



SETON SCHOOL

"Let His Will of the present moment be the first rule of our daily life and work..."—Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

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Dear Seton Parents:

As we begin the new school year, we commit our educational apostolate to Jesus through Mary. We are grateful to you for giving us the privilege of assisting you in the formation of your children.

Enclosed is the cell phone policy and user agreement for Seton School. No student will be allowed to have a cell phone, smart watch, or similar device on school property unless the signed agreement is on file at the school. Some aspects of the policy are unchanged; some are new. One—the signed agreement—was in effect a few years ago and is now being reinstated. The policy statement explains the rationale for our cell phone policy.

Many of you heard Dr. Mary Camarca's PRO meeting talk, in which she documented the dangers of smart phone use. We also sent a copy of her talk to all the parents. From her experience as an emergency room physician, she traced the connection between smart phone use and mental health issues, such as depression, anxiety and even suicidal ideation. This information was eye-opening and thought-provoking. It is also no secret that the rise in pornography viewing can be traced to its easy availability on computers and especially on phones and similar devices, which give the child access to pornography at a touch, devastating so many young lives.

I hope that you will agree that controlling Internet access on phones and electronic devices is a moral imperative. I cannot urge you strongly enough to take precautions to protect your children from the scourge of pornography and the emotional anguish that can be caused by social media.

I will soon be sending all of you a Jupiter message with a link to a powerful presentation on the dangers of access to the Internet. One of our parents sent this video to me and encouraged my sending it to all the parents. I agreed with this advice. Please take the time to watch this video. You owe it to yourselves and to your children.

I will also at that time send a link to "A Parent's Guide to Internet Filtering and Monitoring." This guide is put out by Axis, a Christian group which helps parents navigate the issues in modern culture that affect our children. The guide has common sense advice and evaluations of the main programs that filter and monitor Internet use. Axis rightly stresses the importance of parents' developing a close relationship and open communication with their children as vital to guiding them toward wise and holy choices in Internet usage and all other areas. Axis presents a Christian perspective, but there is nothing in their information that a Catholic could not accept. We as Catholics, however, have incomparably more resources at our disposal to help our children, most especially the sacraments of Confession and Holy Eucharist and the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and all the saints.

Let us work together to keep our children close to Jesus Christ through prayer and the sacraments. May the Blessed Mother and our Guardian Angels intercede for us that we may protect our children's purity.

Sincerely in Christ the King,

Anne W. Carroll