November 5, 2021

Dear Parents, Students, and Friends of St. Cecilia,

As I look back at the calendar for past month, my heart is of full of gratitude for the Lord’s many blessings. Special gifts include hosting the Duc In Altum national conference at SCA, welcoming Jill Bader Thompson ’01 and former Director of Admissions Betty Bader to the Admissions Office, sending off our cross country team to the State Championships this morning, and delighting in the theater production of Anne of Green Gables this weekend.

I am particularly grateful for the Junior High Implementation committee members, as they steadily work toward key benchmarks, and I wanted to give you an update on their progress.

As previously announced, St. Cecilia Academy Junior High will offer our students a robust academic, athletic, and fine arts curriculum. You can read more of our course descriptions here.

We are especially excited about the development of our Art of Living curriculum, a two-year course that will span both 7th and 8th grades and will be a signature feature of the St. Cecilia Academy Junior High. The Art of Living class is aimed at providing a human, emotional, and intellectual formation so that junior high girls can flourish on a path toward true happiness. Students will be taught social skills, an understanding of the emotions and how to work with them, life skills and strategies for balancing the demands of life, organizational and study skills, how to grow in virtue and in friendship with others, healthy habits, and true happiness – all tailored for a girl in junior high.

Because the developmental needs of junior high and high school students are different, the St. Cecilia Academy Junior High will have its own home in a newly renovated space separate from the 9th – 12th grade students. Junior High classrooms and facilities will be located adjacent to the current school library, with an exclusive outdoor courtyard and gathering space as well as a private entrance that is separate from the High School. We are currently working with an architect and contractor on the details of this renovation plan.

At our Open House from 2:00-4:00 p.m. tomorrow, we’ll be sharing with prospective parents the latest updates on our Junior High Program which are also attached here.

Finally, I am pleased to announce the establishment of two new endowed scholarships totaling $1.5 million that will provide tuition assistance to multiple girls in grades 7-12 starting in 2022-2023.

- The Mother Frances Walsh Scholarship: Mother Frances Walsh was one of the four foundresses of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation. She was a pivotal figure in the establishment and early history of St. Cecilia Academy and firmly dedicated to excellent Catholic education for young women.
- The Saint Margaret of Hungary Endowed Scholarship: St. Margaret of Hungary was an early Dominican who showed her love for Christ in overflowing charity and quiet acts of service to her neighbor.

We thank the good Lord for you and all of our friends in helping SCA thrive. God bless you!

Sincerely,

Sister Anna Laura, O.P.
Principal