

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



We nurture a community of Excellence, Respect, and Service, carrying forward the legacy Mother Seton began 215 years ago here in St. Joseph's Valley.



It's all about the
24-25 NUMBERS



ENROLLMENT

400 Students

52% Female 48% Male
 20% New Students



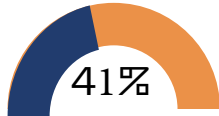
27 GRADUATES
6 Different High Schools
 1 Catholic, 5 Public

DID YOU KNOW?

\$10,601 was the actual cost to educate a child at MSS in 24-25 **VS.**

OUR TUITION FOR 24-25

\$4,480 Pre-K half-day
 \$6,380 Kindergarten-Grade 8



41% of MSS students received some type of tuition assistance * 100 families, 158 students



CATHOLIC

41% of our students are Catholic
 59% are Non-Catholic

RESIDENCE

28 Zip Codes



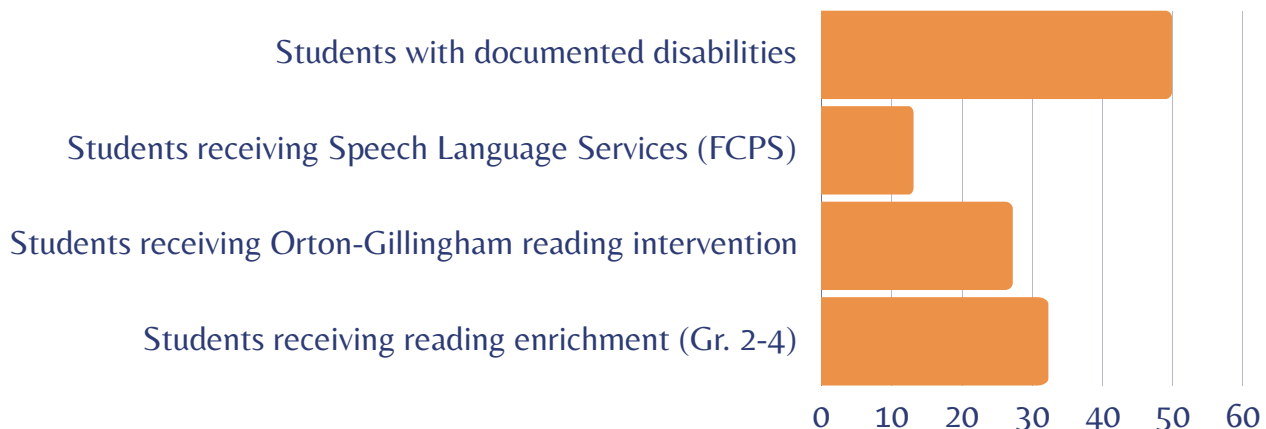
Students lived in MD and PA



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Commercial Dishwasher
- Safety Ballistic Film on Windows
- Playground Equipment

SETON-LACROCE LEARNING CENTER



GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE

The 2024–2025 school year offered countless ways for our students to learn, grow, and put their knowledge into practice. From the annual STEM Fair, where middle school students (grades 6–8) worked alongside mentors to design and present their projects, to creative classroom traditions, hands-on learning was at the heart of the experience.

Students across every grade took part in memorable activities: first graders learned about caring for the environment alongside their Pre-K 3 friends; second graders cared for caterpillars and released butterflies in September; third graders brought history to life in their Biography Parade and practiced engineering skills by designing windproof houses; and seventh graders built and launched rockets as they put their engineering, physics, and math skills to work. Grade six tackled teamwork and problem-solving at the Upward

Enterprises Challenge Course, while eighth graders participated in the virtual National Cybersecurity Competition.

These moments highlight just a portion of the rich, engaging opportunities our students embraced this year.



Gr 1 joined Pre-K 3 in an interactive lesson about pollution, telling the story of Freddie the Fish. This Green School activity introduces younger students to ecology and environmental science.



GRADES 2 AND 7 SHARE SCIENCE LAB

Jemina Nana (gr 7) helps Sophia Tipton (gr 2) dissect an owl pellet in a cooperative science lab where middle schoolers can demonstrate their scientific knowledge by assisting prayer partners with fun experiments.



IGNITING CURIOSITY IN FIRE SCIENCE

8th graders conducted a fire forensics experiment. (Under careful supervision!) Students built structures using various items, then set them aflame to study how fire spreads and affects different materials.

GRADE 3 BRINGS LITERATURE AND POETRY TO LIFE

History meets Literature at 3rd grade's annual Irish Literature and Poetry Slam. The activity featured readings and performances of various poems, stories, and legends from Irish history.



GROWING IN SPIRIT & SERVICE

Faith is at the heart of everything we do at Mother Seton School. Our Prayer Partner program continues to connect older students with younger students to encourage prayer and mentorship. Monthly Mass brings the community together, while visits with the retired Sisters at St. Joseph's House and field trips to sacred spaces—such as the Bible Museum in Washington D.C. and the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen and the Baltimore Basilica—deepen students' understanding of their part in a faith community bigger than themselves.

Service, one of our core values,

puts our faith into action. Nothing demonstrates this better than the projects spearheaded by the students themselves.

Our Archbishop James Bayley Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society's commitment to community service earned the Chapter Pillar Award for Excellence in Service from the National Honor Society. During the 24-25 school year, they sponsored the annual Toys for Tommy drive, delivering boxes of toys for patients at the Johns Hopkins Childrens Center. They also raised funds for Catholic school students affected by Hurricane Helene and led a drive

during Catholic Schools Week to collect warm blankets for patients receiving treatment at the James Stockman Cancer Center in Frederick.

The Student Council led an effort to raise money for Catholic school students affected by the California wildfires. They also raised funds to purchase new recess equipment for grades 3 and 4 and Middle School.





Deacon Chris Cosentino led the Blessing of the Backpacks on the first day of school. All the students lined up on the playground to receive the blessing.

FACULTY & TEACHER ASSISTANTS 2024-25

Amy Baker
 Tammy Bidinger
 Samantha Bowers
 Jacob Brown
 Cheryl Carney
 Chris Cosentino
 Julia Cover
 Sheila Dorsey
 Jessica Eiker
 Laura Gannon
 Sarah Harrington '05
 Tammy Harrington
 Sarah Ibex
 Natalie Keller
 Grace King
 Fatima Knight
 Stephanie Krome
 Dawn Kuti
 Danielle Kuykendall

Kelly Marr
 Nicole Mayhew
 Hannah Miller
 Teri Monacelli
 Melaney Mullineaux
 Jessica Munson
 Karolyne Myers
 Heather Nees
 Michael Pace
 McKenzie Paull
 Amber Reaver
 Sister Maggie Scally, D.C.
 Emily Sharp
 Brian Smolinski
 Kelly Sumner
 Ann Warthen '91
 Robin Whiteman
 Sister Margaret Ann Wooden, D.C.



Mrs. McKenzie Paull (center) was awarded the Teacher Award of Excellence from Friends of Catholic Education. Presenting the award were William Milani, President, Kathleen Kilty, Principal, Paula D'Amore, and Tracy Hickman.

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT STAFF 2024-25

Jadyn Baker
 Amber Breeden
 Jennifer Buchheister '83
 Lizbeth Bull '05
 Alexis Burns, Asst. Principal
 Jennifer Carbaugh
 Katrina Celestial
 Emily Hanson
 Lisa Herr
 Kathleen Kilty, Principal
 Danielle Kirby
 Michele Kiser
 Melissa Legg

Joelle Miller
 Colleen Myers
 Albert Nastasi
 Susan Reaver
 Kevin Riffle
 Willie Riley
 Terry Smith
 Laurie Szukalski
 Lynn Tayler
 Nell Trainor
 Kelly Venables
 Marybeth White



As part of the Kids Heart Challenge to raise money for the American Heart Association, several teachers and staff dressed in inflatables and ran an obstacle course, much to the delight of our students!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-25

Allen Shatzer
 Chairman of Board
 Beatrice Reaver '75
 Vice Chair
 Barbara Ruppert
 Secretary

Sister Jane Graves, D.C.
 Wes Hamrick
 Patrick Joy
 Jane McKenzie
 Lynne Robinson '71

Katherine Marshall '69
 Chair Emeritus, Alumni Liaison

Maura Sheffer enjoys time with her grandmother, Marian Kurnat, during our Grandparents Day event on September 13, 2024.



INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Mother Seton School was truly blessed by the generosity of our donors, alumni, and families throughout the **2024–25 academic year**. Your support strengthened our programs, enhanced our facilities, and provided students with an environment rooted in excellence, service, and respect. Because of you, our children thrived, and the spirit of Mother Seton School will shine brightly for future generations.

Tuition and Fees \$2,149,319 **Cash Gifts and Fundraising** \$405,991

Sponsored Support \$1,283,702

Grants and Foundations \$395,890

- Daughters of Charity Mission & Ministry
- Delaplaine Foundation- Technology
- Demmon Family Chapel
- ECF Connectivity Grant
- MD Hate Crimes Prevention Grant
- MD State Textbook Grant
- Mockingbird Foundation- Music Program
- Mount Saint Mary's University
- MSDE Health & Security Grant- School Nurse
- Page Family Foundation

MSS Fundraising \$155,693

- Annual Fund Appeal \$79,915
- H.S.A. Events \$40,000
- Penny Power \$18,341
- Carnival \$6,759
- Library Book Fund & Book Fair \$4,359
- Store Rebate Programs \$3,151
- Seton Soundings \$2,095
- Library Book Gift Program \$561
- Box Tops for Education \$512

Scholarships & Foundation Tuition Support \$109,682

- Dorothy and Fred Mattscheck Scholarship
- Folds of Honor Foundation
- Friends of Catholic Education
- Ivanka V. Antolin Memorial
- Jack and Shirley Little Scholarship
- Loats Foundation Scholarship
- Marshall Family Scholarship
- Mary Ann Wiberley Shattuck and Christine Wiberley Goglia Scholarship
- Mary Sue Collins Foundation
- Meyerhoffer Scholarship
- St. Joseph's Alumnae Association Scholarship

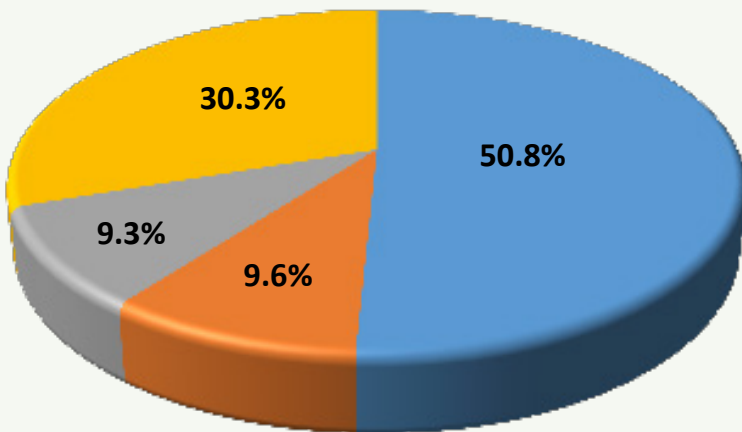
Parish Assistance \$38,741

- Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Thurmont)
- St. Anthony's (Emmitsburg)
- St. Ignatius of Loyola (Ijamsville)
- St. Joseph's (Emmitsburg)
- St. Joseph's (Taneytown)
- St. Katharine Drexel (Frederick)
- St. Peter's (Libertytown)
- St. Timothy's (Walkersville)

Unrestricted Gifts \$22,609

Other Tuition Assistance \$16,120

Other Restricted Gifts \$63,146



CIRCLES OF GIVING

MSS Visionary Leadership Circle (\$20,000 +)

To celebrate over 200 years of Christ-Centered, visionary leadership in Catholic Education in Mother Seton's Valley

TJ and Donna Demmon
Friends of Catholic Education
Jack and Shirley Little Family
Page Family Foundation
Anonymous
St. Joseph College Alumnae Association
Anonymous
Anonymous

MSS Heritage Circle (\$10,000 to \$19,999)

To celebrate educators of today and yesterday who continued the Seton Legacy of Catholic Education in Mother Seton's Valley

Thomas Baran
Margaret Chao
Frederick County Parish Tuition Assistance Fund
Anonymous
Loats Foundation
Don and Amy Smith

MSS Daughter of Charity Circle (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

To honor the charism and vision of generations of Daughters of Charity serving in St. Joseph's Valley in the past centuries

David and Erin Crum
Delaplaine Foundation
Folds of Honor, Tulsa Community Foundation
Katherine Marshall and Kirk Ruthenberg
Mary Sue Collins Foundation
Mick's Plumbing & Heating
The Null and Reisinger Families
Paul and Mary Ann Shattuck
Karen L. Sindt
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Emmitsburg
Susan Valenti
Jean Walker
Rob Warthen

Elizabeth Ann Seton Circle (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Our mother, patron, mentor and intercessor whom we honor and imitate

Bill Page Toyota

Marie Claire Carter- In honor of the Carter Family
Conewago Enterprises
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Anonymous
Anonymous
Mount St. Mary's University
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Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, Thurmont
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The Mockingbird Foundation

Saint Joseph Circle (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

The patron saint of Elizabeth Ann Seton

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Roan and Kristen Saunders
Dave and Denise Shriver- In honor of the MSS Class of 1984
St. Timothy Catholic Church
George Thomas Wilhide
Andrew and Tara Wivell
Chris and Mary Ann Wivell
Eric and Annette Wivell

St. Vincent and St. Louise Circle (\$500-\$999)

Visionaries who inspired Elizabeth Ann Seton

American Heart Association
Sister Joan Angermaier, D.C.

Daughters of Charity, Bethany Community
Box Tops for Education
Matthew and Natalie Bumgardner
Marcus and Amanda Canada
Jonathan and Joan Carroll
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 Rod and Cathy Sheffer- In honor of
 Patrick and Maura Sheffer
 Jeanne Chrismer Shoop
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 Connor Soule'
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Anonymous
Sister JoAnne Goecke, D.C.
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of Gregory and Christina Gossweiler-
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and Owen Wright

Teresa Miller- In honor of Marjorie and
Roland Miller
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Brian and Lisa Morgan- In honor of Leah
Morgan
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Pauquelin and Patricia Nana
Douglas and Patricia Orner
Jenna Lea Ott
Kenneth Padgett
Virginia Ridenour
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David and Rebecca Stinnett- In honor
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Mark Yanus

MSS Friend (\$1 to \$49)

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Braczyk/JFitzk/MCK
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Tim and Stephanie Connole
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Anonymous
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Fr. John Holliday Jr., C.M.
Charlie Hubbard
Kelly (Little) Keith '83
Craig and Kathy Krauss
Stephanie Krome
Danielle Kuykendall
Barbara Sprankle Leverone
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Sister Carmeli Proano, D.C.- In honor of
her brother, Frederick
Susann Samples
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Nicholas and Erin Thompson
Anonymous
Nell Trainor
St. Joseph's High School Class of 1967
Robin Wivell
Sister Margaret Ann Wooden, D.C.
Brian and Hillary Woodward

IN MEMORIAM

Thank you to our friends who chose to remember loved ones with a donation to MSS.
We will continue to pray for each one throughout the year.

Angermaier Family

Sister Joan Angermaier, D.C.

Maxine Balakier

Edward Balakier Jr.
Gary and Deborah Kreipl

Sterling and Linda Bollinger

Anonymous

Britney Carle

Lisa Herr

William and Linda Cavey

William and Amber Cavey

Anna and S.T. Chao

Margaret Chao

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Jim and Carolyn Chrismer

Margareta McCloskey

Geraldine Anderson
Theresa Elliott
Joseph Jaffa
Catherine Ward

Chuck Copenhaver

Bill and Rachel Wivell

Christopher Demmon '88

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Darryl Bryant
TJ and Donna Demmon
Debra Oster

Patricia Devlin

Mary Devlin Sobel

Chuck Dillon

Ada Long
Bill and Rachel Wivell
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Truman (Sonny) Hamburg, Jr., Gene and Loretta Myers, Bob, Blanche, and Craig Orner

Douglas and Patricia Orner

Ted Jensen

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Alida Kalas

George and Dorothea Krug

Lyle and Lynn Tayler

Tommy Laudani

Kelly Keith
Robert and Rosemary Laudani
Nicholas and Andrea Vietri

Dorothy B. Lewis

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Kenny Little

Cathy Little

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Little

John and Dolores Little

Rev. Martin McGeough, C.M.

Richard and Constance Kapriva

John Miller and Theresa O'Bold and their descendants

Karen L. Sindt

Sister Brenda Monahan, D.C.

Fran Lawlor

Cleveland Null

The Null and Reisinger Families

Rev. Vincent O'Malley, C.M.

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Tina Marie Ridenour

Virginia Ridenour

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Susan Valenti

Irene Wantz

Anonymous

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Sister Mary Beth Kubera, D.C.

Wanda Warthen-Akiyama

Rob Warthen

Mary Kate Williams Commiskey

Anonymous

Elberta Wing

Shannon and Stephanie Whitmarsh

James and Lorraine Wivell

James Jr. and Nancy Wivell
Phyllis and Robert Green
Mark Wivell
Viki and Ronnie Stevens
Tammy Wivell
Angie and David Goetz
Ceil and Steven Gregory
Doug and Kim Wivell
Eric and Annette Wivell
Joyce and Brian Glass
Andrew and Tara Wivell
Chris and Mary Ann Wivell
Dennis and Heather Wivell
Jennifer and Brian Parkhurst
Robin Wivell
Brock and Alexis Gregory
Tabitha Koelzer

Jeff Wivell

Tammy Wivell
Eric and Annette Wivell

SPECIAL EVENT SPONSORS



'Angels Above' Alumni Golf Tournament to benefit the Jack and Shirley Little Scholarship - Oct. 4, 2024

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Silver
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Kathleen Kilty
Kiser Mechanical Services
Mount St. Mary's University
National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Palms Restaurant
Presidential Bank Mortgage
Ron & Viki Stevens
Skyline Construction
St. John's Catholic Prep High School
St. Joseph's Sodality of the Blessed Mother
Tammy Wivell & Family—In Memory of Jeff Wivell
The Faller Family
The Miller Family—Scott, Lee, Ryan, and Ashley
The Oliverio Family
The Palms Restaurant
The Swope Family
TJ and Donna Demmon—In Memory of Christopher Demmon '88
Tom Lynch—Atlantic Homes
Tony and Gwen Topper '58
Wivell Homes, LLC

Special Sponsors

Dinner: Lawyers Signature Settlements
Fried Chicken: Jubilee Foods
Lunch: Multicam East
Beer Cart: Dan and Anne Reaver
Water & Soda: Friends of Catholic Education
Snack Bags: Ed & Marylou Little
Trophies: M.R. Glaziers
Signs: Gebhart & Sons Grading
Hole-in One Ins.: Tony Little and Jane Moore
Men's Longest Drive: Tammy Wivell & Family— In memory of Jeff Wivell
Men's Closest to the Pin: Buck Wivell
Women's Longest Drive: Colonial Jewelers
Women's Closest to the Pin: Lynne Robinson
Straightest Drive: Kelco Plumbing
Golf Ball Prizes: Pam Bolin, PNC Bank

MSS Boot Camp Field Day - May 23, 2025

Sponsors

Beth Ohler at J&B Real Estate
Driveways 2 Day
Forest Mechanical Repair

Hunting Creek Property Mgmt, LLC
Jen Wade, State Farm Agent
Knights of Columbus
Kountry Kitchen

Mountain View Lawn
Palms Restaurant
Relations Insurance Company



FUND- & FUN-RAISING WITH THE HSA



This year's Dinner and Auction, themed "A Night at the Races," was a lively and memorable evening. Guests enjoyed playful betting games and the thrill of placing bets on virtual horse races—all in good fun! The event was a great success, raising \$9809.68 to support our school.

HSA Officers 24-25
President: Katie Bond
Vice-President: Devynn Grubby
Treasurer: Tina Ryder
Secretary: Laura Gannon



The Home and School Association (HSA) plays a vital role in enriching our school community through both fundraising and FUN-raising events that bring families together and support meaningful improvements. From exciting fundraisers like the Carnival Raffle and the annual Dinner and Auction to joyful community gatherings such as Fall Fest and the beloved Daddy-Daughter Dance, the HSA creates opportunities for connection and celebration throughout the year. Their dedication goes beyond events—this year alone, they gave back an incredible \$40,000 to the school, funding new lunch program software that will make paying for school lunches easier and more transparent for parents. We are deeply grateful for all the ways the HSA makes a difference!

HSA FUNDRAISERS

- Breakfast with Santa/Christmas Bazaar: \$2,258
- Carnival Raffle: \$8,605
- Cash Bingo: \$8,044
- Girls Night Out: \$491
- Kountry Kitchen (Fall/Spring): \$1,292
- Mount Usher Program: \$1,155
- A Night at the Races: \$9,810
- Roy Rogers (Fall/Spring): \$1,521
- Spaghetti Dinner: \$1,286
- Spirit Wear (ongoing): \$2,986
- Turkey Bingo: \$3,826



HSA FUN-RAISERS

- Grandparents Day—September 13
- Fall Fest—October 25
- CSW Appreciation Lunch—January 31
- Girls Night Out—February 22
- Boys Night Out—May 3

The HSA also helped provide food and drink for the Middle School Dance!





A LEGACY OF FAITH

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the many blessings of this past year, I am filled with gratitude for the generosity and faith-filled spirit that make our school community so special. **Your continued support allows us to nurture the minds and hearts of our students in the Catholic faith**, and we are deeply thankful for your partnership in this mission.

This year holds particular meaning for us as we mark **the 50th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton**. Half a century ago, Mother Seton was recognized as the first American-born saint. As a proud descendant of the first school she opened, the seed from which American parochial education grew, we celebrate our heritage with joy and reverence. Though her life was marked by tragedy and challenges, **Mother Seton's steadfast love of the Lord allowed her to persevere** and model how we all should face our trials. "Perseverance," she wrote, "is a great grace. To go on gaining and advancing every day, we must be resolute, and bear and suffer as our blessed forerunners did. Which of them gained heaven without a struggle?"

The same perseverance that sustained Mother Seton also ignited a spirit of generosity rooted in hope and trust in God's providence. It continues to inspire our school community today, as **we strive to live out her legacy of faith, grace, and service to one another**. I am grateful you are united with us in ensuring the endurance of this legacy.

To that end, it is with great joy that I share the news that **our Saint Joseph Chapel, named for Mother Seton's favorite saint, is now complete**. This sacred space, made possible through the extraordinary generosity of Donna and TJ Demmon, as well as the many families and friends who contributed to its furnishings, will serve as the spiritual heart of our school for generations to come. **We are honored that Archbishop William Lori will dedicate the chapel on December 3, 2025**, and we look forward to celebrating this joyful occasion together.

As we look ahead, we anticipate a grace-filled year with many opportunities for learning, service, and community. **I invite you to join us at our school events and Masses** throughout the year. Your presence enriches our community and reminds our students of the strong network of faith and support that surrounds them.

Thank you once again for your prayers, generosity, and steadfast commitment to Mother Seton School. **May Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Saint Joseph continue to guide and protect our school family**.

With gratitude and blessings,

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





A Pre-K – Grade 8 Catholic School for All

100 Creamery Road
Emmitsburg, MD 21727



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 22 HSA Turkey Bingo
Nov 26-28 Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec 2 ← Giving Tuesday!
Make a donation
online or by mail

Dec 15 Christmas Program



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MSS

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

Follow us on:  