop
6:00-8:00 PM - at Seton Academy

Thurs. Sept. 14: Feast of the Holy Cross

- **3:00** Faculty Meeting

Fri. Sept. 15: Diocesan Principals' Meeting

Sun. Sept. 17: Catechetical Sunday

Theme: Living as Missionary Disciples

Mon. Sept. 18: Education Council Meeting

6:00PM at Seton Academy

Tues. Sept. 19: Magazine Drive begins

Fri. Sept. 22: Kindergarten trip to Apple Jacks Orchard

Sunday, September 24
Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

Let us pray for Sister Brian Marie and all the Sisters of Mercy on their feast day!

Wed. Sept. 27:

6:00 PM Parent Meeting at Seton Academy for Seton Academy and Seton Catholic Parents. Come and get answers to all the questions you have about tuition, fund raising, etc.

September Birthdays

Birthdays will be announced on WIRY (1340 AM) at 6:20, 7:20, and 8:20.

- 9/6 Cristina Conti (3)
- 9/7 Anna Weiss (K)
Caroline Mast (P)
- 9/9 Father Scott Seymour
Alexander Hanshaw (4)
- 9/16 Christina Ishac (K)
- 9/17 Nathaniel DeBoos (5)
Victor Kruml (1)
- 9/21 Addalyn Coryer (P)
- 9/22 Ava Weiss (4)
- 9/29 Cora Akey (P)
- 9/30 Brooklin Colburn (2)



Upcoming Dates

Monday, October 9

No School

Columbus Day Observed

Friday, October 20

Diocesan Superintendent's Day
(No School at Seton Academy)

How Can I Help My Child Succeed in School?

- **Attend Mass every Saturday/Sunday with your child. That's the greatest gift you can give him/her. Ask your child, "What did you hear at Mass this morning?"**
- Read to or with your child every night.
- Help your child with his/her homework every night but don't do it for him/her.
- Do not talk negatively about your child's teachers or about school.
- Make sure your child is getting plenty of sleep and is ready for school each day.
- Teach your child to be responsible for his/her actions and his/her school work.
- Stay involved and feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.
- Ask your child about school every day and encourage him/her to discuss the day.



Pope Francis says (paraphrased):

Gossip:

“Do you want a perfect school? Then no gossiping, no! He went on to say that people who gossip grow long tongues!

Whining: “Don’t whine!”

Pope Francis has a “No Whining” sign on his door at the Vatican

Mrs. Toner has a bulletin board that says:

Think:

Is it true?

Is it helpful?

Is it inspiring?

Is it necessary?

Is it kind?

Let us remember this when we are at birthday parties or other gatherings of parents. We are ambassadors for the school and what we say needs to be positive.

First Eucharist Program

If you want your child to be included in the First Reconciliation/First Eucharist Program, you need to contact your parish and register your child in that program. It is not a school program.

Absences

- Please call school before 8:30 a.m. if your child will not be attending that day due to illness or any other reason. It expedites the process of attendance each morning.
- If a child is absent from school, he/she must bring in a written excuse stating the reason for absence when he/she returns to school (even though you called the school office). This is state law. The excuses have to be filed for 1 year. If we do not receive a written excuse, we have to mark the student as being illegally absent.

Electronics

We ask students to leave all electronic devices (ipads, kindles, iphones, etc), expensive toys, and valuables (jewelry and things of that nature) at home. They are safer at home. Students and their parents get upset when such items are damaged, broken, or lost. Seton Academy is not responsible for lost or broken items brought to school.

Buses

Buses will not be transporting students on Wednesday of the first week. Parents, please check with the bus garage in your district to see when they are starting their bus routes. Please make arrangements for your child to get to and from school on the days when the buses are not running.

Meet the Teacher

We welcome all new and returning students to join us on September 5 between the hours of 5:00 PM--6:00 PM to stop by and meet their new teacher. Students may bring their school supplies, if they wish, and set up their desk. This has been a big success in the past and helps alleviate first day “jitters”.

Magazine Drive

Our annual magazine drive will begin soon. Last year you did a stupendous job selling magazines. This is one of the biggest fundraisers of the school year. Let’s do just as well, or even better, this year. With the help of the Seton Catholic families we should surpass last year’s amount!

I am repeating some items from the summer newsletter. Some families have registered since that letter went out, and we want to make sure that everyone gets this information.

Parking Lot Safety Issues

- At drop off and dismissal time, please come in the parking lot from North Catherine Street and leave by St. Charles Street. We all need to work together to prevent accidents.
- The area on St. Charles Street is a drop-off area only. If you intend to come into school, please use the parking lot.
- If you are driving for a field trip, please use the St. Peter’s Church parking lot.

Parish Verification Forms

Please make sure you have had your pastor sign the parish verification form. Otherwise, you will be expected to pay the higher tuition rate.

Dismissal Time Safety

- If you are picking up your child at dismissal time, please wait outside so that the front hall does not become so crowded. Please do not wait by Courtney's office and the fifth grade classroom since that is disruptive to the students.
- Parents should not arrive before 2:30
- For reasons of safety, please do not bring your dogs when you are picking up your child at dismissal.
- Parents who are picking their children up need to make sure that the children do not run out into the



parking lot. Please hold them by the hand until they get to their car. There is a great deal of traffic at dismissal time and we have to be super vigilant and patient.

Illness/Injuries and the School Nurse

If your child is ill, please keep him/her home. Sending your child to school sick so that he/she can see the nurse is often disruptive to the office staff especially if the nurse is not here. Additionally, if your child hurt himself/herself at home the day before, it is not the job of the school nurse to "check" the injury. The nurse is scheduled to attend to illnesses and injuries that occur during the school day.

Coming to School during School Hours

The teachers have requested that parents not come to the classroom during the school day. Again, this request is to make sure that classes are not disrupted. Teachers need all the time they have to provide quality instruction for your children. If you have something for your child, please leave it in the office and we will make sure your child gets it. If you need to pick up your child for a doctor's appointment, etc., please let someone in the office know, and that person will call down to the classroom to get your child.

Lunches

Please prepay for lunches. This can be done by the week or by the month. It is not good for students to get in the habit of charging. Lunches are \$2.75 each day (preschool lunches are included in their tuition).

Separate Checks

- Please do not send one check to the office for two or more different expenses. We need one check for lunches, a separate check for aftercare, etc. Please make individual checks for individual expenses.
- If you are leaving money or checks in the office, please make sure that they are clearly marked with your name and what the check is for.

Being on Time

I can't tell you how important it is for your child to be here at 7:55 in the cafeteria ready to start the school day. When a child is late, it interrupts everyone else who has started the morning routines. Please, please, please make sure your child is on time.



Parent Workshop

There will be 2 opportunities here at Seton Academy to attend a "Protecting God's Children" workshop for parents who wish to participate in classroom activities or field trips (even if you are only driving your own child). They are: Sept. 9 from 10:00-12:00 and Sept. 13 from 6:00-8:00. All parents must attend one of these workshops (unless they have already attended one). This is Diocesan Policy and there are no exceptions.

Respect for One Another

Over the course of the summer I have had parents come to me and tell me that other students in the class are picking on their child and saying mean things to him/her. In most cases, it probably goes both ways but nevertheless, it is a problem. *This makes me very sad.* I know you want your child to be kind and respectful to other children. Please have a frequent conversation with your child emphasizing the importance of being a friend to all. If your child knows that this is important to you, it will be important to your child.

Concerns or Problems

If you have any concerns or problems, please go directly to the teacher and discuss the issue.



The teachers are very open and would never “take it out” on your child. Direct communication is the best way to settle difficulties and to prevent misunderstandings.

If you talk to the teacher and the matter is still not resolved, we can schedule a meeting with you, the teacher, and me. We are here to do our very best for our students and their families, but we do have to keep in mind what is best for everyone. It is impossible to keep everyone happy. Unsigned letters do not allow us to address the issue.

Please do not let issues build. I have had parents come in at the end of the school year and say, “This has been going on all year.” We can’t address issues if you do not bring them to our attention.



Original drawing by Ashleigh Savage
(daughter of Miss Courtney)

*Let us remember that we are challenged
to serve with joy!*

Sister Helen, SSJ