



## ***As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.***

**Joshua 24:15**

We are very excited about the implementation of the House Program at Seton Catholic School! The program will start in the Fall of 2010!

It has been proven that students who are involved in school activities have a better attitude toward teachers and rules, exhibit improved academic performance, and feel better about themselves. To address this issue, Seton Catholic School will implement a system to re-energize our middle school students and promote school spirit and pride. With a focus on building community, service to others, and personal responsibility, a house system is being created.

All middle school students will be divided into six houses. Each house contains an equal number of boys and girls from the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Each student will be randomly placed in a house and will remain with that same house throughout his or her middle school years. Each house contains an average of 20 students. Students will not be in their House groups for their academic courses or homeroom.

There is an overwhelming benefit for all students involved. Mixing students from all middle school grades in each house provides more opportunities for students to interact and work cooperatively with peers from each grade level. Sixth graders will likely feel more relaxed moving from fifth grade into middle school.

Houses acquire and compete for points by participating in a variety of activities. These include activities in the areas of church ministry, Seton Catholic School athletics and extra-curricular activities (clubs, scouts, Battle of the Books, KYA, student council, etc.). Activities at house-wide meetings count toward individual and house points. Other opportunities for additional points include zero detentions, zero uniform violations, and the accumulation of Accelerated Reader points.

Each house will have a house name, color, patron saint, and motto to represent their house. These elements of the house, and the students assigned to a house will remain constant from year to year. Each year, the students make up a cheer and mascot for their individual house.

The six homeroom teachers along with the special area teachers will provide guidance and support as house mentors. Monthly planned activities attended by all houses focus on service, academics, the arts, and athletics. This is an opportunity for each and every child to shine by offering his or her personal best for the benefit of the whole. Students will wear house t-shirts as their uniform on house-wide meeting days. House t-shirts represent the individual houses by color and they will display the house name.

The house system is a part of our middle school curriculum. All students participate in the program as it is not optional. Because this is an academic and service based program for all middle school students we accommodate and allow time during the regular school schedule and operate on a shortened day schedule for the once-a-month meeting. We shorten each class period by 10 minutes allowing for the one hour meeting House Meeting each month. This will ensure that no classes or curriculum are missed.

Schools that have implemented a House Program have witnessed the positive impact this program has on discipline, peer relationships, and the student/teacher relationship. When all students feel they can make a difference, it creates a climate where students and teachers feel comfortable and confident, and education can thrive.

The house system spotlights the accomplishments of our Seton Middle School students and we are proud of their efforts and strength of character.

Please contact Mrs. Durbin ([edurbin@cdlex.org](mailto:edurbin@cdlex.org)) concerning our House Program.