

SETON SCHOOL

One of the Nation's Top 50 Catholic High Schools

Overview

Seton High School was named a winner of the Catholic High School Honor Roll competition, and one of America's Top 50 Catholic high schools. This is the second time Seton has received this honor, and it is the only two-time winner in the state.

Administered by The Cardinal Newman Society, the Top 50 Honor Roll competition recognizes schools across the United States for overall excellence in academics, Catholic identity, and civic education. All Catholic high schools in the United States were invited to apply for inclusion in the Honor Roll. "Since the Honor Roll competition began in 2004, it has been a helpful tool for administrators, families, and benefactors in recognizing the quality of a Catholic high school," said Patrick J. Reilly, President of The Cardinal Newman Society.

To be selected to the Honor Roll each school undergoes a comprehensive evaluation process developed by prominent Catholic college presidents and other noted Catholic scholars which measures excellence in the areas of academics, civic education, and Catholic identity. Each area is weighed equally meaning that placement on the Honor Roll requires excellence in all three areas.



Cardinal Newman Society President Patrick J. Reilly presents the Top 50 Honor Roll Certificate of Excellence to Seton Director Anne Carroll.

Academics

Standardized test scores provide the dominant component of the Honor Roll's academic excellence score. The academic score also includes the amount of course work offered, the number of AP tests students take, and the percentage of AP test takers who achieved competency scores (3 or higher). Also considered are the graduation rates of recent classes, as well as the continuing education requirement of teachers.

Seton School's rigorous course of studies prepares students to succeed in challenging college coursework. The results are demonstrated not only by regularly graduating National Merit scholarship winners, AP Scholars with Distinction, and Intel International Science Fair contestants, but also by the fact that the school's average SAT score is the highest reported of regional public and Northern Virginia Catholic schools.



Catholic Identity

The Honor Roll's Catholic identity component has a heavy focus on culture and the formation of students in the Catholic faith. Emphasis is especially given to the use of texts that are in accordance with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Also considered are the frequency and presence of the sacraments, additional opportunities for students to grow in their faith, whether classes begin with or include prayer, the school's promotion of religious vocations, the presence of extracurricular student groups involving the faith, and the requirement and the nature of faith formation opportunities such as retreats.

Seton School has a total commitment and focus on the Faith. Look no further than the school's mission

statement where one does not find a mention of academics, but instead an emphasis on leading young people to God. Even the location of a forthcoming new school chapel was intentionally selected to be at the “heart” of the school - exemplifying Seton’s Christ-centered perspective in all things.

Animating the Faith, the school’s spiritual activities are numerous, and are integrated into all aspects of Seton life. It starts with Mass twice a week and a monthly holy hour. Prayer starts each class, and the Angelus and grace are recited at noon. An annual retreat and access to confession aid students on their spiritual path. Catholic holidays are actively celebrated such as making a pilgrimage on or near All Souls Day to a local cemetery, and a neighborhood procession with the Blessed Sacrament for the Feast of Christ the King. In May



Civic Education

In terms of civic education the Honor Roll investigates areas such as civic-related course offerings takes into account cross-departmental instruction and the presence of Catholic social teaching in civics classes, and considers the offering and requirement of a social outreach, service-hour or civic responsibility component for students. This element also incorporates an optional service program such as works of mercy and missions.

Seton’s curriculum includes economic and American Government courses, and instruction of Catholic social teachings is an integral component within these courses as well as in Religion classes.

Emphasizing service and works of mercy, Seton requires students to perform service hours and provides various activities and opportunities to help enrich a student’s formation. Students support our adopted sister school in Haiti by a student-run drive to collect basic hygiene materials, a Haiti Run, and Penny Wars fund-raising activities. A Sacred-Life club hosts several events to raise money for pro-life causes. Through a student service club, the National Honor Society, or the Teenage Republicans students recognize their duties to their country and community by performing numerous service projects such as conducting food and clothing drives, and campaigning for pro-life candidates.



Seton has a family pilgrimage to Mother Seton’s shrine in Emmittsburg, MD with Mass, the Rosary and a picnic to give thanks and pray for continued success of the school.

To date Seton School has helped foster 22 religious vocations amongst its alumni ranks: four priests, 11 religious, and seven seminarians.

