



St. Teresa's Academy

Diversity Profile
2022-2023



St. Teresa's Academy educates young women to think critically, encourages them through Catholic values to love the dear neighbor without distinction, and empowers them to change the world.

DIVERSITY HAS BEEN a key component of our mission and philosophy since 1866, when the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet established St. Teresa's Academy - a school for young women - near 12th & Main in downtown Kansas City. Nearly 150 students registered, representing American, French, Irish, German, Italian, Spanish and Native American populations.

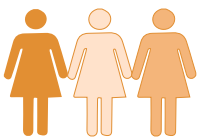
STA continues to value and embrace a student body and community that is racially, culturally, ethnically, religiously, geographically and economically diverse.



St. Teresa's Academy Strategic Plan

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is a tenet of Catholic Social Teaching. DEI initiatives enhance our commitment to and advance the mission of our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

DEI is one of the five pillars of STA's 2021-2026 strategic plan and encompasses:



Recruiting students of color and hiring people of color for faculty and staff positions



Strengthening relationships between students of color and employees



Promoting cross-cultural experiences and engagement between alumnae, students, employees and parents



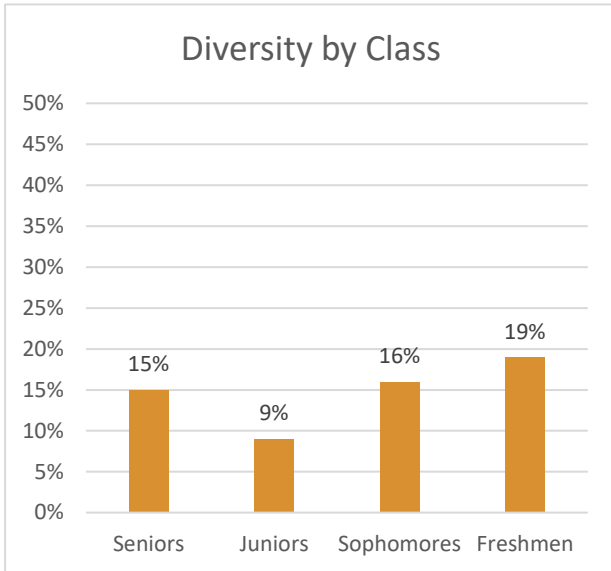
Leading in the development of DEI programs at private schools



Heightening efforts to include minority-owned and women-owned businesses as vendors and partners

diversity

STA's student body - freshmen through seniors - has an overall racial diversity of 14%.



Leading up to the 2020-2021 academic year, STA announced the **Sister Barbara Moore Scholarship** to recruit and support an additional five Black students in every class. Participating students receive substantial tuition and fee assistance during each of their four years at STA.



Sister Barbara is a trailblazer and symbol of hope at STA. She was the first African American to enter the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1955. She has devoted her life to (religion) as well as (reword) a STEAM-related career field and continues to serve as a guiding force for women of color.



learning & leadership

STA offers many ways for our campus community learn learn about, lead and participate in diversity efforts, including:



Students

Implicit Bias workshop - freshman year

Experiential Learning classes focused on minority businesses and diverse communities in the city.

Interfaith Alliance

Student-led affinity groups

- Asian/Asian American
- Black Student Coalition
- Hispanic

Student-led organizations

- GSA
- Social Justice Club
- Stars for Women's Rights



Parents

Star Galaxy Committee (a committee of parents to promote diversity and inclusion)

Experiential Learning leadership opportunities

Speaking and volunteer opportunities



Faculty & Staff

Ongoing Professional Development Program

Student organization leadership opportunities

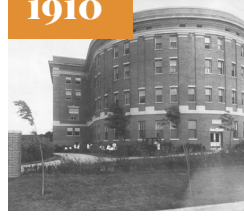
Experiential Learning teaching opportunities

1866



The sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet establish St. Teresa's Academy - a school for young women - in the Quality Hill area of Kansas City. Nearly 150 students register, representing American, French, Irish, German, Italian, Spanish and Native American populations.

1910



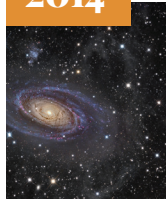
The first building on STA's present-day campus opens. The historic Music & Arts building is still in use today.

1955



Rita (Hall) Cloud becomes STA's first Black graduate.

2014



STA launches Star Galaxy Committee, a committee of Star Parents Association.

STA students initiate GSA group.

2017

Black Student Coalition launches.

Asian, Hispanic, affinity groups launch.

2018

STA conducts a Diversity Audit to analyze textbooks and curriculum.

STA establishes Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

2022

STA freshman class diversity is 19% compared to school-wide 14%.

STA establishes Interfaith Alliance group.

2019



STA hires its first Black President, Dr. Siabhan May-Washington, to lead the Academy.

2020



STA establishes Sister Barbara Moore Scholarship to support recruitment of additional Black students.

STA establishes Ongoing Professional Development Program.



Community Engagement

STA strives to engage our Kansas City neighbors in the educational process. At our MakerSpace, for example, we open our doors to other urban schools to share STEM/STEAM experiences with students who otherwise may not have access to this type of technology.

We also participate in service activities that involve visiting urban schools and offering student tutoring in subjects such as reading, and assistance with STEM/STEAM topics and applications.

Last year, STA juniors and seniors logged more than 11,000 hours of service to organizations in the Kansas City community, many of which support underprivileged populations.

Riyan Jones
'23



Riyan Jones, STA senior, is a Black student leader who is an outstanding community representative. Recently, she spoke at the 2022 Human Relations Event honoring civic leader and civil rights activist Alvin Brooks. As the event's final student speaker, she brought the crowd to their feet after detailing her plans to carry forward Mr. Brooks' legacy of bringing people together and representing the best of our community.

Stella Hughes
'23

STA senior Stella Hughes is committed to social justice and racial equity. She is a white student ally who is engaging parishioners from two urban Catholic parishes - Visitation Church and St. Monica Church - in Kansas City, Missouri, in meaningful dialogue to promote the advancement of interracial relations and spirituality.

