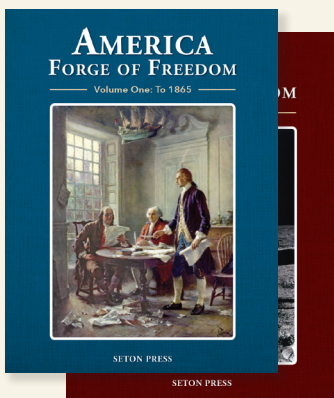


# The Excitement Builds...

## 2023 Curriculum Updates

New!

BY DRAPER WARREN



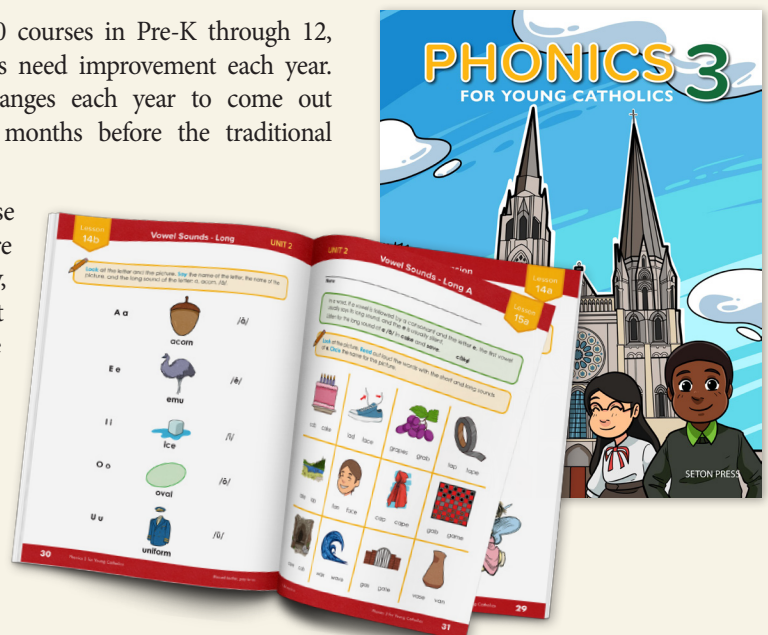
their applications on June 1 or later to ensure they receive the updated courses.

While I will break down the changes by grade level, two changes encompass many courses. First is our project to colorize and improve formatting for all the default elementary and junior high courses. We started this project two years ago and are now approaching completion.

**Helping** parents provide the very best Catholic education for their students is a heavy responsibility for us at Seton. Perfecting our courses and ensuring parents and students receive the best quality materials is how we live out our mission.

Seton offers over 200 courses in Pre-K through 12, so some courses always need improvement each year. We coordinate the changes each year to come out simultaneously, a few months before the traditional school year.

Unless otherwise stated, all changes are releasing June 1. Ideally, parents should start



# Elementary

The second significant change concerns the music program for Grades 2-8. Admittedly, music is not Seton's strongest area. Parents often have students take private music lessons to learn an instrument or otherwise have their own plans for music instruction, so our Seton courses have been less high a priority.

Seton has always provided the traditional *We Sing and Praise Music* series for Catholic Schools, but our most frequent request is for recordings of what the songs should sound like.

Sheet music is of limited benefit if parents need to become more familiar with reading music or do not have instruments available to demonstrate.

Technology has made the music available now without having to hire an orchestra.

Seton is now providing videos of each song in the music books, but the real beauty is that the videos show the notes being played,



and the notes on the screen light up when their sound is being played to help students follow the musical notation and distinguish parts when there are harmonies.

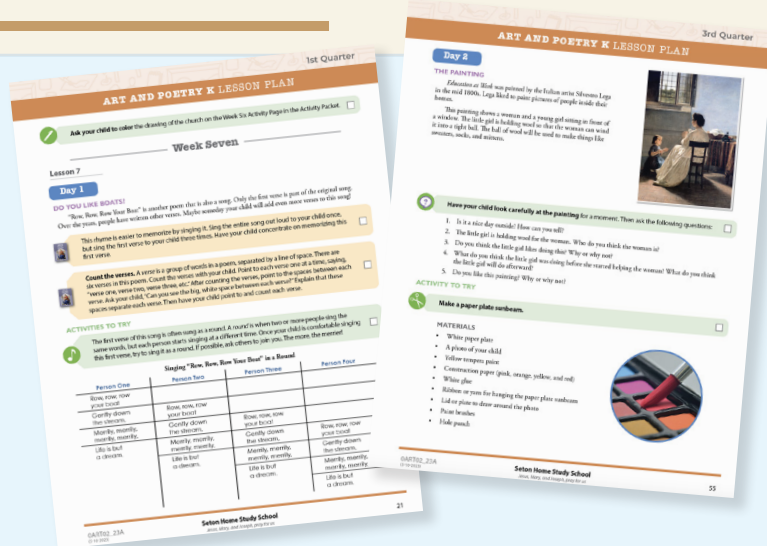
These videos are available for each course that uses one of the *We Sing and Praise* series, that is, Grades 2-8. You will find the music videos in your **MySeton** course resources.

**The following are significant changes by grade level of which parents might like to be aware:**

## KINDERGARTEN

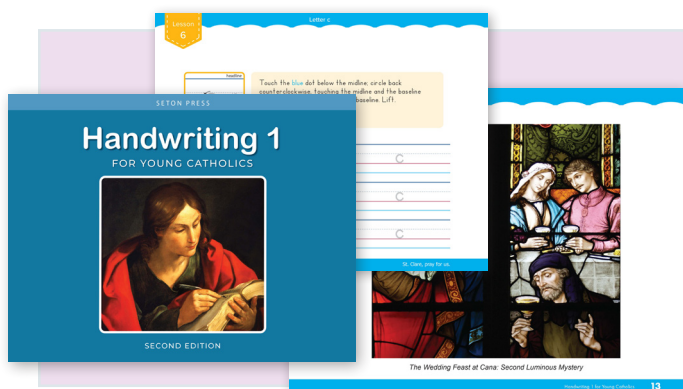


*Art and Poetry K* is an entirely new book and course. The book shows a work of art and an associated poem for each week. The lesson plans are extensive, and help guide the student in



appreciating the art and poetry, as well as providing a related craft or art project for each week. It includes an activity pack with the necessary paper cut-outs and coloring pages.

The new book and resources add substantial value for parents. The lesson plans alone have over 100 pages. The previous two coloring books for the older version of the course are no longer being used.



## FIRST GRADE

### *Handwriting 1 for Young Catholics*

This new Handwriting 1 book came out at the end of fall 2022 but was not listed in last year's changes. This book has pedagogical and formatting updates but is still based on the older book.



## SECOND GRADE



rests in the southeastern and eastern parts of Australia, in the eucalyptus tree and eats the leaves for food. Australia, along with Antarctica, is one of the few places on Earth where penguins live. Penguins are seabirds that are unable to fly. However, they are great swimmers. Like other birds, penguins have feathers, a beak, and lay eggs. However, a penguin's wings, called flippers, are made for swimming not flying. Because they live in very cold weather, they have a layer of fat that keeps them warm. A type of penguin called 'little penguins' is the kind found most often in Australia. Penguins are the best kind



The new *Passport to the World* main textbook marks a significant change to History 2. This book takes kids on a journey of exploration through all continents and 15 specific countries examining the physical features, animals, food, and Church in depth.

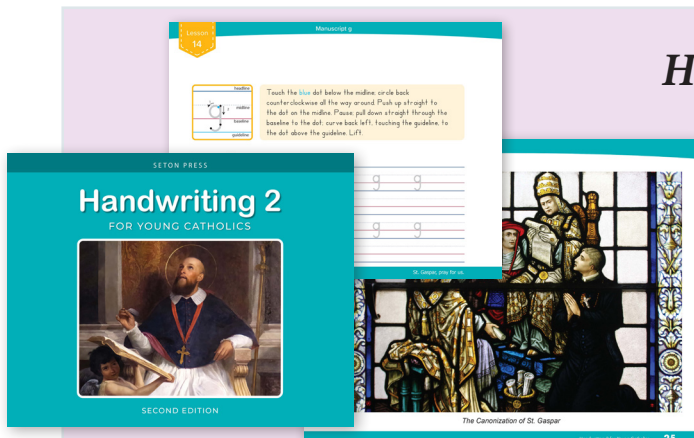
This course is now more of a social studies/geography course than a history course and also uses the *Geography Skills 2* book, which

came out last year. The Passport book includes a little children's passport and stickers for each country they "visit" so they can fill out their little passports.

This book is visually stunning and exciting. It is also about three times the size of the previous *Great Saints in World History* book, which it replaces.

## Handwriting 2 for Young Catholics

This new Handwriting 2 book came out this past winter but was not listed in last year's changes. This book has pedagogical and formatting updates but is still based on the older book.

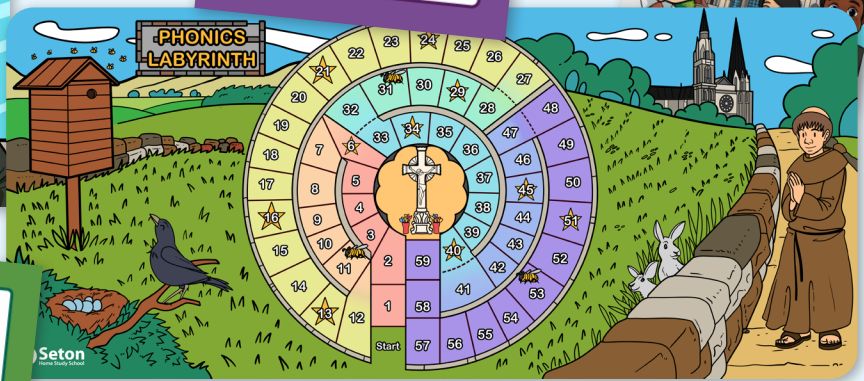
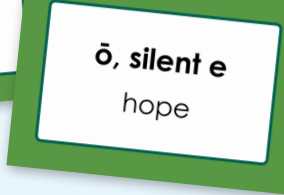
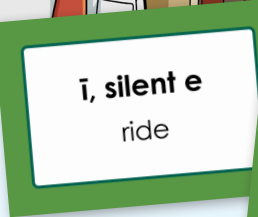
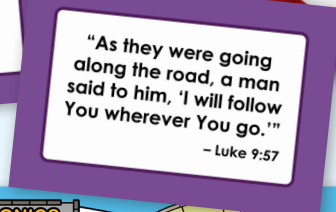
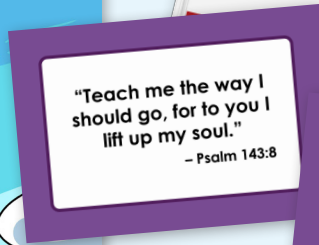




# Elementary

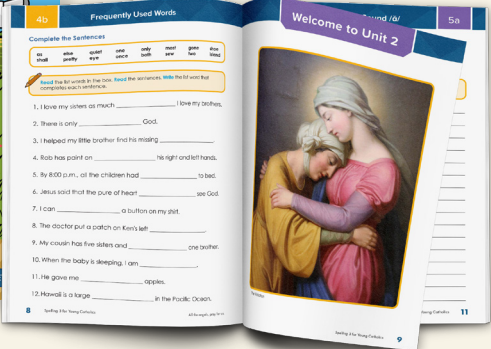
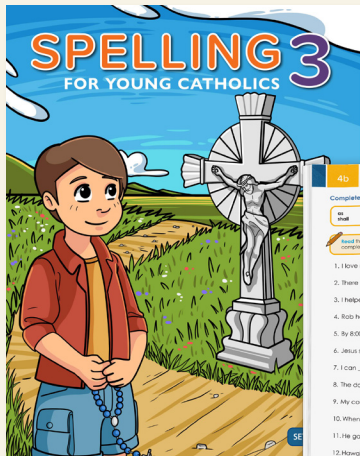
## THIRD GRADE

There is a new Phonics 3 book and game in the style of the new Phonics 2 that came out last year. The lessons are filled with colorful drawings, games, and verses, making learning exciting and enjoyable. The cast of phonics friends are a year older and appear throughout the book.



## Spelling 3 for Young Catholics

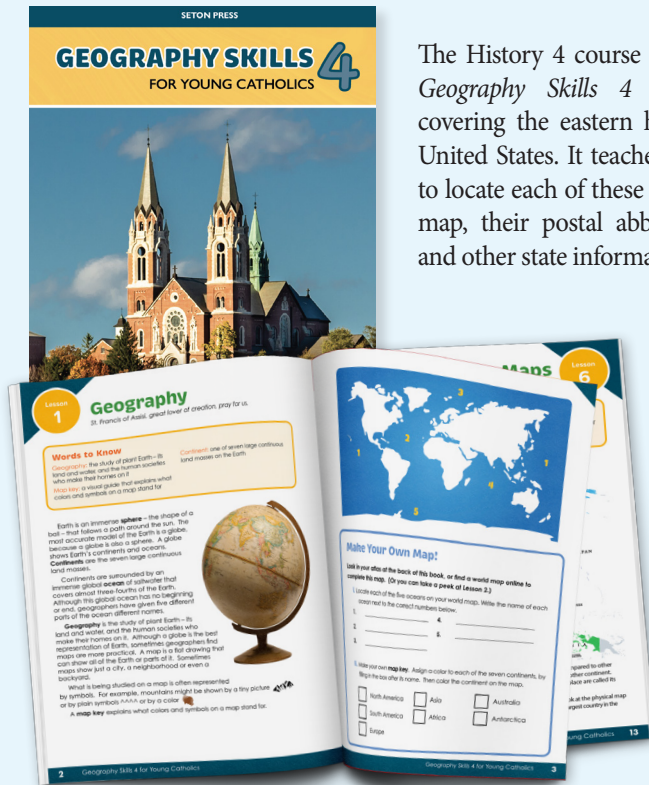
The newly released *Spelling 3 for Young Catholics* is designed to accompany *Phonics 3 for Young Catholics*, but it may be used independently of the phonics book.



Newly colorized Lesson Plans in Grade 3 this year include Math 3, PE 3, Reading 3, and Religion 3.



## FOURTH GRADE



The History 4 course has a new *Geography Skills 4* workbook covering the eastern half of the United States. It teaches students to locate each of these states on a map, their postal abbreviations, and other state information.



Newly colorized Lesson Plans in Grade 4 this year include Art 4, English 4, Handwriting 4, and PE 4.

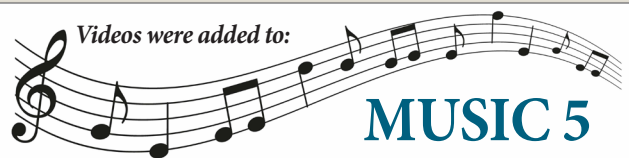
## FIFTH GRADE



A new *Bible History for Young Catholics 5* covers the Acts of the Apostles and the Early Church. This book completes our Bible History series and replaces the Concise Bible History we used from another publisher.

History 5 has had substantial content added to the lesson plans to supplement material that was insufficiently covered in the textbook.

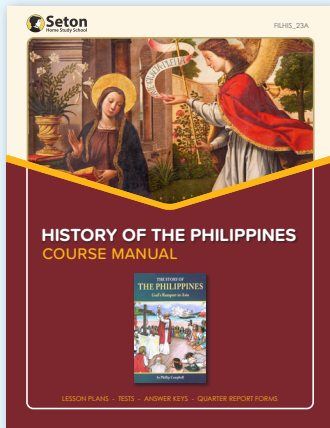
This next change is a change by way of subtraction. We are no longer using Phonics 5 in the curriculum. Last year we took some of the best parts of it and incorporated them into Phonics 4, so this is the year Phonics 5 is being discontinued, though it will be available as a supplemental option.



Newly colorized Lesson Plans in Grade 5 this year include Art 5, History 5, Reading 5, Science 5, and Vocabulary 5.

# Elementary/High School

## SIXTH, SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADES



There are no significant changes in these grades other than the music videos and colorization of lesson plans already mentioned. However, there is one special new course for our Filipino students to enjoy.

We have created a new Philippines History course for Junior High. This would likely be taken in place of U.S. History in 8th Grade,

but we recommend a little change in the order of history courses.

For those taking the Philippines History, we recommend it be taken in 6th Grade both due to the reading level of the course and so that it aligns with the Philippines DepEd national curriculum.

Those students would then take Seton's History 6 (the first part of world history) in 7th Grade and our History 7 in 8th Grade.

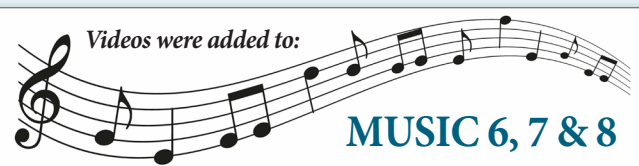
The Philippines History course is based on a fun narrative-style book from author Phillip Campbell published by Arx Publishing. Mr. Campbell has written lesson plans and tests exclusively for Seton.

### Newly colorized Lesson Plans this year include:

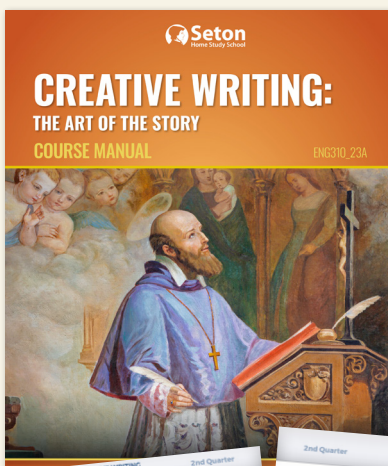
**In Grade 6**  
Art 6  
Reading 6

**In Grade 7**  
Reading 7  
Spelling 7  
Vocabulary 7

**In Grade 8**  
Math 8  
Reading 8  
Spelling 8  
Vocabulary 8

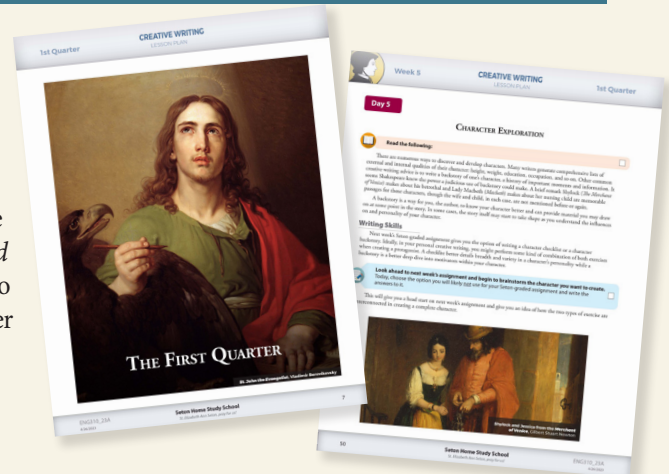


## CREATIVE WRITING



This is a new ½ credit elective course for high schoolers.

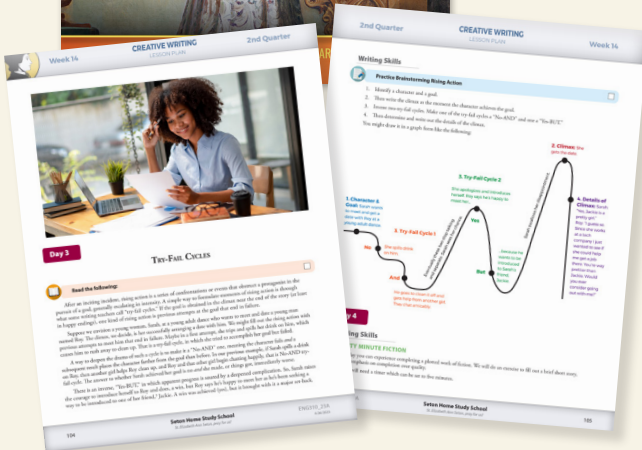
To get the full benefit of this course, students should have learned some of the skills in our *Literature and Composition I* and *II* courses, so those (or equivalents for transfer students) are prerequisites.



### From one of our course authors:

"*Creative Writing: The Art of the Story* is a fun, fast-paced introduction to the basics of storytelling. The course method is based on the Catechism's description of art as a blend of knowledge and skill. Students gain knowledge through selections and advice from over fifty classic authors and modern-day creative writing teachers.

Skill is developed through daily exercises and graded submissions like a character backstory, a dialogue, and a short story. Students will gain expertise in character-building and plot-making whether they are interested in writing novels, plays, or scripts."





## U.S. HISTORY

### AMERICA FORGE OF FREEDOM

Volume One: To 1865



#### CHAPTER 2 REVIEW QUESTIONS

- Answer the following questions:
1. What did Paine do in London? What is significant in the cartoon "United States?"
  2. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  3. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  4. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  5. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  6. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  7. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  8. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  9. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  10. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  11. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  12. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  13. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  14. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  15. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  16. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  17. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  18. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  19. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
  20. What is the cause of the people who did this? What is the cause of the people who did this?
- Identify the following:
1. George Washington
  2. John Adams
  3. James Madison
  4. Thomas Jefferson
  5. James Monroe
  6. James Jackson
  7. James K. Polk
  8. James Buchanan
  9. James A. Garfield
  10. James E. Smith
  11. James H. Hunt
  12. James G. Thompson
  13. James H. Smith
  14. James H. Smith
  15. James H. Smith
  16. James H. Smith
  17. James H. Smith
  18. James H. Smith
  19. James H. Smith
  20. James H. Smith

We are finally releasing our long-awaited new U.S. History textbook and course. This text and course will be the default for 11th Grade. The new book is called *America: Forge of Freedom* and is in two volumes.

This textbook is a project Ken and Bruce Clark had worked on closely together before Bruce passed away.

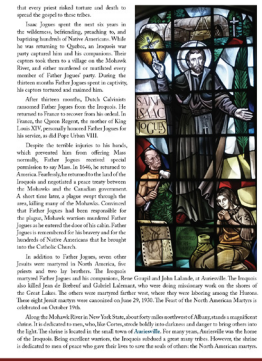
This course has weekly tests that are multiple choice with two very short written questions. All questions are strictly based on the review

questions found at the end of each chapter, so students should know exactly what to study.

We are calling this one *U.S. History* as opposed to the older one, which was called *American History*, because it is more tightly focused on the U.S.

This course is a vast improvement over the older course. *America: Forge of Freedom* is thoroughly Catholic, and the lesson plans have extensive optional content. The new text has an abundance of maps and images.

This new course is aligned, so it is available in SetonOnline.



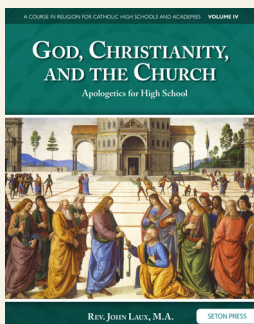
CHAPTER 2: THE SPANISH AND FRENCH COME TO AMERICA

## WORLD GEOGRAPHY

We made some lesson plan and critical test changes to this course. An insight that parents shared was that there was too much material to study for each test. To address that concern, we have moved from only having two tests per quarter to having weekly tests (still multiple choice).

Test questions are now based on the review questions found in the text. These questions now function as study guides.

## CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS



Seton Press is publishing the Fr. Laux book used in the Apologetics course. This is the same book we have always used, but we are returning to the original title, *God, Christianity, and the Church: Apologetics for High School*. While the text is the same, we have added color images and improved the formatting. If you own a copy of the older version, it will still be compatible with the course.

## HONORS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

This honors course is being discontinued. The textbook we used with it will now be used in a new course called *Foundations of American Government*.

## AMERICAN HISTORY

The older Anne Carroll course is still available for anyone who wants it. We have made some test improvements to this course, but at the same time, it has been unaligned, which means it will no longer have a SetonOnline layout.





# High School

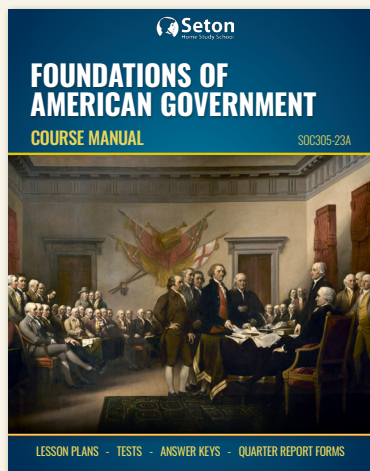
## FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

In January 2023, we changed the diploma requirements to only require a ½ credit of American Government. We made that change in anticipation of this new course which is now a ½ credit. This course uses the ABeka Government

text that used to be part of the Honors American Government course.

Thanks to the Dobb's decision, there is no Roe v. Wade paper or essays in this new course. The new test format is mainly multiple choice with just a few short written questions. There are a total of 4 tests, 2 in each quarter. Because of the changes, this course will no longer be restricted to seniors only.

**Note:** Seton will continue to offer the one-credit American Government Online course as well as this new half-credit American Government course. Completing either course will satisfy the American Government diploma requirement; however, completing only half of the one-credit course will not satisfy the requirement.



## Special Thanks and Acknowledgments



I want to give special thanks and acknowledgment to John Adams, his Curriculum Development team, Joe Sparks, and his Visual Arts and Online Courses team. These two departments labor intensively each year, trying to make as many improvements as possible. The colorization of the lesson plans has been an enormous project. Seton is absolutely committed to producing the best possible experience for our students and their families.



**Draper Warren** is the Director of Admissions at Seton and the Admin of Catholic Harbor. He is a Seton alumnus and graduate of Christendom College. He has worked at Seton for over 25 years, earned an MBA, and is currently completing a doctoral degree in educational leadership at Marymount University.