

# ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON SCHOOL NEWS

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## Catholic Education by Choice

Central to the Catholic educational experience at Seton is the integration of faith into all aspects of learning. Education at Seton goes beyond the classroom, seeking to nurture the faith lives of students. Through prayer, Mass, Adoration, rosary, and Biblical training students are encouraged to encounter Christ and explore their personal relationship with God. This faith foundation serves as a source of strength and guidance, helping students to grow spiritually, socially and academically.

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) creates an "educational voucher" that allows qualified parents the opportunity to search for the best educational fit for their child. St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School has been involved in the WPCP since 2020. If your family qualifies, it means that a private education at Seton Catholic School will come at no cost to your family for the duration of their academic career - 4K through 8th grade, this means that your child can remain in this program at Seton through 8th grade graduation!

Pray and consider sending your child to Seton where they will encounter Christ in all they do.

**Contact the school office 452-1571 for more information to sign up for a WPCP voucher or receive a tuition scholarship. We are offering a \$700 discount during the summer months.**

## Academic Spotlight

### Meet Ms. Lindsey Nelesen, Alumna & First Grade Teacher

The first graders streaming into Ms. Lindsey Nelesen's classroom each morning probably don't realize that their teacher once walked these same halls as a student. Ms. Nelesen is a Seton alumna herself. What she found here as a student is what eventually drew her back.

The friendships she made, the activities she signed up for, and the way families showed up for one another all stayed with her; so did the chance to grow in her faith every day. By the time she left for high school, something about Seton had taken root.

Her path to teaching started early. Babysitting as a teenager confirmed what she had already begun to sense: working with children was where she was meant to be. After college, she took her first teaching job in Colorado, where she spent two years teaching first grade before coming home to Seton five years ago. Here at Seton, Lindsey has taught third grade, fourth grade, and now back to where she started teaching first grade.

In her own classroom, Ms. Nelesen works to build the kind of community she remembers from her student days: a place where faith is woven into the day rather than confined to a single class period, and where



children are supported academically, spiritually, and socially. The freedom to share her faith openly is what she loves most about teaching here. The close relationships among the staff and with the families serve as a close second.

That sense of community follows her past the school bell. She spends as much time as she can with her own children, and she is happiest on the move: hiking, running, camping, and anything outdoors. Back at Seton, that same energy shows up in her work coaching volleyball and leading the running club.

Seton has been blessed with Ms. Nelesen's return to her home school. We pray her passion for teaching and her faith will impact her first graders now and in the future.



**Our Mission Statement:** Using Jesus as our guide, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School provides a community where students, staff, and family live our faith and share knowledge to further spiritual and academic growth.

## Alumni Spotlight: A Life of Faith Rooted at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



As a young girl, Sr. Mary Teresa Bettag loved being outside. She was always hiking or rock climbing, and she pictured a career that would keep her in the outdoors. However, one moment in third grade changed her perspective forever.

The students in her class were each saying what they wanted to be when they grew up. To Sr. Mary Teresa's own surprise, she said "a nun". She had not planned on saying that and is not sure where that inspiration came from, but her path in life changed from that moment.

Sr. Mary Teresa started at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in 1998 as a kindergartner, when it was still Holy Family School, and graduated from 8th grade in 2007. What stays

with her most is how close her class of seventeen became overtime. They celebrated birthdays and holidays together, showed up for every school activity, and looked out for one another. She recalls a real sense of belonging.

The academics stayed with her, too. She felt well prepared for high school and college and still talks about the teachers who shaped her. Mrs. Miller was strict but an excellent math teacher. Sr. Mary Teresa still remembers the day Pope Benedict was elected, when math class was canceled, and they spent the hour talking about what was happening in Rome. Mr. Husband, the science teacher, fostered her love of learning, which mattered more than any single fact she learned from his class. That love of learning is still a passion in her life.

After high school at Roncalli, Sr. Mary Teresa attended Silver Lake College which was run by the Franciscan sisters. While on a retreat on Valentines Day in 2015, she had a profound experience and asked herself "why not now?" That calling led her to deepen her commitment to enter a religious order. She finished her math degree,

visited several orders, and felt most at home with the Franciscans.

Today, Sr. Mary Teresa lives out her calling and teaches freshman theology and public speaking at Yuma Catholic High School in Yuma, Arizona, while leading the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) program. She also coaches track and cross country, a longtime passion, and even takes her team on camping trips to train at higher altitude. Beyond school, she shares her faith with a wider audience as the host of a weekly segment on Relevant Radio.

Her advice to current students is simple. Cultivate a real love of learning. And above all, pray. God always wants the best for us.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LEADING WITH GRACE AND CREATIVITY

Meet Nina Dorato, a 7th grader at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. This is her first full year at Seton, and she has wholeheartedly embraced the experience. She serves as secretary of the student council, played on the volleyball team this past fall, and joined in the school's dress-up days. Most recently, she took part in the Living Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday as Veronica.

Nina says her favorite part of Seton is the friendships she has made and

the freedom to live her Catholic faith openly each day. The lessons of religion teacher Mr. Hiles have become an important guide for her, shaping the way she lives out her faith day to day.

Art is Nina's favorite class. She loves expressing her vision through pastels, her favorite medium. That creative spirit also shines through her love of



dance. She has trained in contemporary dance, ballet, and aerial work. Looking ahead, she hopes to keep dancing and add basketball to her list of activities next year.

Her advice for younger students? Do your best, and

do what you are asked the first time. Wise words from one of Seton's upperclassmen!