

Dear prospective students,

You are at that time and place to make some decisions. Decisions about school, friends, sports, and your faith. You have been inching toward this wonderful idea of “high school” for some time now. Some of you might be extremely nervous while some of you are excited to grow up a little bit.

Four years ago, I was in between extremely happy and extremely petrified. I wanted a school that pushed me academically, provided me with a strong community, emphasized the need for a spiritual life, and was fun. I knew what I wanted in a school. It was easy for me to narrow down my choices. Whether it's St. Cecilia Academy or another school, you'll know where you need to be. You'll feel comfortable, confident, and happy with your decision. So all I ask from you is to picture yourself at our school and figure out if “The Scarab Life” is right for you.

As I leave St. Cecilia to head off to college, I am so thankful for the all-girl environment. I know that you might feel as if an all -girl environment is a “one-way ticket to social awkwardness” but in actuality this type of school has fostered in me a sense of independence that I know I couldn't have received at a co-ed school. St. Cecilia Academy prepares young women to become ladies who can confidently go out and face the world head on. When you leave SCA, you'll be confident in who you have become and in what you spiritually believe. It's wonderful to know that St. Cecilia is not only a place to learn but also a place to grow.

When you walk through the halls of SCA, girls are always smiling and friendly. It really feels like a community here. Since we are such a small school, the students and faculty all know and support each other. What's great about SCA is: the faculty is wholeheartedly interested in the students and strongly desires them to succeed both academically and spiritually. I am not only leaving my family from home when I go to college, I am also leaving my family that I have formed at school.

You will notice the difference between SCA and other schools. You'll see the difference during Freshman-Senior Week, Spirit Week, pep rallies, and the All-school retreat. By the time Spirit Week rolls around during your freshman year, your classmates and you will be covered in red and black paint, your hair sprayed a glittery red, and you just might be wearing a ladybug costume. You will find out sooner or later that St. Cecilia provides students with opportunities to have fun, to give back to the community, and to grow intellectually.

You are about to embark on a four-year journey in furthering your education. I hope that you make the right decision and choose a school that's right for you. I am thankful for the wonderful opportunities and friends St. Cecilia Academy has provided me during these last four years.

Best Wishes,

Hadiya Housepian

Class of 2009 salutatorian and University of Chicago student