St. Teresa's Academy

Starbeams

Color Walk
Stars Walk of Fame
Educating the whole
Young woman
Graduation class of 2013

JUNE 2013
In early 2012, members of the STA board of directors collaborated on a strategic plan to define the course of the school over the next five years. One of the plan’s primary initiatives was to develop student wellness and support systems, including proactive measures for addressing a student’s emotional and physical wellness; better ways to organize a student’s day, including optimal class time and the scheduling of extracurricular activities; and the development of a professional career mentoring program.

The Bistro Kids healthy lunch program was implemented at the start of the 2012-13 school year to offer students healthy, tasty, and whenever possible, locally grown foods. By educating students of the importance of eating fresh, healthy foods through example, the school hopes to empower students to make better food choices.

The inaugural Stars Walk-of-Fame and Color Walk was held in April of this year. Students walked one mile to raise funds to support the school’s health and wellness initiatives. The walk-a-thon and color run was enthusiastically embraced by students and considered a resounding success. Planning for next year’s event is already underway.

A wellness survey was developed and issued to students through Moodle, the school’s internal online communication application. The results of the survey will be used to determine topics for guest speakers and future educational programs for students.

**AT ST. TERESA’S,** education is more than a comprehensive curriculum. It is also the essential nurturing of the body, mind, and spirit. This past year, the Academy introduced new health and wellness initiatives for students and staff, designed to develop positive, life-long habits for enhancing both the emotional and physical health of our community.

**educating the whole young woman**

**healthy minds and bodies**
A student’s emotional wellness at school can often be tied to involvement with friends and activities. The more a student is actively engaged, the happier and more successful she will be. St. Teresa’s is working to increase the number of avenues for student involvement, including participation in music, theatre, Campus Ministry, and athletic programs. The Athletic Department is committed to offering freshman teams of varying skill levels to allow all interested students an opportunity to play their first year.

Inherent in the school’s advisory program is one of the best educational practices underway. Students from all grade levels meet as a “family” multiple times a day to celebrate holidays, pray, and connect on a personal level. Advisors have the luxury of really getting to know their students, allowing for greater ownership in each student’s success.

A CyberBully Hotline was introduced to allow students a way to report bullying in an anonymous and secure manner.

The school is also in the process of creating a Junior Board consisting of younger, active STA alums. The concept, which mirrors the primary board of directors, provides additional advantages to the school, including fresh perspectives on key issues; greater access to a motivated pool of alums interested in volunteerism; and new leadership opportunities for alums wanting to become more involved on all levels at STA.

TINA MEIER, founder of the Megan Meier Foundation, related her daughter’s experience with bullying and cyber bullying, bringing awareness, education, and the prospect of positive change to this continuing concern.

THE OUTRAGE, a student theatre production, focused on the prevention of teen dating violence and sexual assault.

FINDING KIND, an internationally recognized documentary and school program, is based upon the powerful belief in kindness. It is designed to bring awareness and healing to the negative effects of “girl-against-girl” crime.

AMANDA JOHNSON, PERSONAL COUNSELOR, sits on the Student Wellness Committee, a subcommittee of the board of directors. This committee is charged with fulfilling the wellness goals defined by the school’s strategic plan. An outcome of these goals included guest speakers and activities surrounding our students’ emotional wellness.

well life at work

Through a partnership with Carondelet Health, St. Teresa’s becomes the first school to coordinate with Well Life at Work, a company providing comprehensive wellness solutions to improve the overall health of a community.

ELECTIVE BIOMETRIC ASSESSMENTS were recently conducted on faculty members. Data gathered included height, weight, BMI (body mass index), waist circumference, body fat, blood pressure, and total cholesterol. The confidential assessments and resulting health recommendations were shared with each person in an effort to establish healthier habits, including information on diet, exercise, effective management of stress and decreasing unhealthy behaviors.

Future plans include the establishment of faculty/staff wellness goals and the consideration of student biometric assessments.
WE WERE SO EXCITED to introduce a new fundraising event this past April to support the school's health and wellness initiatives. The Stars Walk-of-Fame and Color Walk kicked-off with great success. I am so proud of our student leadership council who helped plan the walk-a-thon, along with our entire student body. In typical fashion, they rallied to support their school and found ways to have fun while doing so. Thanks also to our outstanding event co-chairs and parents, Julie Zanone and Holly Beineman, for their tremendous efforts toward launching this new event.

As many of you know, education is my passion. And I am so excited about the new e-mentoring program to be introduced next year. This career-mentoring program will offer juniors and seniors an opportunity to communicate with STA alums who are currently active in the workforce. Students can learn, first-hand, what a career entails and whether (or not) it may be of interest as they choose their college and define their career path. This program is just one more way STA maintains its status as a college preparatory institution and works to stay one step ahead in education.

ALUMNA KATHY (CLARKSON) BRODIE will join the faculty this fall as the new Director of Leadership and Learning. Kathy comes to STA with a passion for education and broad, indepth experience as a teacher and counselor. Her first responsibility will be to introduce an e-mentoring program. This program will be designed to give students, specifically juniors and seniors, first-hand knowledge of career options by connecting them with STA alums willing to share their work-related insight and knowledge.

“As a college prep school, it’s only natural for St. Teresa’s to offer this kind of program to students,” says Nan Bone, president. “100% of the Class of 2013 has gone on to a four-year college or university. These girls are education minded and career oriented. The e-mentoring program will enable them to better define their college plan and shorten their time determining their career path.”

Kathy’s goal is to help interested students explore various career fields and give them clear expectations regarding what to anticipate when they leave the classroom. The program will offer students an opportunity to learn about careers within their areas of interest. Just as importantly, a student may learn that her career of choice no longer fits her interests or lifestyle goals.

Kathy will also be working with the Guidance Department assisting teachers and students with learning strategies and solutions.

ALUMS INTERESTED IN SHARING THEIR CAREER EXPERIENCE WITH CURRENT STUDENTS MAY SOON APPLY ONLINE. LOOK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION TO ARRIVE VIA EMAIL LATER THIS SUMMER.
As we begin the journey toward our 150th anniversary in the year 2016, we reflect on the individuals and experiences along the way that define St. Teresa’s Academy today. As the oldest school in Kansas City, we have many stories to tell and so much history to share. In each issue of Starbeams, we will highlight an aspect of our legacy or a memory of an alum that offers a glimpse into our past or an indication of our future.

1916 - 1926

“Original Quality Hill Campus Razed”

An excerpt from The Kansas City Star, August 13, 1916

Fifty years—half of a century—how long a time it seems in rough, round numbers! The writer, who was a pupil at the old St. Teresa’s Academy at Eleventh and Washington Streets, stood the other day and watched the workmen, in a haze of mortar and brick dust, busily engaged in removing brick after brick after stone in the labor of razing one of the historic structures of Kansas City, and fifty years ago, the date of its foundation, seemed only yesterday, as the memories associated with the old structure were renewed with a vividness.

The early days of the history of St. Teresa’s Academy, from 1866 – 1875 were, in a way, the days of romance. An intimate connection was established between St. Teresa's Academy and the early freighters over the Santa Fe Trail by reason of the fact that they were accustomed to leave their daughters for safekeeping and for advancement in culture within the convent walls, as it would sometimes be many months, and in some instances, years before they would be reunited.
spotlight on alums

1986 & 1998
LUCY MCSHANE ('98) AND MAUREEN BRADY ('86) opened the law firm of McShane & Brady in April, 2013. They practice in the areas of personal injury, truck litigation, medical malpractice, and criminal defense.

LIBBY WHITAKER CESSOR gave birth to Margaret Elizabeth “Ellie” Cessor on May 7, 2013.

1995
ALICIA MARIE STASIBAILEY is excited and very proud to announce the STA tradition has continued within her family. She is the mother of four with her oldest daughter, Elaina Elizabeth, now a freshman at STA. Elaina made first honors and played both volleyball and softball her first year. She loves every minute of STA...just like her mom! Two sisters will soon follow.

2002
SARAH GOLDEN AYLWARD is the marketing manager for the Kellogg Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative within the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern. She is in charge of social media, web content, video production, graphic design, etc. The Entrepreneurship Initiative is comprised of five different centers that help students and alums create new business ventures.

2005
ELIZABETH ROGERS graduated with a master’s degree in Early Intervention in Deaf Education from Fontbonne University in St. Louis in 2011. She is now in her second year of teaching at the only auditory-oral school for the deaf in Minnesota. Elizabeth teaches preschoolers who are deaf and have cochlear implants and/or hearing aids to listen and talk without the use of sign language. If it hadn’t been for her senior service project at STA, she would not be in this field.

2009
BRYNNE LEE graduated from Boston College in 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in English and a minor in History and International Studies. She currently works in the corporate division of an economic and financial litigation firm in downtown Boston pursuing a career in business and marketing.

2012
JENNIFER BLAKE has been selected by Baker University to the 2012-2013 Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. This selection is based on her GPA, campus involvement, and leadership skills, as well as her personification of Baker’s mission and vision.

IN MEMORIAM
Helen Dierks Neenan, 1939
Jean Malsie Greenberger, 1947
Carolyn Standish Ramm, 1949
Barcia Hutchings Miller, 1950
Janey Tallman Lyons, 1958
Janet Meyer Miller, 1965
Mary Carol "Carol" Paradise Koke, 1968
Carolyn Saladino Accurso, 1990
STA’S THIRD ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT, held in February, was a huge success and a sold-out event! Creativity was flowing as participants came dressed as their favorite Saturday Night Live character. Many thanks to all who attended. Proceeds from the night benefited the Alumnae Scholarship Fund.

Don’t miss out on the fun next year; **mark your calendar for February 22, 2014.** To view more photos of the event go to: facebook.com/stteresasacademy.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Alumnae Reunion Celebration**

**Saturday, October 5, 2013**

Celebration of Mass at 4:30 p.m. in the M&A Auditorium

Presentation of the Annual Distinguished Alumnae Award

Buffet and cocktails to follow in the Commons

Tours of the beautiful campus

$35 per person

Honoring the reunion classes of:


With special recognition to the 50 Year Class of 1963

Questions? Contact Kathleen Barry, alumnae director, at kbarry@stteresasacademy.org or 816.501.0023.
ELLY CRAWFORD FRIENDLY, Class of 1988, was named STA’s Distinguished Alumna for 2013. She will be honored at the Alumnae Reunion Celebration to be held at St. Teresa’s on Saturday, October 5.

Kelly’s career is an incredible journey that is highlighted by service within the highest levels of the U.S. government, work within the business sector, and volunteerism within her community. After graduating from American University in Washington, D.C., Kelly worked on the National Advance Staff for President Clinton’s 1992 presidential campaign. She went on to be one of five people on President Clinton’s immediate staff. During that time, she was honored to meet such world leaders as Nelson Mandela and Pope John Paul II. She met her husband, Andrew, on that staff as well.

In 2000, Kelly and her husband moved to California where she worked in venture capital communications. Her two daughters, Catherine and Caroline, were born there. She and her family later moved to Boston, where Kelly began working with a biotech venture capital firm as the director of marketing. She is currently working at the Harvard Kennedy School as a communications advisor.

Kelly is active in her community of Wellesley, Massachusetts. She was elected a Town Meeting Member in 2013 and is a board member of the Friends of Wellesley METCO, Inc., a state-funded program designed to reduce racial imbalance within the public school system. She is also very involved with her daughters’ school and activities.

“The education, friendships, and faith I developed at St. Teresa’s are the foundation that has given me confidence, curiosity, and a willingness to seize great opportunities...”
EVERY SPRING WE HAVE THE PLEASURE of celebrating the grandmothers in our lives. This year was no exception as St. Teresa’s grandmothers met in the Goppert gymnasium for a light lunch and tea in April. More than 600 grandmothers, students, and friends of the Academy gathered to enjoy the beautiful day and listen to the talented STA choir. Thanks to Colleen O’Sullivan Bauman and Kathleen Meagher Rusgis who chaired this event and the many volunteers who helped make the afternoon so enjoyable.
THE INSPIRING WOMEN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN has enabled St. Teresa’s to remain at the forefront of excellence in education and 21st century learning by supporting four main initiatives: the construction of the Windmoor Center, containing the Chapel of St. Joseph and four high-tech classrooms; enhancements to technology; increased endowment; and the renovation of the Music and Arts Auditorium. Alumnae classes with 20% participation in the campaign have a personalized brick in the walkway leading to the Windmoor Center.

The McDonnell Family Sports Complex, featuring the Coppinger Family Track and the Kevin Gray Field, enhances the STA athletic program and promotes the health and wellness of all students.

Consider purchasing a personalized gold star for $500 on the fence surrounding the track and field. Your gift or pledge will help ensure St. Teresa’s remains the high school of choice for young women in the Kansas City area.

Please consider a gift or pledge to these continuing campaigns

Contact Mary Beth Compton at mcompton@stteresasacademy.org or 816.501.0031.
O NE OF THE MOST SPECIAL NIGHTS of celebration at STA is Scholarship Night held in April. On this evening, sponsors of STA scholarships have the opportunity to personally meet and visit with their student scholarship recipient. Well over 150 scholarships, totaling over $300,000, are distributed to students of all grade levels.

“I loved to visit with Merrill. He had a true passion and understanding for education. He supported and encouraged so many young women at St. Teresa’s Academy and will be dearly missed.”

_Nan Bone, president_

**a truly special evening**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for Saturday, November 23, 2013, when STA will hold its largest fundraising event, the annual auction. This black-tie optional event raises over $400,000 for the school.

2013 Auction Chairs: (l to r) Joe and Lena Runyan, Amy and Jim Sullivan, Lynn and Jay Reardon
The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet are on a continual journey that moves them towards profound love of God and love of the dear neighbor without distinction. In each edition of Starbeams, we feature a St. Teresa's graduate who exemplifies her journey toward love of the dear neighbor.

serving the dear neighbor

AM A TEACHER in one of the most amazing cities in the country, as well as one of the most dangerous ones for school children: Chicago. After watching the second plane hit the towers of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, I grabbed a bag filled with school supplies and headed back to school for my first day of graduate school. It was a brand new world in every sense.

I chose to stay in the Chicago suburbs and teach. I'm a city kid. While growing up, my parents were a working class family. I may not have had the right shoes or purse, but the one thing that was non-negotiable was my education. My parents worked tirelessly and sacrificed many things to ensure that I had the very best education possible, which happened to be Catholic school education. It is because of my incredible experiences in education that I strive to give my kids, regardless of living situation, socioeconomic status, or intellectual capacity a world class education.

Being an educator is not something you become, it is something you are born into. I am lucky to teach at a great Chicago public school with an incredibly supportive community. They allow me to create unorthodox lessons and experiences to bring learning to my students on a personal, intimate level. I have maximized community and civic partnerships to bring unique, one-of-a-kind, real-world experiences to my kids. All of these activities have led me to winning humbling awards, such as the 2011 Freida Riley National Excellence in Teaching Award and the 2011 DePaul University's Alumni of the Year.

"Miss Vincent...you make us love learning and make us want to be better people. Thank you for being awesome!" This is why I get up and go to work every day...because my kids make me want to be a better teacher.

Jenny Vincent
Class of 1988

Jenny Vincent (center in red)
JOIN US AS WE TOUR BEAUTIFUL IRELAND highlighted by stops in Dublin, Kilkenny, Kilarney, Galway, and Shannon. Visits to Powerscourt Estate, Glendalough Monastery, Kilkenny Castle, the Ring of Kerry, Bunratty Castle, the Aran Island, and the Cliffs of Moher, among others, will surely take your breath away.

More information, including costs and detailed itinerary, will arrive later this summer.

For more information on the Tour of Ireland, or to be placed on a mailing list, email Kathleen Barry at kbarry@stteresasacademy.org.

connect the stars new england

ST. TERESA’S CONTINUED ITS EFFORTS toward linking alumnae nationwide with a recent visit to Wellesley, Massachusetts. On April 4, Nan Bone, president; Mary Beth Compton, executive director of development; and Kathleen Barry, alumnae director, had the wonderful privilege of connecting with STA alums from the New England area. Thanks to Kelly Crawford Friendly, Class of 1988, and Lynne Brady Wagner, Class of 1985, for hosting the event. It was an amazing evening and wonderful opportunity to reconnect with so many talented and interesting alums. Stay tuned for the next Connect the Stars event to be planned in the San Jose, California, area.
The 14th Annual STA Golf Classic was held on May 6 at the Leawood South Country Club. 136 golfing enthusiasts, including parents, alums, and friends of the Academy enjoyed a day of golfing fun as well as delicious grilled Italian sausages provided by Garozzo’s Ristorante. Following the round of golf, prizes were awarded at a luncheon catered by Los Tules Mexican Restaurant. Many thanks to all who made this event so successful. Mark your calendars for next year’s tournament on May 5, 2014.
celebrating leadership in service

T HE MOTHER EVELYN O’NEILL Leadership in Service Awards were announced in early March to an all-school assembly. The award recognizes individuals who display extraordinary service to the dear neighbor. Honored were two recipients, Albertine McGurk and STA senior Carrie Hudson.

ALBERTINE’S LIFE HAS been dedicated to serving others. For thirty-one years, she has been a member of the Ladies of Charity of Metropolitan Kansas City, an organization devoted to volunteerism and financial assistance to low income, sick, and disadvantaged individuals. She is involved with the organization on a national level as well.

CARRIE SUPPORTS Children’s Mercy Hospital and is active with Just Like You Films, a nonprofit film production company whose mission is to facilitate children’s physical and emotional healing through an environment of acceptance. Carrie has worked with Just Like You Films on numerous occasions, and is featured in Cancer as Told by Three Children.

mission week supports service agencies

STUDENTS AND FACULTY ALIKE participated in Mission Week in late January to raise funds for two local organizations, the Sherwood Center and The Upper Room. Students had fun dressing in costume, battling teachers in board games, purchasing creative silent auction items, and joining in the largest game of musical chairs ever seen at STA!
Kathy McCarty retires

“IT’S BEEN SUCH A PRIVILEGE TO WORK AT ST. TERESA’S ACADEMY—SUCH AN EMPOWERING PLACE TO BE, NOT ONLY FOR THE YOUNG WOMEN OF THIS SCHOOL, BUT FOR ME AS WELL.”

Kathy McCartney will retire from STA at the end of this school year and she will be dearly missed. Kathy began her long career here in 1970 after graduating from Avila College. The first course she taught was Design in Retail, a business class that collaborated with the Art Department (so very progressive!). She left education in 1980 for a stint in the business world and then returned to STA seven years later. Sr. Barbara, then president of St. Teresa’s, was poised to introduce computer courses to the curriculum. Kathy began working on some of the first Apple computers on campus and has been connected to teaching technology-related courses ever since. Congratulations on an incredible 36-year journey at STA, Kathy. We wish you the best in your retirement.
Congratulations to Elaine Schmidt (left) who was named the 2013 Academy Woman. The award recognizes a senior who possesses the finest personal qualities and characteristics of an STA student, including leadership, loyalty, responsibility, and cooperation. Jane Evans and Holly Fielder were also honored as Academy Woman nominees. These three special young women were nominated and chosen by the STA faculty, staff, and student body.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Stoops, valedictorian (right); and Hannah McCausland, salutatorian. Both were recognized at the STA Honors and Awards Ceremony held in April and were keynote speakers on graduation day.

The Teresian yearbook achieved All-American honors with five marks of distinction, the highest honor from the National Scholastic Press Assoc (NPSA). The DartNewsOnline team received an Online Pacemaker Finalist award by NPSA. Only 50 online newspapers in the country are recognized. And the Dart, STA’s newspaper, earned All-American honors with four marks of distinction from NSPA for overall excellence.
Senior Keira Miller won a National Gold Key Scholastic Art Award for her ceramic sculpture. She is thrilled to be recognized for her work at Carnegie Hall in New York City in late May. Her artwork will be displayed at the Pratt Institute and Parsons School of Design on June 1.

Six seniors signed letters of intent to play collegiate sports: Rebecca Lueke will play basketball at Benedictine College; Janie Thompson will play soccer at Trinity University; Courtney Coppinger will run at the University of Kansas; Lane Maguire will run at the University of Oklahoma; Anna Woolery will play softball at the University of Chicago; and Holli Hogge will play volleyball at Rockhurst University.

Senior Ruby Dibble earned a place on the prestigious Missouri All-State Choir. Only six sopranos from each District are chosen to sing at All-State from a starting pool of 300 students. Ruby sang the only solo in the All-State performance.

Junior Shelby Hawkins scored a perfect 36 on her ACT exam. This is the highest composite score possible and is earned by less than one-tenth of one-percent of all test takers.

Senior Kate Sanders was named a 2013 Missouri Scholars 100, honoring 100 of Missouri’s top academic students in the state.
St. Teresa’s Academy is committed to the education of young women. We are a Catholic, independent, college preparatory high school sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. The Academy is rooted in Christian values and embraces a diverse student body. We promote excellence in education through a challenging curriculum, personal responsibility, and participation in extracurricular activities.

Accredited Since 1923

The Starbeams newsletter features news and information relevant to students, families and alumnae of St. Teresa’s Academy. For more information, contact Kathleen Barry, alumnae director, at 816.501.0023 or starbeams@stteresasacademy.org.

100% OF THE SENIOR CLASS has been accepted to over 150 colleges and universities around the world

88% OF THE SENIOR CLASS has earned one or more merit-based scholarships totaling over $3 million for their freshman year alone

THE SENIOR CLASS AVERAGE ACT score was 26.3 (the national composite average is 21)