



BAYLEY

BULLETIN

- **SAT VS. ACT**
WHICH TEST FOR COLLEGE?
- **HOW TO BE A CATHOLIC TEENAGER**
- **ALUMNI PROFILE:**
FR. DANIEL
SEDLACEK



YOUR FAVORITE SETON COURSE ESSAY CONTEST

WINNERS





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VICTORIA CORMIER

Grade

9

First Place

RELIGION 9 FAVORITE OF MINE





No successes in this world matter if in the end we do not achieve heavenly glory. With this unavoidable reality in mind, it is my number one goal to become a saint and help others on the road to God's kingdom in heaven. This goal can be more readily attained by learning about God and His truths; otherwise, it would be impossible to love Him and thus follow Him, as we cannot love Him whom we do not even know. Seton's earlier Religion courses have accordingly played an important part in inspiring me with a greater love for God, but Religion 9 stands out so far, among the other courses, whether elementary Religion or other ninth grade courses. Religion 9 is my favorite Seton course because its use of the *Baltimore Catechism No.3*, the supplements in its lesson plans, and the essay questions in its quarterly tests all guide the student to a deeper understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Faith, helping the student to live the Faith more concretely and to defend it when necessary.

The *Baltimore Catechism No.3* is the only book used in Religion 9, and yet the more advanced comprehension of the Catholic Faith that it presents makes it a valuable source for those seeking to practice the Faith more devoutly and to profess it courageously. Each lesson in the Catechism clearly states the Church's teachings in question and answer format. Most of the truths expressed are supported by scripture verses containing Jesus' words and actions as well as other of God's biblical revelations. Other passages grounded in reason and tradition accompany these corroborative excerpts. Covering the lesson from all sides, these passages encourage a critical point of view, which is the key to defending the Faith in the face of criticism. The "Important Truths About ..." section in each lesson explains the catechism and delves into its deeper meanings by presenting lesser-known details. The Catechism also allows the student to apply what he has learned by taking weekly quizzes and answering questions about situations as presented in the Problems and Exercises sections. These exercises challenge

the student to better grasp the core tenets of Catholicism and its practices. The student also is given the opportunity to adopt suggested holy and moral practices as part of daily life. Religion 9's textbook, the *Baltimore Catechism No.3*, has been a great aid in guiding me to support and live Catholicism to the fullest.

Religion 9 also contain supplements in its lesson plans that are geared to helping students assess the information gathered from the Catechism, in order to inspire them to love, live, and defend the Faith to a greater extent. Each supplemental essay follows and reviews the lesson studied in the Catechism, helping the student to grasp the knowledge more profoundly. In addition to review, the supplements provide additional aspects that relate to the lesson, with convincing arguments and a more philosophical point of view in support of the doctrines taught. With this thorough evaluation of the topic, the student becomes well prepared to rise to support doctrine when challenged. The supplemental questions after the supplements assist the student in mastering the lessons with an answer key for correction to avoid misunderstandings. Furthermore, the optional supplemental activities offer the student a tangible way to practice and spread the Good News of the Gospel. Religion 9's engaging supplements have truly helped me to incorporate the Faith into my daily life and to develop my apologetic spiritual life.

Finally, the essay questions presented in the quarterly tests confront the student with the necessity to understand the Catholic Faith in certain disputed areas in order defend it from a substantial source. These essay questions challenge the student to defend and explain some of the most opposed and mystifying truths of Catholicism with the material learned from the Catechism and the supplements. They focus on testing the student's actual comprehension of the concepts rather than mere superficial

memorization. Thus, if the Catholic student is ever questioned about the Faith, he or she will be able to dispel doubts from a solid understanding of the Church teachings, as memorization does not always answer all questions directly. Moreover, in challenging the student to defend the Catholic Faith, the essay questions give the student a stronger sense of his or her role in living a good exemplary Christian life and in bringing others to the fullness of God's truth. Indeed, the essay questions in questions in Religion 9's tests have allowed me to grow in my ability to defend the Faith.

Truly, Religion 9 is my favorite Seton course because the *Baltimore Catechism No.3*, the supplements in the lesson plans, and the quarterly graded essay questions contribute to a fuller understanding of the Catholic Faith, encouraging the student to practice it devoutly and passionately support it. The *Baltimore Catechism No.3* has led me to be a strong devotee of the Catholic Faith, and the course's supplements have further encouraged me to integrate the faith into my life and to share it with others. Finally, the essay questions in Religion 9's quarterly tests have given me the opportunity to develop my apologetic abilities. These three aspects truly make for an exceptional Religion course that undoubtedly helps one grow closer to God.

Victoria Cormier is the sixth of eight children and has been homeschooling with Seton since the 3rd Grade. She loves homeschooling and strives to be a good Catholic. Victoria enjoys reading classic novels and American history, drawing nature, and trying her hand out at various crafts. She also loves spending time with her family and doing things outdoors such as gardening, raising six backyard chickens, hiking, and camping. This fall she hopes to learn to play the guitar and improve her piano skills. In the future, she might join the Missionaries of Charity in response to a possible calling to the consecrated religious life.







AMELIA COLEMAN

Grade

9

Second Place

Why I Love Seton's Literature



I have always loved to write, but when my parents and I decided to enroll with Seton Home Study School for ninth grade, I was slightly nervous about the literature program. Friends and family warned that Seton demanded a great deal of difficult writing assignments, and that it would be difficult to stay on top of it all. Though I sometimes wondered how many hours I would have to spend stabilized on coffee during the night, cranking out essay after boring essay, I did not let these warnings deter me. Now, looking back over my freshman year, I find that my fears were groundless and the rumors false. Seton's literature program is enjoyable, challenging but not outrageously so, and is helping me grow in my writing skills.

Seton's literature is enjoyable. Firstly, the required reading is age-appropriate and engaging. The books are short and written in a simple, straightforward style. This does not mean that the books are shallow or trashy, like many popular stories in today's pop-culture tend to be. Rather, they could be categorized as modern classics: well-written and streamlined but with superb plots and story lines. Secondly, Seton's books are not only academically and spiritually beneficial, but gripping and exciting, causing the student to actually want to read them! The subject matter promotes a virtuous lifestyle and offers many life-lessons, while remaining interesting and teen-oriented. Finally, the essays are a joy to write because by writing down thoughts and ideas about the character or theme, one obtains a deeper understanding of the book. By exploring character traits, one understands more fully the strengths and weaknesses of the character in question. This makes not only the reading, but writing essays fun and interesting. As a result, Seton's literature is very enjoyable.

Seton's literature program is challenging, but to no extreme. For example, one must know the story through and through to be able to take the test or write the paper. While other schools may focus on the ability of the student to read the books, Seton demands understanding of the books. In order to do well on tests and essays, one must truly know the technique, story, and characters of the book. One must also understand writing concepts and techniques, such as the theme, conflict, and climax of the story. This ensures that the student will actually read the book, instead of just scanning the covers. Another reason is that there are several papers to be written, but not too many. The work required is very reasonable. Seton's lesson

plans have clear and easy-to-follow instructions, preventing confusion. Lastly, Seton's graders are generally strict. This pushes the student to do the very best he can. Though this may sound daunting, in reality it is not. If one understands the book and the instructions, one should not have a problem. For these reasons, Seton's literature is just challenging enough without being terribly tedious and difficult.

Seton's literature is helping me grow in my writing skills. Firstly, I learned how to manage my time. With literature tests, book analysis, and essays to stay on top of, one must be sure to set and follow a good schedule. I found myself falling behind many times this past year, but I learned that instead of procrastinating and putting assignments off, I should get them done right away. Also, I have had wonderful practice in writing essays. I had not written many essays before I enrolled with Seton, but since then I have really caught up. This practice is helping me prepare for college. Finally, I learned how to make a good, structured outline. I did not know what an outline was before I enrolled with Seton, much less used one. Now, however, I know the importance of a good outline. My writing has improved much since enrolling with Seton.

Seton's literature is fun, rigorous, and has taught me a lot. The books are wonderful and age-appropriate. The program is challenging but without being overly strenuous. I have learned how to write a proper essay with a strong outline. For these reasons, I am very grateful that I have had to opportunity to partake in Seton Home Study School's literature program.

Amelia Coleman is the oldest of nine, and couldn't quite call her life "quiet," even if she'd like to. She is fifteen years old, going into tenth grade, and has been homeschooled all her life. Amelia loves to travel and learn about different cultures, languages, and places. Some activities she enjoys are photography, reading (and re-reading her favorite author, Tolkien), writing fiction and poetry, and drawing. Not surprisingly, her favorite subjects are English and geography. She also loves nature and animals (especially cats), hiking, archery, deer hunting, and wilderness survival. She loves and plays many sports, her favorite of which is basketball. She also taught herself to play the ukulele. When she's not doing school, she can usually be found either shooting hoops with her brothers or curled up in some (semi) quiet room with *The Lord of the Rings*.

Grade
10
First Place





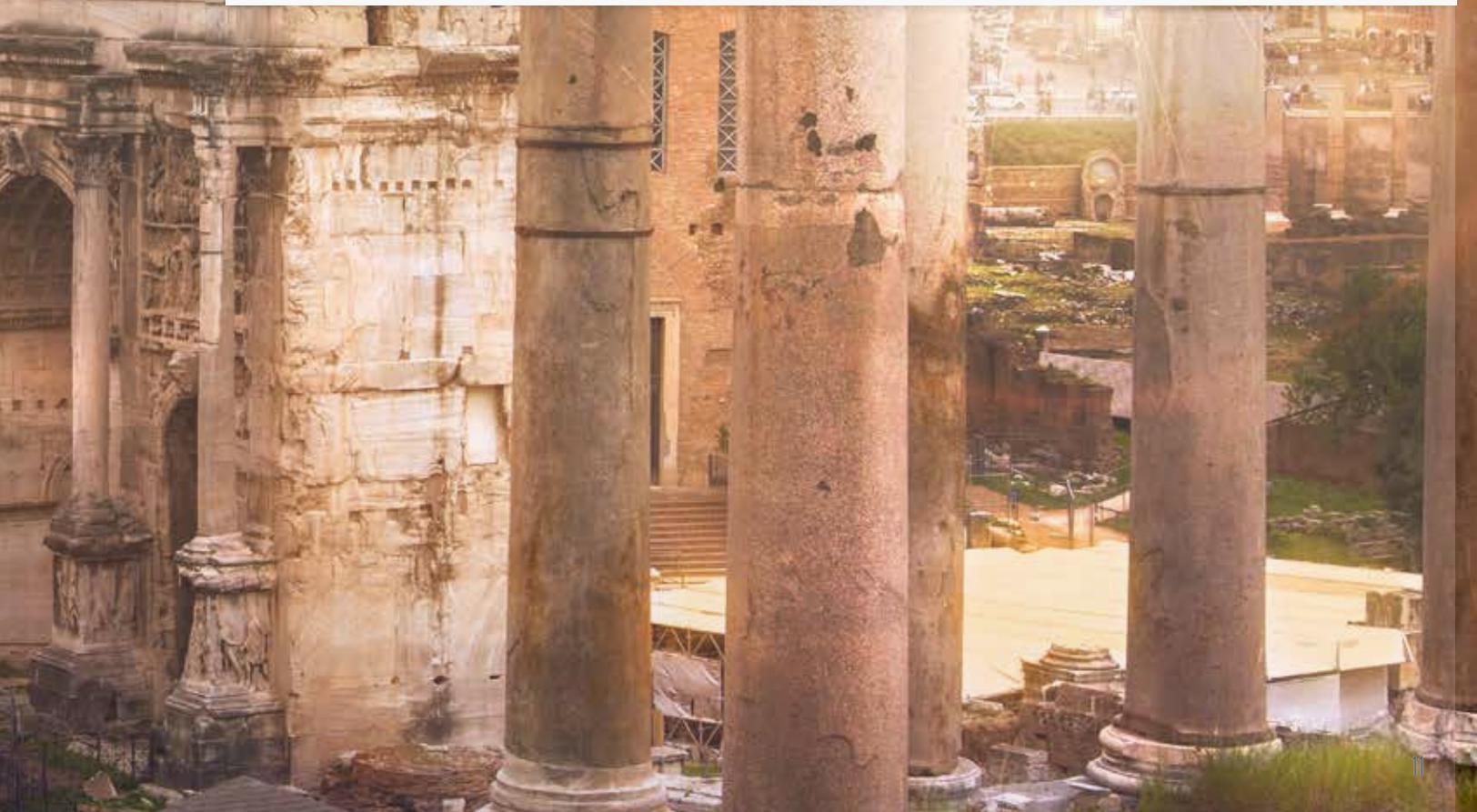
CLAIRE AMAYA-PARRA

GRATIA ANTIQUA

The Roman civilization has become such an integral part of our lives, we don't even notice it. Everyone has studied the Romans at some point in their lives, and everyone is familiar with the tragedy of Pompeii and the bloody arenas of gladiators, both frequent inspirations for the screenwriters and directors of Hollywood. It is most evident in our spoken language, whether literally used such as in scientific terms or as the root of modern words ranging from trivia to album. It's even present in phrases we use without realizing like alter ego and defacto. As those leading the Renaissance movement recognized 500 years ago, the Roman

civilization has taken a prominent role in history. For this reason, Latin is my favorite subject to study, as it influenced and influences my past, present and future.

Although it is now regarded a dead language, Latin has enormously influenced the past two millenniums. It was the language of the small group of Roman barbarians who rose to create one of the greatest empires in the history of civilization with the most advanced political systems, science, literature, architecture, education and arts, whose colossal and notorious army fought to



gain more to its seemingly unending territory. However immorality, chaos, poverty and war with neighboring barbarians led to the disintegration and fall of this legendary empire. Nevertheless, it left a legacy which would inspire generations to come, including the creation of the Holy Roman Empire many centuries later, and the Renaissance, a revival of the literature and poetry written in Latin by Roman writers. It has been the language of the greatest thinkers, military leaders, writers, and artists in history.

The effect that the Roman people caused can still be observed today. Many political systems are founded upon the old systems used by the Romans, those systems are used to govern our countries today, such as in the United States. As a Catholic I personally identify with Latin today

as it was the language of the traditional Catholic Church, the language of the martyrs who gave their lives for Christ in the bloody sands of Roman arenas. Studying Latin means that I don't only say the words of the prayers they once said, but I can also understand them. Meaning that when I go to Latin Mass or read the inscriptions of a prayer in an old Cathedral, I can say them with real devotion knowing that millions of other Christians said them just like many centuries before. Moreover, Latin also helps me understand better the two languages I speak, Spanish and English, as well as those I study, Italian and French.

Finally, Latin personally influences my choices for the future. Every time I translate something into Latin or vice versa I know I am one step



closer to my own aspiration to study Classics in college. By studying now and increasing my knowledge of the Latin language I become more prepared for the time when I will follow the paths of thousands of scholars in the rediscovery of the art and literature which has shaped the modern world. Apart from my intellect, Latin will also help me in the future as a Catholic, as I become more acquainted with the traditions of the Church in its Roman origin, I can prepare myself to defend it against the modern forces which attempt to eliminate tradition to conform with the contemporary standards.

Therefore, a “dead language”, has not only been able to shape my history, but has also shaped me now and will help shape my near future. It was

spoken by the poets and authors, politicians and scientists of the Roman era. It is now spoken by many other students like me and Catholics who remain true to the traditional Church. It will be spoken by students of Classics who cherish their past and wish to use it to change their future. This knowledge makes Latin my favorite subject to study.

Claire is 16 years old and 100% Latina and British. She currently lives in Madrid practicing her Spanish and enjoying *Jamon iberico*. She loves musical theatre and spends her time singing, acting, and dancing. She also loves traveling and meeting different cultures. Once she graduates, she hopes to cross the pond (come to America) and do a double major in Classics and Art.





SOPHIA D'AGOSTINO

Grade

10

Second Place

Taming Broncs

I was gazing in a vacant manner at the horses being auctioned when a cowboy took the liberty to remark my disappointment. "Ain't hankerin arter any o' those creeturs are ye," he knowingly remarked, "just follow me." Without any further explanations, he led me to an enclosed corral and proudly announced, by way of introduction, "This ere's English; the most stubborn, inconvenerabel piece of hossflesh livin'." At the farthest end of the corral, there stood the loveliest horse I had ever set eyes upon; its golden coat shone beautifully in the sunlight, with a mane and tail of the purest white conceivable, a tapering head and flashing eyes. It's noble, defiant stance clearly justified the cowboy's opinion, but I knew that it could be tamed through perseverance and a gentle hand. With that, I embarked upon the greatest challenge of my life; to master English, with the help of Set Onscool, and show him off to the best advantage is my dream. I love to work with English, it is quite an exciting field of interest, and it constitutes the aim of my professional future as a novelist.

My favorite subject is that of English, which also encompasses reading, writing, and grammar. Taking on English was proving to be quite the task. I found that he had the spirit of three horses combined and the coyness of a damsel. Possessing muscles of iron, graceful carriage, and lovely gaits, he would be capable of performing any discipline I chose, if I could reconcile him to do so. Similarly, English presents me with the opportunity to make a choice. The skills necessary for a great number of professional occupations can be acquired through

that one simple subject, English. However, to achieve perfection in English is comparable to breaking the spirit of three recalcitrant stallions. The first obstacle is comprehension; in order to write well, one must be able to read and understand the usage of words, in any manner of communication. The second challenge is grammar, through which one learns to communicate in logical and structurally correct sentences. The last stallion is the art of eloquence. This represents the ability to express oneself in an intelligent way; it demonstrates one's mastery of a language. The provocative allurements of English can quickly change on the slightest whim to become my worst nightmare. But even though I get quite exasperated with English, I can observe a gradual, almost daily improvement which gives me the encouragement I need.

Because of the scope of the English language, it is a truly exciting field of study. Working with English has become the most challenging yet rewarding venture of my life. I have not yet harnessed his full potential, as he is quite headstrong, but English has formed some affection for me. I would not have progressed as I have if it were not for the advice, encouragement, and invaluable help afforded me by Set Onscool. He has provided me with goals to work for, so that I am not focusing my energies in the wrong directions. The English course that I am currently taking is arranged in a manner most conducive for advancement. Seton Homeschool provides me with the guidance I need to attain excellence. It



is a rich educational experience, and I hope that I am making the best of it, both for my own good and the good of others. English is fascinating to me because of its variety and singularity; I can develop and perfect my own unique style and my writings become, as it were, a reflection of myself. With Seton's help, I can be at my best, and gain the experience I need for the present and the future. The English language, though finite, appears to have no limitations for the creative mind.

The skills and technique acquired through the arduous study of English, I mean to apply towards the future goal of authorship. Now that English and I are passably acquainted, I am beginning to visualize an equestrian practice in which we would both excel. With that intent, I can coordinate and knowledgeably carry out our exercises in the most suitable manner. The most difficult part of this beneficial arrangement is the horse itself. English is the most obstinate creature that ever walked the earth. I may have my own plans, but to carry it out without his consent is well-nigh impossible. The rich selection of literature with which I have been presented has inspired me to pursue the course of writing novels. To be able to write an engaging story that captures the mind and inspires the heart is a beautiful skill worth cultivating. Someday, I hope to add to the rich annals of English literature and give proper credit to the excellent training I am receiving. To become a professional novelist, even on a small scale, is my personal ambition.

I prefer English above every other scholarly discipline, it is a stimulating subject, and I

am presently pursuing the course of fictional writing. Each day finds me, an exasperated, dirty rider, futilely pulling on the reins, as opposed to that lovely, golden horse who appears more at ease than ever (namely, whenever he mocks my desperate attempts to curb his will). But as I said, perseverance, a gentle hand, and diligence will overcome the most obstinate beast of labor. Starting with simple exercises, and graduating to more complex routines, English and I are becoming more coordinated, as horse and rider should. Even though he often raises my ire, I find some selfish satisfaction in the fact that he allows no one but me to sit astride his back. The day will come when we will each find our position relative to the other, hoping to grace the equestrian realm with great success, and dazzle the eyes of those stickler judges. There is no need to tame broncs, though; try tackling English at your own pace.

Sophia Faith D'Agostino is presently contemplating a literary career but would also like to be a piano performer, a cook, or even a horse trainer. Her favorite subjects are English and Biology and she enjoys reading, cooking, playing the piano, and sketching in her free time. Sophia was born in New Jersey and is one of three children, having an older and a younger brother. She has lived on both U.S. coasts and has traveled cross-country twice in a small car. Sophia has also lived in South America and Japan and says that the flexibility of the Seton Homeschooling program, as well as the educational advantages it provides, is helping her to acquire a solid education despite her frequent moves.

Grade

11

First Place





IMMANUEL PORTUS

Lights, Chemistry, Action!

“But having a really good understanding of history, literature, psychology, sciences- is very, very important to actually being able to make movies.”

— George Lucas

My eyes hurt. I’ve been ambitiously staring at my fingertip hoping to witness the Kinetic Theory of Matter. I was attempting to see the smallest shift on my fingertip’s surface when my experiment gets interrupted by mother calling me to face my adversary: Dirty Laundry Mountain. I sigh, retire my finger, close Seton’s Chemistry Lesson Plan and Apologia Chemistry book to haul and dump the laundry in the washer. Afterwards, I open the dryer, still pondering this fantastical lesson when little bluish bolts illuminate the dark as I separate the still-hot fabrics. *An exothermic process!* My mind fairly shouts, recalling an acid-base reaction lesson from Module 9. Chemistry does occur in real life and not in stuffy Socratic writings! Seton’s Chemistry course gives a spiritual and fresher understanding of our electrical planet, imparts the subject in an exciting and clear-cut manner, and will greatly aid my future career, the cinematic path.

To begin with, Seton’s Chemistry centers on a fresh and sublime understanding of the metaphorical wheels, screws, and gears of the universe. Curiosity is piqued by topics taught from surprising angles. For example, after reading about polarity and compound formation, a discussion would explain the chemical magic behind soap’s cleaning prowess. Moreover, an inspiring standout in the course is the underlying basis that *the universe simply CANNOT exist without a Maker*. This sets Seton’s Chemistry apart from most courses which glorify “evidence”-backed theories that claim how sheer chance rules science. The course cites several highly renowned scientists such as Charles Stine, Robert Boyle, James Joule, and Baron Kelvin who taught that science asserts a Creator, God, running things behind the scenes. The course also relates biblical truths to scientific findings among topics like atomic structures, quarks (not aliens; a

fancy name for subatomic particles), and thermodynamics. Aiming to know the Maker from studying His creation sums up the course's objective.

Mere knowledge would not suffice by itself; rather, it needs to be communicated to be fully appreciated. The course's layout and unique style make it very engaging. Lessons ranging from measurements to oxidation are divided into graspable modules that introduce each new topic while incrementing previous ones. This approach makes topics (such as the ozone layer and chemist William Thomson's becoming Lord Kelvin) more memorable. The course's upbeat and straightforward tone—most evident from the textbook—makes Chemistry very intriguing. The lessons are delivered in a casual but academic manner, perfect for tinkering minds on learning more about God through science. Highfaluting abstracts are cut away while the essentials are presented clearly, helping me to understand almost anything from how H₂O is water to why my free-falling iPod kissed the pavement and cracked its screen. Furthermore, the course's creative presentation of science is what makes it really exciting for me since it directly relates to my aspiration: a blend of science and creativity.

Chemistry and Filmmaking. They don't seem to be neighbors who greet one another "Good morning!" every day. You won't see blaster-strutting Stormtroopers marching down the Death Star's corridors reciting the periodic table or Indiana Jones solving hydrocarbon formulas to whip his enemies. Surprising as it may seem, I've realized that Chemistry will cast itself onto the soundstage of my future work: writing and making movies.

Chemistry will enable me to dig deeper in learning what makes a movie, a movie. I was struck by how related and

applicable to filmmaking the concepts from the topic Ionic and Covalent Bonding were. Chemical Bonding allows new material to form from unlikely elements by having elements share or transfer their electrons. To illustrate a specific analogy, sugar is actually composed of hydrogen, carbon, and oxygen, otherwise inedible and dangerous by themselves. When combined, oxygen and hydrogen, fire spreaders, form water (good old H₂O) which extinguishes fire. Similarly, base film components like visual effects, budget, cinematography, acting, directing, music, makeup (yes, powders and all), setting, and the little black-and-white clapping board all harmonize to create the heart and soul of a blockbuster. Aside from Chemistry's application to the Big Screen, the most important part Seton's Chemistry taught me is that when I finally sit on the director's chair, I'll know that there would be Someone on a bigger director's chair guiding and overseeing His creation, the world's greatest production.

Studying Chemistry garnered me a profound insight into our world and its Creator's wisdom. The course's stirring style furthers learning to new heights. As I yell "That's a wrap!" and take the final cut, I only have to remember H₂O and that the One who made it has always been my director.

Immanuel Portus, a hilarious raconteur, he is the oldest among his 3 siblings. He loves acting, playing the guitar, Saint Philip Neri, and creative writing. He is a competitive runner, soccer player, and a "tree climber." He spends most of his free time figuring out how to: do a backflip, bring back dinosaurs from the past, cook up a flying car, and build a real lightsaber. He lives near Taal Volcano (The World's Smallest Active Volcano) in the Philippines. He hopes to be a filmmaker and an inventor one day soon.



Grade

11

Second Place





MARGARET CAFFERY

THE DOORWAYS OF LITERATURE

Throughout the years of schooling that I have gone through it has been difficult to pick a favorite subject of study, but Literature is the subject I most enjoy studying. Literature in the form of novels can take you back in time or forward or to a completely different world. Literature in the form of essays can open discussion in your head of some vastly interesting, practical, or edifying topics. Literature in the form of poems can lift your mind to a special, beautiful place. There are numerous reasons literature is my favorite, so I shall narrow it down. Literature is my favorite subject because it can give you insights into the character of the time in which it was written and it can better acquaint you with the author; furthermore, as I plan to write short stories, novels, and essays, it inspires me and educates me.

Often, when thinking of a faraway time, or even of a time that is quite close, I cannot seem to think of it as real; reading literature that was written during that time helps me to connect with history. During the Civil War, America was going through a very hard time and its people were violently split, however, just learning about the facts of what happened does not always give the feeling of the times. However, reading a story or a poem written during that War can make the whole war feel very real and very close. The poem "Maryland, My Maryland", by James Randall, does that by showing us the readiness of the South to defend its rights. Also, a time such as the 1920's, can be hard to understand, but novels such as *Babbitt*, by Sinclair Lewis, offer an accurate presentation

of the mindset of the time. Another example is that poem by James Riley, "When Frost is on the Punkin", which contains many examples of Indiana dialect which mirrored the interest of the people of that time in "local color". Literature can communicate the spirit of the times to people who read it.

The second reason for choosing American Literature is that it grants you a unique look at the author himself. Authors will put their philosophies, theories, and personalities into their works, so reading their stories, poems, and essays is a good way to learn about the author. One of Washington Irving's essays, titled "The Author's Account of Himself" shows the author's patriotism towards America as well as his admiration of European cultures. In Walt Whitman's poem, called "A Noiseless, Patient Spider", Walt reveals the search of his soul for truth by comparing it to a spider that endlessly shoots out webs, trying to catch hold of something solid. Emily Dickinson, in her poem "He Ate and Drank the Precious Words", shows how much respect and love she has for books by telling us how a book can free one's spirit. Literature can give us a clear understanding of an author's life.

In the present and in the future, I plan to be writing and Literature will help by having me read and analyze the works of intelligent and talented authors. By studying the styles, word choices, and other aspects of their writing I can familiarize myself with good techniques, and hopefully use them. I can learn the difference

between good writing, mediocre writing, and bad writing by studying the good writing in the American Literature course. When I read literature that is beautiful and shows a truth in a new light I am inspired to write something that is also beautiful. After all, just as no student of music would call himself a true student without studying great composers, no student of literature should call himself one without studying the literature of good writers that have come before him.

A few of the many reasons American Literature is my favorite subject is because of the closeness it provides with history and the way the author shows the reader his mind; also, it inspires me to continue writing my own stories. Literature written by an author in a certain era or about that era can transport your mind to that era. Furthermore, by reading an author's writings we can become more familiar with the author himself. Finally, this course spurs on my own literary ambitions. Literature can open many doorways to places, to people, and in myself.

Margaret Caffery is in eleventh grade with Seton Home Study School. Her favorite subjects are Literature and English. She sings and plays flute for Mass and plays piano for fun. She likes to read G.K. Chesterton, J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and many others. She likes to write short stories and novels and has taken part in Nanowrimo for three years. Traveling is one of her favorite things to do, even though she has not done very much of it. She plans to attend college, but is unsure of her major.

My Dear Young People,

A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity. Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices; do not delay when your conscience asks you to take risks in following the Master. The Church also wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls. St. Benedict urged the abbots to consult, even the young, before any important decision, because “the Lord often reveals to the younger what is best.”

(Rule of St. Benedict, III, 3).

Pope Francis
Letter to Young People
13 January 2017
Vatican





NICK MARMALEJO

SAT vs. ACT – Which Test for College?

For many of us, the word “test” evokes numerous emotions, everything from excitement to all-out dread.

Because of this, the great tests of our lives, whether personal or academic, stand out starkly in our memory. Yet regardless of our feelings about testing, or the worth of a particular exam, much stock is placed upon them by the great multitude, so it is worthwhile to discuss the real import of exams for the homeschooling student aspiring to college.

As students prepare for life after Seton, some common questions that we receive in the Guidance

Department are, “What tests should I take in preparation for college?” and “When should I take them?”

At a minimum, we recommend that students take both the SAT and the ACT, sometime in their junior year. If time is an issue (When is it not?), we recommend consulting the admissions office of the particular college to which one may be applying. While many accept both test scores, some schools prefer one over the other.

Furthermore, students sometimes simply do better on one of the two and choose to submit only that score in their application process.

In an ideal situation, a student should prepare for these tests by studying or attending a class on 'cracking their code' early, as these tests can be taken more than one time. In many instances, a standardized test does not simply test what one knows, but also how one knows a thing or how one is able to work through a specific problem in a timely manner.

Learning the thought process behind the questions that designed the exam, or specific ways the tests want you to think in answering a question, can go a long way to boost one's score.

To take the SAT and find out more about the exam, please visit collegeboard.org, the institution responsible for developing and grading the exam. For the ACT, visit the ACT website, act.org. Consult your library, school district, or local college for further information on taking local classes to prepare for the exam.

Additionally, many brick and mortar schools also offer the PSAT, (or Pre-SAT), which gives the student an opportunity to earn a National Merit Scholarship.

However, in order to sit for this exam, a homeschooling student will have to ask permission from the specific institution that administers the test.

Seton offers resources through its Educational Media department to help study for the SAT and PSAT, which include practice tests.

As always, if you have further questions about taking these tests, please don't hesitate to call the Seton Guidance Department at 540-636-2238.

Nick Marmalejo, a history major, graduated from Christendom College in 2001. He holds a Virginia Teacher Certification and lives in the Shenandoah Valley with his wife and three children.



HOW TO BE A CATHOLIC TEENAGER



ELODIE PIERLOT

Being a teenager is tough. Anyone will admit it. However, surely being a heroic one sounds even harder? It might appear intimidating to be a hero/heroine, but it isn't. By being a hero, I don't mean having to go around saving the city bank from The Joker, or fighting super-overexaggerated battles with your opposing hero like Batman or Superman.

No, I mean being the hero that makes someone smile today.

Or the hero that does the dishwasher for Mum who has hurt her back.

Or even the hero that walks the dog even if they don't feel like doing it.

To be the Heroic Catholic Teenager, you only need to remember six basic things.

NUMBER ONE: BE KIND.

This sounds silly. But really, once you think about it, it is obvious that being kind is the basic to being a hero. Kindness

is like air. Air is the basis of water (because water is comprised of air atoms), is the controller of fire (add oxygen to make it fiercer, or take it away to make it die), and air creates life (plants, animals, and we humans depend on it.)

Kindness makes us charitable (which leads to doing other heroic actions), kindness makes us joyful (because doing kind things makes us happy), kindness makes us love (because if we are kind to someone, we learn to love them and God), and kindness makes us heroes. Keep being kind, and everything will flourish around you. Even if your world seems torn apart at a precise moment, being kind will get you somewhere. It will gain you friends, love, and happiness.

Obviously, kindness is the basic key to being a hero.

NUMBER TWO: STAY POSITIVE.

Staying positive is one of the most important things to do. I mean, say you have five essays in Grammar to catch up on, with hardly any time because you've got ballet/basketball later. Thinking: "Oh great, five flipping essays. I hate Grammar. I'm going to fall behind in it again! Oh, I wish I was outside doing something else," isn't the best way forward. Instead, think something like: "Oh OK, I have five essays to do. However, that's OK, because I have the weekend to catch

up on if I need to, and I can always work in the holidays. In fact, once I've done two today, I will reward myself and go outside for a bit." Isn't that much nicer to think?

Staying positive around adults impresses them too-seriously. As a Royal Marines Cadet, sometimes, staying out in the forest overnight can get tough and tiring. However, because I stayed positive and pointed out the bright side of it when my friend was upset, the staff noticed. And perhaps that's one reason why I got the award 'Best In Troop' at the end of the camp. Most likely at least. Being positive has a big impact!

NUMBER THREE: DO THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT YOU FEEL.

OK, don't always do the opposite of what you feel! I do not mean hit your little brother when you feel like smothering him in kisses! No, I mean when you're feeling fed up, irritated, angry, upset, or frustrated, do the opposite of what you feel. Most of the time, this is the best way to approach things.

Take my dad for example- (this is a true story): One day, in his car, a man in another car was rushing him at a junction. The man was waving his fist angrily at my Dad, but instead of exploding in rage like what my Dad felt like doing, he blew him a kiss! Literally! The man was dumbfounded and stopped getting angry at my Dad. And do you know what? My Dad felt so much better.

Doing the opposite can help yourself and others in ways too. If you're irritated with your Mum because she keeps telling you to tidy your room, do you know what to do? Tidy your room- and the kitchen. Yes, it might seem so annoying and ridiculous to do something kind like that when you don't feel like it, but it works wonders. Alternatively, if you feel like exploding with rage at your sister, smile and say something kind.

Literally, I do it. It helps.

NUMBER FOUR: BE THERE FOR OTHERS.

I have a lot of friends. From cadets, from dance, from other homeschooling mums, and, of course, from Seton. But of course, not everyone is happy with life at the same time. Many times, my friends get upset with something, feel lonely, or angry at someone. I'll admit; it's hard to

keep them all happy. However, I have a reputation. It's a good one: I'm always there. I don't mean I'm always free to go to the cinema with them (although I wish I was!) but I mean I'm always there to be a friend; like someone to go to when they need a listening ear, or even just a hug.

But there's a dangerous side to this. Being in the modern teenage world, a lot of boy/girl drama happens, insults, fights, arguments, bad behavior, and worse things happen often. Whenever they ask for it, I ensure I give them Catholic advice. I'd never tell them to insult them back, to add to the bad name of someone else, to tell them to fight back, to keep it a secret from their parents, or even to abort.

Instead, what I'd tell them is to forgive. I'd point out what the other person could be going through and how they should take that into consideration. To ignore and love their attackers. To tell their parents because it's for the best. And to seek refuge with God.

It's hard being part of the modern day teenage world; I get it. However, we can be the heroes who shine our way through and give an example of being a good teenager.

NUMBER FIVE: STAY CLOSE TO FAMILY.

I would never, ever, survive my teenage years if I didn't talk to my family and ask them for advice. My uncle is only nine years older than me, and we are so close. He has traveled the world and has been through tough hardships which have affected him, yet he gives me good advice for growing up.

And parents? That's what they're there for! For you to seek refuge, to ask advice, to run to, and to be good friends. Always trust your parents- they give the best advice. Older siblings are amazing too (although with that I have to guess what they'd be like as I'm actually the eldest in my family), and you know what? Younger siblings are sometimes the best help you can get from your family- especially if you need a hug or motivation.

Take my little brother, for example.

His name is Rafael, and he has quite a bad case of asthma from several problems from birth. But do you know what? He ploughs through it like a good, strong little man. He inspires me when he grins cheerfully and bravely at the medics who often come quickly to our house. He hates injections, yet he puts on brave face and doesn't cry.

And the best part? He gives me a hug when he's with the medics. However, because I'm upset and scared for him, not because he is.

So, your family is the best safe house you can be with, and take advantage of it! Family can help you to be the hero/heroine!

NUMBER SIX: STAY CLOSE WITH GOD.

I will admit it. I've fallen away from God a little bit. It's sad, I know. And I'm sorry I've done it. I'm trying to get back to Him. And d'you know what? He's been there, waiting all that time for me! I'm so, so grateful I have God and my Faith to cling to when I'm struggling. We should all be. Our Faith is the anchor of our well-being and life. Without it, we'd fall in like the rest of the crowd of today, who are, mostly, sad people. We are lucky we have our Faith, and that we have God to turn to. It means we can be the hero we want to be.

We can stand strong amongst others, practicing our virtues boldly for all to see.

We can show how to be a good kind person, especially as teenagers.

We can become good leaders, showing others it's not all about ourselves, but others as well.

And most important of all, we can prove to God that we love him- by being good, strong, faithful and heroic Catholic teenagers!

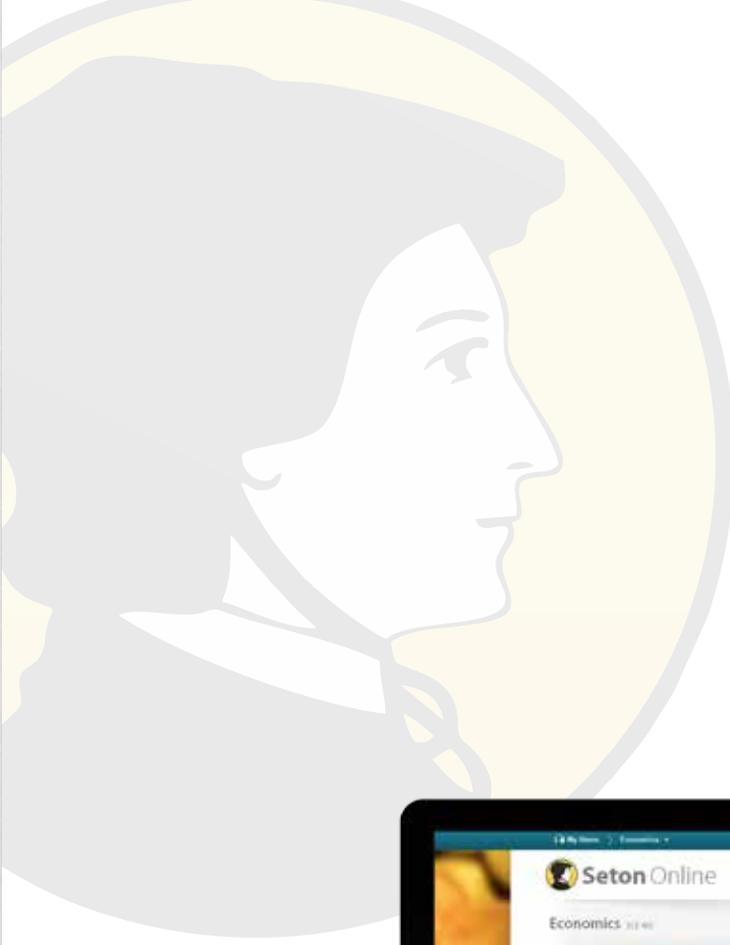
Elodie Pierlot is fifteen years old, and the eldest of five homeschooling children in England. I am half French, and have British, Irish, Norwegian, and even Algerian blood in me too! I have been homeschooled all my life, but only with Seton since 2015. My hobbies include: Dancing -ballet, tap, modern, jazz, and character-, Royal Marines Cadets, sailing, sliding seat rowing, cooking -not baking-, story writing, and messing around with my younger siblings. My favourite subjects are: English, physics, and history- but I despise mathematics and Spanish. When I am older, I hope to be either a professional dancer, or in the military, along with being a published author.



SETON ALUM INTERVIEWS

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Simply Delicious! 5 Favorite Family Camping Recipes



CHARLES FOYLE

Charles Foyle, is in eleventh grade with Seton Home Study School, his favorite subjects being English, Religion, and History. He serves Latin and English Masses and helps his brother with his yard business. In his spare time he reads G.K. Chesterton and his contemporaries, collect 78s, hunts, shoots, and fishes, and listens to classical music. One day he would like to join the FSSP.

Dad, my brother, and I end up camping several times a year, mostly up at The Farm, which is home to ninety acres of assorted trees and most of our camping memories. Taking full advantage of flexible Seton scheduling, we hunt, trap, and do all sorts of

things, thoroughly enjoying ourselves as Dad instructs us in what could be considered a variant of Physical Education. Of course, a bad meal would dampen down the enjoyment—as it would anywhere else! Here are five recipes for meals we especially like.



MAKE-AT-HOME PANGAKE MIX



Mom has made these in the past both at home and at the camp. You can modify it easily with canned pumpkin, which adds protein. This recipe is especially handy because it works without using fresh milk. Adios, Bisquick.

Dry ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 2 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2/3 cup dry milk

Liquid ingredients:

- When ready to use the mix, add:
- Two cups of water
 - Two eggs
 - 1/4 cup olive oil

STEWED APPLES

Most people, including us, like stewed apples. However, cooking a large potful of them uses up too many dishes for camping. With our dishwasher permanently out of service, we needed a way to make them without sticking up the bottom of a pot. So we figured out how to cook them one serving at a time directly on top of the stove.

You will need:

- One apple per person
- Cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, or apple pie spice
- Butter and brown sugar



Directions: The secret of it is using single-wall stainless steel cups, one per person. (Dad explained that double-wall insulated cups will explode.) Core and cut the apples, leaving the peel on if you want. Put them in the cups with a bit of water, about a spoonful of brown sugar, a pat of butter, and cinnamon. Cook for at least ten minutes, stirring every now and then, or until they look like stewed apples.

CORN CAKES AND VEGETABLE FILLING:

This dinner is also quite versatile, and is great for meatless Fridays. Cooked with sliced leftover pork chops it serves for another day of the week.



Butter
Leftover grits

The Cornbread Part

Take your favorite cornbread batter and fry it like pancakes. Usually I use the one from the back of the House-Autry Cornmeal bag, but any cornbread recipe will do. If you mix the dry ingredients beforehand with powdered milk, you can add water, oil, and eggs to have it ready. Also, adding 1 tsp. of onion powder makes for an interesting variation.

You will need:

One batch of your favorite cornbread batter

Directions: Caramelize the onion slices in olive oil or butter, over medium heat in a heavy skillet. If you are using an iron skillet, make sure it is well-seasoned so the acid in the tomatoes does not take some of the seasoning off. Drain the canned tomatoes and beans, add them to the fried onions, and simmer. The caramelized onion juices will deglaze from the bottom of the pan and

The Filling

One onion, cut in half and sliced thin
1 can diced tomatoes, drained
1 can black beans, drained
1 can spinach, drained.
Fresh greens would also work
Oregano, or Italian seasoning
Garlic powder
Salt

infuse their flavors into the vegetables. When the liquids become rather thick, add the well-drained spinach. Season with oregano to taste, adding some salt. You could also use the same seasonings as in hash browns. Heat through and serve as a topping for the cornbread, or, as I enjoy doing, put it in between two cornbread pancakes and enjoy.

GRITS CAKES

Grits are good, but when they become cold and glutinous, they aren't as appealing as they were when fresh. But anything fried is good. Here is a trick we use to keep from welding grits to a pot trying to reheat them.

You will need:

One batch of your favorite cornbread batter
Butter
Leftover grits

Directions: Before you cook the cornbread cakes, mix the grits in with them. These cook at a little higher heat than regular pancakes, as the grits have more water in them to be cooked out. Cooking times will vary based on the ratio of grits to cornbread, but you still want to cook them rather dark, else they will be full of mush.

FORTIFIED HASH BROWNS

You will need:

About one large baked potato per person
One or two eggs per person
Olive oil for frying
Salt, paprika, cilantro, onion powder, and red pepper to taste



Directions: Quarter baked potatoes, slice them 1/8 to 1/4" thick, and salt them. Coat the bottom of a well-seasoned heavy skillet with olive oil. Heat it enough to sizzle vigorously when you drop a potato piece in, but be careful so you don't overheat the oil. Allow the potatoes to cook until they begin to turn brown, when you can add a healthy coating of paprika, some red cayenne pepper, and onion powder. In a

bowl or tin cup, scramble your eggs and season them with salt, paprika, onion powder, red pepper, and a bit of cilantro. Then, right when the potatoes are well-browned, make a well with your spatula and pour in the eggs, stirring until they cook. Remove from heat when they are dry—browned eggs gather no compliments. Serve with ketchup, and it will gather compliments, as long as the eaters aren't too busy!

A SIDE NOTE:

These recipes were made without precise measuring, mostly consisting of whatever came handy cooked on some sort of fire, whether from a gas stove, a wood-burning stove, or a hole in the dirt. Using modern appliances and measuring, you will probably have to

compensate by cooking with all your senses, especially smell and taste. Much of our cooking is done mainly with proportions and ratios.

Hopefully, these five recipes will enrich your culinary experiences as much as they did ours. Easy to prepare and clean up, the meals from this small selection of my

family's camping staples could simplify mealtimes for anyone from outdoorsmen to busy homeschooling parents. When my family and I cook them at home and in camp, we do more than fulfill our caloric requirements. Rather, it is a way of making mealtime memories—and getting rid of those cold grits!



THE FORCE OF HABIT

As we stock our arsenal with pencils and textbooks for the coming school year, another weapon merits special attention: habits. Habits are a double-edged sword that can slay dragons—or kill us.

I suspect that I am not alone when “habit” recalls mere mundanities like nail-biting or brushing one’s teeth. However, my freshman year of college restored the word’s true meaning in my mind. My dorm at Benedictine College sat next to a towering abbey populated with real monks who gathered several times a day to pray. After the annual fire drill roused me early enough one morning, I began to join them several times a week for 6 am morning prayer. The psalms, interspersed with silence, impressed me with their meaning and beauty. Attending morning prayer oriented my day toward God. Sadly, during the spring semester, my bedtime was later, and I eventually stopped going because

my body demanded sufficient sleep. This beautiful, grace-giving, hard-won habit was lost.

Awakened to the power of habit, I noticed how my habits affected each other, my life, and my happiness. Good habits required dedicated effort to establish, while mediocre habits filled in where I failed to make that effort. In the classroom, I learned that virtue is a habit of doing a specific morally good action, and I realized my habits would affect my eternal fate.

Many homeschooled students and their parents make growth in virtue their foremost priority. Virtues such as prudence and perseverance are necessary for learning, and a successful student often relies on many other habits as well. Unlike private or public school students, who show up and receive directions, homeschooled students must often determine and establish their habits while

parents provide oversight and advice. Developing good habits demonstrates self-discipline and maturity. So, what are you waiting for?

START HERE

Before strategizing, a good general will reconnoiter the terrain, his resources, his opponent, his army and anything else remotely relevant. He will review his objectives. When the unexpected occurs, he will be more capable of adjusting his plans to a new situation. Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses, your goals and ideals, and any boundaries that your parents have articulated or advised. Don't be afraid to investigate the roots of any bad habits or the ultimate aim of good habits, as your discoveries will help you develop more effective strategies. Consider areas in which you want to improve, and ask your parents for their ideas. Maybe you already have a few habits in mind.

PLAN FOR SUCCESS

Form a realistic plan to implement desired habits or eradicate undesired ones. For example, if you cannot help checking your phone every ten minutes, consider gradually waiting fifteen minutes between times, then twenty minutes, then thirty, etc., instead of quitting outright. Remember, a day only has twenty-four hours, so don't over schedule your day. While you shouldn't attempt the impossible, because you will only frustrate and discourage yourself, dare to push beyond your comfort zone.

Breaking up larger goals and projects into smaller steps is often the best method. Also, you will make more progress if you limit your focus to several habits instead of juggling a million at once.

GET A PARTNER

This oft-repeated advice for those beginning a diet or exercise program works well for other habits. My aunt and I started an exercise program this summer, and both of us made more progress than we would have by ourselves. I benefited from her experience, and she drew from my enthusiasm. Perhaps a parent, sibling or even an aunt can be your "accountability partner." The person should be someone whom you respect, whom you don't want to disappoint, and whom understands your goal. Consider enlisting your guardian angel and patron saints as well.

READY FOR ACTION!

Once you have decided what you should do and have established a game plan, act on it. You must start somewhere, and if you are ready, why not now? Maybe you regret that you did not start sooner. However, continuing to wait will not recover lost time, but instead only squander what remains.

PERSEVERE

Eventually, the enthusiasm wears off, but you must keep going to reach your destination. Use chocolate if necessary, or offer your discomfort for the souls in Purgatory, a struggling sibling, or a wayward friend. Pray for the grace to do what is right. God may have other plans; just try your best and rely on His help.

Avoid obstacles if possible. Sometimes, you cannot avoid them, and you will mess up. In that case, keep trying and thank God for this opportunity to exercise humility. Nobody is perfect, and you cannot control every circumstance. Don't worry about that. The worst thing that can happen is to quit the pursuit of virtue and sainthood.

A SAMPLE PLAN

I'm working on a few habits of my own, and they might provide ideas, examples, and inspiration. The fall semester begins in a few weeks, and I am striving to go to bed around 9 pm so I can regularly attend morning prayer again. My diet has been rather neglected, and as the first step of improvement, I eat a healthy, energizing breakfast. A friend and I want to pray the rosary daily; we text each other every few days with a "rosary check."

What habits do you want to form? And what is your advice for doing it? Feel free to share in the comments below!



KATE COUGHRON

Kate Coughron, the oldest of ten lively and adventurous siblings, lives with her family on a small Missouri farm. Besides singing in several choirs, baking goodies, and enjoying the fresh air, she revels in reading and writing, long-time interests that have

been well nourished by Seton literature courses. A member of the Seton class of 2016 and a National Merit Finalist, she is pursuing a major in Chemical Engineering as a sophomore at Benedictine College.



The Seton College Partner Program

It has always been Seton Home Study School's purpose to support Catholic families and Catholic education. We want that mission to continue as you move beyond high school.



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Wyoming
Catholic College
Wisdom in God's Country



BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

To help you with your college journey, Seton has developed our College Partner Program as a way to encourage Seton students to continue their Catholic education by attending a solidly Catholic College after high school.

Many of your fellow students before you have chosen to pursue their educational goals at these excellent Catholic colleges and universities.

We are proud to be associated with some of the best Catholic colleges, and we support their remarkable contributions in education and Faith Formation. We encourage you to seek them out and request information about them.

HOW WE'RE HELPING YOU

The first step in the college journey is knowing which college to go to. To make things just a little bit easier, we've set up a simple form online where you input your information once, and all of our partner colleges (or any other number you choose) will respond to you soon with welcome packages and more information.

We also want to take it to the next step, and so through the *Bayley Bulletin*, we are asking Seton

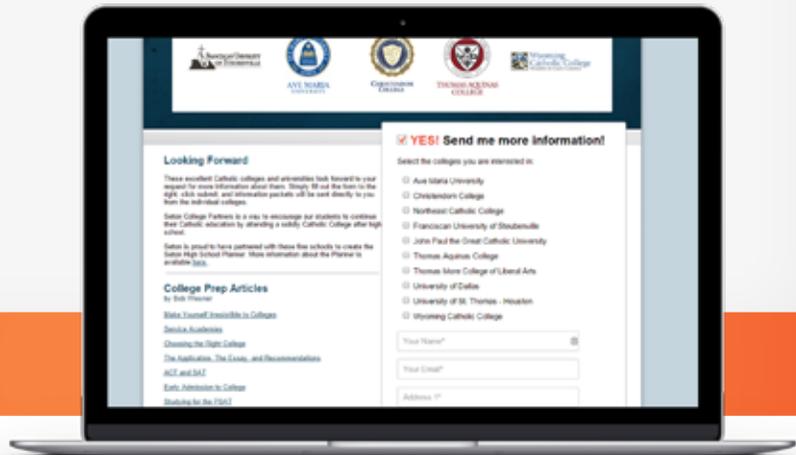
graduates in colleges to write in about their experiences, as College Correspondents in our *Seton on Campus* series.

We also are excited to share with you special articles from our Partner Colleges, written specifically for you, our Seton high school students. This is another opportunity to get to know these colleges before visiting them. Be sure to subscribe to the *Bayley Bulletin* for these updates!

We also feature helpful articles from our Seton staff and high school counselors, rich with advice and ideas on how to get the most from your education, what tests to look forward to, and how to best succeed in college searches.

These excellent Catholic colleges and universities look forward to your request for more information.

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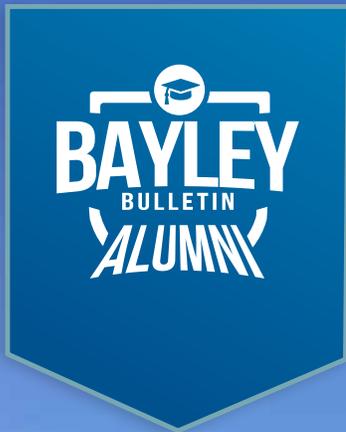
UNIVERSITY
OF DALLAS



OUR LADY
SEAT OF WISDOM
COLLEGE



FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY
OF STEUBENVILLE



ALUMNI PROFILE: FR. DANIEL SEDLACEK



1. HOW LONG WERE YOU HOMESCHOOLED THROUGH SETON, AND WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE?

I was homeschooled K-12 through Seton, so I am a lifer!

My experience of homeschooling with Seton was overall very positive, although it was not always easy or fun. One year in middle school, I did not keep up with my school work and had to be in school all summer. However, each August/September, I always looked forward to getting my new textbooks in the mail and starting a new year of learning.

What I liked about my education with Seton was the set structure of the Lesson Plans for each course. It enabled me to see the big picture, to plan ahead, and to focus on what subject or work might require more time to learn.

I liked that the Catholic Faith permeated the entire curriculum. It helped me learn the reason for education at all; neither to make money nor even for personal edification, but to come to know the Truth and to serve Him. My Seton education helped me to encounter Jesus Christ in a non-trivial way and to get to know Him personally. I believe my Seton education nurtured my vocation to the priesthood and helped me to discover it and respond to it in faith.

2. WHERE DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE, AND WHAT IS YOUR DEGREE?

I went to the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. Attached to the university is a college seminary called St. John Vianney College Seminary. I attended that seminary for four years, and graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy and Catholic Studies. Philosophy is a requirement for undergraduate seminary students.

The professors for both the Philosophy and Catholic Studies programs were great witnesses of both faith and reason. They were living proof that being intellectual and having child-like faith is not incompatible.

Catholic Studies is an interdisciplinary program that seeks to understand the beauty of the Catholic Faith by integrating theology, philosophy, literature, history, and art. I cannot give enough praise to the great work the Catholic Studies program accomplished to help form my faith and the faith of so many other students.

For my four years in major seminary, I lived at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy and attended theology classes at the University of the Holy Cross. I received a Bachelors in Sacred Theology (STB) in three years and then attended the Patristic Institute “Augustinianum” in my fourth year.

In that year, I completed a Post-graduate degree in Augustinian Studies and Spirituality and a Post-graduate degree in Joseph Ratzinger Studies and Spirituality. Undergoing priestly formation in Rome for four years was an amazing experience. One highlight was studying alongside seminarians and students from all around the world.

Another highlight was being exposed to the vast cultural and historical heritage of the Roman



Catholic Church through various opportunities afforded to those who visit or live in Rome, such as visiting the catacombs, praying at the tombs of the early Christian martyrs, going to Mass with the Pope, and visiting art galleries and museums.

3. HOW DID YOUR SETON EDUCATION HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE?

At first, I thought it would be hard to go to a “real school” after having been homeschooled my entire life. After adjusting to the fact I had to go to classrooms, listen to a professor, and learn how to take notes (this adjustment took me a week or two), I discovered my education with Seton prepared me well for college. I appreciated the solid education I had received in literature/reading comprehension and writing skills.

The ability to read and write well (both grammatically and thoughtfully) continues to serve me well. I also appreciate the Catholic culture that my Seton education helped form for my family and me, especially knowledge of Catholic practices and Church history. This broad Catholic formation helped me navigate through encounters with ideas, lifestyles, and attitudes which were contrary or hostile to Catholic beliefs and practices.

4. WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I was ordained to the priesthood on June 25, 2016. I am a diocesan priest serving in the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, which is my home diocese. I am working as parochial vicar (assistant pastor) of two parishes while also working as chaplain and campus minister at a Catholic Middle School and High School.

I especially enjoy working with the young people of both parishes and at the Catholic schools. My eight years of seminary built upon the foundation of faith and knowledge I received with my education at Seton. What I received from my Seton education helps me to serve the People of God every day.

5. WHAT GIVES YOU PASSION OR MOTIVATION IN YOUR CURRENT OCCUPATION?

The salvation of souls! But this is not a cliché “Seton-y” answer. The salvation of souls is not an abstract concept; it is quite concrete. To help people grow in greater understanding of their Catholic Faith, to provide for others the grace they need to “work out their salvation” using the Sacraments, to build up the community with prayer, fasting, and works of mercy: this is the work of “saving souls.”

To offer a patient and listening ear in the Confessional, to pray the Liturgy of the Hours with and for the Church, to preach the Gospel in homilies and in actions, to encourage others through small acts of kindness, to help others encounter Christ and His saving work in the Paschal Mystery: these are parts of the purpose and mission of the priest. The desire for others to attain their true good, that is, their salvation, is probably my primary motivation in doing my work.

Another thing that helps my motivation is experiencing true joy when I see Christ working through me to touch others. The life and work of a priest of Christ is mysterious, but it is also incredibly fulfilling.

6. ANY ADVICE FOR CURRENT SETON HIGH-SCHOOLERS?

The point of education is not only to gain knowledge but to form our hearts, souls, and minds so we can recognize and accept the truth. And this Truth is not a thing, but a Person. All truth leads to the Author of Truth. When tempted to give up on something or some subject, remember that God can use us and our knowledge in ways which we would never guess or imagine. No sincere effort in education is a waste.

Being a student is your current “vocation” and thus how you will grow in holiness by serving God and your neighbor. The actual day-to-day work



of education is also a training ground for virtue. Homeschooling is very conducive for growing in self-discipline, self-motivation, accountability, prudence, and patience. The content of a Seton education is good, but do not limit yourself. If you are able and interested, I recommend also taking AP level courses or college classes.

Above all, I recommend going to Mass and Confession as often as is prudently possible and praying every day for God to help you discover and follow the vocation He has given to you. Here is a pretty good one:

Prayer to Know My Vocation

*Lord, I want to be happy in this life
and spend eternity with You in the life to come.
From the first moment of my existence,
You knew my vocation.
Please help me discover Your plan for my life.*

*Help me to know myself.
Help me to overcome my fears.
Help me to want what You want.
Help me to trust You completely.*

*Send Your Holy Spirit into my mind and heart
so I can see the gifts You have given me
and hear Your call to serve the Church.
Increase my desire to bring others to You
and to help them reach heaven.*

*Mary Most Holy, Mother of God,
pray for me, that I can discover my vocation
and have the courage to respond in faith.
Amen.*

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

MAUDE WINS FIRST PLACE IN ORCHESTRA COMPETITION

When I go to my violin teacher's office located at Indiana University, I read the comic on her door. I do so every time because it describes me so well.

It's a picture of a chicken saying to another chicken, "I don't want to practice! I want to skip ahead to the part where I'm AWESOME."

My musical journey began when I was four. I loved listening to classical music and I thought everything about the violin was simply charming!

Alas, that didn't last so long; six months later I told Mom I wanted to stop because I didn't like to practice. Well, we all go through that, don't we? Isn't that what the comic says? But I was too young to understand that, once you start something like an instrument, you can't just suddenly stop because you don't like to practice.

Well, luckily my violin teacher held tight to my leash! I didn't enjoy it that much, but despite this I continued...because I had to.

In June, 2013, I moved from my natal Quebec, Canada, to Indiana. There, I did a four-week summer music camp, and for some reason I completely fell in love with the violin. I began practicing a lot. Like, a lot. I wanted to pursue it as a career, and I knew I would end up as a violinist someday.

My first real success on the violin was on August 9th, 2015, when I took First Prize in the Indiana State Fair Violin Competition. The months before, my mom was pushing me to do what I had to do if I wanted to win. "You need to go practice for the State Fair Competition," she'd say every day, and I'd obey reluctantly.

But when I realize that I had won, it's like everything changed. I felt that I loved the violin, but I needed practice. Practice makes perfect, and perfect makes you win competitions! So I thought, "I'd better practice..."

From that moment onward, I was entirely self-motivated. Every single day I woke up, did my math, and then I practiced. A lot. And soon, it paid off.

In November 2016, I was chosen to perform along with one of my friends (who is also a Seton student!) for a stage production of the children's opera Brundibar. It was the very first time it was performed



in Bloomington. The shows ran November 10-13, and every time it was sold out. I loved the experience a lot.

Around the same time, I received an important email. It notified me that I had made it to the New World Youth Orchestra Young Artist Competition final round! A few months before I had submitted my entry, performing De Beriot's Scene de Ballet. Now, as I read the email over and over again, I couldn't believe it. "They give me another chance," I thought. "I could actually win this thing!"

That's when I started practicing like a maniac. Every day during December and beginning of January, I woke up, ate breakfast, practiced, ate lunch, practiced, ate dinner, practiced, and went to bed. It paid off.

On January 7th, at the Indiana History Center's Basil Theater, at 12:45pm sharp, I went on stage and performed one of my best performances. However, I was really shocked when they called out my name. At the same time, however, I gave thanks to God, for he had helped me achieve what seemed to be impossible.

On February 12th, I gave my winning performance at the prestigious Hilbert Circle Theater at thirteen years old. It was the most wonderful experience I ever had, and I'll keep practicing so I can do it again!

WHAT DID YOU DO:

I won the First Place in the New World Youth Orchestras' 2017 Young Artist Competition, Junior Division (musicians through age thirteen). As a result, I performed De Beriot's Scene de Ballet, a solo work for violin, in the Hilbert Circle Theater in Indianapolis, IN., on February 12th, 2017.

WHAT ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZED THE ACHIEVEMENT?

The New World Youth Orchestras

HOW DID HOMESCHOOLING HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL?

Homeschooling helped me a lot in preparing for the competition! Many of my friends who go to school can't practice as much as they would like, either because they come home too late or simply because they have too much homework to do late in the evenings, which is the only time they can practice.

For me, I can arrange my homework schedule accordingly, depending on rehearsals with pianists (and, yes, with orchestras!), lessons with teachers, and simply on how much I want to practice every day.

Therefore, I can practice a lot in the morning and maybe less in the afternoon or vice versa, and this is such a great help to winning competitions!

Also, if I have something big coming up, such as the concert on February 12, I could choose not to focus as much on homework and devote more time to practicing. I couldn't do that if I went to school, and I feel really lucky!

Homeschooling proves to be a main factor in my friends' musical skills. Of those in my violin class who are technically advanced, almost all of them homeschool — and one of them, who won the Senior Division of the same competition, started homeschooling with Seton last September!

WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS?

Sometimes I feel like my only interest is the violin, since I practically devote my whole life to doing it, but I do have other interests. I love composing music, especially for string orchestras.

For sports, during the winter I love doing alpine skiing (because I'm originally from Canada), and during the summer I do swimming and diving. Of course, all year-round I love playing outside, biking, and running.

What are you inspired to do with your life?

I really want to become a professional violinist, hopefully a soloist, but who knows what will happen! My first violin teacher was a great violinist and then she decided to enter the religious life, so I'll leave that option open, too!

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECTS AND WHY?

My favorite subjects are Algebra and Composition. One of the reasons I love Algebra is that I've been doing math ever since I was very little. (It was my very first subject in school as we didn't get to know Seton until I was in 4th grade.)

But mostly it's because I love solving problems and especially equations with variables, and solving for X in so many different (and complicated) ways!

I love Composition because I enjoy composing and writing a LOT. My dad often reproaches me for writing too long book reports:).

In fact, writing novels for my two enthusiastic younger sisters is one of my favorite hobbies. I've written five novels so far!



ANNOUNCING: STUDENT PROFILES!

Share who you are, your interests and what homeschooling is like for you!

We all live in different places around the world, with different kinds of families, interests and ideas for the future.

Now you can get to know other Seton Seton high schoolers, and share your story!

Just answer these 6 questions below, and send it in to us at the Bayley Bulletin. You can also include some photos of your adventures!

One of these might be showcased in our next Bulletin. Be inspired by - other Seton students!



1. What makes your family unique to other families you know? (*Traveling, customs, traditions, special foods, etc...*)
2. What is an average homeschooling day with Seton like for you?
3. What's something you have done that you really enjoyed doing?
4. What are your hobbies and interests?
5. What are some things you do as a family and on your own that you particularly enjoy?
6. What do you hope to do in the future?

Are you a Seton high schooler? Share your profile at

BAYLEYBULLETIN.COM/STUDENT



THE BAYLEY BULLETIN

The Bayley Bulletin brings Seton teens advice and inspiration, perspectives from other teens and graduates, features from our College Partners, and is a showcase for our quarterly contests.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Currently enrolled students and Seton alumni share their achievements, successes, and get to know other Seton students from around the world. Seton shares them with the rest of the community to inspire and encourage families.



SETON CHESS CLUB

Seton has a lively online community of chess players, making new friends and honing their skills at foresight, imagination and patience. Students challenge each other on the checkerboard of pawns and kings.



STUDENT FORUMS

Sometimes it is helpful to discuss lessons with another student or a teacher. Students and parents can respond to each other and post moderated questions or comments about Seton courses in a secured environment.



STUDENT & ALUMNI PROFILES

Enrolled Seton students and alumni share their success stories, high school tips and advice on college and careers. Their profiles inspire enrolled Seton high schoolers to continue pursuing their graduation goals.



SETON ON CAMPUS

Seton graduates in colleges write about their experiences on campus and recommendations for success in college, as College Correspondents in our College Partner Program.

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We are eager for our **high school students** to write for our BayleyBulletin!

Sections include:

- Student Submissions
- Alum Profiles
- Student profiles

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