

Dear Seton Families,

Although school has been over for more than a month, we have two more months of summer. I am sending you two important pieces of academic advice for that time. Following this advice will greatly enhance your Seton students' learning and their lives in the future:

1. First and most importantly, make sure your children, including our Seton students, READ, READ, READ this summer! Be sure that they read their required summer books, but, beyond that, you can help them grow in skill, knowledge, and pleasure by reading books together as a family. Our family gathered before bedtime for many years, listening to my husband reading Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings trilogy and other great and enjoyable books. Inspiring spiritual books geared to the students' ages would be wonderful, too.

You can get books for your family from used bookstores, online, or the library (PWC libraries are now loaning books via "takeout" from the libraries or e-books). Find books for the whole family but also for individuals. What subjects or genres interest each person? There are books for every interest. Finally, you can offer incentives for reading. Seton's Reading Rewards Program is not operating this year, but you can certainly offer rewards of your own. Limiting students' recreational screen time is also effective in encouraging reading (and outdoor exercise or time spent with the family).

2. Second, help your students to succeed in school by teaching them to type quickly and correctly! This advice may seem to contradict the first, since learning keyboarding on the computer can be most effective. Mr. Terreri, Seton's computer teacher, recommends typing.com, and there are other free programs online that teach typing with all 10 fingers. Some of these programs include games and other features to make the learning enjoyable. One Seton family has even had competitions between family members to see whose typing was fastest (the winner wasn't a parent).

My husband and I have always said that one of the most useful courses we have ever taken was typing! We have used it in our work for many years. We pray that schools will not have to go back to online learning, but in any case, fast typing will make schoolwork much easier, and it will continue to pay dividends for life.

God bless you all this summer! Let's continue to pray every day for our Seton community.

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