

THE REPORT CARD

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 25, 2017
Saint John's Catholic Prep
Putters and Pearls Soiree

Saturday, March 25, 2017
Mother Seton School
Dinner Dance
Party with a Purpose

Saturday, April 6, 2017
Mother Seton School Car Show

Saturday, April 15, 2017
Annual St. John Regional
Catholic School 5K Walk/Run
Baker Park in downtown
Frederick

Saturday, April 29, 2017
St. John Regional Catholic
School
Napa Nights Gala

Saturday, April 29, 2017
St. Thomas More Academy
Celebration 2017 "All that Jazz"
Dinner and Auction

Week of May 22, 2017
Mother Seton School Carnival

Saturday, June 3, 2017
St. John Regional Catholic
School
Spring Fair at Adventure Park



**Annual John McElroy
Award Dinner and
Ceremony**

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Friends of Catholic Education Appoints New Director



Friends of Catholic Education, Inc. is pleased to announce that Michele Corr has accepted the position as the Executive Director. She will replace longtime Executive Director Caroline Pugh who has stepped down after many years of dedicated service to the organization. F.O.C.E. has awarded nearly \$5 million in tuition assistance grants, scholarships and capital improvements since its founding in 1989. Board of Trustees president Bill Milani remarked, "We are so blessed to have someone like Michele who has the background, experience and the established relationships throughout the Frederick community to fill this vital position at Friends of Catholic Education."

Michele is a longtime resident of Frederick County and has an extensive knowledge about the organization, having served on the F.O.C.E. Board of Trustees since 2008. She will work closely with the members moving forward in order to continue F.O.C.E.'s mission statement and endeavors for the general welfare of the Catholic School Community in Frederick County. As a graduate of Spring Hill College, a Jesuit institution in Mobile, Alabama, she values a faith-filled education and the strong foundation it has provided in her life. With two sons who graduated from St. John Regional Catholic School and Saint John's Catholic Prep, Michele and her husband John find the benefits of a Catholic education in Frederick County to be invaluable and a vital resource in our community.

Saint John's Catholic Prep has been home to Michele for the last 10 years, first as a photography teacher and eventually moving into various administrative positions, including Enrollment and Social Media Specialist and most recently as the Director of Development. Principal Marc Minsker commented on her work at the school and in the community saying, "Michele Corr is an integral part of Saint John's Catholic Prep. She's a classroom instructor, administrator, a parent of two graduates, and one of the school's biggest cheerleaders. During her time at SJCP, Michele worked tirelessly to promote the school's identity and involvement in the greater community. She will always be a champion for Catholic education in Frederick County." Members of the F.O.C.E. Board of Trustees are confident that she will bring



that same enthusiasm and love for Catholic education to their organization.

In October, Friends of Catholic Education held the annual McElroy Dinner to honor two longtime Frederick County 'friends of Catholic education', Mr. Jerry Offutt, and Dr. Carol Hinds. Each recipient was recognized in their own way for carrying on and building upon the legacy of Fr. McElroy;

Mr. Offutt by his stewardship of legacy gifts, and Dr. Hinds by her leadership both at Mount



Mr. Jerry Offutt



Dr. Carol Hinds and Al Edwards

Saint Mary's University and within F.O.C.E. The McElroy dinner was held shortly following the sudden and saddening closure of the Visitation Academy, a Frederick County institution for almost 200 years. Visitation

Academy's closure brings into sharper focus the work of F.O.C.E. and all who support and cherish Catholic education in Frederick County. Our Frederick County Catholic schools and their families will continue to need our support. Even with the closure of Visitation Academy, we must persist and press on in our work, so that a Catholic school education in Frederick County is available to all who seek it. Mother Seton School, St. Thomas More Academy, St. John Regional Catholic School, Saint John's Catholic Prep and Mount St. Mary's University are outstanding schools with extraordinary teachers and staff and growing enrollment. They are ready and available to provide an excellent faith-based education so we must persist and press on in our work, so that a Catholic school education in Frederick County is available to all who seek it.

Joyful, Enthusiastic and Motivated to Learn



Students at St. Thomas More Academy are joyful, enthusiastic and motivated to learn. Each day when our students come to school, they enter a Christ centered environment where respect and school pride are evident throughout. They continually strive to become saints and scholars.

St. Thomas More students actively seek ways to be the hands and feet of Christ. This Fall STMA participated in a new charity project called Box of Joy, serving as a drop off center for Cross Catholic Outreach. STMA students and families filled over 75 boxes with wonderful gifts and heartfelt prayers. In addition, the

greater Middletown community dropped off their boxes to bring our total contribution to over 150 boxes! It was amazing to bring the joy of Christmas to needy children in Haiti, Guatemala, and Dominican Republic. It was a privilege to participate in #BoxOfJoy and STMA looks forward to other Frederick schools and parishes joining in the program next year.

Kindergarten – 8th grade students went on a pilgrimage to the St. John Paul II Shrine in Washington D.C. on December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. They attended Mass and toured the shrine, including a special exhibit on the school’s patron, St. Thomas More. It was a spiritual and educational trip no one will soon forget.

STMA has sponsored many great events during the school year. An Invention Convention Open House was held on January 29th where children and their parents visited Pre-K- 8th grade classroom and saw a variety of

student projects and inventions. Guests participated in hands-on STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities too.

The LEGO Robotics Team at STMA competed in the First LEGO League Qualifier Tournament at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Science Lab. Students have worked diligently all year in preparation for the Animal Allies Challenge, partnering with Catocin Zoo and a patent attorney to guide them with their projects.

To learn about St. Thomas More Academy and to read about other recent activities and academic achievements, visit www.stmamd.org or call 240-490-5479.



St. John Regional Catholic School was rated by Maryland EXCELS!



St. John Regional Catholic School



St. John Regional Catholic School serves students in Pre-K through Middle School located at 8414 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, Maryland. St. John’s mission is to provide a Christ-centered environment and an exemplary education to each and every student within the framework of the gospel and the traditions of the Catholic Church. The goal of our faith community is to develop future leadership through academic excellence, faith in action, and a firm foundation of Christian virtues. This mission gives our students an advantage because our day is guided by our faith.

Our Little Treasures Pre-K program for 3 and 4 year olds is one of only two preschools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore that has received a rating by the Maryland EXCELS program! Maryland EXCELS searches for quality child care and early education programs that promote school-readiness. The early years are critical when it comes to building social, emotional, thinking, and learning skills. Children with these skills are more likely to succeed in school and in life. Maryland EXCELS builds upon the foundation of the State’s rigorous child care licensing requirements. Every licensed program is inspected by the State at least once each year to ensure compliance with Maryland regulations. Maryland EXCELS provides the opportunity for programs to demonstrate achievements that exceed state licensing requirements. Upon review and verification,



programs publish a rating from 1 to 5. SJRCS has been rated 3, and is continuing to add programs and accomplishments with the goal to reach a rating of 5 by next year. Maryland Excels will help to ensure that our pre-k program will offer the best education in the area.

Our Little Treasures Pre-K program has achieved the following standards to be scored among the top preschools in the state by Maryland Excels:

- Children’s developmental progress assessed with multiple measures and linked to curriculum.
- Staff have increased training and experience.
- Continuous quality improvement process informed by independent assessors.
- State or national accreditation achieved.
- 3+ opportunities for families to engage in the program.
- State recommended curriculum used.
- Family-teacher conferences held at least once per year.
- Licensed and inspected to determine safety, cleanliness, proper supervision of children, and staff qualifications.
- Activities support each and every child’s individual needs.

Our Pre-K three program uses The Investigator’s Club Curriculum that includes; oral language development through speaking and listening, a print rich environment, quality children’s fiction and nonfiction books, early reading and writing experiences, problems to solve, exposure to math and science processes,

opportunities for social and emotional growth, ongoing assessment to keep children on task and support for second language learners.

Our Pre-K four program is a comprehensive and integrated bilingual early learning program designed to ensure success for today’s four year old learners. Splash into Pre-K helps teachers build a community of learners using Conscious Discipline® Strategies and includes all the core domains of learning including Emotional, Physical, Cognitive and Linguistic. Splash into Pre-K also integrates all of the curricular areas including Reading and Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Health, and Art into the daily instruction.

Our Little Treasures Pre-K program has options of three or five, half or full days. We hope that you will join us to see if our pre-school would be a good fit for your son or daughter any Wednesday for “Walk in Wednesday” from 9-11 am. Please visit our website for more information at www.sjracs.org.

A Saint John’s Catholic Prep Education Lasts a Lifetime

Staying true to its mission statement of educating in a joyful Catholic community of faith, hope and love, Saint John’s Catholic Preparatory School prepares students to be leaders with good hearts and discerning spirits as they pursue truth, academic excellence and service to humanity. In addition to the challenging academics in the classroom, Saint John’s Catholic Prep (SJCP) spent much of the fall giving back to others and stepping up as leaders in the community.

In early October, the Class of 2017 participated in one of the many “McElroy Days of Service” – this time working in the fields at the SEED OF LIFE farm on Butterfly Lane. Students harvested vegetables, spread mulch, weeded garden beds, and help to winterize the multi-acre gardens. Part of this community service project included a thoughtful lunch activity, known as a “hunger banquet” that teaches students through a simulation about the realities of global poverty, food insecurity and inequality. Throughout 2017, SJCP will continue to partner with this charitable organization serving the needy in Frederick County.



“The Memory Project,” an art project wherein twelve student

artists from SJCP painted portraits of poor Colombian children. Photographs of twelve children sent by an organization that provides them with healthy nutrition and early childhood education. For



those Colombian children, receiving their portraits was a truly unique gift and reminded them just how special they are to the world.

Our friend Mike Greenberg from the Frederick Rescue Mission (FRM) came to school and told the students about his journey through life that led him to become a resident of the FRM and a graduate of their program. He spoke about the work at the FRM, feeding and clothing the needy in our area. To raise awareness and help, the entire student body walked a lap around the campus and organized a Clothing Drive. The response from the SJCP community was overwhelming. The staff at the FRM was thrilled and couldn’t believe the amount of clothing that was collected, all of which is given away for free to men, women and children in Frederick. The giant donation filled half of a school bus and came at the perfect time. They were in critical need of warm clothes and had no hats and gloves left for the homeless and needy they serve.

At the beginning of January, a call went out for donations for a mission trip hosted by St. Ignatius parish in Ijamsville. Through donations each year, St. Ignatius feeds over 725 Haitian kids each day and also helps to pay teachers’ salaries at a school in Villard, Haiti. The SJCP Haitian Sensation Club raised \$1160 last year which fed 11 of these children and this year their goal is to feed 15 children. The faculty, staff and families at SJCP heard the call, raising \$890 as well as donating small toys and personal hygiene items to be distributed to the children in the school. More events will take place throughout the school year to raise money and awareness for these desperately poor people that are so incredibly appreciative of the support.

A Saint John’s education lasts a lifetime, and the work that students and staff complete in the local and global community make a real difference in the world. To learn more about the school, please visit our website www.saintjohnsprep.org or call 301-662-4210.



On October 22nd, SJCP hosted a 5k Color Run to raise money and awareness for the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund at Frederick Memorial Hospital. Over 110 runners/

walkers and another 100 spectators turned out for the first annual Hop, Run or Walk Color Run at Vanish Farmwoods in Lucketts, VA. Thanks to the generous support of sponsors – Colonial Jewelers, The Crowley Company, Rocko Meats, Yellow Springs Dental, and Jonathan and Hilda Staples, the charity run raised over \$2000. Add to that the Dig Pink Volleyball Fundraiser and SJCP raised \$2938 in total for the Hurwitz Fund.

In November, students in the Government and Advanced Placement Government classes conducted a school-wide presidential debate and election that explored the policy platforms of the Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, and Green parties. This educational experience exposed the entire student body to the intricacies of electoral politics and allowed students to delve into policy rather than personalities. Also in November, the Vikings football team demonstrated leadership on the field by winning the ‘C’ Conference MIAA championship. Coach Daryl Hayes, in his first year at SJCP, made substantial progress with a young and growing team and brought the trophy back to SJCP!

Art Teacher Mrs. Bernadette Miller and her students participated in

A Publication of the Frederick County Catholic Schools Coordinating Committee

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The Frederick County Catholic Schools Coordinating Committee (FCCSCC) is comprised of representatives of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Frederick County Catholic Schools, Friends of Catholic Education, and local clergy. The mission of the Committee is to work collaboratively to coordinate the continuing advancement of Catholic School education in Frederick County.

Pam Zusi
Chairperson

Michele Corr
Friends of Catholic Education, Inc.

Rev. Keith Boisvert
St. Katharine Drexel Parish

Sister Brenda Monahan
Mother Seton School

Elizabeth Monahan
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Dr. Thomas Powell
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Sheila Evers
St. John Regional Catholic School



Pope Francis Recognizes Mount St. Mary's Seminary Graduate as a Martyr



The Vatican announced that Pope Francis has recognized Fr. Stanley Rother, S'63, as a martyr. The recognition makes Fr. Rother the first martyr born in the United States, and Mount St. Mary's Seminary the first seminary in the United States with a graduate who is a martyr.

Rev. Msgr. Andrew R. Baker, rector/vice president of Mount St. Mary's Seminary notes, "As a good shepherd, Fr. Rother knew that he could not abandon his flock when his life was in danger. We teach our men that their dedication to their people as a priest must take priority over their own needs and even their own life. I think it means that the Mount has always formed and continues to form men to be saintly priests."

Fr. Rother was assassinated in Guatemala on July 28, 1981 while on assignment as a missionary from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. He had spent 13 years working with the poor in a rural town of the Central American country at the time of his death.

After his ordination in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Fr. Rother traveled to the impoverished town of Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala with a group of Catholic missionaries.

While there, he worked with the Tzutuhils, an indigenous people, helping build and establish a small hospital, school, credit union, weaver's cooperative and its first Catholic radio station. He also worked in the fields, growing crops and installing a well and irrigation system.

It wasn't uncommon for Fr. Rother to visit families, celebrate Mass as many as five times in four separate locations on Sundays, and even conduct up to 1,000 Baptisms a year.

In 1980 during the Guatemalan Civil War, a military presence moved into town. The Guatemalan government deployed soldiers to suppress and kill those who were promoting education and social progress among the rural poor.

In the following months, Fr. Rother reclaimed the bodies of his slain deacons, parishioners and community leaders and provided them with proper burials. Eight priests were also killed, and he too received death threats.

He briefly returned to Oklahoma, only to return to Santiago Atitlan because he did not want to leave the people he served, despite the severe risk.

Thousands mourned Fr. Rother in the town's main square, showing the significant impact he made on his community.

"I think Fr. Rother's courage, simplicity, and perseverance highlight for me the great qualities of a leader and a priest," said Msgr. Baker. "He undertook things that were very difficult for him to do but he did them anyway and without complaint. He was a man of simple yet strong faith and he didn't let threats to his life deter him from proclaiming the Gospel and continuing to reach out to the peripheries; that is, the poor and marginalized. All of these things have inspired me."

The date of the beatification ceremony, which may take place in the United States, has not been determined.

A Moral Compass That Makes a Difference

Mother Seton School (MSS) knows life's most difficult tests don't come in the form of standardized test or vying for job promotions. From pre-kindergarten to eighth grade, students join together as Prayer Partners, plan charity drives, and participate in Green School initiatives. Most importantly, all teachers and staff, not solely the Sisters and religion teachers, share the responsibility of fostering in each student a strong sense of self and of his or her relationship to God and others. They use every school day as an opportunity to help each children grow as a person.

MSS 5th through 8th grade students have the unique opportunity to become members of Vincentian Marian Youth, an international youth organization with spiritual roots that date back to 1830 when the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine Labouré, a young Daughter of Charity. MSS hosts one of only four chapters in the United States. Mother Seton School VMY is the only chapter on the East Coast. Vincentian Marian Youth USA follows the path of St. Vincent de Paul through prayer, service, reflection, and community.



They strive to live by the example of Mary and to embrace the missionary spirit in order to serve those living in poverty.

VMY members work at service sites once a month outside of school hours. In small groups and under the guidance of an adult mentor,

they serve at Seton Center Family Store and the Catoctin Pregnancy Center. They also visit residents at St. Catherine Nursing Center as well as the Sisters who live at St. Vincent's Care Center and Villa St. Michael. They also meet as a large group once a month to reflect on their service experiences and learn more about the Vincentian Family and its charism.

VMY is an example of how graduates are armed with well-defined ethics and values, set on a path to live their life with sound judgement, character and humility. This moral compass is grounded in the Catholic tradition and gives students the confidence to make decisions that better themselves and the world around them. For more information, please visit our website www.mothersetonschool.org.

