



Special Interest

The first day of school will be Tuesday, September 5th. TCAPS *does* provide transportation and it's a full day.

Our **Back-to-School Information Night** is scheduled for Wednesday August 30th at 6:30 p.m. We will gather in our gymnasium for a welcome, prayer, and a general/ school informational meeting. We will introduce our new staff members and announce other staff changes. Students will meet their assigned Advisory teacher and be issued their class schedules. This will be a necessary time, especially for new students and their parents, as we will share expectations and helpful tips to ensure a smooth transition. All students and parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Attention 8th grade students/parents: There will be a brief presentation followed by a discussion/meeting regarding the April 2018 Washington, D.C. trip—after the Back-to-School Information meeting (at approximately 7:15) in the band room

Because members of the 8th grade staff also serve as chaperones on the Washington, D.C., trip, there will be NO CLASSES for 8th graders who elect NOT to participate in the trip in April.

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From the Desk of the SEAS Principal, Carl Scholten [Back to School 2017](#)

Dear Parents,

It is with great anticipation and joy that I welcome you to the 2017-18 school year at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. I 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. Elizabeth Ann Seton, I am confident that our school year will be blessed as our students continue to grow in their love, faith, and knowledge.

We continue to challenge ourselves to become the best middle school for our students; and to assist you, (their parents and our partners), in maximizing your child's academic and spiritual growth. Two such driving forces of successful middle schools, advisory and teaming, will continue to be advanced and improved upon as we grow and meet the various needs of our stu-

dents. Both of these organizational structures foster purposeful learning and meaningful relationships, and we believe are vital to our success in serving our students' needs.

The "Middle Years" are both tender and challenging. Young adolescents are shedding their childhood qualities. They are changing physically and cognitively, and are actively seeking autonomy, and forming personal identities; all of which are normal, natural, and necessary. Parenting is no doubt challenging at times, but our faith and understanding of what our children are experiencing will support them, and guide us, as they move through this most impressionable and rewarding phase. Please do not hesitate to share your thoughts regarding your child's school success. Your concerns, ideas, and positive comments are always appreciated and respected. Communication is vital to their success and to our overall growth and sense of community here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. 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 Back-to-School Information Night on Wednesday August 30th. We will begin at 6:30 p.m.

with a brief meeting to deliver general school information and introduce our wonderful staff and grade level teams.

As always, I ask for your prayers for our entire St. Elizabeth Ann Seton staff as we prepare for this upcoming school year. We know that we are nothing without His guidance; therefore, we rely heavily upon Him in everything we do!

I look forward to working with all students, staff, and parents this year to create a positive school and community culture where your children can flourish both spiritually and academically.

Thank you for your partnership and trust.

Yours in Christ,

Mr. Carl Scholten

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Pray for us!



When you have the opportunity, please thank Mike Alfaro and Greg Robinson. Our building remains in fantastic shape as a result of their dedication, skill, and hard work throughout the summer!

Dates to Remember

Wed., 8/30 Back-to-School Information Night; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Gymnasium @ 6:30 p.m.

Wed., 8/30: Washington, D.C. Parent/Student Information Meeting; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton @ 7:15 p.m. (immediately following back-to-school presentation)

Fri., 9/1: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School Office Closed

Tues., 9/5 School begins (2:34 dismissal)

Fri., 9/8: All School Mass at 8:30 a.m., Saint Francis High School (Please do not drop your child off at the high school any earlier than 7:30 a.m.)

Lunch Duty

As always, we are in need of regular parent volunteers to assist in the dining hall/ outside one day per week from 11:01-1:01. If you are willing/able, please email Holly Schurg at hschurg@gmail.com to sign up. Thank you and God bless you for your volunteerism!

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.

Eighth grade is a year of continued growth and independence as they prepare for the rigor of the coming years in 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 Christian service both on and off campus.

Middle School Teaming

Teaming at the middle school level has a different emphasis than the teaming that occurs in the elementary school setting. Interdisciplinary teaming is defined as a group of teachers from *different* subject areas who plan and work together and who share the same students for a significant portion of the school day. This approach is intended to create a context that enables students and teachers to know one another better and help teachers better support and understand the educational needs of each student.

Teams generally focus on the following: coordinating lesson plans, sharing and discussing student progress, designing and reviewing common assessments, solving challenges, and integrating subjects around a central theme or idea. This cohesive atmosphere has proven to be a vital component of strong middle schools across the nation. High functioning teams enjoy great rewards for their collaborative work; the greatest coming in the form of student achievement scores and personal growth for all.

Below is a listing of teacher teams and the core subjects they will teach:

6th Grade Team:

Ken Knudsen — Math & Social Studies **Carol Erickson** — Science & Social Studies
Sharon Noggle — Literature & Language Arts
LeaAnn Anderson — Religion & Language Arts

7th Grade Team:

Becky Callery — Science (7th /8th) **Kristen Gray** — Math & Literature
Tracey Tull — Language Arts & Religion **Josh Sellers** — Social Studies & Literature

8th Grade Team:

Nancy Martin — Social Studies & Literature **Russell Nance** — Religion (8th / 7th)
Sarah Sheridan — Math & Science **Leslie Summers** — Reading/ Literature

Seton Learning Center:

Tammy Soto — Reading Support **Fred Robb** — Math Support

Advisory

With so many negative influences impinging on the lives of our children outside of school, it is more important than ever that every young adolescent be a part of a peer group where real concerns and issues can be addressed. Advisory is not an independent activity, serving only affective needs; it is an integral element in the school's program to advance the overall development of each student. We want our students to learn at high levels, behave appropriately, learn life's lessons through personal experiences, and trust they have God and many other advocates to turn to. Advisory will give our students this priceless gift. Students will report to their Advisory teachers each morning at 7:50-8:05. Teachers will design lessons catering to the needs of their grade level. They will focus on specific topics, such as: Orientation of Students, Goal Setting, Organizational Skills, Study and Skill Reinforcements, Conferences regarding Grades/Assessments and Self Advocacy, Building Group Identity and Belonging, and Christ-centered activities to promote our community here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, as well as the broader community. What a great way to set our students up for success and start the school day — organized and feeling a part of a special "team"!

Busing/Shuttle Service

If you wish to use the inter-campus shuttle service, a form and check for \$250 per student needs to be sent to TCAPS. Information about busing options and enrollment may be found at the following link:

[Transportation Enrollment](#)

Lunch Pricing

Lunch prices for SEAS students are \$3.85 for the new school year. Parents may begin funding their child's lunch account at any time. Checks may be made to GTACS, and sent to Karen Spencer; GTACS Dining Services at 123 East 11th Street, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Student Schedules

Students will obtain their class schedules at the Back-to-School Information Night on Wednesday August 30. New students who have not yet done placement testing are asked to contact the office to do so.

Weekly Mass

Our weekly Mass will continue to be held every Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. We are so blessed to have an opportunity to receive Jesus and grow in our love and relationship with Him. Please feel free to join us when you can. We are excited to welcome back Father Cotter as he imparts his wisdom and challenges us with the Word of God.

DISMISSAL TIME: Due to a change in TCAPS busing scheduling, school will dismiss at 2:34 PM this year. The school schedule has been adjusted to avoid any loss of instructional time, while still beginning at 7:50 am.

MATH CURRICULUM: After much analysis and study, our math offerings for 7th and 8th grade have been adjusted. Both Course 3 and Algebra Readiness will continue to serve as the preparatory class for Algebra I and students will be placed in the class that will best suit their needs as a learner. Both classes will continue to be the last class before Algebra I.

Counseling Services

As we continue to be developmentally responsive to your child's needs both in and out of the classroom, we are blessed to have the services of Mrs. Ginny Newman, our school counselor. Mrs. Newman works closely with our teachers and parents to ensure a successful school year for our students. Her door is always open!

Enrichment/Exploratory Opportunities

Every solid middle school provides enriching opportunities for students to gain exposure to and experience non-curricular activities. Due to the confinements of our school day, our students must choose from a variety of options to meet their individual needs. Each year we try to address our time issues and continue to explore the best ways to serve our students, exposing them to broad activities while expanding on their growing talents. Students will enjoy two (regular) class periods (44 min.) of enrichment/exploratory class offering per day.

Enrichment Course selections were made in the spring of last year. While we always try to accommodate the greatest number of students the best we can, flexibility and cooperation are asked of all.

A full year of Band is offered to any interested student grades 6-8. Band will once again be taught by Mr. Charles Taylor. Mr. Taylor is an accomplished musician as well as an exceedingly motivating and knowledgeable "music man." Mr. Taylor has also served GTACS as principal of both Immaculate Conception and St. Francis High Schools, and as the Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Gaylord. All bands saw great improvement and success under Mr. Taylor's direction last year and we look forward to their continued success.

This year we are able to offer Spanish for all sixth graders for one quarter (9 weeks), along with computers, keyboarding, and art. Each sixth grade (non Band) student will take one quarter of each of these enrichment courses this year.

To build on the foreign language progress of our middle school students, we will offer a year of Spanish to our seventh graders, along with computers, computer programming, art, and physical education. Our 8th grade students will have the option to take a full year of Spanish. Those not in band or Spanish will rotate through computers and art or physical education.

Christian Service

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. We make available to the students a variety of possible projects which will enable them to serve and meet these requirements. In addition, students can independently, with the guidance of their Religion teacher, choose an appropriate project within our community. The complete objectives and requirements may be found on pgs. 6-8 of our student handbook. After accomplishing service hours, students will complete a *Christian Service Hours* form which can be downloaded from the GTACS website.

Uniforms

The wearing of a Catholic School uniform helps students identify with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School, and reflects the unity we share in our love for Christ. Not only do our students take individual pride in their cleanliness and neatness, they do so reflecting this unity as a community. It is the collective responsibility of all (parents, students, and staff) to ensure the uniform applies to each student. In addition to uniform parameters, **please note that hair is to be clean and neatly groomed, out of the eyes, and (boys) off the collar.** Please help ensure that the uniform is respected and held in the highest regard by reviewing pgs. 33-35 in the Student Handbook. Thank you for your support in helping us focus on your child's academic and spiritual growth.

11th Hour

As we continue to support students in the areas of responsibility and work ethic, we will continue to offer 11th hour on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after school until 3:45. All students that have an unexcused missing assignment must attend 11th hour (the following day/session) from 2:45-3:45. Further, your child may miss athletic practice or club meetings. Please also see our school handbook for additional information on homework tips/guidelines (pg. 11-12) as well as your team's beginning of the year letter outlining the grade level Late Work Policy.

Jean Days

In remaining consistent within our school system, our students will continue to enjoy Jean Days every **third Friday of the month.** 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!

8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip

One of the highlights of 8th grade is our Washington D.C. trip through Christian Discoveries, a national touring company. This educational "field trip" is phenomenal and tied directly to our nation's 8th and 9th grade social studies curriculum. Learning about the history of our country through a Christ-centered lens puts everything together for our students as they begin to develop a deep love and appreciation for our country and its founding fathers. For the past three years, we have incorporated a service/mission type experience for our traveling students which further opens the hearts of our students. The D.C. Trip meeting for parents and students will take place after the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Information Night at 7:15 PM in the band room. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Martin, our staff coordinator, at nmartin@gtacs.org.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Our extra-curricular activities allow your middle school student to expand their individual interests. Some of the extra-curricular activities at SEAS include: Builder's Club, Choir/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. Please watch for more information in the weekly Navigator!

Welcome, Eileen Larsen

Eileen will be student teaching in Carol Erickson's 6th Grade classroom this fall. She is currently finishing her education degree from Central Michigan University, and brings to her role a great passion for education. Both of Eileen's children are alumni of our Catholic schools.

The Difference is Prayer