



BAYLEY

BULLETIN

ALUMNI PROFILE:

VICTORIA VERTREES

**7 LIFE LESSONS
FROM A
SETON GRADUATE
MARIE VALDOVINOS**

2018 HIGH SCHOOL
ESSAY CONTEST
WINNERS!



COOL 2B CATHOLIC
JOHN PAUL GUTSCHKE





VOL. 9, 2018-2019 ISSUE

Seton Home Study School
1350 Progress Dr.
Front Royal, VA 22630

Phone: (540) 636-9990
Fax: (540) 636-1602

www.bayleybulletin.com
bayleybulletin@setonhome.org

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Dr. Mary Kay Clark

EDITORS

Kevin Clark
Jeff Minick

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Jim Shanley

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Robin Hibl

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Maude Cloutier	Jeff Minick
John Paul Gutschke	Angela Poulin
Jacinta Hamilton	Emily Rybak
Andrew Koudelka	Marie Valdovinos
Nick Marmalejo	Alex Wilson

Thirty brave souls came forward with entries for this year's essay contest and we proudly present the four winners in this issue. The other entries of merit can be read online at BayleyBulletin.com.

The 2018 contest theme, "What Homeschooling has Helped Me Achieve" prompted many comments about flexibility and the time made available for extracurricular activities. Flip through these pages and see how your Seton peers and grads have lived out those benefits.

Read on for stories of classmates who create YouTube channels, compete in sport tourneys, or enter creative writing contests. Or take in the adventures of alumni who compete in world class ballooning, produce award winning videos, or walk their Pro Life advocacy across America.

Good stuff yes? Sure, but what about you? It's your community after all!

Come on, share your story at BayleyBulletin.com/success

You can be a brave soul too!

BAYLEY BULLETIN

2018 High School Essay Contest Winners



5 LEADING
THE MARCH

8 THE ULTIMATE
GIFT



12 PRACTICE, PERFORM
... REPEAT

16 TIME TO GROW



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2018 - 2019 ISSUE



22 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
COOL 2B CATHOLIC



24 ALUMNI PROFILE
AIM HIGH AND SOAR

35 JOBZOLOGY
DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE



38 COLLEGE PREPARATION
MASTERING THE BASICS



41 SETON COUNSELOR ADVICE
UPLOADING ASSIGNMENTS



26 A SETON GRAD'S GUIDE
7 LIFE LESSONS



42 INTRODUCING
COLLEGE PARTNERS



32 GETTING INTO
ELITE UNIVERSITIES



46 ALUMNI PROFILE
WALK FOR LIFE



20 ESSAY CONTEST
**HONORABLE MENTIONS
& MORE**



30 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
SETON STARS



36 STUDENT PROFILE
RUNNING THE LIFE



First Place Winner 11th/12th Grade Category



JACINTA HAMILTON

Leading the March

The flexibility of homeschooling has allowed Jacinta to grow in her Catholic Faith, do schoolwork at her own pace, and pursue a variety of interests, including spending time with the most important people in her life!

As I approach my senior year of high school, I realize how different my life would be without the benefit of the past twelve years of Seton Home Study School. The impact of homeschooling on my life – and Seton, in particular – is so huge that an 850 word essay can only scrape the surface! I have compiled some of the highlights of homeschooling that have helped shape me into the person I am today.

I will always be grateful for the formation of mind, body, and spirit that a Seton homeschool education provides. Homeschooling has allowed me to enjoy my schoolwork, integrate my Faith, and have the flexibility for activities and quality time spent with my family. I hope more people will seriously consider homeschooling as a real possibility. In my opinion, it is not only an amazing school lifestyle, it's the best!

The thoroughly orthodox Catholic education that Seton provides is incredible. The substantive and rich Catholicism that is in each of the textbooks is inspiring. I am amazed by all that I continue to learn about the Catholic Faith in every course I take. In the end, our spiritual life is the only thing that is going to matter, and I am forever grateful that my school reflects where I want my soul to be for all eternity.



Homeschooling has allowed me to do schoolwork at my own pace. In most cases this involves being able to do things faster and use my time the way I want. Our community allows dual enrollment, which means that I have been able to take a couple of classes at my local high school. To be candid, the amount of “wasted” time we have locked in our seats seems crazy. I appreciate that with homeschooling I am able to take the initiative to plan and complete my schoolwork on my own. This discipline has transferred well into other areas of my life.

Homeschooling has also given me the time and flexibility to pursue interests outside of school. I have been very active in ballet for the past 12 years, for example. It has been nice to be really invested in something that I enjoy without feeling that I would have to sacrifice my education. I really appreciate that homeschooling has allowed me to enjoy the beauty of dance and the comradery with my classmates.

I am also very active in Band, playing the Euphonium since 5th grade. Opportunities that I have been able to pursue include various honor bands at the district and state levels, solo and ensemble competitions, playing almost the entire school year in the Symphony Band at my local high school, playing at church, and being chosen to be Section Leader for Marching Band this coming fall.

My other interests include cooking and baking with my four younger sisters, making casseroles once a month for the free lunch program at my parish, writing a Saint article for my parish’s teen newsletter once a month, and playing basketball with my competitive brothers and sisters. All these things I am able to do – and with time to spare – thanks to the flexibility of homeschooling!

Homeschooling allows me to spend the most time with the most important people in my life: my family. This is a real blessing since my siblings and I are very close. I am the oldest of

the seven kids in my family, and being the “big sis” is my favorite role. I am particularly grateful that I get to hang out with my 9-year-old brother Gabriel every day.

Gabe has Down Syndrome and reminds me every single day what a huge blessing he is to our family. Homeschooling allows me the flexibility in my school day to be the “big sis” by sharing a variety of activities with my special brother. I am able to go along to his speech, occupational, and physical therapy appointments; this has made me seriously consider these as career choices.

I am also able to share Gabe’s favorite activities with him, which include listening and dancing to music, playing on the swings outside, anything to do with water and roller coasters, selfies with his sisters and brother, and hugging! I know that Gabriel appreciates homeschooling because he gets really sad when his siblings are away at activities. Homeschooling has allowed our family to spend much more time getting to know each other and to become best friends!

I am grateful to Seton for a homeschool education that has allowed me to grow daily in my Catholic Faith, to have the flexibility to pursue a variety of interests, and to spend more time with the most important people in my life.



Jacinta Hamilton is a senior in high school and lifelong Seton homeschooler. She is the oldest of seven kids in her family, five girls and two boys. When she’s not taking online tests or writing book reports, Jacinta enjoys taking ballet classes, playing euphonium in band,

going to Iowa football games, playing basketball in the backyard with her brothers, and baking with her sisters.

Jacinta is involved in Best Buddies, which is an organization that pairs kids with special needs with their peers and makes them feel included in schools. She also enjoys being involved in her parish by volunteering at Vacation Bible School, baking casseroles for the local crisis center, and writing a monthly “Lives of the Saints” article for the Parish Teen Newsletter. Jacinta really enjoys writing about the Catholic Faith and sharing the positivity of homeschooling!



ANDREW KOUDELKA

Second Place Winner

11th/12th Grade Category

The Ultimate Gift

When a medical issue arose for Andrew, homeschooling not only provided the means to grow stronger physically and mentally, but the time to spend precious moments with his grandfather and learn valuable lessons from him.

It was always Mother's dream to homeschool me; however, Dad's preference was for me to attend a private school instead. Mother's dream finally came true when Dad allowed her to homeschool me after I had encountered a life-changing experience, one that I will have to cope with for the rest of my life.

I am very grateful that my mother devoted her time and energy to homeschooling, for it has provided me with a superior education, enabled me to spend cherished moments with my grandfather, and allowed me to grow spiritually.

Homeschooling has truly been a blessing, for it has provided me with a superior education while still meeting my special diabetic needs. At the age of six, my life changed drastically when I was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, an autoimmune disorder that destroys the beta cells which produce insulin. Although I had an excellent diet, exercised regularly, and was physically fit, this terrible disease afflicted me. I often felt extreme fatigue and sometimes found

it difficult to concentrate. Because of my diabetic health issues, Mother decided to homeschool me to manage my diabetes and to develop a flexible schedule that supported a healthy, active lifestyle.

Homeschooling has enabled Mother to customize my education for my weak areas, strengths, interests, and learning style. This approach has allowed me to become strong in all areas, enabling me to excel in my courses. Homeschooling has helped me to develop confidence, to achieve goals, and to receive an excellent education while managing my diabetes.

Additionally, homeschooling has enabled me to spend precious moments with my grandfather and to learn valuable lessons from him. After Grandpa had heart surgery, he came to live with my family for several months on many different occasions. I was elated! Because of homeschooling, I was able to spend unlimited hours with Grandpa while still completing my lessons.

Cheerfully reminiscing about old times, Grandpa loved to tell stories from the past





for hours, and I always listened with an avid interest. Grandpa enjoyed my presence too, for I gave him great comfort and joy during his time of suffering. From my grandfather, I also learned many valuable life lessons. I watched him patiently bear his great sufferings with a pleasant disposition and in union with Christ. He never complained, even though walking and performing his daily activities were a great struggle. I was very blessed to be with Grandpa during his last days.

My flexible schedule allowed me to make frequent trips to the hospital and to bring great comfort to Grandpa, who was always overjoyed to see me. On the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, God took Grandpa to his eternal home. Moments before Grandpa died, he uttered a beautiful prayer and exclaimed that Mother Mary was coming for him now. I no longer fear death because I have witnessed how peaceful death is for God's faithful servants. I am very grateful that homeschooling enabled me to minister to my grandfather and to spend cherished moments with him.

Finally, homeschooling has enabled me to grow spiritually. My flexible schedule allowed me to spend valuable time with Grandpa and to observe his great spirituality. Grandpa would always invite me to participate in his devotions, and I was always delighted

“I was very blessed to be with Grandpa during his last days.”

to join him. He always made daily prayer a top priority, praying beautiful prayers of thanksgiving to Jesus. He also attended weekly Eucharistic Adoration and never missed a Sunday Mass throughout his entire lifetime.

During difficult times, his great faith in God never wavered. My grandfather's immense love for Jesus has motivated me to develop a strong, personal relationship with God and has increased my love for Him. Furthermore, Mother's great spirituality has also been an inspiration to me.

I have been so blessed to have her as my religion teacher because she deeply loves Jesus and treasures the Catholic faith. With great fervor, she has taught me the

doctrines of the faith and has been a powerful testimony to the love of Christ. Her hands are continuously filled with overflowing love for me and for others.

In my moments of fear and doubt, Mother always comforts me with scriptural verses that give me encouragement. Psalm 23:4 is one of my favorite passages: “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff comfort me.” Because of Mother's example, I, too, cherish my faith and am inspired to love as Christ loved. Homeschooling has empowered me with great spiritual growth through Grandpa's and Mother's examples of faith, love, and trust in the Lord.

Homeschooling has truly been the ultimate gift, providing me with a superior education, enabling me to spend precious moments with Grandpa, and increasing my spirituality.

Even though Dad was initially against homeschooling, he is now a strong advocate because he has seen how it has benefited me. I will be forever grateful to Mother for her great devotion to homeschooling and for ensuring that I receive the best education possible.



Andrew Koudelka, a native Texan, enjoys biking, photography, and creative writing. In his free time, he loves to take pictures of nature and flowers, incorporating special photography effects. He also enjoys undertaking home improvements and is particularly fascinated by technology. Some of his favorite projects include assembling a 3D printer and a CNC router.

Andrew treasures his faith and loves to read spiritual books. Among his favorites are *The Holy Bible* and *The Imitation of Christ*. He serves as a volunteer for the Social Concerns Ministry with his parish, finding great fulfillment in helping needy families. After graduating from high school, he plans to attend the University of Houston.

Practice, Perform . . . Repeat

From the age of four she knew she wanted to play the violin. What she couldn't know were the places and cultures she would be introduced to over the next ten years...



First Place Winner

9th/10th Grade Category



SETON STUDENT

It's six o'clock in the morning. My alarm goes off – oh, dear, I was too tired yesterday and forgot to remove that annoying beeping sound that sounds like a fire alarm. Mumbling, I get up and turn it off.

Then, I set my Scale Chart on my stand, turn on my metronome at 60 beats per minute, and pick up my violin. Not forgetting to put my practice mute to avoid waking up my snoring family members, I tune

**“I want to play
the violin!”**

my instrument and begin practicing. It's been my routine for almost six months now, as I feel like there are not enough hours in one day to prepare for violin competitions and recitals occurring every four to six weeks. This routine wouldn't exist if I attended my local high school, however, because that infamous yellow bus sneaks in at 6:30 AM and doesn't come back until 4:30 PM.

This is just one reason why homeschooling has so many benefits for a young musician like me. Learning at home has enabled me to practice and stay motivated from a young age, travel to many different places and venues, and prepare for competitions and performances with ample time and flexibility.

To understand a little better why I am so attached to the violin, I need to go back in time to when I was four years old, back in my native Montreal, Canada. One Sunday at Mass, I heard a violinist play during Communion. Shy person that I was, my parents were quite shocked when, amidst the silence, I stood up and yelled, “I want to play the violin!” I met the violinist after Mass, who said she would love to teach me. After much pleading on my part, Dad finally agreed, and I received my mini violin and weekly lessons. I was ecstatic!

Although this excitement didn’t last very long, my teacher would not let me stop under any circumstances. Besides, I wasn’t allowed to go to the Planetarium

“the competition coordinator comes forward to announce the results...”

with my friends if I hadn’t practiced! Thanks to homeschooling, my parents and teachers were able to set goals and rewards for practicing every day, which kept me motivated.

Skip ahead to ten days ago, back to my fourteen-year-old self. We moved to Indiana when I was nine, but we’ve been calling Cleveland, Ohio, home for a few days. Dad and I are on a flight to Montreal for my audition for the Canadian Music Competition.

As I look down from my window seat on the country I call home, I let my thoughts wander back to the past few months. From winning the Indiana State Fair Violin Competition to performing in the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra’s concert hall in downtown Indianapolis, from performing a recital with my sisters in Boston to a violin lesson in Texas – not only have music and homeschooling allowed me to travel to so many places and cultures in North America, they have even allowed me to live in some of these places. Traveling is, by far, my favorite activity besides music, and I wouldn’t even be on that Air Canada flight if it weren’t for those four hours of practice I put in every day.

Furthermore, I certainly wouldn’t be able to travel to any of these places if I went to my local school; with the many trips my family made for music-related reasons this past year, I would have missed at least thirty school days. Yes, that would have been very hard to explain to the principal. My thoughts come back to earth when the flight attendant gives a rushed message over the radio, but I’m still thinking about how thankful I am for the flexibility homeschooling gives me.

Three days later, on June 1st, Dad and I take a taxi to McGill University’s Music Pavilion. I sign in at the Canadian Music Competition’s welcome booth and hand over my sheet music to the volunteer. Relatives and friends whom I haven’t seen in over a year are already in Clara Lichtenstein Hall. I’m a little nervous about this exciting performance, but after all, I finished school two weeks early to prepare for this competition – and, since school ends towards the end of June here in Canada, I know my fellow competitors are cramming for finals at this time of year, leaving little time for practice.

Here is just another example of how the flexibility of homeschooling is very helpful! Finally, after the afternoon's performances, the competition coordinator comes forward to announce the results – and, to my amazement, I learn I've made it to the finals with an overall score of 94!

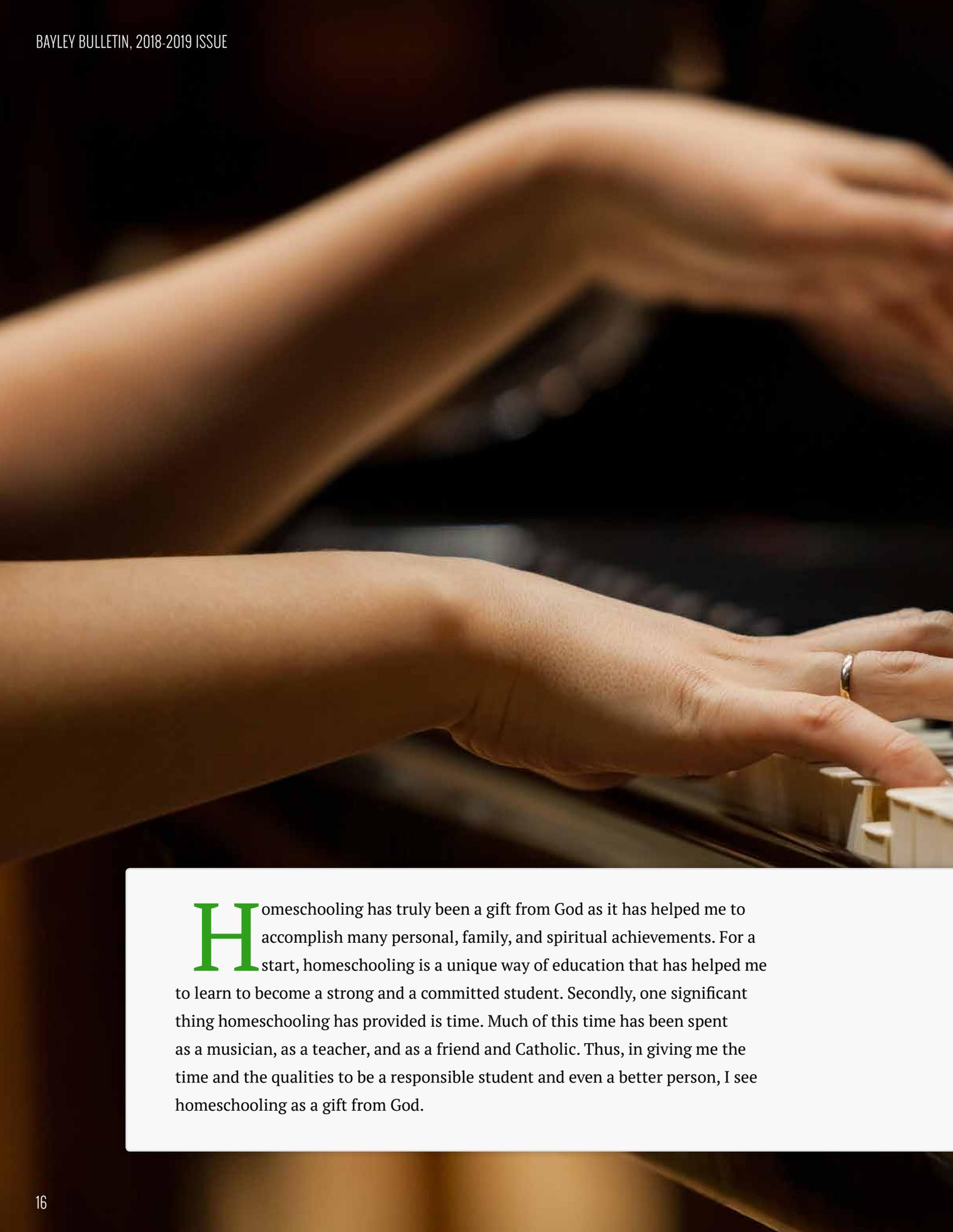
Through homeschooling, I've been able to perfect my skills on the violin in a way I would have never thought possible. Until I can, God willing, make it to Carnegie Hall, I'll just keep working hard and make the most of every day.

With the National Finals coming up soon, and the opportunity to receive a scholarship imminent, I'll turn on my metronome, tune my instrument, practice that run at measure 104 – and thank God every day for the opportunities and flexibility homeschooling has given me.



SETON STUDENT





Homeschooling has truly been a gift from God as it has helped me to accomplish many personal, family, and spiritual achievements. For a start, homeschooling is a unique way of education that has helped me to learn to become a strong and a committed student. Secondly, one significant thing homeschooling has provided is time. Much of this time has been spent as a musician, as a teacher, and as a friend and Catholic. Thus, in giving me the time and the qualities to be a responsible student and even a better person, I see homeschooling as a gift from God.



ANGELINA POULIN

Time to Grow

Second Place Winner

9th/10th Grade Category

Time is a most precious gift, and Angela says she has found it in abundance through homeschooling.

Through homeschooling's unique and brilliant way of education, I have had the rare opportunity to learn in my faith as a Catholic and to learn new things that I know many do not have the chance to learn. As a Catholic homeschooler, it is such a joy to be learning my faith as a necessity in life. In an even more particular way, I am happy

to learn of the Catholic faith in depth from a man who is on his way to earning his master's in theology. This awesome man is my Dad.

My Dad's inspiring talks and lectures on Catholicism have always motivated me to become the best Catholic I can be. In another

way, I have had the awesome privilege to be in my Freshmen year as a thirteen-year-old with my two older sisters, Jasmine and Rachel. My sisters have helped me to enjoy and to put my full commitment in each superior grade. I can never thank them enough for their continuous support. Thus, it is clear that homeschooling has helped my family to teach, inspire, and encourage me throughout my education.

In addition, homeschooling has provided the time that has been necessary for many personal

“I am very thankful.”

achievements. Growing up in a family with a great appreciation for the art of music, it has always been my life long goal to learn to play a musical instrument, especially the piano. Homeschooling has provided me with both the time and confidence

to teach myself to fluently play the piano, and even learn a bit of guitar. I especially have grown to play the piano with delight and passion, as it is one of my favorite hobbies.

Also, homeschooling has given me the flexibility to teach my younger brother and his friend their first years of school, while still progressing in my own education. With the time in hand, I have taught my joyful students for two years, teaching them math, and science, and teaching them how to read and write. I personally consider this experience essential if I ever hope to become a teacher when I am older. Truly, for the newfound talent of a pianist and treasured experience of a teacher, I am very thankful.

Finally, as a homeschooler, God has given me the blessings to find cherished friendships and to become closer to Him. For many years, I and my family have been involved in a small homeschooling group that holds events that we call “Fun Friday.” I started going since I was about



seven years old. “Fun Friday” was held every Friday to learn of many various subjects, especially sciences. Back when I was seven, this was the special time and place to make new friends. I met one of my closest friends there, and even now she always inspires me to become a better person.

Homeschooling has helped me to value many blessings that are the most precious to me. It is often said that a true friend helps one to get closer to God, I would definitely consider her a “true” and joyful friend. Furthermore, it has not only been a family goal, but a personal goal as well to participate in the Mass more than once a week. Homeschooling has given the time for me to attend daily Mass when I can; it is the truest blessing to be able to receive God’s very own Body and Blood, and to visit His dwelling place almost daily.

In conclusion, no words can express my gratitude and joy of being a homeschooler. As a homeschooler, I have had the joy of receiving not only an advanced education but also learning my

faith with my family. Homeschooling has provided me with the time to learn new things, to gain a teaching experience, to find my cherished friend, and to grow in a deeper love with God. In the end, it is clear to me that God gave me the gift of being a homeschooler to achieve many things as a joyful teacher, a committed student, a blessed sister, and as a loving daughter of God.



Angelina is a thirteen-year-old Freshmen, in the Seton Study Homeschool program. She has five awesome brothers, five wonderful sisters, and two incredible parents, totaling her family to thirteen!

She loves to read and write poetry when inspired, bake for her family, and greatly enjoys playing the piano. Also, after dancing for nearly five years, Anglina is now a competitive swimmer with the rest of her family! Last but not least, she wants to share that she loves God very much as her Father, and as the King of her Heart.



Honorable Mention *11th/12th Grade Category*

How Homeschooling Freed Me From Anxiety



ROSE MCCORMICK

It has always been one of my parents' top priorities for my siblings and I to receive a Catholic education.

I began attending an archdiocesan Catholic school when I was in pre-school. During elementary school, I suffered from intense social anxiety. It was crippling and caused me to dread waking up in the morning for school, the source of much of my anxiety. The fear I felt was overpoweringly fearful, and countless times I sobbed before and even at school.

By fourth grade, my fears had progressed to such a degree that sometimes I refused to attend school, and it was almost beyond my mother's power to drag me there. It was then that my parents decided to homeschool me, hoping it would take away my main source of distress. It was a long road, but gradually homeschooling allowed me to come out of my shell.

Instead of being forced to constantly live with anxiety, I suddenly felt relaxed every day. I gained confidence from the fact that I was no longer perpetually scared and miserable. At my own speed and in my own ways, and by the grace of God, I gained the courage to step outside my comfort zone.

My parents and I were extremely pleased with both the individuality homeschooling promoted and the exceptional quality of the Seton curriculum.

Homeschooling, by the wonderful way it has allowed me to develop, has played a major role in giving me the confidence and skills I needed to have

many amazing experiences and achieve noteworthy accomplishments throughout my high school career. One of the most important lessons I learned in my homeschooling years was that being fearful is simply an opportunity to be courageous.

I realized that courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the way people battle and overcome their fears. Even though I still experience some social anxiety, I have pushed myself to defeat my fears and become involved in my community. I have taken leadership roles among my peers in many situations. I was elected by my peers to be a Co-Captain of the Leadership Council at my homeschool co-op, and selected by my youth ministers to lead a Theology of the Body discussion group at my parish youth group, which I have attended throughout high school.

I love working with children and have volunteered at many camps, such as Vacation Bible School, and basketball clinics, including ones for children with special needs. I also volunteered in a pre-school class at my co-op. This past summer, I went on a mission trip to Kentucky with my youth group. We repaired homes, organized clothing for a thrift shop, and developed relationships with the people we served.

My desire to grow in my Catholic Faith and learn how to more effectively lead others to Christ compelled me to attend Franciscan LEAD, a week-long leadership conference. I knew that LEAD would push me very far outside my comfort zone, which was a frightening thought, but I readily accepted

the challenge. At LEAD, I learned how to give a personal testimony to the Catholic Faith and share with others the amazing things God has done in my life.

I put this skill into action during my senior year of high school by giving a witness to my public high school basketball team about how God has used homeschooling to help me conquer

“...being fearful is simply an opportunity to be courageous.”

much of my anxiety and grow in my Faith. This witness took much courage, as I was the only person on my team who was homeschooled and one of few, if any, practicing Catholics.

Homeschooling has given me the confidence to achieve these accomplishments and prepared me for college. It also helped me in being awarded a Presidential Scholarship from DeSales University, where I will be starting classes this August.

There was a time when I could not have imagined possessing the courage to attend college or have the experiences I have mentioned above.

But now I am simply grateful that God, through the sacrifice of my parents, the ability to be homeschooled, and the wonderful community by which I am surrounded, has given me so many opportunities to overcome my fears. Homeschooling has made amazing memories, and now I can share how He has worked in my life, as I continue on my journey of Faith and education.

Rose McCormick is a Seton graduate from Pennsylvania who began homeschooling in fifth grade. She plans to continue her education at DeSales University where she will study Communication and Theology. She enjoys reading, writing, and exploring God’s creation through hiking.

Rose loves finding the beauty that is hidden all around her in both people and nature. She is passionate about service work, especially volunteering with children, and furthering God’s Kingdom on earth by being committed to love and truth. She is increasingly amazed and humbled by God’s majestic plan that is perpetually unfolding in her life.



Blessed with Time for Faith, Family, and Pirouettes

By Ash Van Ness

Ash loves homeschooling as it has helped her grow closer to Christ and her siblings and she can practice her ballet pirouettes whenever she needs a break!



The Circle is Stronger with More Family and Friends!

Lifting Myself Closer to God



Privileged to Grow Closer to God Each Day

Why I Proudly Wave the Homeschool Banner



See more essay entries at:
www.bayleybulletin.com



JOHN PAUL GUTSCHKE



Cool 26 Catholic

John Paul Gutschke's entry, *A Day in the Life of a Priest*, won the high school category in EWTN's Cool 2B Catholic video contest. He was interviewed on *Life on the Rock*.

I love filmmaking and wanted to make a video to inspire young men to join the Holy Priesthood. With *A Day in the Life of a Priest*, I wanted to dramatically capture the truly epic nature of the priestly vocation and the Sacraments and also the relatability of the priest as a human.

It was so exciting for me to think of the various ways I could utilize what is available to me and thus show the beauty of my home parish, the nearby Fatima Shrine, and the rural landscape of New Jersey. This is not to mention the awesome performances I received from my family actors and actresses!

Seton Homeschool has helped me tremendously in achieving this victory! Because of Seton, my understanding of the Faith and the Holy Priesthood has been enriched and enlivened.

I greatly enjoy filmmaking... as you might have guessed! It is because filmmaking is the summary of all the art forms. Film allows us to take the gifts that God has given us and re-present them to him in the beautiful, inspiring, and moving art that we have created. Film reflects life, our stories, our philosophy, our hearts... It can pose and answer questions

"I feel a special need to influence the culture for Christ with great films."

but more importantly, film can lead us to God and allow His grace to work in us.

One moment in a film can change our outlook and the direction of our lives forever. We can relate to it and recognize the truth and reality of human life through beauty, suffering,

and contradiction, all woven together into a tapestry that reveals the truth of God's love, compassion, and mercy.

I also greatly enjoy music and have been playing the violin since the age of six. I take joy in the beauty of nature and love to stargaze, play Frisbee, watch the clouds, take in the glory of summer, and share this joy with family and friends.

“I greatly enjoy filmmaking...as you might have guessed!”

My goal, first and foremost, is to get to Heaven and bring everyone else with me! I have a burning desire to build a strong close-knit community of families who live out their lives together and foster true friendships and authentic joy. I also want to bring Christ to others in all that I do. I love filmmaking and really see the beauty and profound impact of this art form. I feel a special need to influence the culture for Christ with great films and through my authentic friendships and affirmation towards others.



Check out John Paul's YouTube channel for his interview and all his videos.

Seton Student Achievements

SHARING YOUR SUCCESS WITH THE SETON COMMUNITY



Allison | found that homeschooling helped her achieve her goal of having her poetry published. "Seton Home Study's extensive English program and poetry courses gave me the skills needed to write a publishable poem."

Allison shared her achievement, how about you?

setonmagazine.com/success

Seton Class of 2019

and 2020, 2021, 2022

Now Available!

**Adult Sizes Small - 2XL
\$12.99**



**Class T-Shirts
SetonBooks.com/ClassTees**



VICTORIA VERTREES

Aim High And Soar

At age 12, Victoria Vertrees along with her older brother William took their first flight on a hot air balloon. That flight seized the hearts and imaginations of both young people. Today, nineteen-year-old Victoria will represent the United States in The 2018 3rd FAI Women’s World Hot Air Balloon Championship in Naleczow, Poland.

Such dreams don’t become realities without struggle and hard work.

Victoria’s first struggle—and the one that became a touchstone in her desire to be a “master of my craft”—had nothing to do with hot-air balloons. Diagnosed in elementary

school with dyslexia, she underwent clinical therapy to deal with her learning difficulties. She was eleven before she finally learned to read with any proficiency.

For high school, Victoria enrolled in Seton Home Study. Both Victoria and her mother Teri credit Seton’s Special Services, and particularly academic counselor Stephen Costanzo, with helping Victoria conquer her

“Don’t let anything limit what you want to do in life.”

academic fears. Working with Special Services, Victoria raised both her test scores and her academic confidence, factors that led her in 2017 to the School of Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma. Teri Vertrees also stressed that Seton’s accreditation helped Victoria gain entrance to the university.

A family friend had suggested Oklahoma to Victoria, because of the university’s meteorological major and because the





National Weather Center is located on campus. “I applied almost as a joke,” Victoria says, “because I didn’t think I could get in.” She was overjoyed by her acceptance letter and has completed a first year of rugged academics, including physics and calculus classes this summer.

At 14, Victoria received her student pilot certificate. After two years of training, she earned her private pilot’s certificate and was for several months the youngest hot air balloon pilot in the United States. “I got my pilot’s certificate before I got my driver’s license,” she says.

The demands of piloting a balloon can be daunting. Modern balloons are not only equipped with the gas burners and propane tanks with which most of us are familiar, but pilots must also use computers, GPS trackers, and iPads while navigating the winds. This is a high tech sport, and pilots win competitions through their ability to manage and navigate their balloons with precision and dexterity. “There’s

nothing so inspiring,” says Teri of her daughter, “as seeing your child holding up a 20 million BTU burner with twenty feet of blue fire coming out of it.”

Ballooning became a passion for the entire family. Like his sister, William, now a student at California Polytechnic University-Pomona, earned his pilot’s certificate, and parents Teri and Joe are intimately involved in their daughter’s ballooning events, with Joe bringing his skills as a photographer to various competitions.

In addition to undergoing their rigorous training to become pilots, Victoria and William were active members in their parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Habra. Both siblings also belonged to 4-H for ten years, where Victoria participated in public speaking and fashion design competitions.

To hear Victoria talk about her love of ballooning and to watch her in action, you can find her at bit.ly/2uRY7L5.

When asked what advice she might offer current Seton students, Victoria says: “If there’s something you want to do, go out and do it.” She then adds, after thinking of the challenges she has faced: “Don’t let anything limit what you want to do in life.”

***Victoria is a
2017 Seton Graduate.***





MARIE VALDOVINOS

7 Life Lessons From A Seton Graduate

Let's cut to the chase: high school is difficult. Put high school together with homeschool, and you've got a major challenge. I remember a point during my junior year with Seton when I was struggling to maintain my grade point average and moving to a different house with my family. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is the hardest thing I've ever done."

Fast forward two years, and I enter college. I had dreamed of going to college and heard many stories of what it was like, but those dreams and stories didn't match my own experiences. Here are seven lessons I learned both from Seton and college that have given me a new perspective on education.

1. I'M NOT PERFECT AND THAT'S OKAY.

I definitely make mistakes. While it was initially disheartening whenever I saw a grade lower than I wanted, I was motivated to come back the next day and try harder.

"The only person holding you back...is you!"

From the time I was small, I understood from Seton and from my parents that even though a perfect score was not mandatory, work poorly done was also unacceptable. This same philosophy applies in college. When all is said and done, the effort is valued most.

*"In life we all make many mistakes."
Pope Francis*

2. NO ONE WILL DO IT FOR YOU.

Let's be real: I've had my lazy days. My parents always helped me when I was stuck on a Seton assignment, but they made it clear to me that for tests and for life I needed to find the answers for myself. After all, no one can go to school or do homework in your place.

In addition, many other exciting opportunities will come to you in life other than academic ones, but again it will be up to you to take advantage of them. An aspiring athlete will not make it to the Olympics unless he trains on those days he doesn't feel like it. The only person holding you back from becoming your best self and achieving your goals is you. Make a plan and find a way to break out of mediocrity.

"I can clear any obstacle before me...win or lose, only I hold the key to my destiny." Elaine Maxwell

3. DON'T BE AFRAID TO BE YOURSELF.

In my freshman year in college I felt isolated from other students even though I was attending a private Catholic university. It was tempting to force myself to melt into the mass of other students who were loud and outgoing, but I was by nature quiet and studious, and so kept to myself. Most of my classmates had gone to public schools or private academies, and as a homeschooled graduate, I was definitely a standout from the crowd. But as time went on, I learned that being different was not necessarily a bad thing. God made me the way he did for a reason. Being a quiet, serious student enabled me to focus on the task at hand and get the work done.

"Let me be myself and I am satisfied." Anne Frank

4. WORK HARD AND REWARD YOURSELF.

Working hard is important, but don't work yourself too hard. Even God needed to take a breather after creating the world! Don't be afraid to take some time off from your studies.

I find it extremely helpful to make a mental list of all the assignments and tasks I need to complete for any given school week. If I complete them all, I reward myself with some activity: art therapy, an hour of freestyle piano, a favorite dish, a movie night, or a sweet treat I normally don't eat.

*"Without work, it is impossible to have fun."
St. Thomas Aquinas*

5. FOCUS. ELIMINATE ALL DISTRACTIONS.

I know how hard it is to focus on the task at hand: I'm in the library on a Thursday night trying to knock out some research, but Instagram is far more appealing than homework. Two hours go by, and I barely get anything done.

"Instagram is far more appealing than homework."

Do yourself a favor and turn off your phone! Put it away. Silence the notification ringer. Temporarily block Facebook notifications, Instagram, and video games. If you're studying in your bedroom, clear off the desk and keep a tidy workspace.

"Focus is a matter of deciding what you're not going to do." John Carmack

*“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
Philippians 4:13.*

6. LOOK YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR AND TELL YOURSELF

“I CAN!”

This life lesson was the hardest for me, and I’m still working on it even as I write. It’s easy to shoot ourselves down, to tell ourselves that we won’t ever be smart enough or good enough to succeed, but we need to realize that without making mistakes we will never learn anything new about ourselves. Sometimes a couple of deep breaths before a challenging class and repeating “I can!” in my head over and over again are just what I need to keep me on the right track.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13



Marie Valdovinos is a 2016 Seton graduate with 5 younger siblings. She has practiced creative writing for almost 12 years. Her other great hobbies include sketching, singing, and reading anything written by Tolkien and Dickens, her literary role models. She credits all her writing skills and current success in school to Seton’s rigorous yet rewarding English curriculum. One of her biggest goals is to be a published author.

7. KEEP THE FAITH.

I’ve saved the best tip for last. My faith has helped make me the person I am today. In fact, my faith was why I chose to attend a Catholic college for my freshman year. But there was a problem. The cost of that college exceeded my savings and my scholarships.

After months of praying novenas, working two jobs, and still not keeping up with expenses, I decided I needed to call it quits, ditch my old plan, and transfer to a public university where my expenses more closely matched my budget. It was a new and frightening time for me going so far from home and to a different sort of school, but with prayer and the Lord’s help, I pushed ahead and made a new life for myself. Now I am much happier and give God the credit for that.

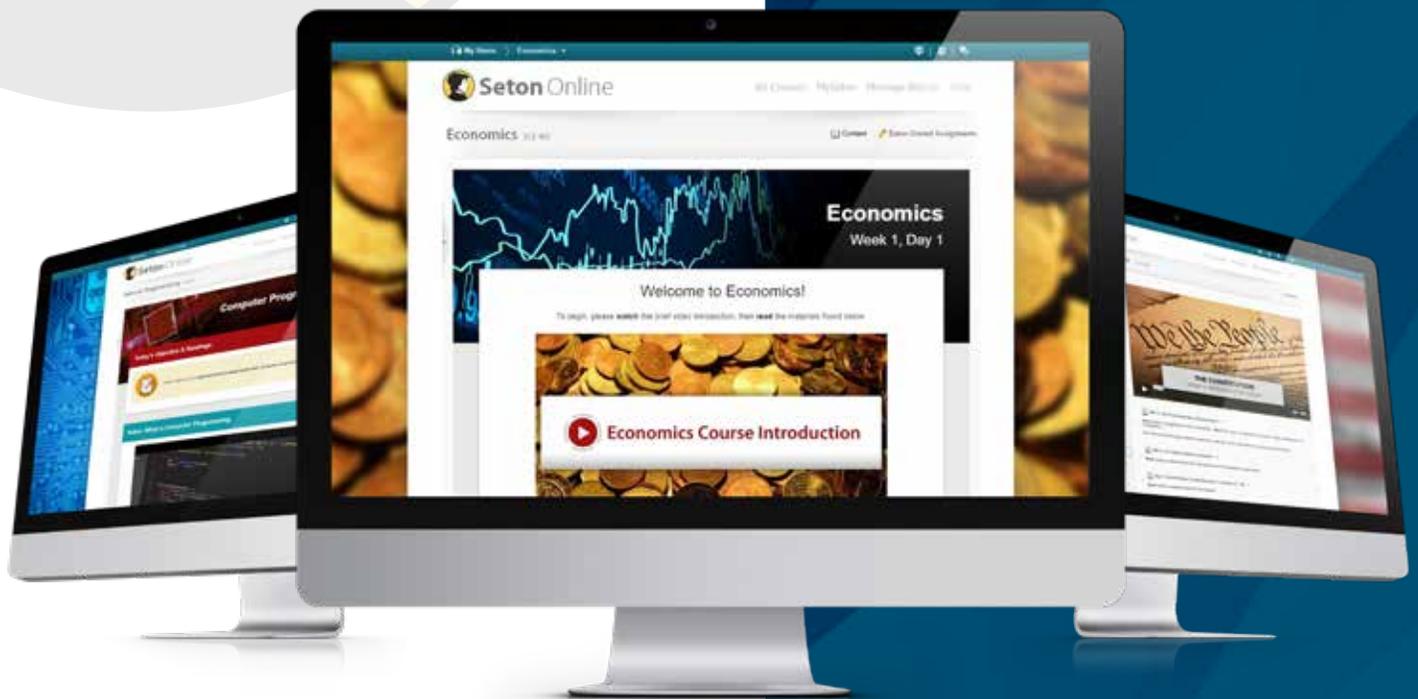
*“All things work together for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”
Romans 8:28*

SetonOnline

HIGH SCHOOL DIGITAL COURSES

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UP-TO-DATE
COURSE AVAILABILITY, VISIT US AT:

WWW.SETONHOME.ORG/SETONONLINE



SetonOnline digital courses combine the traditional homeschooling experience with cutting-edge online tools that deepen and enrich homeschooling for both students and parents.

Featuring integrated multimedia and interactive lesson content, these enhanced courses have already become student favorites.

- ✓ INTEGRATED MULTIMEDIA
- ✓ INTERACTIVE LESSON MATERIALS
- ✓ FLEXIBLE AND SELF-PACED
- ✓ INTUITIVE DESIGN
- ✓ POWERFUL PARENT TOOLS
- ✓ ACCESSIBLE ANYWHERE

BAYLEY BULLETIN ACHIEVEMENT



John Wins Respect Life Scholarship

I was a scholarship winner of the Archdiocese of St. Louis Respect Life Apostolate's Creative Writing Contest. I was one of 10 scholarship recipients out of over 1,100 participants. Here I am with the Most Reverend Archbishop Robert J. Carlson.

Seton English courses and writing assignments have helped me learn to express myself in writing. The topic of

the essay contest was how living chastely helps one avoid abortion and live a happy, healthy and holy life.

I play the trumpet and have auditioned to be a member of the Community Music School of Webster University in St. Louis. I also play lacrosse and basketball, enjoy woodworking, and building and airbrush-painting models. My inspirations in life are to serve God and love my family.

Share your success online at

bayleybulletin.com/success ▶



Kira Wins for Alaska

I traveled to California to compete in two major archery competitions! I was especially thrilled to represent Alaska in both archery tournaments, and especially for winning 2nd place at Nationals!

Homeschooling with Seton allows me the freedom and flexibility to learn and complete all my academic assignments and still practice on my bow as much as I need to excel in my sport.

I love homeschooling, archery, reading books, and all things owl. I want to become a professional archer, and I strive for sainthood every day.

Olivia's "Catholic Girl Talk" on YouTube

I started a YouTube Channel called "Catholic Girl Talk" because I had so much on my heart to share with other Catholic girls. Plus, I like talking. So a YouTube Channel is a win-win!

Homeschooling with Seton helped me achieve this goal because it has given me maturity in my faith. It has also given me confidence in speaking about the basic truths of the Catholic faith.



Spirit of Franciscan Award to Tori

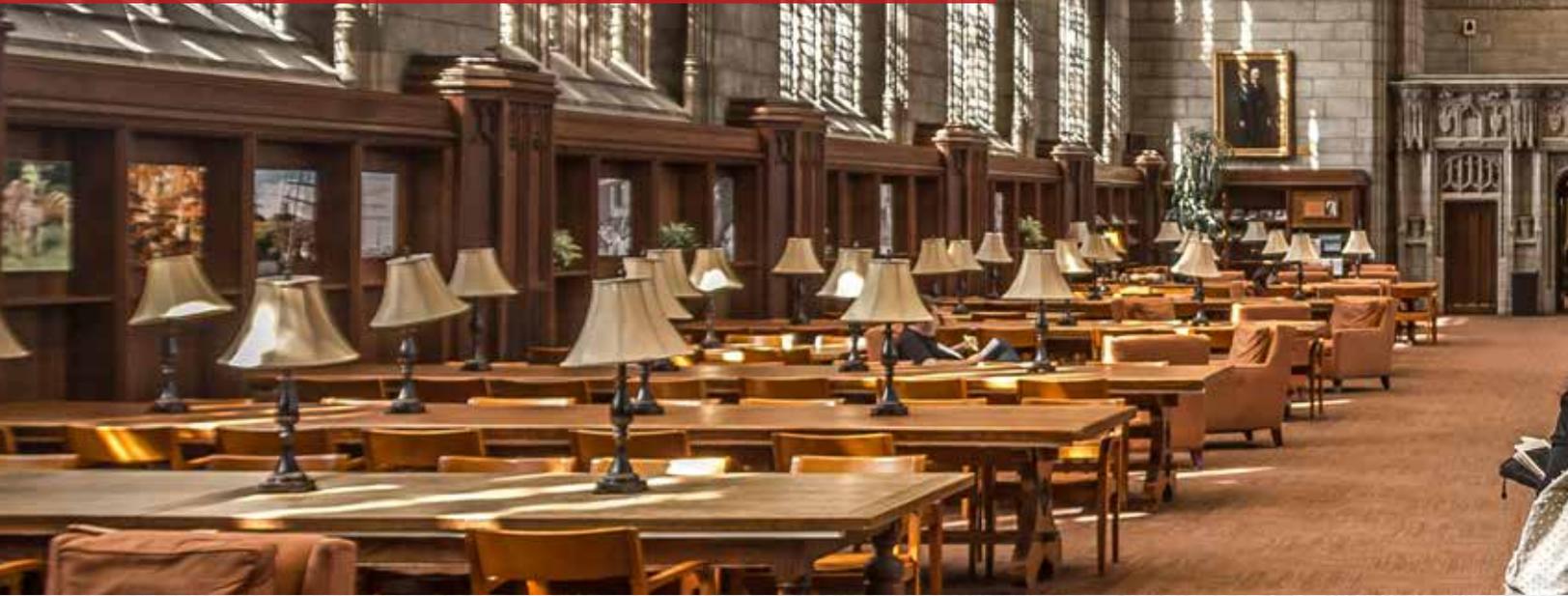
I graduated from Seton in 2018 and will be attending Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio in the fall to study Theology and Catechetics as the recipient of the *Spirit of Franciscan Award*.

Through junior high and high school I have been active in helping with parish catechism classes, pro-life camps, sidewalk counseling, and diaper drives.

Seton has not only prepared me for college with a solid foundation academically, but it has also given me a good anchor in, and a love for, my Catholic faith as well as a love of learning.

Getting Into ELITE UNIVERSITIES

BY NICK MARMALEJO



The life of a high school guidance counselor is a bit like that of a travel agent. The travel agent offers advice on the best holiday destination and helps plan the trip; the guidance counselor does the same when matching students to universities and colleges.

Frequently, questions encompass the criteria that colleges use in their admissions process and how to apply. Others address the needed qualifications for what are considered by the public to be the “most elite schools.” It is this latter consideration that I address below.

The Allure

The appeal of attending an Ivy League or similarly aloof school is multi-faceted. A degree from Harvard, Stanford, or Notre Dame, for example, confers street value by name recognition alone. For some students, a prestigious university may offer the chance to study under a particularly notable professor, or the opportunity to play a sport, or to be in a fine arts program.

Whatever the allure might be, like every other school, top schools are not always the peak of academic perfection. In fact, depending on the professor or subject, the actual education may be of questionable value (gender studies comes to mind). Yet by and large, admittance and academic success at these schools presumes a high level of academic prowess and personal accomplishment.

Hence, the pedigree that comes with an Ivy or similar diploma confers value beyond the actual



education itself. A degree from Princeton or Yale is certainly impressive on a resume, and so makes the prospects of attendance even more attractive to potential students. This is to say nothing of the many networking opportunities that will be had once the student graduates and lands in – or is selected for – their chosen field.

Sailors Beware

The fanfare and acclaim surrounding the Ivy League and those like them, however, is all too often a siren's call to unsuspecting but hopeful scholars and their parents. These centers of education court many able students and encourage them to apply, but only begrudgingly hand out acceptance letters. According to their own statistics, which are published on their admissions' web page, an applicant typically has a 5-12.5% chance of being admitted to such schools.

It must also be noted that students seeking admittance into these colleges come from an ever-widening international pool of applicants. Generally, these applicants are as qualified as their peers who are also seeking admission. Practically speaking, this means that even though you may be an exceptional student, so is everyone else.

The majority of these candidates have SAT scores in the 95th percentile or above, SAT subject tests, and a 4.0 (unweighted) or higher (weighted) GPA. They also often have several Advanced Placement (AP) exams, Honors/AP/International Baccalaureate (IB) courses on their transcript, and impressive personal accomplishments outside of the classroom.

The glut of qualified candidates clamoring outside an elite school's doors would—and likely should—encourage prospective students to consider their other options.

A Recipe for Success?

If the above has not dissuaded you or your student from applying to elite schools, below is a short list of accomplishments that will be needed for consideration, but remember there is no sure fire way to get into an ultra-prestigious school.

- Cumulative 4.0 (unweighted)
- SAT or ACT scores in the 95th percentile or higher
- SAT subject test exams
- AP exams
- As many Honors/AP/IB classes that you can fit into your schedule in four years
- Absolutely no fluff courses in your profile or transcript.
- Personal excellence demonstrated outside the classroom, such as achievements in a fine art, sport, or community service

(Note: Achieving the above would be a recipe for successful admittance into any college or university, not just an elite one.)

While Seton does not offer AP or IB classes, Seton does offer several honors courses. As noted in the November 2017 issue of Seton Magazine, students who are seeking to enhance their transcript further are encouraged to sit for the AP course exams in the subjects of their choice and submit their scores along with their transcript to their prospective college.

At the end of the day, each admissions' department has its own criteria and ethos for decision making. So I repeat, as noted above, you can be outstanding in every respect, but still be denied admittance.

Rethinking "Elite"

At Seton we believe academics are important, but consider the salvation of souls to be of the highest and greatest importance. Seton partners

with authentically Catholic colleges specifically with this end—our end—in mind. However, we realize that not all students can or will attend one of our partner schools for a variety of reasons.

If you do apply and do not gain entry into an “elite” school, it may be disappointing but it is not the end of the world. Perhaps it’s even a blessing in disguise. Just because you do not make it into a school enumerated in the annual list of Top 10 US Universities by US News & World Report does not mean your budding career or work life has met a premature end.

What it means is that one door closes and another opens. In fact, several academics from top schools have confided in me that, while in the heart of their study program, one that they were excited to begin, they became disillusioned with it.

The converse reality is that an outstanding – if not better, more personalized, and often less costly – education is available elsewhere at lesser known schools. Those places, which harbor some stellar professors and programs, are absolutely worth seeking out.

Furthermore, excellent networking opportunities exist practically everywhere. Regardless of where you went to college, if you are passionate and first-rate in your studies and what you do, doors will be opened for you. Count on it.

In a word, when it comes to picking out the best college for you or your student, do not narrowly define your search to only what the world at large considers “elite.” Do not make admittance into such a school an all-or-nothing proposition. As part of your plan, additionally consider a lesser known or less prestigious college with a fine education suited to your needs. Whatever your vocational pursuit may be, a brilliant education and future is available to you outside the Ivy League.



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.



What are YOUR Plans after High School?

USE JOBZOLGY TO:

- Explore the career paths that align with your unique interests and values.
- Learn your strengths and the type of environment you need to succeed.
- See the steps on your journey to build a life full of joy, meaning, and purpose.

START YOUR JOURNEY

Go to the JobZology link on your MySeton account

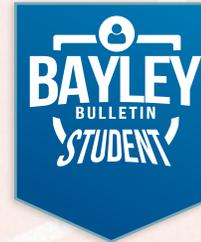
**Free Jobzology Analysis to
For Seton High School Students.**



THE SCIENCE BEHIND CAREERS THAT FIT



EMILY RYBAK



Thunk, thunk, thunk, is the sound of six hundred feet echoing in my ears. I can feel the condensation of salty sweat, penetrating the pores of my brow with every step I take. The cheering enhances the adrenaline that's gushing through my veins. Every portion of energy, both mental and physical, thrusting me towards the finish line. In the midst of the high rise of excitement within me, I feel the sudden grasp of despair. One that creeps into the mind, placing the slightest shadow of doubt that says "you can't!"

But a stronger force, one that overpowers the doubt, allows me to push aside the seconds that seem like eternity. This time is crucial as I push forth with a stronger and more resolved will to shoot across the destination marking the completion of the race. I am a runner, always been one. I've never been able to ignore the urging inside to move faster than the average pace life offers. Homeschooling rises above this pace in my life. It affords opportunities to succeed, and to move at the pace that works for me, and not the pace at which the world wants me to move.

The opportunities I have been afforded through the tremendous blessing of being homeschooled are immeasurable. Homeschooling has impacted my life to rise above, forming me stronger mentally, physically, and spiritually, giving me the

foundation to achieve my dream as a runner for God, amidst the runners of the world.

In the abounding excitement of a race, there are also circumstances created to test the mental capacity of a runner. There are two objectives in a race that can mentally damage your goal. The first is the runners alongside you, who seem faster and better than you. The second objection is your own mind. Every runner experiences this essence of persistent doubt that forces its way in causing you to give up or feel utterly hopeless. However, I have been afforded the knowledge to overcome this obstacle. The mentality of one's mind, when committing to a race, and the hours of dedication involved whether in training or in the actual race itself, absolutely must be firm in his or her goal.

For me, homeschooling has been the consistent source of making me firm in my goal as a runner. I rely on solid moral standards in life. Having the freedom to choose classes that mold my Christian morals into a resolute will is truly amazing. Choice of studies has allowed me to focus on ideals that stabilize me cognitively. It has also helped me have a firmer stamina mentally in the stressful situation of life that helps motivate me. Through the time my schooling allows, I am able to better prepare myself mentally and strengthen myself.

I have been blessed with a sense of perseverance and motivation. I have to prepare for races in how I eat, sleep, and the amount of time I put into training. Homeschooling reaches this ideal endeavor. Because I do my school at home and not at a public school, I am able to eat meals that are organic, balanced and protein-packed. A well rounded diet, especially when food is used as fuel to run, is mandatory. My school schedule allows a

**“I am a runner,
always been one.”**

lot more time to train. I get to run with my family sometimes, also allowing bonding time with them. Homeschooling truly allows me to put forth, physically, the best I can when I run.

The miracle to run is so amazing to me. The fact that not only can we move but we can move at different speeds of our own likeness is truly a gift. Without my spiritual foundation that is founded in Christ, I would not be able to do anything. Being homeschooled with a curriculum that supports that is so important to me. I get to learn daily

about God and his efforts in humanity. I get to go to daily Mass, adoration, and participate in church activities. Homeschooling offers such flexibility. When I run, each step I take is for Christ.

Homeschooling lets me grow closer to God. While I train and learn to persevere, I get to grow spiritually stronger. As I grow in admiration of God the more I want to do for Him. Therefore, homeschooling has allowed me to not only want to run and succeed, but run and succeed for Him.

I am who I am today, and successful as runner, because of homeschooling. Being able to eat well, train and grow stronger mentally is a blessing not to be taking for granted. Most importantly it has taught me to give all Glory to God. I am grateful to be homeschooled. It allows me to rise above and succeed. Homeschooling has helped me achieve my dream as a runner. “Glorificamus Deum semper”!



EMILY RYBAK

Emily is a rising, joy-filled, junior from a wonderfully devoted, large Catholic family. She credits older brothers with igniting her healthy competitive desire and her passion to run. Emily holds first chair in her local symphony on French horn, enjoys competing in piano competitions and recently advanced to the State competition in piano. She is currently self-training in gymnastics, learning the bagpipes, and cannot wait to see the future God has in store for her. She insists that when she discovers that, she will run to fulfill it!

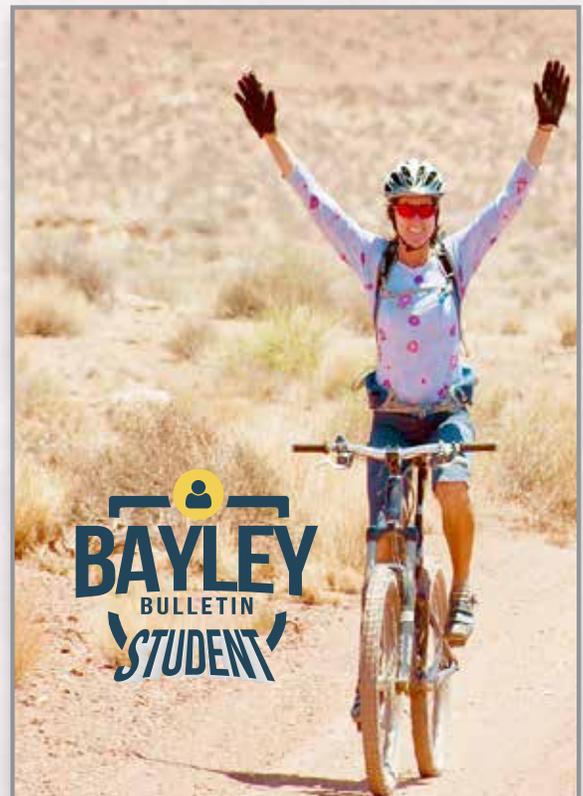
STUDENT PROFILES!

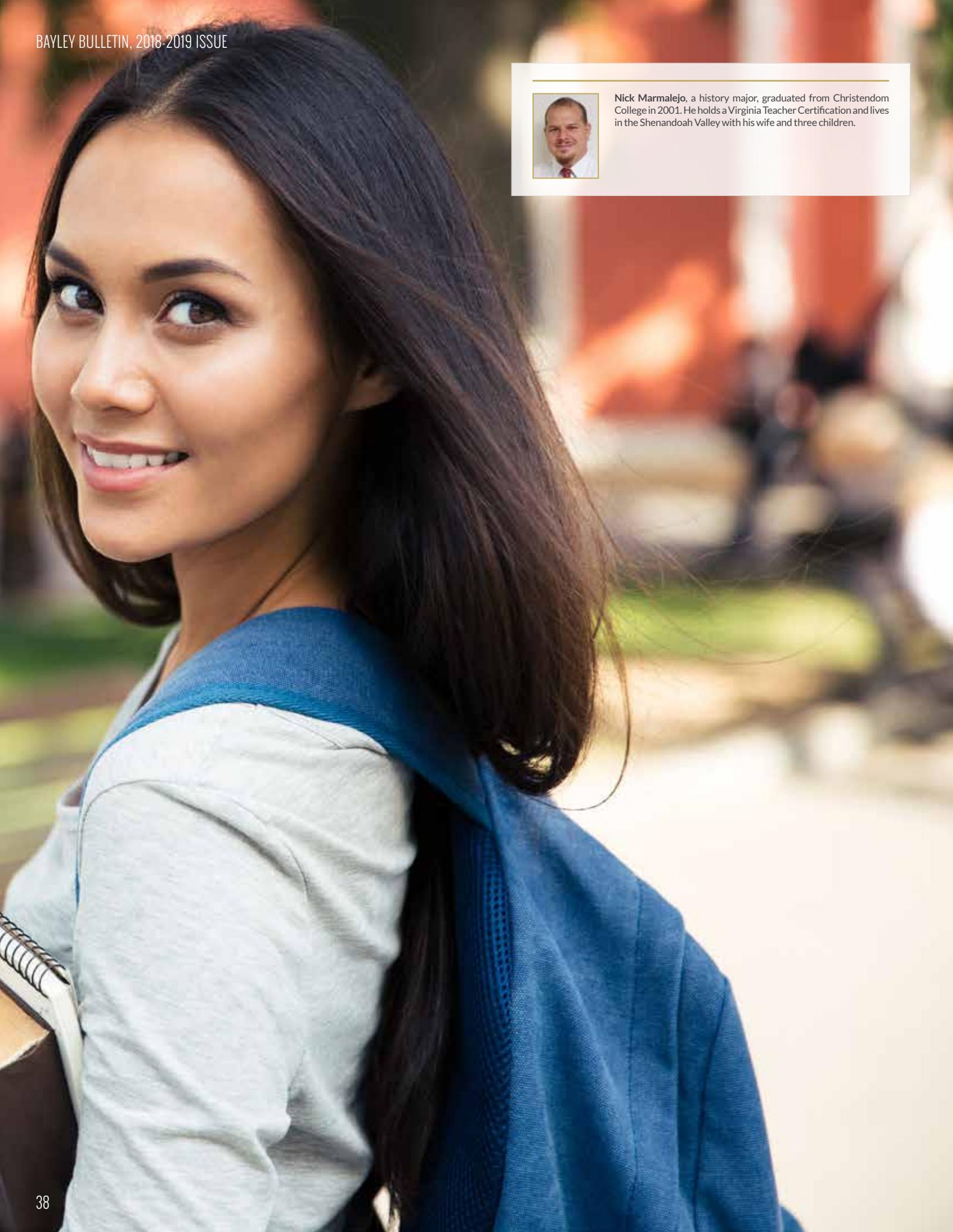
HIGH SCHOOLERS - INSPIRED BY EMILY'S STORY?

HOW ABOUT SHARING YOURS?

1. What is something you do as a family and on your own that you particularly enjoy?
2. What are your hobbies and interests?
3. What do you hope to do in the future?

BAYLEYBULLETIN.COM/STUDENT





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.

College PREPARATION Basics

BY NICK MARMALEJO

Mastering the Basics

In regard to higher education, every Seton family is in a different place in its homeschooling journey. Some are exceedingly familiar with the college application process, while others feel as though they are wandering in the desert, fatigued and searching for hints about the right path to take in an ever-changing landscape.

In my previous article, I discussed gaining admittance to an Ivy League or other elite school. My aim for this article is to provide you with some basic information to guide you and give you a confidence boost in navigating any college admissions process.

In general, colleges of all kinds are looking at three criteria when it comes to admissions: prior coursework, SAT/ACT scores, and extra-curricular activities. These last include everything from participation in sports and the fine arts to volunteer and leadership activities. The first two categories concern the academic life of the student, while the third takes into account life outside the classroom.

COURSEWORK & GPA

For the college, the core picture of a student is made up by the course load the student has undertaken during high school. College admissions departments want to know not only what courses a student has taken, but also if that course load was the most rigorous available to the student.

Currently, education professionals are pushing the importance of Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes to eager students and their parents. While these

classes do have their merit, college admissions departments increasingly have their own unique internal ranking system. They assess the student's application, to some degree, only against what was available at the student's school. This means that if a student did not take an AP class since it was not offered, the student is not penalized.

A similar scenario arises with when colleges consider a student's Grade Point Average (GPA). While many colleges want to see a 4.0 GPA on the transcript, high schools across the country have muddied the waters with creative GPA calculations. These schools often weigh a specific course—usually an Honors, AP, or IB class—as having a higher GPA possibility.

These schools argue that for tougher courses students should receive more merit on their transcript for their achievements and not be punished for taking a harder course. An example would be that instead of receiving a 4.0 on a 4.0 scale for a perfect grade in Honors World Literature, a student might receive a 4.5 or 5.0 for the course while still being on a 4.0 scale. This is what is called a *weighted* GPA.

As a result, is that there is no longer any universal GPA standard. Every college must now sort through the nuances of a particular GPA to gain a better understanding of a prospective student. This is why every college now inquires if a student's GPA is weighted.

At this point, you might be shaking your head in confusion. If schools are tampering with GPAs, doesn't that create a skewed playing field? Will not a GPA become arbitrary? As soon as one school or

system begins weighting its GPA, won't others do the same or come up with their own scale?

My answer is yes, and this is part of the mess that is modern education. See my explanation about the Seton GPA in the box below.

STANDARDIZED TESTS

The ACT and SAT are the most widely accepted and important standardized tests used for undergraduate admissions. Students should take one or the other, no later than the second half of the 11th grade. It is advisable (if it is not a financial hardship) to take the exam earlier, as either test can be taken as often as a student desires to achieve the best scores.

A pre SAT also exists. The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) offers students the potential to win National Merit Scholarships, but sitting for the test can be difficult. Unlike the regular SAT or ACT, where you can simply go online to register for the exam, you will need to gain permission from your local school district or private school, if they are offering the PSAT, in order to sit for it at their facility. It can be meritorious for a student to take the pre-SAT, but it is not a pre-requisite.

Are SAT or ACT scores really that important? Yes, they are. No matter how imperfect these tests may be, they are used in many cases to assess a student's strength and the depth of their course work.

My bottom line recommendation on the SAT or ACT is to study for either exam as you would for a class. At a minimum, purchase a book on the test you intend to take and visit their respective websites for practice questions, study tips, and test registration.

SAT: www.collegeboard.org

ACT: www.act.org

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A student's personal profile is incomplete without an account of activities outside the classroom. Music, sports, mission work, clubs,

even learning a trade: all such activities will round out your application. It provides context for all of your other achievements and helps the college determine if you are a good fit for their school.

Seton students can receive credit for some of their extracurricular activities by recording them on a homeschool transcript and sending them to us. (A homeschool transcript template is available under the Resources tab on your MySeton page). Leadership activities such as time spent in Boy Scouts or doing volunteer work cannot be recorded on the transcript. Those items should be communicated creatively to the college along with your application.

ONE FINAL TIP

Do not wait until the last minute to plan for or apply to college. If you think college may be in your future, think about your prospective paths now. Always seek to be at least 4-6 weeks ahead of deadlines. This allows for more personal sanity as well as time to resolve inevitable discrepancies as they arise. I will be addressing this tip and others in a future article.

If in the meantime if you have specific questions, do not hesitate to contact me at guidance@setonhome.org.



Seton GPA

At Seton, you receive an unweighted GPA for only those classes graded by Seton. It is based on a 100 point scale and then calculated into a 4.0 equivalent. If you want to read about the nuances of how the 4.0 Seton GPA is calculated from the 100 point calculation, please visit www.setonhome.org/gpa.

The above also means that transfer credits and independent studies are not included within the Seton-given GPA. Remember, colleges and universities are focusing on the actual coursework and the entire picture, not simply a single numeric calculation.

A TIP FROM YOUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR:

SUBMITTING HIGH SCHOOL WORK ONLINE



Benefits of Uploading

Some Seton families by circumstance or choice are not internet users. For those who can submit work electronically, however, there are several benefits for the family and for Seton.

✓ Faster Results

Grading electronic work is easier for graders, making grading turnaround times faster for everyone.

✓ Better Advice

Electronic work is instantly accessible to counselors and makes the assistance they can offer easier and better should you ever have questions.

✓ Your Work is Saved

Electronic work is permanently saved in our system. There is no danger of it getting lost in the mail or in your files.

HOW TO UPLOAD ASSIGNMENTS:

When you know how, uploading an assignment can take less than a minute.

1. Click the gray “Courses” tab on your MySeton page, then click the course name.

2. Locate and click the name of the assignment you wish to submit, and then click the picture across from the assignment that pops up an “Upload assignment” message when you hover your cursor over it.

For tests that are multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank, you may also see an option to take an “online test.” This allows you to take the test entirely online and get an instant grade.

3. Every time you click to upload an assignment, a FAQ form will pop up to answer any questions you may have about the uploading process. Should you have further questions or need help in the upload process, you will be given the option to contact our computer department.

Thank you!



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.



AVE MARIA
UNIVERSITY



THOMAS AQUINAS
COLLEGE



CHRISTENDOM
COLLEGE



NORtheast
CATHOLIC COLLEGE



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.

SETONHOME.ORG/COLLEGES ▶



JOHN PAUL THE GREAT
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY
of
ST. THOMAS
HOUSTON



UNIVERSITY
OF DALLAS



OUR LADY
SEAT OF WISDOM
COLLEGE



FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY
OF STEUBENVILLE

SETON GRADUATION WEEKEND

A WEEKEND FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Seton holds an annual high school graduation ceremony for graduating seniors during Memorial Day weekend.

The Seton Graduation Weekend has grown from a small beginning into a grand event, with over 1,000 attendees, as well as major speakers such as Raymond Arroyo, Joseph Pearce, Dr. Ray Guarendi, and Johnnette Benkovic.

Besides the graduation ceremony and reception on Saturday afternoon, the weekend's events include a Friday afternoon pizza party, a Friday evening reception (hosted by Christendom College), and a Saturday evening dance.

Information about the graduation is sent to all 12th Grade students, and posted on Seton's website in January of each year.

See a video highlighting the 2018 graduation online:



**Join us for YOUR
Graduation!**



SETON GRADUATION WEEKEND

“ I like actually being there rather than just receiving your diploma in the mail, like some of my friends. It just seems more personal being at the graduation.

“ Now, having graduated from Seton, I feel confident and knowledgeable enough about my Catholic faith to be able to persevere in all of my future endeavors.

“ Being all together, and graduating together, and celebrating how far we have come was really amazing. It made you feel like you were part of something important.

“ My favorite thing about graduation was finally getting to meet in person all of the wonderful people I knew from Seton's online forums. The friendships that I have made through Seton have been unforgettable!

“ The Seton Prom has been a lot of fun—meeting a lot of kids and learning a lot of different types of dance. My family's having a blast.

“ It was interesting to break the ice with other homeschoolers, but we started talking very quickly, and I made a lot of friends in a very short amount of time, and before I knew it, it was like we had all known each other for a long time.





YOU PARTICIPATED IN CROSSROADS WALK FOR LIFE, CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THAT?

Yes, I spent two and a half summers in this unique ministry. The walks were established in response to St. John Paul II's call to youth to be pro-life witnesses and that's just what you do on the walks. We are peaceful and prayerful witness to the culture of life. The ministry is very simple in structure, you walk across the country, pray the Divine Office, the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet as a group as we walk. We stopped at abortion clinics, town halls and other places and just prayed. When you do this kind of witness you encounter thousands of people and create all kinds of conversations with people who were never challenged in that way before. You can really change people without it being acrimonious. It's also a way to see the whole country with your expenses covered.

HOW DID SETON HELP YOU IN YOUR COLLEGE STUDIES?

The writing. Definitely the writing. Seton really teaches students to write well so when the other guys were freaking out about the assigned papers, I was at an advantage. Also the research skills helped a lot. You hate doing it while you are in high school but man, are you grateful in college.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

For the last two years I have been the Director of Youth Ministry for the University of North Florida, and I'm the point person for campus ministry at Florida State College at Jacksonville and Jacksonville University, essentially I'm being paid to be a big kid and relive my youth. I organize spiritual events, social events, for example starting next week I've organized twelve hours of adoration each week. We go camping, organize retreats and try to create a sense of community with the kids on campus.

ANY OTHER PROJECTS GOING ON?

My friend Sean Morton and I host a podcast called Catholic Bros on the Rocks, it's still pretty new, but we are having fun with it. We talk about our faith, different topics relating to the faith and pretty much everything else that pops into our heads. It's a little bit of a free for all, but a lot of fun.

For more information about Crossroads Walks
<https://www.crossroadswalk.org>

Alex Wilson is a 2011 Seton Graduate.





CATHOLIC HARBOR

Catholic Harbor is a new student-moderated community of Seton Home Study School students and graduates. It is a place for Seton students to socialize and have fun.

It is a social network for students designed for meaningful conversation. The different forums include subjects such as Literature and Creative Writing, Debates, Spiritual Life, and Sports.

This community differs from any message board or website Seton has created in the past because not only are students given the freedom to talk about anything that is on their minds (within the rules approved by Seton) but the students themselves are responsible for maintaining and protecting the community.

Catholic Environment

"I love chatting and socializing with my peers on Catholic Harbor! The best part? It's a better environment because it is just for Catholic Seton students like you and me. The various forums and topics are excellent. My rating: 10/10! Thanks so much Seton!" -StAnn726

Lively Chats

"On Catholic Harbor, I have a unique opportunity to interact with fellow Seton students, discuss topics of interest, and sharpen my communication skills." -The Meter Maiden

Lasting Friendships

"This place is totally awesome. I appreciate a place where you can interact with other homeschoolers, like people can at regular school. Thanks to Catholic Harbor, I have met so many more amazing people!" -SlyGuy12 (student moderator)

www.catholic harbor.com



SETON ALUM INTERVIEWS

Are you a Seton alum? Take our interview! bayleybulletin.com/alum

YOUR HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAM

HIGH SCHOOL EMAILS

Customer Service
custserv@setonhome.org

Counselors
counselors@setonhome.org

Admissions
admissions@setonhome.org

Grading
grading@setonhome.org

General Information
info@setonhome.org

My Seton
myseton@setonhome.org

Standardized Testing
testing@setonhome.org

Special Services
SSDept@setonhome.org

HIGH SCHOOL PHONE NUMBERS

High School Academic Counseling
Gene McGuirk
540-635-4728

High School Guidance /
Course Approval /
Independent Studies
Nick Marmalejo
540-636-2238

Bob Wiesner
540-622-8478

High School Grading
Rhonda Way
540-622-5525

High School Math &
Science
Tom Herlihy
Manuel Vicente
540-622-5557

High School Spanish
Manuel Vicente
540-622-5537

High School Latin
Jeff Minick
540-692-1956

High School History
Bruce Clark
540-622-5571

High School English
Walker Solis
540-636-1755

Elizabeth Wagner
540-622-5555

High School Computer/Courses
Kevin Clark
540-622-5536

GENERAL SETON DIRECTORY

Seton Home Study School
866-280-1930

Admissions
866-280-1930

Standardized Testing
800-542-1066

Seton Educational Media
866-241-8819

Transcripts, Records,
and Extensions
540-636-1324

General Counseling
Cecilia Sauer
540-622-5526

Elementary Grading
540-622-5563
Bruce Hacker
Jacinta Black

Religion
Bob Wiesner
540-622-8478

Sacramental Preparation
Deacon Gene McGuirk
540-635-4728

Elementary Counseling
540-636-1429
Lisa Clark
Carin Delancey

Special Services
540-622-5576
Stephen Costanzo
Karen Eriksson-Lee
Kathleen Hunt

Which One Fits You?

Seton Class of 2019
and 2020, 2021, 2022

Now Available!

Built for durability and quality,
these short sleeve tees are made
with 100% preshrunk cotton.

Adult Sizes Small - 2XL

\$12.99

SetonBooks.com/ClassTees

