



Principal

SEARCH PROSPECTUS



Mother Seton School

EMMITSBURG, MD

www.mothersetonschool.org

START DATE: JULY 2019
Application Deadline: February 28, 2019

Search Managed by Catholic Recruiter Associates



Mission Statement

The mission of Mother Seton Catholic School, a vibrant, Christ-centered community, is to inspire students to strive for academic excellence and dedicate their lives to love and serve Christ in the tradition of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Vincent de Paul.



About the School

Mother Seton School is an Independent Catholic Elementary School whose accreditation comes from the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Mother Seton School is sponsored by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Located less than one mile from the site of Elizabeth Seton's original school, it is an important partner for many Maryland and Pennsylvania families as it continues the Seton Legacy of Catholic Education.

Mother Seton School provides an affordable, high-quality Catholic education (pre-school through eighth grade) that focuses on the whole child. Our outstanding STEM-based curriculum (science, technology, engineering and math) helps students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, preparing them to meet the challenges of the 21st century, while our award-winning music and arts program stimulates creativity and self-expression.

As a certified Maryland, Green School, Mother Seton School operates an eco-friendly campus, which includes a Monarch Butterfly Way Station, nature trail, gardens and a solar energy station. Our 15-acre campus, nestled in the Catoctin Valley, encourages outdoor exploration and play, while our proximity to the National Shrine of our patron saint and foundress allows students to develop a strong sense of spirituality that is reflected in school liturgies, our Prayer Partner Program, and community service.

Mother Seton School offers a full complement of academic programs and facilities, including a science lab, computer lab, integrated technology in every classroom as well as a middle school Spanish program. The school is also equipped with an on-site Learning Center that provides intervention and enrichment services when needed. In addition to its curriculum, Mother Seton students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of extracurricular activities, including band and chorus, STEM clubs, a young writer's group, Art Angels, Girl Scouts, Snow Sports Club, Spanish Club, Healthy Eating Club, Student Council, and the Seton Chapter of the Vincentian Marian Youth, an international service organization. Further, there are a variety of bus transportation options to and from school, many provided free by partnering school districts. For students that reside outside of the partnering school districts, Mother Seton furnishes a fee-based bus service to the growing attendance region of Frederick, MD.

Mother Seton School gathers families into a true Christian community celebrating life's gifts and supporting each other in times of need. Partnering with parents, teachers and staff inspire and guide students in their education, nurture their characters, and create a moral foundation that sustains them for life.



We believe the pre-K through eighth grade model is important because:

- **Students do better academically.** Many studies show that students obtain higher achievement levels in pre-K-8 schools than in separate middle schools.
- **Our Middle schoolers are not in the middle.** As the leaders of the school they know the younger students look up to them – and they rise to the occasion.
- **Our younger children have inspiring role models.** Our Prayer Partner Program pairs each younger student with an older student for activities throughout the year, developing strong friendships.
- **There are fewer discipline problems.**

Research shows that children in pre-K-8 schools have fewer behavior problems, higher self-esteem and better attendance than those in separate schools.

- **Children grow up with positive influences.** In contrast to a pre-K-12 school, students are less exposed to mature topics and inappropriate language.



FAST FACTS



29%

Middle School students qualify for the Johns Hopkins Talent Search Program



24%

Middle School students rank in the top 5% nationally in reading and math



256

PreK-8 Enrollment in 2017-2018



46%

Of the teachers hold Master's Degrees

The Position

The principal at Mother Seton School is the focal point for both the academic and Catholic religious standards in the school. This leadership role requires a person whose academic credentials and faith practice has prepared them to “set the bar” for faculty, students and others to achieve their full potential as Catholics and members of a high achieving elementary school. The position is expected to continue the 200-year tradition of promoting the Vincentian/Setonian charism and facilitating a culture of service, devotion and prayer.

The next principal will be the first lay leader since the original school was founded nearby by Mother Seton nearly two hundred years ago. There will continue to be members of the Daughters of Charity as part of the school faculty, as well as serving on the Board of Directors of Mother Seton School. This academic leader is challenged to implement the Mission of the school in nourishing Mind, Body and Spirit in the tradition of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Vincent de Paul.

The principal reports to the Board of Directors and is expected to maintain effective working relationships with parents, community leaders, and the community of the Daughters of Charity. In matters of curriculum, the Archdiocese of Baltimore establishes standards which must be maintained by all Catholic schools within the auspice of the Archdiocese. Close collaboration with the Superintendent of Catholic schools and her staff will foster this synergistic relationship.

The principal is expected to provide a personal and professional model of behavior, coordinate the resources necessary to catechize students and faculty, and insure exceptional academic outcomes as the result of a rigorous curriculum. This visionary will work with development and marketing offices within the school to maintain and increase enrollment through effectively communicating the value proposition of a rigorous Catholic education.



Position Requirements

- Practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church whose life, practice and leadership fosters strong Catholic identity across the spectrum of students, faculty, parents, and community.
- Master's in education or related with minimum five years education administration with appropriate certifications/licenses.
- Has previous strategic planning, financial and collaborative management experiences which achieves results and maintains the dignity of staff.
- Has oversight and responsibility to hire a quality staff, provide resources and support to nurture success and challenge people to achieve results beyond their expectations.
- Current and fluent in latest academic approaches in STEM, national scholarship and Catholic education.
- Can develop into the “face of the school” to attract community resources, donor support and a positive reputation of Mother Seton School.



About Emmitsburg

Emmitsburg is a town of 3,026 residents located in Frederick County, Maryland, just south of the Mason-Dixon line separating Maryland from Pennsylvania. The town is approximately 60 miles from Baltimore, MD, and 70 miles from Washington, D.C. Founded in 1785, Emmitsburg is the home of two Catholic pilgrimage sites.

Emmitsburg may be best known as the site of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first native-born American saint. Mother Seton lived in Emmitsburg from 1809 until 1821; pilgrims visit her remains at the Basilica of the Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. The Seton Shrine is one of the top eight Catholic pilgrimage destinations in the United States. Mount St. Mary's University is the site of the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. A group of Catholics moved to what they named Mount St. Mary from the eastern shore of Maryland in 1728 in search of religious freedom. In 1805, a refugee from France arrived and built the church and shrine. The shrine opened to the public in 1958.

Because of its proximity to the Gettysburg, Antietam and Monocacy battlefields, Emmitsburg played a significant role during the Civil War. Gettysburg National Military Park is fewer than 10 miles north of the town, which served as a staging area for Union forces and as a bivouac after the battle. Sharpsburg, Maryland is about 35 miles southwest of Emmitsburg. About 23,000 soldiers were wounded, killed or missing at the Antietam battlefield in Sharpsburg on September 17, 1862, the bloodiest day of the Civil War. Monocacy National Battlefield, 30 miles south of Emmitsburg in Frederick, was the site of a battle between Union forces and Confederate forces advancing on Washington, D.C.



Application Procedure

To apply, please submit the following materials, confidentially and as separate PDF attachments in one email to Arlene McSweeney. Please include Mother Seton School in subject field.

- Cover letter describing how your background, training and passion fit the needs of MSS
- Current resume
- 3-4 references with contact information
- Supplemental material if you wish the search committee to consider (we will advise)

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