



## Press Release

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### **St. Cecilia forensics and chorus start year with success**

The St. Cecilia Academy forensics team started its season winning second place sweepstakes overall at the Portland High School tournament, which featured 350 competitors. In addition, the choral department saw 15 students receive honors at the Middle Tennessee Vocal Association (MTVA) auditions.

The forensics team at SCA has long been an award-winning program and the team is living up to its reputation. At the Portland High School tournament, SCA students Alywn Mothershed and Anna Nelson took first place in duet improvisation and Nancy-Margaret Webby clinched poetry interpretation. Other members placed in events such as solo acting, storytelling, humorous interpretation and dinner speaking.

Forensics requires a great deal of practice and a huge time commitment. Team members rehearse twice a week as well as practicing on their own to master the skills needed to compete at this level.

“It was exciting to see how the girls progressed from first receiving their pieces into real competitors and to see all of their hard work come to fruition,” said SCA Forensics Coach Lisa Gillespie. “We were very proud of all of them. And they were very supportive of and happy for one another during the competition as well as for other teams.”

The SCA chorus is also living up to its reputation. Two students, Olivia Reed and Della Smith, made the All-State Choir as well as the Mid-State Honors Choir at the MTVA auditions. Joining them in the Mid-State Choir are: Emily Beavers, Maddie Lawry, Caitlyn Lovell, Dory Miller, Genny Parkes, Bridget Simpson, Maddie Sposato, and Maggie Ward. Six of these students are also alternates for the All-State Choir.

“Over 1,000 high school students from Middle Tennessee participated in these auditions which culminate in the placement of the highest ranked singers into various honors choirs,” explained SCA Choral Director Jeanette MacCallum. “Qualifying for All-State Choir is a huge honor. Only 18 female singers per voice part are chosen to go to All-State.”

Also notable is that every SCA freshman that auditioned made the MTVA Freshman Honors Choir. These students are: Paige Brouillette, Blair Ely, Dina Manalac, Sarah Petroni, and Christine Wehby.

St. Cecilia Academy—Nashville’s oldest private high school founded in 1860 by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation—is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout the 2010-2011 school year. The Academy has been named to the Top 50 best Catholic high schools in the U.S. list four times since 2004. Eighty-five percent of the 53 Class of 2010 members were offered college scholarships totaling \$5.5 million. That equals an average of over \$100,000 in offered college scholarships per graduate.

*Photograph outline:*

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