



Press Release

For more information contact
Barbara Esteves-Moore
298-4525, ext. 272 or
estevesmooreb@dominicancampus.org

St. Cecilia Academy begins new year

St. Cecilia Academy launches into the academic year Thursday with an exciting new online program in place for students.

For the first time in the school's history girls will have a chance to take classes online through the Online School for Girls, created by a consortium of nationally recognized girls' schools. Three courses are being offered this year through the program. A new room off the library was set up this summer complete with all the requisite technology for girls to use when enrolled in an Online School for Girls course.

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.

After a successful year last year with the new morning bus transportation partnership with Montgomery Bell Academy, St. Cecilia Academy will be offering three bus routes this year for students. These routes will pick up in Murfreesboro, Antioch, Brentwood, Franklin, Lebanon, Mt. Juliet and Hermitage and drop off at St. Cecilia each morning.

Four new faculty members join the St. Cecilia community this year: Megan Caughron, PhD, will be teaching in the English department; Mrs. Sarah Nunan Marvel, a St. Cecilia alum who graduated in 2003, will be teaching in the history department; and Sister Mary Davyd, O.P., and Sister Mary Agnes, O.P., will both be teaching religion. A total of eight Dominican sisters teach at St. Cecilia Academy in various academic departments. The new teachers join an established faculty, 70% of whom hold advanced degrees and 20% of whom hold doctorate degrees.

During last year's 150th anniversary celebrations, three new endowed scholarships were established to help the school provide tuition assistance. A total of 45% of the student body receives some form of tuition assistance totaling more than \$710,000.

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. Ninety-one percent of the Class of 2011 was offered college scholarships totaling \$7.2 million.

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