



Press Release

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St. Cecilia Academy joins Online School for Girls

St. Cecilia Academy has joined the Online School for Girls – created by a consortium of nationally recognized girls' schools – and will begin offering courses for SCA students online this coming fall.

Membership opens up the St. Cecilia Academy curriculum offerings, especially to students working on high-level courses. It will give students the opportunity to take classes even if only one student at SCA is enrolled. The SCA curriculum guide for 2011-2012 offers students 101 courses to choose from, including 28 Advanced Placement and honors courses. Three courses will be offered through this new online format.

The Online School for Girls was created in June of 2009 by teachers and administrators from four independent girls' schools across the United States. All being relatively small, single-sex education institutions, these schools all shared the same desire to offer more courses to their students. They also all experienced the same challenges of being able to offer such specialized classes as multivariable calculus and introduction to computer programming for just one or two students. The idea behind the Online School for Girls is to pool the resources of the member schools so that they can offer such courses online, sharing faculty and students with each other.

Since 2009, the Online School for Girls has grown from four schools to 38 schools from coast to coast, and from 16 students to over 80 students. The Online School for Girls “believes that online education presents incredible opportunities for girls to learn from and work with girls around the world, to engage in coursework not otherwise available, and to create greater flexibility for students in their daily life.”

“The exponential growth of the Online School for Girls indicates that schools and families are impressed with the high quality of education our students are receiving,” said Brad Rathgeber, president of the Online School for Girls. “A number of features distinguish the Online School for Girls from other online school programs. Our class sizes are small, averaging 20 or fewer students per class. Our teachers are experts in their discipline, experts in teaching girls, and come from top girls’ schools from the across the country. Our high quality curriculum combines four important aspects of learning: collaboration, creativity, connection, and real-world application.”

“At times we have one or two students who would benefit from a particular upper level course, such as multivariable calculus. The Online School for Girls allows us to provide the courses they need right here in our building,” said St. Cecilia Academy Principal Sister Mary Thomas, O.P.

St. Cecilia Academy students now have the option of taking AP Statistics, Multivariable Calculus and Differential Equations in the fall through the Online School for Girls. The courses will count toward their credits for graduation. St. Cecilia Academy’s Parents Association designated the Online School for Girls project as the beneficiary of this year’s annual Songwriters’ Night (Feb. 5) proceeds. This allowed SCA to join the organization and, in turn, expand its curriculum for the fall.

St. Cecilia Academy is Nashville’s oldest private high school founded in 1860 by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation. The Academy has been named to the Top 50 best Catholic high schools in the U.S. list five 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.

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Online School for Girls
Communication, Collaboration, Application and Creativity