Det St. Cecilia Academy Community,

Greetings in Christ! These beginning weeks at St. Cecilia Academy have been marked by a joyful energy as we launch a new school year. We have hosted a parent back-to-school night, parent socials, alma mater kick-off events and a school-wide college fair. Golf, soccer, volleyball and cross country are in the midst of busy seasons with some notable big wins, and today was the end of another successful Freshman-Senior Week.

St. Cecilia girls apply themselves with signature diligence and a spirit of inquiry to their academics, and we are always delighted when their gifts receive broader recognition. Three of our seniors have been recognized as National Merit Semifinalists – Anna Huber, Isabel Leonard and Ellie Rodgers – while another senior, Elle Hill Crouch, has been named a National Merit Commended Scholar. We applaud these young women for their superior performance on the PSAT, a feat that also qualifies them to compete with other top students across the nation for scholarships.

We are happy to report that the renovation of the current St. Cecilia Academy chapel is progressing as planned. The original space is being renovated to create a proper sanctuary, accentuated by a raised cathedral ceiling and new lighting and decor. Everything is on schedule for us to occupy this new house for Our Lord by St. Cecilia Day!

Additionally, we want to keep you updated on the status of our strategic growth plan as we prepare for St. Cecilia Academy to add 7th and 8th grades in 2022-2023 and Overbrook School to focus on its preschool-4th grade program.

As you know, the strategic growth plan was finalized last December and approved by the St. Cecilia Congregation. You may find a digital copy of the plan HERE. The first initiative of each school’s strategic plan was to formally study the 7th and 8th grades to create a thriving junior high program on The Dominican Campus. After an intensive study conducted last spring, we announced the launch of a new chapter for the Dominican Campus beginning in the 2022-23 school year on August 5. Overbrook School will become a preschool-8th grade co-ed school, while the junior high program will move to St. Cecilia Academy, with SCA becoming a 7th-12th grade all-girls school.

Strategic growth plan implementation teams have been organized in areas of academic and student life programming at each school, as well as shared committees for organizational structure, facilities, marketing and admissions. Thanks to the dedication and energy of our talented faculty and lay advisors, an impressive amount of work has been accomplished in the weeks since school began.

Since our announcement in August, Overbrook has outlined plans for how the 7th, 8th and 9th grades will be celebrated in their first year at the school. There will be special opportunities throughout the year that are tailored to each grade, including class retreats, class trips and unique end-of-year celebrations. Each of the three classes will have their own graduation and will participate in the unique end-of-year celebrations.

In this dynamic process where so much good is happening, we encourage you to stay updated with our progress as we share more details about the tremendous planning, making it an exciting time to be on The Dominican Campus. We thank God for His constant blessings and count you among them.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Anna Laura, O.P.
Principal

For St. Cecilia Academy, You may find a digital copy of the plan HERE.

January 2022 – A plan for repurposing OS space and more detailed future 8th-grade program.
Spring 2022 – Revised mission statement and graduate profile.

For St. Cecilia Academy, we are pleased to report robust initial interest from families about the 7th and 8th-grade experience that will launch in 2022-2023. While Overbrook will share more details next month, families in their next school choice. Faculty and staff are developing the unique 6th grade co-ed school that focuses on its preschool-6th grade program.

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