Dear St. Cecilia Family,

The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation, who own and operate St. Cecilia Academy (SCA) and Overbook School (OS), are excited to announce that after a thorough process incorporating both our recent strategic planning work with the Institute for School and Parish Development (ISPD) and a feasibility study with Catholic School Management that was conducted last spring, we will launch a new chapter for the schools of the Dominican Campus beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.

The junior high program will move to St. Cecilia Academy, with SCA becoming a 7th-12th grade all-girls school and Overbrook School becoming a preschool-6th grade co-ed school.

This move brings clarity to a known challenge, strengthens both schools and allows us to continue to build upon our reputation of excellence in academics and strong Catholic identity in a way that highlights the Dominican Difference even more intentionally.

This decision was made, first and foremost, so that both schools can flourish more fully in their mission to our students and families. We cannot overstate the amount of study, data, thought and prayer that has gone into this decision.

We reviewed 25 years of enrollment and current demographic data and conducted an extensive junior high study that surveyed hundreds of parents, faculty and staff, alums, parents of alums as well as members of the diocese and both parochial and independent schools around the city. The data collected was straightforward, leading us to decide this will be the best possible path for students and families in our community as we look to the future of SCA and OS.

Seeking input from our community will not end here. While the essential decision about the future direction has been made, we will be asking our talented faculty and staff to offer their best wisdom to assure a seamless transition and effective collaboration between both schools. In the following weeks and months, we will communicate regularly with our community about our progress.

We are confident that this bold move will build on the already excellent work of both SCA and OS, uniquely positioning each school to address more deeply the spiritual, academic, moral, and social-emotional formation of our students.

Now, two unique offerings will be available on the Dominican Campus for the Nashville community: the only Catholic preschool-6th co-ed elementary school and the only Catholic junior high and high school for young women, both rooted in the Dominican Difference.

We thank God for bringing us to this moment and we celebrate the exciting task that is before us. Please join us in prayer that this decision will bear good fruit in the souls of many children and young people for generations to come.

Sincerely in Christ,
Sister Anna Laura