

# THE REPORT CARD



## It's all about Faith, Leadership, Scholarship, Honor, and Service at Saint John's Catholic Prep

As Saint John's Catholic Prep (SJCP) enters its 188th year, the school has seen dramatic changes over the last two centuries. It has outlasted two World Wars and also the Civil War. The oldest Catholic high school in the State of Maryland, SJCP has grown in multiple and meaningful ways, particularly in the last four years.

Starting with the 2013 move from historic Prospect Hall to Buckeystown and followed by the 2015 hiring of Dr. Thomas Powell (the school's third President and umpteenth head of school), SJCP has sharpened its mission and enhanced the school's Catholic identity. **Faith, Leadership, Scholarship, Honor, and Service** became the institution's pillars two years ago and all programming and curriculum elements reflect these ideals.

SJCP's academic programs continue to innovate, including a redeveloped Seton Program that provides more resources and assistance to students with learning differences. Under the guidance of Program Director Janet Ryczko, Seton has increased its number of resource teachers and supplemented this unique program with an afterschool writing lab (to be utilized by any/all students) headed up by English teacher Ms. Jill Seaman. The science program at SJCP, headed up by Dr. Erin Smith, has expanded in both course offerings and in community projects. The 66-acre campus in rural Buckeystown provides a perfect environment for agricultural projects, including the planting of a hop yard designed and built by Class of 2017 graduate Anna Eyler, which she completed for her Gold Award in Girl Scouts.

The school is proud of all 59 graduates from the Class of 2017 who earned an impressive 6.5 million dollars in college



**The Buckeystown campus provides an excellent environment for agricultural learning for their students.**

scholarships and worked over 8,000 hours of collective community service. This year's senior class, the Class of 2018, has their work cut out for them: earning good grades and getting into the top colleges is only one aspect of their senior year experience. This is the inaugural year for our Mount St. Mary's partnership program wherein select SJCP seniors take an Introduction to Criminal Justice course on the Mount's campus in the fall and a Sociology course in the spring. Other seniors have opted for internships with Circuit Court Judge (and Prospect Hall alum) Theresa Adams or in our local veterinarian hospitals. These opportunities that are afforded to our students give them a leg-up when competing against other high school students for slots in the top universities.

The most important of all of the SJCP initiatives revolves around the Campus Ministry program and McElroy Days of Service. Beginning with a successful School Supply Drive for needy families who are patrons of Frederick Rescue Mission, students, faculty, and staff continue finding ways to make a difference in the community. On Friday, September 22nd, the entire senior class spent the day supporting Seed of Life farms by harvesting and working the fields at Hargett Farm. And on Friday, October 6th, students in Social Justice classes spent the afternoon distributing produce at the monthly food drop at the Department of Aging. There are more service events scheduled in October and November with the Way Station and various nursing homes in Frederick County. SJCP strives to instill in students both a love of learning AND a love for serving others.



**Saint John's Catholic Prep students arrive on their first day at the Mount St. Mary's University satellite campus for their Criminal Justice class.**



St. John Regional  
Catholic School



## The Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation Approves \$89,500 S.T.E.M. Grant to St. John Regional Catholic School

St. John Regional Catholic School is a recipient of a grant from the **Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation** for the 2017-2018 school year. The grant was awarded in the amount of \$89,500, in order to *Keep up with the 21st Century*. For the last decade of the new millennium we have been tasked with serving 21st century learners. Students today are, more than ever, integrated with technology. A dramatic shift is sweeping through our school. These new 21st century learners are highly relational and demand quick access to new knowledge. With the world literally at their fingertips before they can even walk or talk, today's students must have access to advanced technology.

The support from The Knott Foundation is allowing us to further implement our STEM program, and obtain innovative technology throughout our classroom curriculum to meet the needs of our students. We will be upgrading our supporting technology infrastructure throughout the school building, improving teacher access to the latest technology and professional development, updating and increasing availability of student computers and devices, and implementing new student programs to engage 21st century learners. This project will update and increase availability of student computers and devices in a multitude of ways. We will upgrade to a state of the art wireless network to service our 454 devices, supporting 530 students and 40 teachers. The grant will complete our middle school 1:1 program by providing Chromebooks to the sixth grade, joining grades 7 & 8. The middle school will be able to communicate with teachers, turn in assignments virtually, and access all of their work from home without transporting textbooks and worksheets using their techbooks.

SJRCS has found that iPads are better for our younger students due to the interactive nature in software programs. The ease and quickness of educational apps enhances the curriculum. We are purchasing 60 iPads on mobile carts for K-5. Students will build digital portfolios from a very young age. Our teachers will also receive updated iPads or Chromebooks to support their students. *Keeping up with the 21st Century* will modernize our computer lab with touch screen computers. Students will continue to learn many skills in the computer lab including: internet safety, coding, typing, Microsoft Office Suite, Google Earth and mapping, and how to effectively search the internet.

Of course, internet safety and training is a high priority pertaining to our student technology program. We teach the students about Internet Safety and responsibility. Due to the age and safety of all students 1:1 devices are not transported home. We monitor iPads and Chromebooks closely through the use of a firewall. As part of our technology curriculum, the students are taught that their morals and values need to be used on the Internet just like any other time. Students also need to know the impact on their spiritual, professional, and personal lives if they do not use the Internet responsibly.

The Knott Foundation will fund our "Makerspace Classroom." This classroom helps increase our students' ability to think critically, problem-solve, and collaborate, portraying



**Students enjoying the new computers in the Computer Lab**

the essence of a 21st century curriculum. Students have class time built around a "Maker" curriculum. Class time spent in the Makerspace provides creative time for students to build prototypes, explore questions, fail and retry, bounce ideas off one another, and build something together. The Archdiocese of Baltimore has encouraged its schools to incorporate 3D printing throughout the school's curriculum. A state of the art New Matter 3D printer with a classroom set of Chromebooks placed on a mobile cart will be available for the use of all classes.

As educators, we must prepare our students to participate in this competitive global marketplace. At the very core of great 21st century education, is solid instruction using data-driven, evidence-based best practices by well trained teachers. Technology is the tool that allows students to take the concepts and skills they are learning about in the classroom, and go beyond the classroom walls to research and develop solutions to real world problems, communicate their ideas to a global audience, and to actively engage in their educational experiences. The most important outcome of this project is enriched learning experiences that meet the needs of today's digital learners and increased future careers in STEM related professions. St. John Regional Catholic School is proud to be one of the leaders in digital education in Frederick County; as well as, the State of Maryland. We are very thankful and blessed to have the support of The Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation.



## Fruits of the Spirit Growing at St. Thomas More Academy

*“The ordinary acts we practice every day are of more importance to the soul than their simplicity might suggest.”*  
(St. Thomas More)

The ordinary acts of kindness, simple generosity, and gentleness to others are a few of the ways St. Thomas More Academy students are recognized in their walk with the Holy Spirit. The school wide faith theme for the 2017-2018 year is recognizing the Fruits of the Spirit.

*Galatian 5:22 In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

Children had the opportunity to experience the fruits of the spirit at STMA during Summer Playdates on the Playground. Families and students didn't want the entire summer to go by without seeing one another so, under the organization of the PTO, families met at the school for picnics and playdates once a month throughout the summer. It was a great way for new students to get acquainted and for families to stay connected. Other summer programs offered this year included a spiritual retreat called “Tracking Mary” where children in grades PreK-4 grew in faithfulness and knowledge about the Blessed Virgin Mary and five of her apparitions around the world. This retreat helped focus our attention on our Holy Mother in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Fatima.

A LEGO Robotics Summer Camp was also hosted for children in grades 4 – 8. The attendees had the opportunity to design, build and program robots to complete tasks on this year's LEGO challenge board. Campers exhibited self-control and patience when robots did not always perform as hoped, realizing that every failure is a chance to try again, and that strength of character is often formed in challenge, not when the path is easy.

In September St. Thomas More students worked within their houses to aid people affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Students created cards that were turned into a digital slideshow and sent to teachers in TX and FL to share with their



students. STMA students also collected change to be donated to the National Catholic Education Association's Student to Student initiative. NCEA will distribute 100 % of these funds collected to dioceses in the affected areas for their Catholic school communities. Through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, this project will bring hope and peace to those in vital need of support due to the impact of the hurricanes.

St. Thomas More Academy will once again participate in the Box of Joy Campaign, serving as a drop off center for the Frederick area. The Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy Campaign is dedicated to sharing the Gospel and spreading love through a shoe box of gifts and many prayers for children in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala. Please contact St. Thomas More Academy if you would like to participate. Box of Joy drop of dates are November 10, 11, and 12.

St. Thomas More Academy serves children in PreK through 8th grade and is located at 103 Prospect St. Middletown, MD 21769. Visit [www.stmamd.org](http://www.stmamd.org) or call **240-490-5479** for information.

**November 4, 2017:** Progressive Cash Raffle  
**November 10, 11, 12 2017:** Box of Joy Collection  
**January 28, 2018:** Open House 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm



## Mount St. Mary's University Welcomes Second Largest Class in its 209-Year History

This fall semester, Mount St. Mary's University welcomed more than 510 freshmen students, the second largest class in the school's history, as well as 53 transfer students, the most in its history, at a convocation celebration that took place on Friday, August 25. The Class of 2021 is an increase of more than 100 students from last year's class, marking a 25 percent rise in new student enrollment.

“We are excited to welcome such a large and diverse class to campus this fall,” said Mount St. Mary's University President Timothy E. Trainor, Ph.D. “On behalf of administrators, faculty and staff, we look forward to helping all students succeed in their fields of study and make a difference in the Mount community and the world.”

The Mount attributes its success in enrollment growth to a

number of positive factors, including the attention it received from having three Fulbright ETA Finalists and two Fulbright US-UK scholars. Also, the Mount launched new academic programs in cybersecurity and the interdisciplinary Politics, Philosophy and Economics, announced partnerships for cybersecurity and biology transfer opportunities with Frederick Community College, and garnered national attention in NCAA Division I athletics, particularly in men's basketball and men's and women's track and field.

Earlier this summer, the Mount also announced that Trainor will be installed as its 26th president at an inauguration ceremony on Monday, October 23. Further helping improve the university's standing in the region, Trainor has led efforts to develop the university's strategic plan, reorganize academic

departments, secure a \$1 million donation for the Palmieri Center for Entrepreneurship, and launch a capital campaign with the goal of \$30 million.

“We look forward to engaging with the freshman class to help them be successful in reaching their dreams,” said Mount St. Mary’s Interim Provost Jennie Hunter-Cevera. The students hail from 327 different high schools in 29 different states, helping make this class one of the most diverse in Mount history. The most popular declared majors for the incoming class are business (16 percent), biology (10 percent) and criminal justice (7 percent). Additionally, nearly a quarter (24 percent) of the incoming class are Division I athletes.

“Prospective students and families are more aware than ever of the Mount’s academic strength and broad spectrum of excellence, inside and outside the classroom,” said the Mount’s Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Michael A. Post.



## Purpose and Mission of Friends of Catholic Education



**Friends of Catholic Education Board of Trustees: Front row: Bill Milani, Cary Plamondon, Bernadette Emerson, Carol Hinds, John O’Boyle. Back row: Michele Corr, Michael O’Connor, Fr. Larry Frazier, David Grove, Mike Kinley, Al Edwards and Frank Lipscomb**

and scholarships to deserving students. In the 28 years since their inception, F.O.C.E. has provided nearly \$5 million in financial support to the schools and students and the impact has been significant. Their mission is accomplished year after year!

In order to strengthen their endowment fund and to help bring a Catholic school education within reach for more families, F.O.C.E. is committed to raising money in a variety of ways. Through the years, their Board of Trustees has formed strong relationships in the community and the organization is blessed to have many individuals and businesses that contribute to their Annual Giving Campaign, sponsor their events and remember them in their estate planning. Many donors have created “named scholarships” in memory of a loved one which is a perfect way to honor them and to leave a legacy for future generations.

In addition to making financial awards, F.O.C.E. hosts two events throughout the year. Inaugurated in 1992, the Father John McElroy Award Dinner celebrates those individuals whose action or achievements have advanced Catholic school education in Frederick County, Maryland. This year, they are proud to present Pam Zusi and Al Edwards with their award. Each February, F.O.C. E. honors the dedicated Frederick County Catholic teachers and staff at the annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner and presents a teacher from each school a Teacher of Excellence Award. In addition, F.O.C.E. supports events at each school and visits their students and staff throughout the year.

Friends of Catholic Education believes that working as a team of trustees, leaders, educators, staff, consecrated religious, volunteers, benefactors and parents, they will continue to make significant financial contributions for the benefit of the students receiving a quality Christ-centered education that fosters love, faith, service, discipline and respect. Their Frederick County Catholic school education will serve as a strong foundation that will last their entire lives!

“LIKE” us on FACEBOOK and see the great things going on at the Frederick County Catholic schools! If you would like more information on scholarships or to discuss options for making a contribution that works best for you, please contact Michele Corr, executive director of Friends of Catholic Education at **301-846-7804** or **friendsofcatholiceducation@gmail.com**.

**F**riends of Catholic Education, Inc. What do they do? Who do they serve? Where do they get their money? When was their organization established and how much money have they awarded over the years? These are just some of the questions that are asked when talking about Friends of Catholic, Inc. (F.O.C. E.), a non-profit in Frederick, Maryland.

In 1989, the founders of F.O.C.E. had a vision: to form an organization dedicated to providing support for the five Catholic schools in Frederick County and the families choosing to send their children to those schools. This now includes Mother Seton School, St. John Regional Catholic School, St. Thomas More Academy, Saint John’s Catholic Prep and Mount St. Mary’s University. To accomplish this, F.O.C.E. raises and manages funds to award block grants to the schools

## Mother Seton School Students Receive National and State Accolades for Handwriting



**Mother Seton School student Maryn Rajaski (Gr 3) poses with her third-grade teacher, Jayne Breighner. Maryn was named Grand National Champion-3rd Grade and received a trophy, a \$1,000 cash prize, and \$1,000 worth of educational materials for MSS. Mrs. Breighner also received a trophy, as well as a trip to the International Literacy Association Annual Conference.**

**M**aryn Rajaski, a third-grade student at Mother Seton School, was named Grand National Champion of the 2017 Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Competition for her grade-level. Maryn is one of nine Grand Champions. She was awarded an engraved trophy, \$1000 cash, and educational materials valued at \$1,000 for his/her school. In addition, the teacher of each Grand National Champion is awarded with a trip to the International Literacy Association Annual Conference. Another student at Mother Seton School, seventh-grader **Emma Wivell**, was chosen as the State Champion for her grade-level. The Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Competition has been held annually for the past thirty-six years and is open to any public or private school student in grades K-8. Students in grades K-2 submit print entries, while grades 3-8 submit cursive handwriting entries. The contest entries, both manuscript (print) and cursive, are judged according to the Zaner-Bloser Keys to Legibility: Shape, Size, Spacing, and Slant. The sentence all students are required to write on their entry form was chosen because it contains every letter of the alphabet: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

While US Common Core standards cite handwriting instruction as optional, research over the past several decades has found a link between handwriting and literacy in children. Handwriting has been found to open and engage distinct neural pathways in children's brains, which leads to more complex letter recognition and reading fluency. "We include handwriting in our curriculum because we value the impact it has to student growth in attention and focus, its connection to improved academic performance, and the role of handwriting in our daily lives," said Sister Brenda Monahan, D.C., principal of Mother Seton School.



**Great things are going on at Mother Seton School!**

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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.

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