



Press Release

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St. Cecilia Academy students shine in AP program

81% of the St. Cecilia Academy Class of 2011 took an Advanced Placement exam this year and 43% were recognized as AP scholars. 87% of all St. Cecilia students who took an AP exam scored a 3 or higher (out of a possible 5).

“We aim to help every girl maximize her academic potential. That looks different for every girl. We do not try to have every student take an Advanced Placement class during her four years at SCA, but 81% of last year’s senior class believed they could do college level work ... and they did. That feels great for any educator and school,” said St. Cecilia Academy Principal Sister Mary Thomas, O.P.

St. Cecilia Academy students achieved a mean score of 4.0 in AP Biology as compared to the Tennessee state mean score of 2.61 and global score of 2.70. SCA students’ mean score in AP Calculus AB was a 3.62, while the state mean was a 2.68 and the global score was a 2.82. SCA AP Chemistry students scored a mean of 3.33, while the Tennessee mean score was a 2.61 and the global score was a 2.77.

In addition to the higher than average performance in the Advanced Placement program, St. Cecilia students perform five to eight points higher on the ACT college entrance exam in English, mathematics, reading and science as compared to the Tennessee average.

A recent letter from College Board stated that the number one indicator for college readiness is proficiency in writing. 100% of St. Cecilia students score on the ACT at the college readiness level in reading.

“It is apparent our students are prepared, feel capable, and perform well in college level courses and college entrance exams,” said St. Cecilia Academic Counselor Becky Simon.

“The addition of the Online School for Girls this year allows St. Cecilia students to further explore and excel in a broad range of college level courses,” Mrs. Simon added.

St. Cecilia Academy launched the Online School for Girls (OSG) this month. Courses being offered through this new online format are: AP Statistics, Multivariable Calculus, Differential Equations and AP Government.

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.”

The Online School for Girls was created in June of 2009 by teachers and administrators from four independent girls' schools across the United States. St. Cecilia Academy joined the organization in order to expand its offerings to students, especially higher-level courses. 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.

St. Cecilia Academy is Nashville’s oldest private high school, founded in 1860 by the Dominican Sisters of the St. Cecilia Congregation. The Academy has been named to Top 50 best Catholic high schools in the U.S. list five times since 2004. Ninety-one percent of the Class of 2011 earned college scholarships totaling \$7.2 million.

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