



Press Release

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St. Cecilia Academy forensics coach recognized by National Forensics League

St. Cecilia Academy's drama teacher and forensics coach, Cathie Correia Stamps, has received national recognition from the National Forensic League (NFL). Mrs. Stamps is a recipient of a second diamond degree of membership due to her ongoing success as an NFL member coach. With the teams under her guidance earning over 30,510 credit points in forensic tournaments, she has attained 3,051 points in her career.

Mrs. Stamps previously received an NFL pin when she first passed the 1,500 point level. The second diamond recognition is based on Mrs. Stamps surpassing the 3,000 mark as of March 1, 2010. Mrs. Stamps will receive her national recognition in June 2010 at the Lincoln Financial Group/NFL National Speech and Debate Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri.

National Forensics League, with over 93,000 students and 7,000 teacher members, is a not-for-profit educational honor society that has been established to encourage and motivate high school students to participate and become proficient in the forensic arts.

Mrs. Stamps has served as forensics coach, drama teacher, and dramatic production director at SCA since 1988. In 2009, she was inducted into the Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League (THSSDL) Hall of Fame. In 2006, she won the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools' Hubert Smothers education award and was a nominee of the Disney Teacher Award.

In 2007, Mrs. Stamps directed St. Cecilia Academy's production of *Beauty and the Beast* which was named best high school musical in Tennessee by *USAWeekend*. She is also a member of Pull-Tight Theater's Hall of Fame in Franklin. Mrs. Stamps studied speech, English and theater at State University of New York at Fredonia.

The SCA forensics team under her guidance has turned in consistently strong tournament performances. Most recently, senior Kendra Schulz captured the THSSDL state championship in solo acting in 2009. In the March 2010 THSSDL District Qualifier Tournament, the SCA forensics team won the traveling trophy for most accumulated points for this past year.

SCA senior Catherine Louk, who portrayed Snoopy in the recent school production of *Snoopy! The Musical*, has loved her years as a part of the forensics team and the theater

department. She will miss the family Mrs. Stamps has built at St. Cecilia Academy. “[This] is the last time I will get to walk across the SCA stage...I am so honored and blessed to have worked with so many beautiful, talented people.”

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 the Top 50 best Catholic high schools in the U.S. list four times since 2004. Seventy-eight percent of the Class of 2009 earned college scholarships totaling \$4.6 million. Five St. Cecilia Academy students—9% of the senior class—have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program for high scores on the PSAT for 2009.