Paying It Forward
Alums Find Personal Ways to Give Back

Beth Haden, '02, a lawyer for Brian Cave LLP, is an eMentor to Sinead McGonagle, '15.
It's no secret. And actually, it's quite apparent. As our graduating seniors wrap up the year, their feelings for their school—home for the last four years—are quite clear. Through smiles and tears, they talk about the memories they made and the friends they call "sisters."

For so many alums today, thoughts of STA bring to mind a special time in their lives. In many ways, St. Teresa's has had a profound effect on them. Whether it was a dedicated teacher who encouraged and pushed beyond what was expected, or a coach who believed in a student more than the student herself, or just simply the everyday moments that grew into a mountain of memories, St. Teresa's provided the foundation for so many young women to be challenged and to grow into the extraordinary women they are today.

Alums of all ages recognize that many of their special gifts and talents were first realized and grew out of their STA education. These alums are now stepping forward to share their knowledge, experience, and wisdom to current Academy students. Through volunteerism and financial support, they are enriching the lives of today’s young women who follow in their footsteps. There certainly is no better gift they can give.

**eMentoring**

STA's eMentoring program connects professional business women with current STA juniors who are interested in learning more about various careers. Mentors, which include many STA alums, are willing to share insight, professional advice, and encouragement as a way of giving back to their alma mater.

"What I enjoy the most about the eMentoring program is the opportunity to again feel connected with STA and the current students."

~ Beth Haden, eMentor

### Scholarship Night

One of the most special yearly events held at the Academy is Scholarship Night. On this evening, scholarship sponsors have the opportunity to meet and share dinner with their student recipient and her parents. It’s a happy evening for everyone attending as scholarship donors, many of whom are alums or have a special connection to STA, are able to see firsthand the value of their investment. Student recipients are able to view donors as role models and real persons behind the named scholarship. To date, over 100 scholarships totaling nearly $220,000 are distributed on Scholarship Night.

The Neenan sisters, all alums of STA, gathered at Scholarship Night to present the Helen Dierks Neenan Scholarship to Maureen Whittaker (center), Class of 2016. (l to r) Jean Neenan, '69; Kitty Neenan Steed, '64; Peggy Neenan Oades, '68; Mary Neenan, '65; Patty Neenan Aylward, '72; Martha Neenan Franke, '80
women's circle of giving

The Women’s Circle of Giving (WCG) is a group of philanthropic women who offer financial support for needs that lie outside of teachers’ departmental budgets. The WCG, many of whom are alums of the school, is now 82 members strong and growing each year. Nearly $22,500 was raised this past year, with half of the donations directed to the Emergency Fund, which supports STA families in financial crisis.

Items funded this year include student scholarships for Kairos and the Nicaragua mission trip, video production equipment for the Science Department, and wellness classes, including yoga and kick-boxing, to enhance the school’s Intramural program. Previous items have included additional cameras for the yearbook staff, a new kiln for ceramic classes, and a telescope for night sky observation in astronomy class.

(eMentoring, con’t.)

The time commitment is minimal and the value of their contribution is enormous. The program currently engages over 34 women from across the United States and in over 20 different career fields.

Interested in becoming an eMentor at STA? Contact Kathy Brodie at kbrodie@stteresasacademy.org.

board of directors

OFTEN WORKING BEHIND the scenes to enhance and support the school, STA’s board of directors consists of men and women who truly understand the value of an STA education and work with enthusiasm and determination to carry forward the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Members of the board include STA alums who provide important insight and perspective based on their experiences both as former students and as career professionals.

Members of the 2013-14 Board of Directors who are also alums of STA include: (standing l to r): Paula Schweiger Holmquist,’77; Sherry Reiser Boles,’64; Nan Tiehen Bone,’69; Peggy Gramlich Baker,’57; (sitting l to r): Sr. Rose McLeaney, CSJ, graduate of the College of St. Teresa’s, and Sr. Patty Clune,’62

IF YOU HAVE INTEREST IN SUPPORTING ANY OF THE PROGRAMS MENTIONED HERE, PLEASE CONTACT PRESIDENT NAN TIEHEN BONE AT NBONE@STTERESASACADEMY.ORG.
**nan's note**

**I HAD THIS LUMP IN MY THROAT.**

I intended to be strong, but tears were beginning to well in my eyes. Mary Anne, on the other hand, was calm and forthright as she told us she would be retiring at the conclusion of the school year. Diagnosed in October with breast cancer, Mary Anne has been battling the difficult effects of chemotherapy. As she so eloquently said, it is time for her to refocus, take time to heal, listen to her spiritual guides, and enjoy being “in the present.”

“Without fail, every time I have run into Mary Anne, she has a smile on her face. Her warm, caring nature brings a sense of calmness and peace to those she encounters.”

**J im Kissick**  
President, STA Board of Directors

To know Mary Anne is to know she is a very special woman. Through humor, kindness, gentleness, and honed listening skills, she became a trusted friend to all and a counselor to many. Her nonjudgemental and accepting ways enable her to create special relationships with students, faculty, and staff alike, especially those who may be struggling. As principal for student affairs, Mary Anne was truly made for the role...or to say more accurately, she made the role exactly what it should be.

Mary Anne, we love you and will miss you. May you enjoy many, many long years of good health and happiness in your retirement. And always know there is a place for you here at STA whenever you’re ready to come back.

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**HIGH MARKS AND PRAISE WERE AWARDED the school during the AdvancED accreditation process conducted in March.**

Evaluators from the accreditation team gave an emotional summary to faculty and staff regarding areas of excellence, specifically citing the incredible sense of community and support present among students and faculty. They also praised the Passing of the Legacy ceremony whereby seniors welcome and introduce freshmen to the culture and mission of the school.

**Congratulations to the faculty Standards Team Chairs (l to r): Carrie Jacquin, Terry Conner, Jo Weller, Mary Montag, Principal Barb McCormick, Steve Himes, and Katie Dolan. Not pictured: Renee Blake**
The New Grandparents’ Day, which replaced the long-held Grandmothers’ Tea, was expanded this year to include grandfathers as well. Held on Sunday, May 4, St. Teresa’s Academy was host to an enthusiastic group of over 400 students and their grandparents. It was a beautiful day on the STA campus as visitors toured the buildings, enjoyed the many student fine arts displays, and listened to the STA singers perform in the quad. The traditional tea and refreshments were served in the Windmoor Center. Many thanks to all who attended and assisted with the event. 

Mark your calendar for next year, May 3, 2015.

“My parents were so pleased this year [with Grandparents’ Day]. They had a great time and were so happy with the day’s events. Every moment spent with grandparents, both grandmothers and grandfathers, is precious.”

~ Teresa Medina, mother of Maddy Medina, ’16
1986

**JENNIFER OMINSKI BRUSH** was the first woman elected to the office of Mayor for Downs, Kansas, in its 126 year history. Previously, she had been a graphic designer at Brush Art for the past 23 years. She and her husband, Tim, who is president and CEO of Brush Art Corporation, along with their children, Jakob and Savana, have made Downs their home.

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2002

**KATIE BARRY** married Matt Benge on April 25, 2014, at St. Agnes Church in Fairway, Kansas. Their reception followed at Grand Street Café on the Plaza. They are currently living in Prairie Village, Kansas.

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2003

**LAUREN SMITH HONG** recently launched Lauren Olivia & Company, a line of handbags covered in textiles sourced from around the world. "It’s rewarding to grow a business around supporting artisans, small businesses, and partners in Southern California to hand assemble each product,” Lauren said. All handbags are at laurenoliviaco.com.

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2006

**LISA A. PETERSON** is an associate in the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery, LLP, based in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office. She focuses her practice on antitrust and competition matters. Lisa received her J.D., cum laude, from Wake Forest University School of Law where she was the Notes and Comments editor for the Wake Forest Law Review. While in law school, Lisa served as a judicial intern to the Honorable Calvin E. Murphy in the North Carolina Business Court. She received her B.A. in political science with a minor in economics from Northwestern University. Lisa is a member of the Order of the Coif.

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2010

**ANNE MARIE WHITEHEAD** will enter the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin Matara (Servants of the Lord or simply Servidoras), part of the religious family of the Incarnate Word on June 27, 2014. Founded in Argentina, the Servidoras charism is evangelization of the culture, which may take many forms, including pro-life work, teaching, religious education, homes for kids with special needs, nursing homes, orphanages, etc. Anne Marie will be in Maryland for formation at the Kateri Tekakwitha Novitiate house for two years and then the Juniorate house of Studies in Washington, D.C., for two more years. http://ssvmusa.org.

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2011

**CLAIRE VANASDALE** is very involved in campus life at Villanova. She also has had an opportunity to study abroad and travel throughout the world. Morocco was a great place to visit as she enjoyed all means of transportation available to her.

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2013

**RUBY DIBBLE** is the 2014 National Society of Arts and Letters St. Louis Chapter finalist. Her voice entry was selected by the Shirley Rabb Winston Scholarship in Voice Selection Committee to compete in the Shirley Rabb Winston Scholarship in Voice National competition. Good luck to Ruby.

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**MORGAN SAID**, soon-to-be senior in the Journalism School at the University of Kansas, was elected Student Body President. Morgan won in a contentious election as the presidential candidate for the Grow KU party. According to Morgan, her election—paired with the election of a woman vice president—is the first time that women have held the top two Student Senate offices. A former editor-in-chief of the Dart and Missouri Student Journalist of the Year, Morgan also occasionally anchors the daily television show "Good Morning KU."
IN MEMORIAM
Christianne Hauber Chartrand, 1942
Rosemary Strafuss Smith, 1944
Sally Slezak Porter, 1963
Linda Shields Walter, 1966
Terri Hastings LaManno, 1979
Rebecca Lueke, 2013

PATRICIA ANN (WHALEN) DUNLAY, a former STA teacher, passed away on January 8, 2014. Pat taught English, Composition, Literature, Poetry, Women’s Studies, and Shakespeare over her 49 year career, twenty of those years at St. Teresa’s Academy. Pat inspired students and faculty alike. She encouraged and equipped her students to be independent thinkers, and was a model of courage and compassion. The Patricia Ann Dunlay Scholarship was established by family, friends, and students to honor the extraordinary legacy of Pat Dunlay.

SCHOLARSHIPS HONORING PAT DUNLAY AND SR. J OAN TOLLE ARE CURRENTLY BEING FUNDED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE, GO ONLINE (stteresasacademy.org/scholarships) OR MAIL YOUR GIFT DIRECTLY TO THE ACADEMY.

Sr. Joan Tolle, CSJ, will retire in August after 30 years of dedication to her alma mater. Following years of mission work and teaching, she returned to the Academy in 1984 with an interest in computers. Working in the newly opened Computer Resource Learning Center, she began her STA career with “four Radio Shack computers and a promise of ten Apple computers.” In 2011, she participated in the senior class fundraiser, Dancing with the Stars. As the featured rapper, she and her student dance partner garnered many laughs and undoubtedly the grand prize. Sr. Joan will be dearly missed by the students, faculty, and staff of St. Teresa’s Academy. We wish her a wonderful and happy retirement.

J OAN TOLLE, CSJ, WILL RETIRE

ALUMNAE REUNION CELEBRATION
Saturday, October 4, 2014

Celebration of Mass at 4:30 p.m.
Presentations of the Annual Distinguished Alumnae Award
Buffet and Cocktails
Tours of the Beautiful Campus
$35 per person

Honoring the reunion classes of:

With special recognition to the 50 Year Class of 1964

SAVE THE DATE
MARYLYN GERAGHTY DEFEO, Class of 1954, was named STA’s Distinguished Alumna for 2014. She will speak at the Alumnae Reunion Celebration to be held at St. Teresa’s Academy on Saturday, October 4.

In 1984, Marylyn recognized an unmet need within her community at the Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City, Missouri. She saw first-hand the pain and deprivation experienced by members of her own congregation and was inspired to gather resources to meet the needs of the community as a whole. What resulted was the creation of an interfaith social services agency made up of many churches in the community called the Samaritan Center.

The Samaritan Center first began in a small empty classroom in 1987 assisting 15 families with food and clothing. Today, the operation meets the needs of 1,200 families a month, including food, clothing, medical, dental, and legal care, as well as financial aid for the needy of central Missouri. Additional services include cooking and nutrition classes, books for children and their parents, school supplies, electric box fans, and help with any other needs not addressed by other available programs. Marylyn has never received a paycheck as the executive director of the Samaritan Center and describes volunteerism as the lifeblood of the Center. The opportunity to help is as numerous as the needs being met.

“It is not just about hand-outs, but about education, changing life styles, and trying to alter the cycles so many here have trouble escaping.”
The Fourth-Annual Hilariously Fun Trivia Night at STA was a huge success and a once again sold out event. Friends, parents, and alums of the Academy tested their trivia knowledge during the Monopoly-themed evening. Many thanks to all who attended and helped with the event. Proceeds from the evening benefit the Alumnae Scholarship Fund. Don’t miss out on the fun next year; mark your calendar for February 21, 2015.

To view more photos of the event, go to: facebook.com/stteresasacademy.
Staff members, parents, and 21 students from St. Teresa’s Academy traveled to El Salvador, South America, over spring break this past March. Partnering with the Fuller Center for Housing and Homes from the Heart (HFTH), the group worked to provide shelter for people in need and to eliminate substandard housing in El Salvador by constructing latrines, painting churches and schools, and plastering the walls of future homes. They also visited schools, taught English, practiced their own Spanish, played games with the children, and developed friendships with many of the Salvadorans they met. Evenings included relaxing along the beach and enjoying Salvadoran meals.

A SECOND GROUP OF 13 STUDENTS TRAVELED to the Chinandega area of northwest Nicaragua for a week in late May. Led by STA theology instructor, Bobby Tonnies, the service through immersion trip included 13 students and two chaperones. The trip was organized by Amigos for Christ, a faith-based nonprofit group dedicated to serving and inspiring others through volunteerism. Students worked to promote water sanitation, health care, education, and nutrition.

Both trips were incredible experiences for the students and adults involved. They were true role models for the Sisters of St. Joseph’s charism to serve the dear neighbor.
The Stars Walk-of-Fame and Color Throw, held on April 25, surpassed both expectations and first year earnings. The event raised over $40,000 for the school’s Endowment Fund and the Emergency Fund, which provides assistance to families in financial crisis. Over 550 students walked one mile on the track and then joined in a circle on the southwest corner of campus to be doused in colored powder. It was a fun, successful, and very colorful day at STA!

Event co-chairs: Julie Zanone (left) and Holly Beineman

Do you have a sisterhood story and photo to share for a future edition of starbeams? Contact dwilmot@stteresasacademy.org.

HAVING RELOCATED TO TUCSON, Arizona in 1976, I have made regular visits to Kansas City over the years to visit family and friends. One event I always look forward to is a get-together with my STA pals. Whether gathering for a potluck or sharing a meal at a local restaurant, our time together is filled with plenty of "catch up" conversation, local gossip, story swapping, and a healthy dose of laughter. We also communicate throughout the year through emails, Facebook, and birthday cards. Occasionally, some of us have even spent time together in Arizona.

Over the years, I have realized the tremendous value of staying connected with STA friends. These remarkable women help keep me grounded and are truly a gift in a world where relationships are frequently transient.

~ Kelly McLear, ’70

Above (l to r): Kelly McLear, ’70; Chrissa McLear Hoffmeier, ’72; Mary Droll Feighny, ’71; Katy Glynn Terry, ’72; Margie Cartella Keary, ’70; and Kathy Teson (Loretto Academy, ’70)
MARKED THE OFFICIAL GROUND BREAKING ceremony for Donnelly Hall, the second of now four buildings on the Windmoor Campus. Donnelly Hall was to house the College of Saint Teresa, which that year became a four-year college. This was Kansas City’s first and only women’s school for higher learning. The new building offered expanded facilities with more classrooms, science labs, and a cafeteria. Today, Donnelly Hall houses administrative offices and the Art, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics Departments.

In 1940, Archbishop O’Hara presided over the groundbreaking ceremony.

Laying of the cornerstone, February 16, 1941

Mid-construction of Donnelly Hall, 1941

Donnelly Hall today
The Mother Evelyn O’Neill Award, given out each March, recognizes excellence in leadership, community service, or educational reform. This year’s award recipients included Barbara Friedmann, community leader and activist, and STA student Madison Fitzgerald. Barbara has made an impact on thousands of students, parents, nonprofit personnel, and colleagues through her emphasis on collaboration and relationship building. She is currently the Outreach Manager for the Metropolitan Community Colleges Institute for Workforce Innovation.

Madison is actively involved in numerous organizations, including the Youth Volunteer Corps of Greater Kansas City, the Kansas City Community Kitchen, and the Parkville Nature Sanctuary.

STA faculty members nominated 25 sophomores to participate in the annual CSJ Leadership Camp held in late May. The camp is designed to encourage leadership and affect positive change within the community at large.

President Nan Bone with Barbara Friedmann.

STA student nominees were (l to r): Francesca Shilati, Heather Cigas, Erin Farmer, Madison Fitzgerald, and Gracie Fleming.
THE 15TH ANNUAL STA GOLF CLASSIC was held on May 5 at the Country Club of Leawood. 144 golfing enthusiasts including parents, alums, and friends of the Academy enjoyed a beautiful day of golfing 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 our 2014 golf chairs Bob and Laureen Caffarelli and Willie and Kelly Lanier, in addition to the many volunteers who made this event so successful. Mark your calendars for next year’s tournament on May 4, 2015.

For a full picture review of the 2014 STA Golf Classic players, go to stteresasacademy.org/golf.
STA auction 2014

**SAVE THE DATE** for Saturday, November 22, 2014, when St. Teresa's Academy will hold its largest fundraising event, the annual auction. This black-tie optional evening, which includes a gourmet dinner as well as live and silent auctions, raises over $400,000 annually for the school.

2014 Auction Chairs (l to r): Steve and Nancy Kitts, Chris and Julie Thompson, Cecile and Bob Schloegel

The auction raffle winner for 2014 was Carol Sweeney (left) standing with STA President Nan Tiehen Bone.

Kerry Reardon, Mary Leigh Krull, Peggy Reardon, Dave Krull

Chris Peters, Brook Benge, Chip Cornell, Robert McDill

Jane Quarnstrom, Nan Bone, Kathy Carey, Diane Schloegel

Eric Anielak, Terry Madden, Pete Campbell, Andy Crimmins
**EXCELLENCE IN PUBLICATIONS**

The *Teresian* yearbook and the *Dart News Online* were honored with the prestigious **Pacemaker Award from the National Scholastic Press Association**. This award honors excellence in student journalism and is considered the highest national honor in their field. Congratulations to instructor Eric Thomas and the staffs of the *Dart* and *Teresian* for this amazing honor.

Senior **Sara-Jessica Dilks** was recently named the **Missouri Student Journalist of the Year**. One of the co-editors of the *Dart* newspaper, Sara-Jessica has been a *Dart* staff member since her sophomore year. Her work was chosen among portfolios from around Missouri as the best in the state.

**ACADEMY WOMAN NOMINEES**

**Katie Hornbeck** was named **Academy Woman** for 2014. Katie (left), joins nominees **Abbey Haines** (center) and **Emma Allen**. The award recognizes a senior who possesses the finest personal qualities and characteristics of an STA student, including leadership, loyalty, responsibility, and cooperation.

**did you know?**

**EXPERIENCE**

- **Expect**
- **Explore**
- **Experience**
- **Expand**
- **Explain**
STA’s fall theatre production, *Urinetown, the Musical*, recently won a coveted Blue Star Award for Outstanding Ensemble. St. Teresa’s Academy was among six schools to be nominated out of 52 musicals performed throughout the city. Winners were announced at the annual Blue Star Awards Ceremony at Starlight Theatre in May. Congratulations to theatre instructor Shana Prentiss and her amazing cast and crew for this incredible honor.

Congratulations to the STA musicians who recently performed at the State Solo and Ensemble event in Columbia, Missouri. An incredible eleven out of the 20 students received Superior (I) ratings and nine students earned Excellent (II) ratings. Ensembles - Superior I rating: Junior Septet - Anne Nulton, Taran Smith, Maria Flores, Micah Welch, Monica Stanley, Hillary Talken, Kathleen Nicely; Superior II rating - Junior Trio: Madalyn Schulte, Annie Huber, and Lizzie Sanders. Soloists - Superior I rating: Emmie McCabe, Micah Welch, Katherine Viviano, Hillary Talken, and Natalie Rall; Superior II rating: Hayley Burgess, Monica Stanley, Madison Fitzgerald, Chandler Rowley, Lily Cosgrove.

**CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2014**

Service hours performed: 4,050
Average ACT: 27.5
Academic scholarships earned: 85%
Scholarships offered: $3 million for the first year alone
National Merit Commended Scholars: 10
National Merit Finalists: 3
Presidential Scholar: 1
National Hispanic Scholar: 1
NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN FINE ARTS

Laura Dobens (1), Rachel Birchmier (2), and Bailey Whithead (3), were named national winners by the National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition committee for their ceramic art work. The 17th Annual National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition is the premier juried ceramic competition for Kindergarten through Grade 12 students in the United States.

Freshman Sarah Ferron (4) and senior Emily Taylor (5) were named National Gold Key Scholastic Art Award winners. They were recognized at the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Ceremony on June 6 at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Senior Shelby Hawkins was selected as a 2014 Missouri Scholars 100, a statewide program that honors 100 of Missouri’s top academic students in the graduating Class of 2014.
TWELVE STA SENIORS will go on to compete at a collegiate level following graduation: Molly Woolery: lacrosse, Bard College; Maggie Allen: lacrosse, Carthage College; Lindsey Valdiviez: equestrian, Baylor University; Lizzie Luallin: soccer, University of Oklahoma; Mallory Radtke: soccer, Rice University; Cristina DeZeeuw: soccer, Vanderbilt University; Savannah Trujillo: soccer, University of Missouri Columbia; Emily Wemhoff: volleyball, Cornell University; Anna Kropf: volleyball, Duke University; Not pictured: Abbey Haines: volleyball, Pomona College; Angelica Duckworth: soccer, Ft. Lewis College; Katherine Viviano: musical theatre, Millikin University.

The Gatorade Company named STA senior Dorian Bailey as its 2013-14 Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year. The award recognizes outstanding athletic excellence in addition to high academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field. Bailey is also a member of the U-18 U.S. Women’s National Soccer Team.

Junior Madeline Meloy scored a perfect 36 on her ACT college admission and placement exam. This achievement is significant and rare; on average, less than one-tenth of one-percent of all test takers earn the top score. Congratulations Madeline on such an amazing accomplishment!

Congratulations to Abbey Haines, Valedictorian (right), and Grace Bullington, Salutatorian, from the Class of 2014. Both were recognized at the STA Honors and Awards Ceremony in April and were keynote speakers on graduation day.
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. St. Teresa’s Academy has been 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.

Stars take second in State

On Saturday, June 7, 2014, the Stars soccer team competed in the State soccer championship game for the second year in a row. Playing St. Joseph’s Academy, our sister school and fellow CSJ institution out of St. Louis, the Stars lost to the Angels in a dramatic double overtime finish. This was their first loss of the season. The soccer team was ranked first in the nation, the region, the state of Missouri, and the city of Kansas City nearly the entire season. Congratulations to the very talented members of this incredible team and for their successes throughout the season.

Photo by Daniel Russell/ KC Sports.net