



# Annual Report 2023



*Creating Leaders in Our Catholic Faith  
and in Our Community*

600 Tyler Street, Hastings MN 55033

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[www.seas-school.org](http://www.seas-school.org)



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A Ministry of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

Dear Families and Friends of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School,

This annual report is required by our accrediting agency, the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association, or MNSAA. Along with a financial update, enrollment data, upcoming improvements, and our outstanding test scores, we are also required to share our progress towards our school strategic plan and a brief overview of school finances.

The 2022-2023 school year presented new challenges, but the staff, students, and families of our community rose up to meet them. After three years of pandemic protocols we were grateful to return to a more “normal” school year. Working in partnership with families, we were able to maintain our drive for excellence and make Christ known and loved to our students.

Below are a few of the ways we continued our standard of spirituality, excellence, academics, and service:

- Service field trips, such as Feed My Starving Children and Sharing and Caring Hands, resumed this year. All grades completed service projects.
- All classes said a weekly Rosary as part of a school-wide effort.
- Our school completed the Archdiocese Catholic Schools Study pilot program.
- Students built relationships across grade levels in Saint Families.
- For the first time since 2019, we held the Regional Religion Bee. Students from eight schools in the Archdiocese came to SEAS to compete.
- Middle school students held a science fair for grades K-5 and one student went on to compete in the CSCOE STEM Fair.
- Our SEAS Green Team organized the school's participation in the Trex Plastic Film Recycling Challenge again this year. Our school finished 3rd in the region and 2nd in the state of Minnesota.
- Students exceeded NWEA Norm RIT scores on 100% of fall and 94% of spring testing.
- Our preschool program received a four star rating from Parent Aware.

The success our school experienced this year would not have been possible without the continued support and prayers of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton community. Thank you for placing your trust in

Sincerely,

Tim Sullivan  
Principal



us.

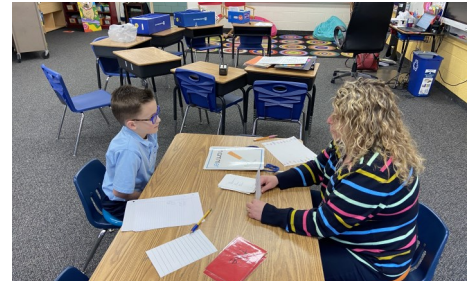


## ***SEAS Catholic School 2023: Strategic Plan Progress***

We finished the fifth year of our strategic plan, which was created by the school staff and approved by MNSAA in 2018. Each objective and strategy includes action steps that must be completed annually. Below are our objectives and some of the work that was completed this past school year:

### **Objective 1: SEAS will continue to be a school of academic excellence.**

- Mrs. Talley increased her time as a reading specialist.
- Middle school “genius hour” offered a variety of electives for students.
- A process for curriculum alignment is set to begin this summer for math and middle school science.



### **Objective 2: SEAS will increase the Catholic Identity of the school.**

- Saint families were created to focus on room saints and build community.
- “The SEAS Way” was reviewed by students and staff and continued to drive expectations in our school.
- Weekly Rosaries were required of all grade levels.

### **Objective 3: SEAS will remain fiscally vital and viable into the future.**

- Our enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is currently above our 2022-2023 level. This will be only the tenth time enrollment has grown since 1987
- The school increased its presence in our parish bulletin and expanded advertising in other local churches.
- We exceeded our goal for Marathon and this year’s Spring Fling was one of the most successful yet.



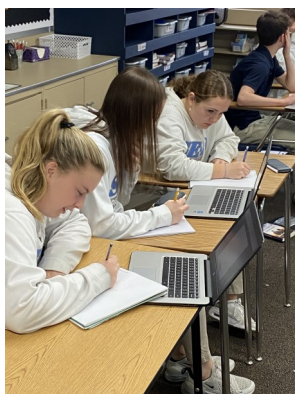
### **Objective 4: SEAS will provide a safe, functional, and attractive learning environment.**

- Cameras were added to classroom hallways and 7th street doors.
- A handbooks for substitute teachers was created and implemented.
- Improvements for the Tyler Street entrance are set for this summer.

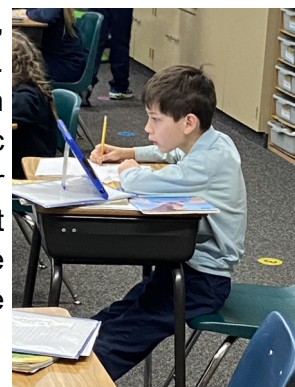
## ***SEAS Catholic School 2022-2023 Financial Report***

<b>SEAS School 2021-2022 Final Numbers</b>	
<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Budgeted Income</b>
\$1,310,788	\$1,191,666
Difference	\$119,122
<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>Budgeted Expenses</b>
\$1,886,622	\$1,647,042
Difference	<b>\$239,580</b>

<b>SEAS School 2022-2023 Through May</b>	
<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Budgeted Income</b>
\$1,060,248	\$1,156,075
Difference	<b>\$95,827</b>
<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>Budgeted Expenses</b>
\$1,593,416	\$1593,079
Difference	<b>\$337</b>



Though current expenses are more inline with expectations, we continue to struggle to meet our financial obligations. Donations, fundraising, and grant income were lower than expected, which may be due to global and local economic conditions during the school year. This coming school year will have a larger than normal tuition increase to help us meet our budgetary needs. As always, we are so grateful for the parish's investment in our students and the future of the Catholic Church in Hastings.



## ***SEAS Catholic School 2022-2023 Enrollment***

Year	PreK-8 Enrollment	Average Class K-8	Baptisms at SEAS
2002-2003	380	42.2	101
2012-2013	278	30.9	48
2022-2023	211	19.3	29

Enrollment at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School has changed significantly in the last 20 years. In that time, there have only been four years (2003, 2005, 2015, 2016), when enrollment, kindergarten through 8th grade, increased. **While the summer may bring some changes, right now we can add 2023 to the list of increased enrollment!** The good news of our school continues to spread and we are hopeful that increased enrollment will become a trend at SEAS. This fall, our overall enrollment is estimated to be 215, PreK-8th.

## ***SEAS Catholic School 2023-2024: Looking to the Future***

- Improvements to the Tyler Street entrance are scheduled for the summer.
- We will be implementing a supplemental religion curriculum called Theology of the Body.
- Staff will be focusing on social/emotional learning using Top 20 curriculum for all grades.
- With money raised from the Fund-a-Need we will be updating our science, writing, and other textbook series.
- New Chromebook carts will be utilized in lower grades as we begin to phase out iPads.
- Saint Family activities will increase as we seek to build a stronger connection between grade levels.



## SEAS 2023 Parent Survey Summary

Our mission states that we work in partnership with families and each year we ask a few questions to gauge how the school is doing and address some specific areas. This year, we received over 80 completed surveys. The full responses are reviewed by the pastor, principal, and SAC chair. Below are the questions, results, and a summary of answers from the responsive questions.

### **My child grew in their faith this school year.**

95.1% Strongly Agreed/Agreed, 3.7% were neutral, 1.2% Strongly Disagreed/Disagreed

### **I feel like my child's teacher cares about my child.**

92.6% Strongly Agreed/Agreed, 2.5% were neutral, 4.9% Strongly Disagreed/Disagreed

### **My child's teacher communicates regularly with families.**

84% Strongly Agreed/Agreed, 9.9% were neutral, 6.1% Strongly Disagreed/Disagreed



### **What would you like us to know about your child's experience this year?**

The responses to these questions was overwhelmingly positive. Some specific things that were mentioned were the Washington DC trip, the smooth transition to middle school, that children were held accountable for behavior and grade, and that they grew in their faith.

### **What are some ways we can improve (the whole school, a teacher, a program, etc.).**

A bit of a surprise, but bullying was the issue that was cited the most. Some parents also mentioned that they would like more communication from teachers, especially in regards to when they are singing at mass or doing a reading.

### **What were some of your child's highlights of the school year?**

Again, there were a wide variety of statements, but interactions with staff appeared the most. Parents also mentioned enjoying the end of the year party, the lifting of COVID protocols, field trips, and service projects.



# SEAS Catholic School 2022-2023: Spring Test Results

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School students take the Northwest Evaluation Association's Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) Growth standardized test in Math, Reading, and Language Arts (LA in grades 3rd-8th only). These tests are administered at least twice a year for all grade levels, kindergarten through 8th grade.

Scores are reported in RIT (short for Rasch Unit) scores. MAP assessments use the RIT scale to create a grade-independent RIT score, which indicates the level of question difficulty a given student is capable of answering correctly about 50% of the time. RIT scores help educators understand every student's current achievement level based on their zone of proximal development.

For the first time, we had three grades that did not pass the Norm RIT level as a whole on a test. We anticipated this possibility as we had seen a growing number of students struggling in math and reading. This may be a bit of a "COVID" effect, but nevertheless, we have begun a review of our math program this summer and will look for areas of improvement in our curriculum.

Despite these lower scores on three tests we are still very proud of the growth our students displayed this year. Scores like these are only one way we use to evaluate student growth. **What is more important to us is that we are creating disciples of Christ who will go out and spread His Good News.**



Grade	Norm RIT Value	SEAS RIT Score	Norm RIT Value	SEAS RIT Score	Norm RIT Value	SEAS RIT Score
	Math	Math	Reading	Reading	Language	Language
<b>K</b>	157.1	<b>161.2</b>	153.1	<b>158.1</b>	X	X
<b>1st</b>	176.4	<b>181.1</b>	171.4	<b>176.3</b>	X	X
<b>2nd</b>	189.4	<b>187</b>	185.6	<b>188.1</b>	X	X
<b>3rd</b>	201.1	<b>203.1</b>	197.1	<b>195.9</b>	198.3	<b>199.3</b>
<b>4th</b>	210.5	<b>208.9</b>	204.8	<b>205.4</b>	205	<b>205.7</b>
<b>5th</b>	218.7	<b>231.8</b>	211	<b>219.9</b>	210.2	<b>219.4</b>
<b>6th</b>	222.9	<b>228.4</b>	215.4	<b>218.1</b>	214.2	<b>218</b>
<b>7th</b>	226.1	<b>234.1</b>	218.4	<b>225.2</b>	216.5	<b>224</b>
<b>8th</b> Winter Scores	228.1	<b>239.2</b>	220.5	<b>223.1</b>	217.7	<b>224.4</b>
<b>11th</b>	231.7	---	223.5	---	220.7	---