

SETON SOUNDINGS

SUMMER 2024



214 years after Mother Seton opened St. Joseph's Free School and Academy in 1810, members of the Class of 2024 continue her legacy and graduated on June 2 at the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

EXCITING NEWS FOR MSS



Dear Friends,

We have several exciting developments to look forward to as we close the 2023-2024 school year and plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

In December 2021, the Mother Seton School Board of Directors partnered with Mount St. Mary's University Center for Catholic School Excellence to lead our school community in preparing a five-year strategic plan. The purpose of the plan is to ensure we are on the right path in ensuring the future of Mother Seton School, cultivating a community that will grow in faith and excellence while staying true to our legacy and traditions. I am excited to work with members of our community to implement this strategic plan to ensure Mother Seton School's strong future.

We are also thrilled to announce a transformative addition to our school community – a brand-new chapel! Thanks to the generous donation of Donna and TJ Demmon, this chapel will be constructed in memory of their son Christopher, Class of 1988, who passed away in 1991. We have included drawings of the chapel in this issue so you can visualize how it will fit in our building.

The new chapel will have room for up to 30 people, providing opportunities for our students to experience uplifting Liturgies, moments of reflection during Reconciliation, the serenity of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and more – all within this beautiful new space. It will be a visible sign of our Catholic mission and a reminder of the true presence of Christ, who is at the center of our community. As our Foundress has said, *"God is everywhere, in the very air I breathe, yes everywhere, but in His sacrament of the Altar, He is as present actually and really as my soul within my body; in His sacrifice daily offered as really as once offered on the Cross."*

Construction is set to begin as soon as the design and permitting phases are finalized. We anticipate the chapel will be ready for use within the next year, providing a lasting impact on countless students, faculty, and staff. Our deepest gratitude goes to the Demmon family for this remarkable gift given in memory of their son, Christopher, to Mother Seton School.

I look forward to keeping you updated on the construction and our progress in implementing the strategic plan. Together, these initiatives promise an even brighter future for Mother Seton School, one that fosters academic excellence, spiritual growth, and a deep connection to our Catholic identity.

Have a wonderful summer.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen J. Kilty". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kathleen J. Kilty, PhD
Principal

OUR MISSION

The mission of Mother Seton Catholic School, a vibrant, Christ-centered community, is to inspire students to strive for academic excellence and dedicate their lives to love and serve Christ in the tradition of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Vincent de Paul.

Sponsored by the
Daughters of Charity



**DAUGHTERS
of CHARITY**
PROVINCE of ST. LOUISE

THE MSS CLASS OF 2024

Top right photo (Front row l-r) Ava McKenzie, Lia Lowry, Mya Harrington, Noah Riling, Thi Pham (2nd row) Peyton Myles, Eva Doll, Sandro Santos, Dylan Slusher, Catalina Caretti, Micah Green, Gabriel Valerio (3rd row) Ella Thompson, Madelyn Fogle, Evelyn Figorski, Grady Abruzzese, Moira Tayler, Everett Abbott, Michael Gallagher, Mawson Welterlen, and Sophia Perez

Front cover: Assisted by Mrs. Nell, Peyton Myles lights the Paschal candle with Grady Abruzzese during the Service of Light ceremony during graduation.



MSS CLASS OF 2024

The Class of 2024 added such joy and love to our halls. This group of students truly enjoyed school, had fun with each other, played hard, but also worked hard. Their many and varied talents made our whole school a richer place. We will miss them here, but wish them all the best!
 -Mrs. Kuykendall, Gr. 8 Homeroom

On June 2nd, our 21 graduates and their families gathered at the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton to celebrate Mass and graduation. These students will attend nine different high schools in the fall.

Congratulations to the students who received the following awards:

A Honor Roll (students who have maintained A's in all core academic subjects for the entire school year)
Catalina Caretti, Lia Lowry, and Sophia Perez

President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence (a national award given to students who achieved an A average in all core subjects throughout Middle School and scored in the 90th percentile or higher on nationally normed standardized achievement tests)
Catalina Caretti

President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement (a national award given to students who achieved an A/B average in all core subjects throughout Middle School and have scored in the 80th percentile or higher on nationally normed standardized achievement tests)
Grady Abruzzese, Eva Doll, Lia Lowry, Sophia Perez, Thi Pham, and Moira Tayler

Mother Seton Spirit Award for Outstanding Christian Witness (presented to a male and female student who exemplifies the mission and philosophy of MSS and our foundress, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. They are recognized for their prayerfulness and generous spirit, demonstrating respect and kindness, being a model of the gospel values of peace, charity, and their service to others)
Moira Tayler and Michael Gallagher (below)



NEW MSS CHAPEL

It is with great joy and excitement that we are announcing the addition of a new chapel at Mother Seton School!

The gift is given by Thomas and Donna (Fitzgerald) Demmon, MSS '63, in memory of their son Christopher J. Demmon, also an MSS alum, Class of 1988. Chris died unexpectedly in 1991 as a result of a car accident.

The new MSS chapel will be built across from the Ed and Helen Reaver Family Media Center at the old entrance of the building. The new addition will extrude an additional 10 feet from the front of the current building and will be visible from Creamery Road. This private chapel will accommodate seating for one classroom and will provide a sacred space for teachers and students to use for Mass and other prayer activities throughout the year.

You can follow along and watch the construction progress by following our MSS Facebook page and Instagram page:

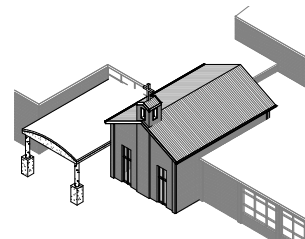
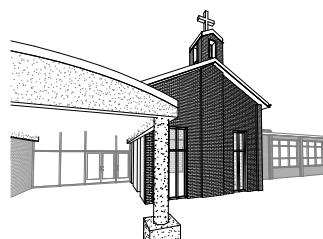


MSSEmmitsburg



@mothersetonschool

Two different views of the new chapel at MSS. The chapel will be built as part of the current school and will be located next to the "old" entrance by the Reaver Family Media Center. The chapel will feature a vaulted ceiling and steeple that will be visible from the front of the school.



EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL AT MSS

June 6, 2024 was an incredibly special day for Mother Seton School!

Not only was it the last day of the school year, this was also the day when the National Eucharistic Revival Pilgrimage processed Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament onto our campus with

all of our students and faculty present.

Over 1,300 pilgrims attended the morning Mass at the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. After Mass, the procession left the Basilica and walked through Emmitsburg. The first stop on the route was Mother Seton School.



Photo credit Mike Miller Photography

Archbishop Lori carried the Blessed Sacrament from the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton to Mother Seton School. Once everyone in the procession arrived, Archbishop Lori led everyone in the Divine Praises and Benediction. The procession continued to Saint Joseph's Church on DePaul Street.

ACADEMIC AWARDS & ADVENTURES

MSS students experienced several exciting events and adventures over the last few months. Here are a few highlights from several field trips and awards.

(top left) MacKenzie Hager, gr. 7, placed 2nd in the Engineering Technology: Statistics and Dynamics category at the Frederick County Middle School Science Fair. Her project hypothesized on the best space suits for travel to Mars.

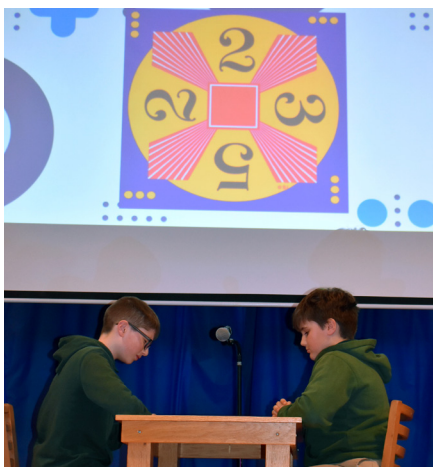
(top middle) Can you make 24 from the four numbers shown above? Riggins Koenig, gr. 5, (right) was victorious when he solved the puzzle faster than Philip Field, gr. 7, (left) in the final round. Riggins came in 2nd place last year.

(top right) 2nd grade took a trip to Fountain Rock Park and Nature Center in Walkersville and participated in their Awesome Animals program. They got to encounter various animals up close and even got to feed the turtles!

(bottom left) 7th grade was able to visit two historic Baltimore landmarks- Fort McHenry, where Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the Star-Spangled Banner, and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption.

(bottom middle) As part of the Seton Shrine's Academy Alive program, "Mother Seton" visited with Sister Margaret Ann's first graders and taught them how to card wool and remove all of the tangles to prepare it for spinning.

(bottom right) 8th grade students enjoyed visiting Washington, D.C. and touring Ford's Theatre, the location of where President Lincoln was shot in 1865, as well as the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.



VINCENTIAN VIRTUES AWARD

It is with great honor that we announce the recipients of the Vincentian Virtue Awards for the 2nd and 3rd trimesters. This esteemed award is bestowed upon one exceptional student from each class who consistently exemplifies Christ-like behavior and upholds the principles outlined in our

school code of conduct. The Vincentian Virtue Award aims to acknowledge and celebrate individuals who embody the values of compassion, integrity, and respect.

These remarkable students serve as shining examples, demonstrating their

commitment to fostering a positive environment for all. By acknowledging and honoring these students through the Vincentian Virtue Award, we not only celebrate their individual accomplishments, but also inspire others to follow in their footsteps, fostering a community where virtue is cherished and upheld as a guiding principle.



2nd Trimester Awardees

(front row) PK3-Jaxton Hanson, PK4-Alexander Hilmer, Layton Field, K-Avery Gebhart, Tegan Winfield, gr. 1-Chase Atkins, Josie Leydig, gr. 2-Cody Parker, Kennedy Lambert, (back row) gr. 4-Brooke Buser, gr. 3-Arthur Stumpf, Hadley Crone, gr. 4-Riley Hoover, gr. 5-Autumn Trout, gr. 6-Abygail Saylor, Kiel Franco Santos, gr. 7-Philip Field, Mason Spielman, and gr. 8-Gabriel Valerio



3rd Trimester Awardees

(front row) PK 3-Cade Stewart, PK 4-Paislee Clogston, Savannah Daniel, K-Ian Haines, Baylor Lewandowski, gr. 3-Marybelle Ress, (2nd row) gr. 1-Laney Engelstad, Hannah Crone, gr. 2-Parker Ketterman, Sithara Wegodapola, gr. 3-Mason Miller, gr. 4-Payton Cell, (back row) gr. 5-Caden Adcock, gr. 4-Isabelle Jean, gr. 6-Neria Joseph, David Lanning, gr. 7-Annaliese Doolittle, Tyler Marshall, and gr. 8-Everett Abbott (photo above right)



MSS CLASS OF 2020

It was a great joy to have Seniors from the graduating MSS Class of 2020 return for the annual Senior Walk on Friday, May 17th.

Because of the pandemic, this graduating class ended up missing out on many 8th grade traditions such as Hershey Park and graduating at the Basilica. Their resilience and success is a true testimony of their solid foundation and we are so proud of how they have persevered

and thrived. We look forward to watching them achieve great success in the years ahead!

Some of their areas of future study include Aeronautics, Aviation Mechanics, Biology, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Communications, Computer Sciences, Criminal Justice, Cyber Security, Kinesiology, Mechanical Engineering, Nursing, Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), and Sculpture.



Scan here to see where members of the Class of 2020 will be heading in the fall

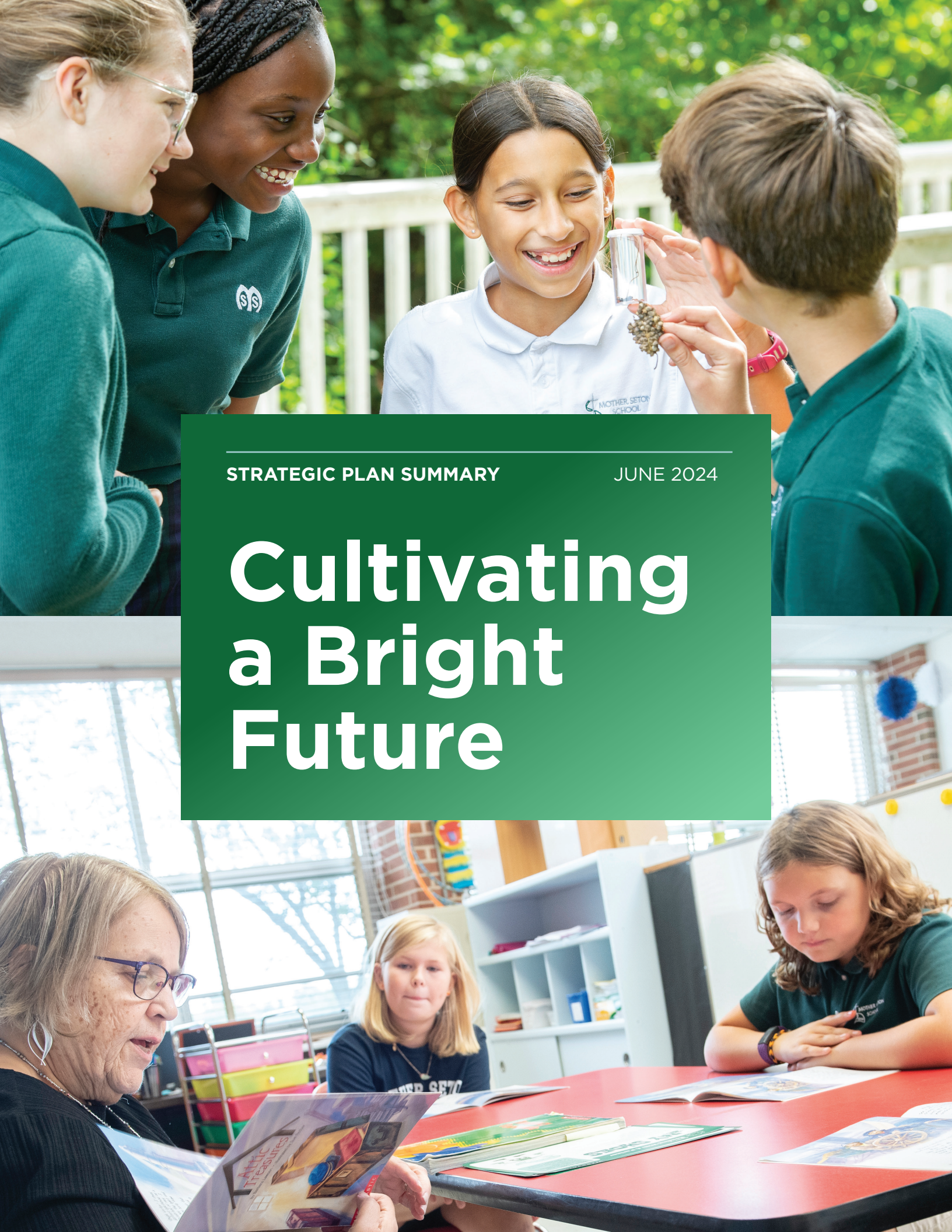
Members of the Class who returned for our annual Senior Walk (l-r) Gabby Erdman, Emily Flynn, Luke Buchheister, Tim McCarthy, Mrs. Dorsey, Vincent Reaver III, Gabe Riling, Mrs. Mullineaux, Santiago Canadas-Fraga, Clytie Pavlovic (and her little brother Charlton), Anthony Kinnamont, Mason Bowling, Logan Malachowski, Ethan Little, and Daniel Soares.



ANNUAL CARNIVAL GREAT SUCCESS

The annual MSS Carnival was held Wednesday, May 29—Saturday, June 1. The large crowds demonstrated the strong support and enthusiasm from our local community. The wide array of games, food stands, rides, and entertainment not only provided fun for all ages but also served as a significant fundraiser for Mother Seton School.

Special thanks to our Carnival Committee Leaders John Dowling, Terry Smith, Shelly Small, and their families. Their dedication and commitment to MSS over the years has been a great blessing for our school.



STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

JUNE 2024

Cultivating a Bright Future

A PLAN TAKES SHAPE

Mother Seton School began a research-based strategic planning process in the fall of 2022.

The MSS Board of Directors and school administration chose Mount St. Mary's University's Center for Catholic School Excellence to lead the process. The center has worked with a wide range of K–12 Catholic schools.

Over the course of a year, the Mount team gathered information from MSS administrators, faculty, staff, board members and parents to identify the school's strengths and needs. It worked with a Strategic Planning Task Force from MSS to develop goals and action steps.

The MSS board prioritized these goals to produce a five-year strategic plan that was approved by our sponsoring Daughters of Charity at the end of 2023. Work on many of the goals is well underway.



"Thank you to all who participated in the planning process and who continue to help our students become young men and women of great achievement and integrity. Together we will carry the educational tradition of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton well into the future."

PRINCIPAL KATHLEEN KILTY, PH.D.

"For more than 200 years, Mother Seton School has continued a strong legacy of Catholic education, continually evolving to meet the needs of today while upholding our founding mission of academic excellence and Christian service. We are pleased to present a plan for the next several years that reasserts our commitment to this mission."

BOARD CHAIR ALLEN SHATZER

MSS Board of Directors

Dan Hallinan, 2023 Chair
Allen Shatzer, 2024 Chair
Beatrice Reaver, Vice Chair
Sister Jane Graves, D.C.,
Sponsored Works Coordinator
Barb Ruppert, Secretary
Patrick Joy, Treasurer
Wes Hamrick
Jane McKenzie
Kathleen Kilty, Ph.D., Principal

OUR PLAN

All work on the strategic plan has been guided by Mother Seton School's mission, vision and values. The plan rests on three pillars that spring from our mission.

Our Mission

The mission of Mother Seton Catholic School, a vibrant, Christ-centered community, is to inspire students to strive for academic excellence and dedicate their lives to love and serve Christ in the tradition of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Vincent de Paul.

Our Vision

Mother Seton School aims to continue the tradition of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton by providing a Christ-centered, academically excellent, affordable Pre-K 3 through grade 8 Catholic education to all who seek it.

Our Values

We cultivate a community of:

Excellence

by fostering an environment of academic excellence through quality teaching and high expectations for learning

Respect

by treating every person as a child of God, through love, kindness and compassion

Service

by putting our Catholic faith into action



1

PILLAR

Inspire students to strive for academic excellence

Students must gain the academic skills they need for further learning and future careers. We will continue our excellent work in this area with strategic goals in curriculum and technology.

CURRICULUM GOALS

- Engage in data analysis to make purposeful instructional and academic decisions.
- Implement a five-year review cycle for textbooks and instructional materials.
- Evaluate the current use of Project Based Learning (PBL) and determine areas for improvement.

TECHNOLOGY GOALS

- Incorporate instructional technology as a component of the curriculum.
- Explore the use of Computational Thinking in the classroom.

As of 2023, our newest additions are the Singapore Math curriculum and Wit and Wisdom/Geodes language arts curriculum.



Our media center coordinator hosted and attended the Mount's Computational Thinking course at MSS in 2023.

2 PILLAR

Inspire students to dedicate their lives to love and serve Christ and their neighbor

Through strong faith and values, students will live as God calls them. Strategic goals in the area of mission and Catholic identity will ensure we continue to support this pillar of our plan.

MISSION AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY GOALS

- Create a new vision statement and core values based on the current mission statement.
- Foster a community where faculty, staff and the board can effectively model and articulate the mission, vision and core values.
- Communicate and clearly articulate the mission, vision and core values to stakeholders.
- Remain in compliance with AoB procedural processes for Catechesis certification.

Based on our mission and input from faculty and staff, in 2024 we created vision and values statements that could be more easily shared.

Our new Enrollment Advisory Committee began work in May 2024.



40% of our students received financial assistance in 2023.

3 PILLAR

Ensure MSS can continue its mission into the future

To live out our mission, our school must remain financially and physically sound. We will ensure this through strategic goals in finance, governance and marketing.

FINANCE GOALS

- Continue working to diversify revenue.
- Accelerate the rigor and accessibility of the preschool program.
- Remain committed to equitable compensation for faculty and staff.
- Remain committed to making a Catholic education accessible to all, including families of lower income.

GOVERNANCE GOALS

- Reestablish and codify the policies and procedures of the Board of Directors.
- Update the policy handbook, including corresponding procedures.

MARKETING GOALS

- Review key messaging to ensure it is in keeping with the new vision statement and core values as well as the current mission statement of MSS.
- Create a consistent visual approach to communicate the vision and values of MSS.
- Establish an Enrollment Advisory Committee to provide strategic input for admissions marketing.
- Develop an updated admissions marketing plan.
- Optimize fundraising by developing an updated plan.





**MOTHER
SETON
SCHOOL**

A Pre-K – Grade 8 Catholic School for All

100 Creamery Road
Emmitsburg, MD 21727



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 27** First Day of School
- Sept. 13** Grandparents Day
- Oct. 4** 'Angels Above' Alumni
Golf Tournament
at Gettysburg National
Golf Course
- Oct. 4** Blessing of the Animals

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MSS

Please contact the Advancement Office
and share your news with us!
Contact Jennifer Buchheister at
advancement@mothersetonschool.org

Follow us on:

