

SEAS NAVIGATOR

A PUBLICATION OF ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON MIDDLE SCHOOL

MNSAA SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION 08



Back to School 2009

The Difference is Prayer

Special Interest

- The first day of school will be on Tuesday, September 8th. This is a half day, which means that students will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m. TCAPS **does** provide busing both to and from school for the entire week. This is an appreciated change from years past.
- The Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1st from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We will gather in the gymnasium at 6:30 p.m. for a welcome, prayer, and delivery of general school information. All students and parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Our PTC sponsored Parent Coffee is scheduled for Thursday, September 10th following drop-off. Please join fellow parents with coffee and rolls to celebrate the kick-off to an extraordinary school year!

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From the Desk of the SEAS Principal, Lori Phillips

Dear Parents,

It is with great anticipation and joy that I welcome you to the 2009-10 school year at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. After serving Holy Angels for the past five years, I look forward to this new position and commit myself to giving the very best I have for this phenomenal school community. I continue to feel extremely blessed to have the privilege of working alongside knowledgeable and faith-filled parents, staff, and faculty who hold high expectations and continue to raise the bar for students and themselves. I continually challenge myself, as well to grow, and place high expectations on students both academically and spiritually. I pray that each person who enters our doors recognizes that our school is an extension of our Catholic Church; a place to be highly revered and cherished. With the help of God and the guiding intercession of St. Eliza-

beth Ann Seton, I am confident that our school year be blessed as our students grow in their love, faith and knowledge.

After teaching in a middle school for 9 years, I understand that these "Middle Years" are tender and exciting. Young adolescents are shedding their childhood qualities. They are changing physically, cognitively, actively seeking autonomy and forming personal identities; all of which are normal, natural, and necessary. Parenting may be taxing at times, but our faith and understanding of what they are experiencing will support them through this most impressive and rewarding time. I look so forward to seeing all of your children and being a small part of their lives. Like the desires I hold for my own children, I want the very best for each of your children. Please do not hesitate to share your thoughts regard-

ing your child's school success. Your concerns, ideas, and positive comments are appreciated and respected. Communication is vital to their success and to our overall growth and sense of community here at SEAS. We want to be proud of our school and our students. . . for God's glory alone!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, Sept. 1st. We will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a brief meeting to deliver general school information and introduce our wonderful staff.

I pray that you continue to enjoy these final weeks of summer. In turn, I ask you to pray for our entire SEAS staff as we prepare for this upcoming school year.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Lori Phillips

New Staff Additions

We are very pleased to welcome three new staff members to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. **Father Bill Lipscomb** has been assigned as our new School Chaplain. What a blessing it will be to have Father at each of our school sites throughout the week! We welcome him with open and loving arms and are excited for the opportunity to see him on a regular basis. We also welcome to our building **Mr. Fred Robb and Mr. Mark Anderson**. Mr. Robb, who previously taught at Immaculate Conception, will be teaching one section of 6th grade Social Studies and all 8th grade Religion classes. His fun-loving and positive attitude, along with his deep faith, will serve our students well. Mr. Anderson will be our new custodian during the school day. Mark is extremely knowledgeable in maintenance responsibilities and is such a faith-filled servant of God. We are so blessed to have him on staff. Welcome one and all!

Dates To Remember:

Wed., 8/12: Used Uniform Sale in the IC Gym from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Mon., 8/24: SEAS School Office Opens

Mon., 8/31 and Fri., 9/4: SEAS School Office Closed

Tues., 9/1: Ice Cream Social SEAS Gymnasium @ 6:30 p.m.

Wed., 9/2: Bussing Information available in the TC Record Eagle

Tues., 9/8: First Day of School (1/2 Day)

Fri., 9/11: All System Mass at 8:30 a.m., St. Francis High School Gym. (Please do not drop your child off any earlier than 7:30 a.m.)

Mass

*Our weekly Mass will be on **Tuesdays** at 10:00 a.m. in our school cafeteria. Father Jerry Micketti, Pastor of Christ the King, will be our regular celebrant.*

Student Schedules

Due to an updated student management software system, schedules will be distributed September 8th. More info. will be given at our Open House on Sept. 1st.

Teacher Assignments by Subject Area and Grade Level

Becky Callery	Science	6th/7th Grade
Nicole DeVol	Math/Religion	7th Grade
Tom Dohm	Math/Social Studies	6th Grade
Archie Kolinski	PE/Health	6th/7th Grade
Nancy Martin	Social Studies	7th/8th Grade
Fred Robb	Social Studies/Religion	6th Grade/8th Grade
Leslie Summers	Language Arts	7th/8th Grade
Tim Shrift	Math/Science	8th Grade
Raelynn Stein	Language Arts/Religion	6th Grade
*TCAPS Assigned	PE/Health	8th Grade

*TCAPS will be assigning/reassigning all Special Teachers mid August. All teachers will be announced and introduced at our Ice Cream Social on the 8th.

Shuttle Service

As you may know, the SF shuttle is in great demand with a wait list of 26 students. If you previously signed up for the SF shuttle and have realized you will no longer need this service, please contact Cindy Weber at 995.8425 so we can accommodate other students. If you are currently on a wait list, please know that we are discussing alternatives to meet your child's transportation needs. The two IC shuttles are nearly full at this time as well.

Lunch Pricing

Lunch prices for SEAS students are \$3.30. Parents may begin funding their child's lunch account at any time. Checks may be made to GTACS and mailed to Karen Spencer; GTACS Dining Services at 123 East 11th Street, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Grade Level Expectations

Sixth grade is a year of transition; making friends and making good choices. Classes switch for differing content areas and organization is a key to their individual success. Students begin to explore leadership opportunities within the school culture.

Seventh grade is a year of independence and fine tuning organizational and listening skills. Students have acclimated to middle school and they handle the changing of classes with ease. They begin to grow in their focus on academics and continue to need social/emotional support in order to embrace the demands of their intellectual needs.

8th Grade is a year of continued growth independence as they prepare for the rigor of high school. Their actions and deeds are watched closely by their younger peers and they begin showing their spiritual maturity and social/emotional growth. As leaders, they enjoy community service both on and off campus. One of the highlights of 8th grade is our Washington D.C. trip. A parent/student meeting will be held in the fall to provide more details and offer fundraising opportunities.

Uniform Information

Thank you for helping your child to adhere to our dress code guidelines. Our dress code reminds us that we are disciplined and attend a Catholic school; one that is centered on Christ and His teachings.

We ask that all parents help their SEAS student continue to abide by the “no visible logo/brand tags” guideline. While our staff may not “catch” every infraction, clothing will be provided for your child if they are out of

uniform. This is often an *avoidable* situation.

Khaki pants/shorts may be purchased from any vendor, but may not have side cargo pockets, rivets, or again, any visible logos/brand tags.

Attention girls: A comfortable skirt may be worn in either navy or khaki, available through Lands’ End. The entire uniform dress code can be found in the link attached.

We ask that all students exer-

cise modesty in selecting their uniform clothing. Thank you for your partnership in this matter. It is one way to live out our faith which reminds us that our bodies are “temples of the Holy Spirit.” This knowledge and understanding helps to inspiring us in our dress, reflective of this teaching.

Please notice the change in Gladiator/Spirit Wear Jean Days.



**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
pray for us!**

Christian Service Hours

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School is a community centered in Christ. As Christ did, we lead and encourage students to extend themselves into the community through our Christian Service Hours Program.

This program promotes Christian attitudes toward service in a variety of situations, for example school community, parish life and church community, and human services in the greater community. We make available to the students a variety of possible projects which will enable them to become involved. In addition, they can independently, with the guidance of their religion teacher, choose an appropriate project within our community.

After completing service hours, students complete a *Christian Service Hours* form which can be downloaded from the GTACS website.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Our extra-curricular activities allow your middle school student to expand in their individual interests. Some of the extra-curricular activities at SEAS include: Builder’s Club, Praise Choir, Spelling and National Geography Bees, Odyssey of the Mind, and Math Counts. Athletic opportunities include basketball, football, volleyball, cross-country skiing, cross country running, downhill ski clubs, track, tennis, and wrestling. Watch for more information in the SEAS Navigator.



Jean Days

Due to the Mass day change and our efforts to provide K-12 consistency to our charity giving, our Jean Day will be held on the 3rd Friday of each month. On this day, students may choose to wear typical Gladiator Spirit Wear attire or a suitable shirt/top of their choice. Please guide your students in wearing appropriate clothing that reflects our Christ-centered environment. If at any time your child’s attire is in question, they will be asked to change into uniform clothing provided in the office. Thank you!

PE/Health

All students will have Physical Education and Health class all year long. Mr. Kolinski will be teaching to our 6th and 7th graders, while a TCAPS assigned teacher will be teaching our 8th graders. This change will support our LBI program and overall health/well being of our students and their need to be active in this developmental stage.

Parent Volunteers Needed!

Lunch time offers the SEAS students many options. They may choose to stay in the cafeteria, Library, a classroom designated for Homework Lunch or enjoy recess outside. We are in need of regular parent volunteers to help supervise students during this time in addition to our rotating parent volunteers. Please email Erika Bramer at ebramer@chartermi.net to sign up for a “one day/week” regular volunteer position. Thank you and God bless you!