SETON CATHOLIC

CARDINAL POINTS

SetonSchools.org

Volume 12, Issue 1 Spring 2024



- FAREWELL PRINCIPAL BECKER
- 2024 GRADUATES
- DEPARTMENT NEWS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

ALUMNI UPDATES

AND MORE...

CARDINAL POINTS

The Cardinal Points is a publication of Seton Catholic Schools.

EDITORS

Emily Murray
Communications

Jen Maurer
5th grade teacher

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Marilyn Dolesh

C 2016 Seton Catholic Schools

700 N. A Street
Richmond, IN 47374
765-962-5010
www.setonschools.org

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Fr. Sengole T. Gnanaraj, BA, BL, STL
Pastor/Administrator

Beth Van Der Burgt
Chairperson

Dr. Roy Teng
Vice Chairperson

Tony Talbert
Finance Committee Chair

Ed Martin
Secretary

Kelly Knapke

Molly Vanderpool

Brad VanVleet

Kim Becker, SCES Principal

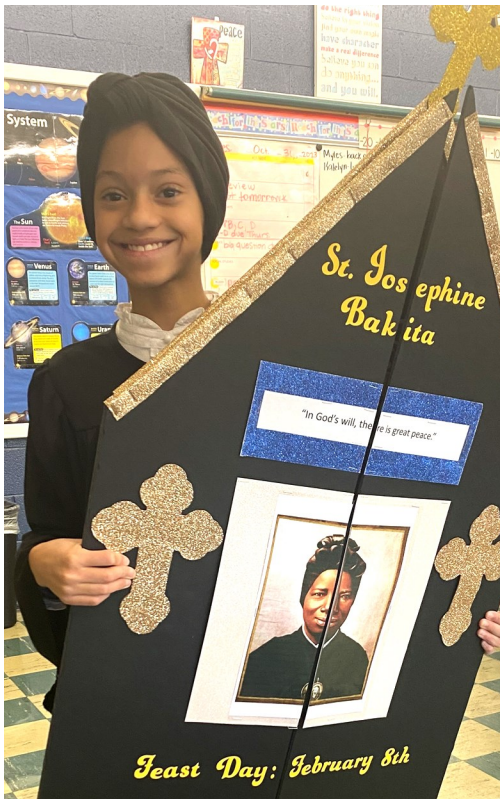
Jane Brack, SCHS Principal

IN THIS ISSUE

Mission Statement.....2
Principals' letter 3
Farewell Principal Becker.....4
2024 Graduates.....6
Our Newest
Honor Society Members.....7
More Goodbyes.....7
Fine Arts' News 8
Athletics' News 9
Alumni News.....10
Upcoming Events 12







MISSION STATEMENT

Centered in Christ and led by His Spirit, we at Seton Catholic Schools teach and accompany our students on their journey to become disciples of Christ through virtues, academic excellence, service; all for truth in love.

A WORD FROM OUR SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPALS





Dear Seton Families,

As we approach the end of another remarkable school year at Seton Catholic School, we are filled with gratitude and pride for the journey we have shared. This year has been filled with numerous milestones, moments of joy, and spiritual growth, all of which have contributed to the vibrant tapestry of our school community.

Our annual retreats have once again been a highlight, providing students with the opportunity to deepen their faith and reflect on their spiritual journey. These retreats are essential in fostering a sense of community and strengthening our connection with God. The shared prayers, discussions, and moments of solitude were invaluable, helping each participant grow in their faith and understanding.

We are continuously amazed by the dedication and enthusiasm of our students. Their commitment to academic excellence, their kindness, and their willingness to support one another have made this year truly special. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or participating in extracurricular activities, our students have demonstrated exceptional character and resilience.

None of this would be possible without our outstanding staff. Their unwavering dedication to our students' education and spiritual development is the cornerstone of our success. They have gone above and beyond, providing not only knowledge and skills but also serving as role models of faith and compassion. We are deeply grateful for their hard work and commitment.

As we conclude this school year, let us take a moment to reflect on the many blessings we have received and look forward to the future with hope and anticipation. We have accomplished so much together, and we are confident that the coming year will bring even greater achievements and opportunities for growth.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support and trust in our mission. Your involvement and partnership are vital to our community's success.

May God bless you and your families abundantly during this summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back for another wonderful school year in the fall.

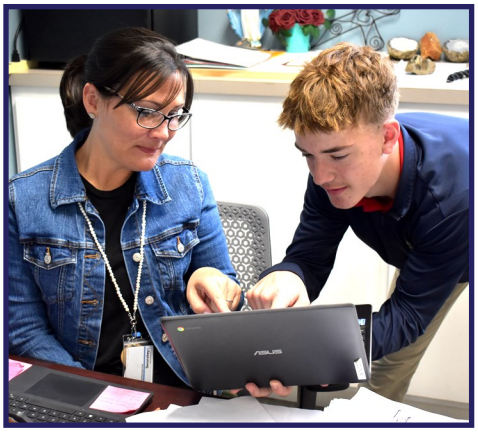
Many blessings,

Jane Brack

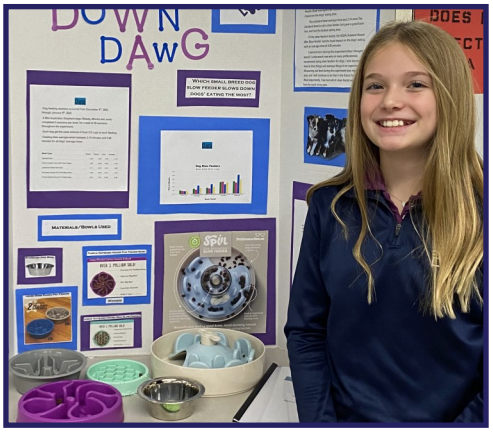
Jane Brack
SCHS Principal

Kimberly J. Becker

Kim Becker
SCES Principal







GOODBYE PRINCIPAL BECKER!



Earlier this spring, Elementary Principal Kim Becker, announced her retirement after 14 years of service to our Seton Catholic School. It goes without saying that she will be missed in many ways. Her spirited energy and dedication will leave an indelible mark on our school, and we are grateful for all she has done. Often, Mrs. Becker could be found in areas outside of her office, greeting students and parents with a smile at morning drop off, monitoring lunches, subbing for teachers, and even recess duty, always jumping where needed.

Mrs. Becker began her career at Seton Catholic in 2010, and what a journey it has been. She remembers coming to SCES for an interview in the spring of that year and noted "the interview was actually enjoyable." The rest of the Becker family was invited to come visit the community for a weekend, and it solidified their decision to make the move to Richmond both for her work and school for their kids. When asked about her time at SCES, Mrs. Becker had this to say, "From the beginning, we were enveloped with helping hands and love. Our children made fast friends and have thrived through their years here. We are so



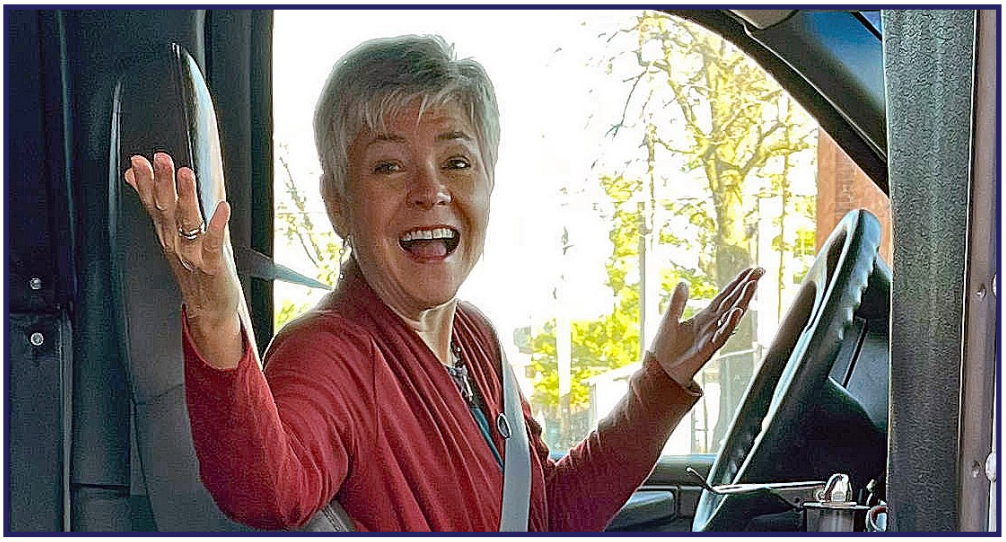


grateful that they had a Seton Catholic education. I have enjoyed the work and getting to know students and families. This has become home for us and we intend to stay after retirement. I will never forget some of the funny lines that kids have said, like 'Why did I let my hair go gray?' or 'Why does the priest wear a dress to Mass?' I'll miss greeting kids in the morning, holding my thermos of coffee and handing out free hugs. I'll miss the daily collegiality with staff who never let the mission of the school get away from them."

Our elementary teachers witnessed first hand her dedication to Seton Catholic. One of SCES' fifth grade teachers, Mrs. Mary Leverton, speaks from the heart about Principal Becker saying, "I have been lucky enough to have been teaching at Seton throughout Kim's fourteen years as our principal. We have gone through many changes within our school system, but the one thing that never changed was Kim's support for her teachers and staff. She has always listened to what we had to say with an open mind and understanding heart. She understood we had many responsibilities and challenges that we were juggling in our classroom, and she always did what she could to support us in whatever ways needed. Her dedication to her students and staff was always on display. She will be greatly missed."

Mrs. Jennifer Wetherell, a second grade teacher at SCES, also reflects about her time with Mrs. Becker, "Over the last fourteen years, I have had the pleasure of interacting with





Principal Becker caught in action behind the wheel, transporting students back to their home campus after All School Mass.

Mrs. Becker as a parent, a teacher, and a friend. When I think of Mrs. Becker, a few words come to mind: humorous, faith-filled, and involved. She maintained her humor during her time at Seton Catholic and shared this gift with staff and students. That humor helped soothe many tough and uncomfortable situations over the years, and built relationships with the students. As a faith-filled Catholic, she has helped to create an environment for our staff, students, and families that embodies our Catholic values. She has modeled these values through her actions and interactions. Mrs. Becker has been present and available in school and out of school, at Mass, after school events, and at fundraisers. She knows her students and their families. She has invested in them and their special life events. My family and I are beyond blessed to have had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Kimberly Becker. She has been a light and a guide and she will be missed by all."

Mrs. Becker told us she once asked Fr. Todd how he managed three churches and schools, having learned that she would bounce between two of them. He said, "It's all about having good people around you." After 14 years here, Mrs. Becker realizes how right he was. Good people!

So, as she departs, her final bit of wisdom to our Seton community is, "Take care of the new principal! Help him to keep the momentum of our younger Cardinals going strong. Rely on the good people to take care of our kids and families. They are worth the effort! God bless Seton Catholic School."

We would imagine there isn't a single person at Seton Catholic Elementary that doesn't have fond memories of her! We thank Mrs. Becker for her servant leadership and for going above and beyond for the betterment of our school. We have been honored to share this time with her and her family.





2024 GRADUATES





On Sunday June 2, family and friends gathered in St. Andrew Church to recognize and celebrate the Class of 2024 for their achievements. Mary Daoud, Valedictorian, and Robert Bagby, Salutatorian, addressed their classmates as did The Most Reverend, Charles Thompson, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Nate Wetherell was awarded the Cardinal Tobin Christian Leadership Award. This prestigious award recognizes a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence in scholarship, outstanding character, inspired leadership, and genuine generosity in service to the school community. Nate is the son of Dave and Jen Wetherell.



CLASS OF 2024 NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The class of 2024 has been accepted into 153 colleges and universities.

They have accumulated over $4 million in merit-based scholarship offers.

18 students will be attending college.

3 students will be entering the work force.

12 students were members of National Honor Society and were recognized with blue and gold cords.

15 students graduated with Academic Honors and were recognized with a gold medallion and gold ribbon.

6 students graduated with a Core 40 Diploma and were recognized with a silver medallion and white ribbon.

4 class officers were recognized with red, white, and blue ribbons.

7 students donated blood 3 or more times and were recognized with red cords.

16 students were student athletes.

20 students held an internship in the community this year.

11 members of the class of 2024 attended Catholic schools their entire academic career.

OUR NEWEST HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

Kudos to the newest members of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton chapter of the National Honor Society (December 2023 induction) and the National Elementary Honor Society (May 2024 induction)!

NHS and NEHS are a national organizations that recognize outstanding students. More than just an honor roll, NHS, and its elementary school branch, NEHS, honors students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Being a member of these societies is by invitation and a specific honor. Seton Catholic is very proud of these student members and encourages these qualities in all their students.

With the help of their faculty moderator, Dan Reichley, and in partnership with the community, NHS members serve at eWaste recycling events. NEHS moderator, Mary Leverton, helps the elementary chapter coordinate bake sales during the school year to help cover the cost of membership.

Congratulations to all!



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INITIATES — Back row: Nolan Burkhardt, Izzy Bentlage, Allie Hamilton, Bryn VanVleet. **Middle row:** Eric Parker, Fabian Aleman, Gwynie Falcone, Isabella Caskey, Landry Cox. **Front row:** Kelsey Brim, Amanda Moore, Jana Clemente, Jackie Clemente, Bella Cornell.



NATIONAL ELEMENTARY HONOR SOCIETY INITIATES
Back row: Markus Parks, Clara Lipps, Addy Keesling, Samuel Diaz-Forero, Ibaini Song, Grace Brandenstein, Dawson Jurgens, Lincoln Jurgens, and Issac Hunter.

MORE GOODBYES...

In addition to Mrs. Becker's retirement, Mary Margaret Johnson is also hanging up her apron at Seton Catholic. Mary Margaret has been an institution in the Intermediate cafeteria for almost 20 years. She raised her first 3 grandchildren at SCES and is now doing the same with her last 3 grandchildren. She believes in the mission of our school. She not only fed our bellies in the cafeteria, but she has fed our souls with her friendship, love, and great stories. Her laugh is infectious, her heart is genuine. We love and will miss her!



We also say good bye to, Amy Meyers, SCHS guidance counselor, and teachers Ann Snyder, high school English, and Emily Keesling, who has taught both kindergarten and preschool for 13 years.

The saying "the only constant in life is change" seems pertinent as we say goodbye. Seton Catholic will miss these friends and co-workers greatly and wishes them all the best.

Band & Choir — Band and choir have grown tremendously this year in their musicality and it certainly shows. Band director, Jim McKinney wasted no time getting our pep band up and running by creating a self-composed school fight song. They played this fight song at all school pep rallies and several basketball games, along with a great mix of pep band standards to get the crowd on their feet. The Seton Catholic High School's Choir perfected The Star-Spangled Banner, performing it acapella at home basketball games played at Earlham this year. The highlight of the year was both groups taking the stage at Kings Island in May. They received several compliments for their fine work.

Our choir and band stayed active in our local community and beyond, including the 4th Street Fair, the Salvation Army's Christmas Radio Show, Indiana State Museum and Seton Catholic's spring and winter concerts at SCHS.



Two talented solo performers, vocalist Adeliena Burket, and musician Jacob Brandenstein (trombone), competed at the ISSMA Solo and Ensemble Competition. In addition, seven performers, vocalists Adeliena Burket, Livian Swinney, Henry Roosa, and brass quartet members, Jana Clemente, Rosie Fraley, Landry Cox, and Mya Vaughn competed at the Catholic Youth Organization Solo and Ensemble Competition. All performers were awarded superior marks for their pieces at both competitions. Adeliena and Henry were awarded "Best Overall" in their individual categories at CYO. They later represented SCHS with a performance at the annual honors recital at Marion University in Indianapolis.

The junior high band focused more on developing their skills rather than performing. Their progress and cohesiveness as a band has been exciting to watch. The eighth graders have honed their skills and promise to contribute amazing talent to next year's senior high band. Band director, Jim McKinney and choir director, Sarah Burket look forward to leading our music department to new heights next year and all that is in store for our talented musicians.

Art — In April, SCHS had seven students submit art to be juried for the All Wayne County High School Art Exhibition held each year at the Richmond Art Museum. Out of twelve artworks submitted, eight were accepted for exhibition including: Leah Miller (senior), Fabian Aleman (junior), Makayla Minor (sophomore), and Brodie Webster (freshman).

These students competed against students from ALL Wayne County high schools through the jurying process in order to have their work included in this exhibition. Let's congratulate them on their achievement and tremendous thanks to art teacher, Theresa Goss.

OVERALL WINNERS

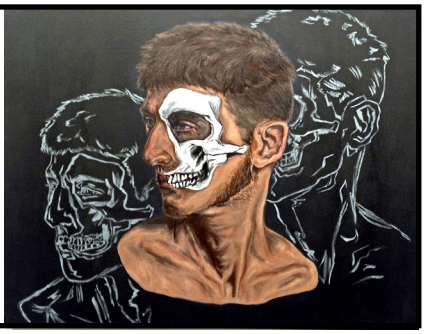


2nd Place Overall:
Fabian Aleman



1st Place:
Leah Miller
Drawing-
Charcoal

2nd Place:
Leah Miller
Painting-
Acrylic/Oil



ATHLETICS' NEWS: WINTER SPORTS ROUND-UP



Our varsity boys basketball team finished the season with a 19-8 record and were sectional champions. Mason Harvey was named IBCA Honorable Mention All-State and was named PAAC Player of the Year. Harvey finished his career 2nd in points, 2nd in rebounds, 4th in blocks, and 1st in 3-pointers made. Jason Moynihan earned Honorable Mention All-Conference honors. The JV team had an excellent season as well as they prepared many players for varsity action at the end of the year and for next year.



Our junior high boys' and girls' basketball teams all improved throughout the season and experienced success. The 7th grade boys had several quality victories while the highlight for the 8th grade boys was earning a first round victory at the PAAC Tournament. The junior high girls team formed the foundation for the return of a girls' varsity basketball .

Our varsity swimming team lost several teammates to graduation last year, but our participation numbers on the girls side was still strong. We had some strong performances and continued improvement throughout the season. Bella Diehl led the way and highlighted the season by being a conference champion in the 50 yard freestyle. Jack Fraley was our only boy swimming this season, but did a great job.



Our cheerleading and dance teams once again did a great job at basketball games this year. The cheerleaders did a great job of supporting the boys' basketball teams at home games and several away games this year. The dance team added some great new routines this year as well as mixing in some crowd favorites from year's past.







Greg Deitz ('09) - Greg works for Dot Foods since he graduated from Purdue in 2013. He just proposed to fellow Purdue grad, Nicky and she said, "Yes!" Their wedding will be next spring in Mishawaka with Father Jack Wright officiating.

Mary Beth (Deitz) ('12) - Mary Beth married Mike Rosswurm in April '21 and now live in Indianapolis. Mary Beth stays home with their one year old son, Arthur.

Clay Dolesh ('12) - Clay is a senior engineer for American Battery Solutions in Springboro, Ohio. He recently moved to Carlisle with his wife, Rosemary, and their two sons, Otto and new baby, Benedict.

Rhett Butler ('14) - Rhett is the Marketing Account Manager at Miami University.

Adam Dolesh ('14) - Adam accepted a new job opportunity as a Senior Buyer with Ingersoll-Rand in Connersville, Indiana. He begins July. Adam has also been coaching as the assistant varsity boys' basketball coach since 2022 under head coach Josh Jurgens.

Tyler Dolesh ('14) - Tyler lives in Columbus, Ohio and just completed his sixth year of working for Cintas. He received a promotion to Corporate Major Account Manager. He is newly engaged to Nicole Lisi.

Brady Gray ('14) - Brady is an Account Manager for Pension Corporation of America.

Megan Schroeder ('16) - Megan and **Christopher Easley ('16)** were married last October at St. Andrew's and now reside in Indianapolis. Megan graduated from Marian University School of Osteopathic Medicine in May. She will complete her three years of Residency in Internal Medicine at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. Chris is an Underwriter with Arlington Roe based in Indianapolis.

Noah Becker ('17) - Noah graduated from Rose-Hulman in 2021 will begin his second year of teaching at SCHS. In the upcoming 2024 -25 school year, he will be teaching algebra, geometry, statistics, personal finance, and engineering 1.

Rita Deitz ('18) - Rita is getting married at the end of June! She just graduated from grad school at Purdue. She is a speech language pathologist. She and her new husband, Abner, will be living and working in Indianapolis.

Brooke Gray ('18) -Brooke is an Environmental Engineer, working with a team on removing PFAS (aka forever chemicals) from drinking water. She is also working on her Master's thesis research focusing on anion exchange resins to remove PFAS.

Sarah Gray ('18) - Sarah recently earned her Masters degree in Speech Language Pathology. She has accepted a position at Reid Health for her clinical fellowship.

Vincent Falcone ('19) - Vincent is working as an electrician with the IBEW 855.

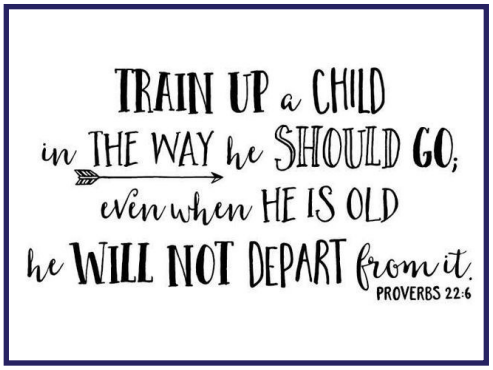
Josh Brown ('20) - Josh is a career Firefighter and Nationally Certified Paramedic, working for Richmond Fire Department since 2022. In what spare time he has, he enjoys golf, softball and just hanging out with family and friends.

Suzanne Becker ('20) - Suzanne graduated last month from IU Bloomington with an B.A. in Elementary Education.

Jonah Falcone ('21) - Jonah went on his pilgrimage to Rome, and he is working as an actuarial science intern in Nashville Tennessee this summer.

Elijah Falcone ('23) - Elijah just finished his first year as an electrical apprentice with the IBEW 855.

Connor Kitchin ('23) - Connor is currently attending boot camp in San Diego, CA. He will graduate Aug. 23 as a US Marine and will serve in the reserves while attending the University of Dayton, studying Criminal Justice.















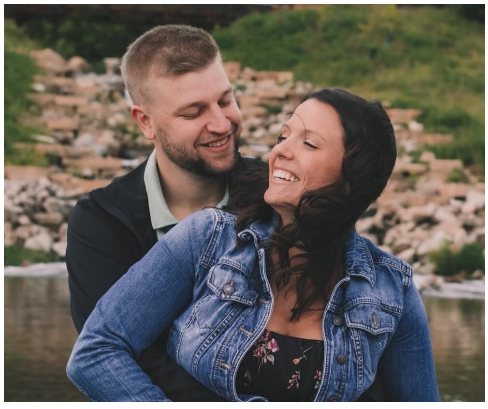














ALUMNI: *Reach out to us about what you've been up to: setoninfo@setoncatholics.org.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 4: Back to School Meet & Greet

August 7: First Day of School

September 15: Cardinal Classic Golf Outing

October 14-18: Fall Break

For fall athletic schedules visit: https://www.setonschools.org/fall-sports











Thank you to our many volunteers that help us in so many ways!

TO SHARE YOUR TIME OR TALENT, PLEASE CONTACT US.

SCHS: Mrs. Jeneile Matthews at jmatthews@setoncatholics.org,
INTERMEDIATE: Mrs. Farrah Caskey at fcaskey@setoncatholics.org,
or PRIMARY: Mrs. Emily Murray at emurray@setoncatholics.org.



