ST. TERESA’S ACADEMY
1866-2016
This book is a beautiful and heartfelt celebration of the 150th anniversary of St. Teresa’s Academy. One hundred and fifty years of faith, academics, athletics, art, tradition, sisterhood and, of course, history. One hundred and fifty pages, one page for each year – almost like birthday candles stacked on top of one another, each shining a light on another piece of the rich and varied stories of this school. One hundred and fifty years of giving more to the countless women who stepped through its doors as girls and eventually stepped back out of them and into their own lives as young women.

This book is a love letter to the school that grew those women. Leaf through the many photos, drawings and scrapbook pages that were culled from one hundred and fifty years of archives. Sit quietly, perhaps with a cup of coffee, and savor the historical letters and publications that were gathered and meticulously placed within its pages. Take an emotional journey through the eras that it illustrates and find where you fit in that timeline. Savor the untold stories and the interesting anecdotes, all the while noticing the beautiful craftsmanship and the many little details. This book represents the collective stories of 150 years of hopes and dreams, of succeeding and stumbling, of learning and growing, and of faith and fortitude of the many women who graced the halls of St. Teresa’s Academy. If the school could talk, it would shout with the voices of all of those women who came to learn more, to do more, to achieve more and to BE more.
SIX SISTERS ARRIVED IN KANSAS CITY ON AUGUST 28, 1866 TO ESTABLISH A CONVENT SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. LAURA COATES, THE FIRST STUDENT TO ENROLL AT THE SCHOOL, WOULD BE JOINED BY YOUNG WOMEN FROM MEXICO TRAVELING BY COVERED WAGONS AND DAUGHTERS OF TRADERS AND FREIGHTERS. THE SCHOOL OPENED ON SEPTEMBER 1ST UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF ST. JOSEPH.
With gunfights in the streets and saloons on every corner, this sheltered school for girls saw the need for a new campus. Perseverance on the part of Mother Evelyn O’Neill finally paid off when she procured the necessary legal means to move St. Teresa’s Academy from the loud, crowded, and rowdy confines of Quality Hill to the open spaces and serenity of Windmoor.

Sister Evelyn tells how one of the girls asked her father to lend Sister a horse and buggy. The purpose was that Sister and the young lady could take the day off and drive around looking for a new site. “What direction?” asked the driver. Sister Evelyn said, “Drive south!” When the current property was sighted, Sister said, “That’s it.” They went no farther.

_Taken from_ 
“ST. TERESA’S ACADEMY IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, A SKETCH” 
BY MOTHER EVELYN O’NEILL 
1925

_MOTHER EVELYN O’NEILL, CSJ_ 
1859-1938

_A scholar of rare ability, a prominent educator, a model teacher and a loyal Sister of St. Joseph_

Mother Evelyn O’Neill was a stalwart champion of St. Teresa’s Academy, serving as an educator and Superior on a professional level, while also acting as unofficial accountant, attorney, real estate agent and botanist for her beloved Academy. Her steadfast faith in divine providence guided her as she orchestrated the complicated and arduous relocation from Quality Hill to St. Teresa’s current, magnificent campus.
It was a windy Feast of St. Teresa of Avila on October 15, 1908, that greeted the crowds gathered for the groundbreaking ceremonies at the present-day 56th and Main. As Mother Evelyn recalled the day, “Our winds were kindly though on the ground breaking day, but just as full of pranks. The various groundbreakers had a hard time to keep track of hats and curls. Verily a wind-swept moor, I thought, as there dawned upon me the windiness and mooriness of ‘Windmoor.’”
“Toward evening, the St. Teresa sisters reached Windmoor. Soon after each sister had hung her shawl and set her suitcase in her own room, up the iron star she gleefully scampered and out on the great platform roof with only God and the sky overhead and the stretch of horizon beyond. ‘At last!’, we were thinking, ‘At last!’”

MEMORIES OF MOVING DAY FROM THE ORIGINAL CAMPUS TO WINDMOOR IN 1910

Windmoor,
our tradition—
extinction—
changing,
growing;
everconstant.
Stable
enough
to trust
dynamic enough
to inspire.
Each of us
and
All of us.
For our talents
remember us
Windmoor.
We worked
To make you more.

KRISTIN MERRIGAN, CLASS OF 1981
The TREES of Windmoor

I dedicate this work to my dearest friend and Botany teacher, Sister Evelyn O’Neill, who had over a thousand trees and shrubs planted on the estate woodland which she named Windmoor.

Sister Marie Eulalia Ward

Opposite page: sketches by Sister Marie Eulalia Ward from “The Trees of Windmoor,” 1936
This book chronicles all the trees found on the St. Teresa’s Academy campus.
THE LEGEND OF THE STOLEN TREES

It was decided there should be trees planted on the north end of the new campus. Sr. Evelyn “commissioned St. Joseph to do the work” for her and help with this ill-funded mission. Immediately, a man arrived on the grounds with a tree-digging wagon and asked if he could plant a 50-foot elm on campus as it would be a “good add for me.” Sr. Evelyn asked if he could get more big trees for her, as she wanted a forest. Yes he could, and he did, for a fee of $25 per tree. As the 20 trees were taking root, the young man disappeared. In his place, two distinguished men arrived on campus admiring the trees. As Sr. Evelyn approached them, they smiled and asked her if she knew where her trees came from. She answered no and was told they were stolen from Swope Park. The men replied, “Now don’t be alarmed, every man on the park board is glad you have them and sorry you did not get a few more.”

TAKEN FROM
"ST. TERESA’S ACADEMY IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, A SKETCH"
BY MOTHER EVELYN O’NEILL
1925
Always buoyant and mischievous, Sister Hortense McLaughlin was determined to have a Christmas tree. She went out to the yet ungraded Wyandotte Street where in a low spot some young cottonwoods stood. She pulled up one of them by the roots and, supporting it in a box of sand, placed it on the sister’s room table on the fifth floor. She decorated the leafless branches with paper decorations and hung gifts for each of the sisters. There were holy pictures and medals, and some little joke gifts for each. It was a very happy Christmas night. The next day, things were tidied up, and the poor cottonwood was thrown out on the terrace. Early in March, Mother Evelyn discovered the tree with red streamers still dangling from the bare branches.

“This may grow, Mr. Morgan,” she said to their engineer, “will you dig a hole for it?” The hole was dug and the tree grew. “Its large, clean white branches have been reaching upward these fifteen years, till it now, if we sighted it correctly, is 100 feet high. It is one of the most beautiful of our beautiful trees.” Some day it shall be labeled:

**OUR FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE**

1910
“If our ancestors of 80 or 90 years can relate thrilling stories of what happened during their lifetime, what countless volumes would be necessary to recount the multiple events of these trees throughout their patriarchal years!

TAKEN FROM “TREES OF WINDMOOR” BY SISTER MARIA EULALIA WARD 1936

THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF CURRENT ADMINISTRATORS, THE CAMPUS IS WORKING TOWARD THE DESIGNATION OF AN ARBORETUM. THIS WOULD HAVE MADE MOTHER EVELYN QUITE PROUD.
Opposite page: students in the chapel on the third floor of the Music and Arts Building, 1946.

The mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph, to love the dear neighbor and the world in which we live, along with a profound love of God, serves as the faith foundation for St. Teresa's Academy.
It was 1866 when Sister Francis Joseph Ivory, a courageous risk taker, arrived in Kansas City to establish a school for girls. After procuring free railroad passes, she was then joined by five of her fellow Sisters. They were greeted with an empty building. Their first order of business was to purchase a cow, and from there they threw a party, which raised enough money to furnish their school.

Although they were not the first religious group to come to Kansas City, they were the first to wear habits. Sister Francis Joseph would later recall, “The people thought we were the Circus as we traveled across town.”

The Sisters of St. Joseph began in the mid-1600’s in LePuy, France with a young priest and a small group of women. Theirs was a vision of union with God and neighbor. The concept was to be carried out by a non-cloistered congregation, which included women of all classes and backgrounds.

This small group of women spread throughout France where they earned their livelihood making lace. Their goal was dividing the city, seeking out its ills, and curing them. They taught their lacemaking skills to orphans, prisoners, the sick and destitute, to help them better their lives. In 1650, this group was established as a religious foundation by Bishop de Maupas.

During the French Revolution, the convents were closed, Sisters were disbanded or thrown into prison; some were beheaded at the guillotine. After the Revolution, the Sisters refounded and went on to serve as teachers. In 1836, the Sisters would find their way to Carondolet, Missouri, where they served their first ministry in the United States – teaching deaf children.
At the beginning of the fight to relocate St. Teresa’s Academy from Quality Hill to a new location, Mother Evelyn found it necessary to prove to the Bishop that the Diocese did not own the Academy. She stated the facts: the Sisters had paid for all of the grading and paving of the streets around the block occupied by the school, and they had paid all the taxes on the place for the past 40 years. This was all accomplished with no financial assistance from the Diocese. Bishop Hogan agreed and Sr. Evelyn was on the move. The sisters continued to improve their properties and even bought a new building for their expanding school. After several meetings with lawyers and bankers, the proceeds from the sale of this Quality Hill location were finally made available to the Sisters in order to procure land for a new campus outside the corporate limits of Kansas City.

During this time of transition Mother Evelyn and all of the Sisters prayed to St. Joseph to grant them success in their mission to secure a new site for their Academy. They considered St. Joseph the “man of the house” and even carried a small statue of their patron saint with them as they went in search of new real estate.

But think of it: we were facing this great venture without a cent. There were rumblings of criticism – “poor financing,” “poor site,” “such a mudhole!” “and that $300,000 loan, how did those penniless nuns ever get it?” The directors refused the loan because they asserted three buildings could not be built for $300,000 – so we determined the Music and Arts Building alone could be utilized.

TAKEN FROM
“ST. TERESA’S ACADEMY IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, A SKETCH”
BY MOTHER EVELYN O’NEILL
1925
As a result of Vatican II (1965), the Sisters were facing many changes to their way of life. They were no longer cloistered, had a choice in choosing their profession, and they were losing their habit. Some were quick to adapt to the changes, while others were reticent and felt uncomfortable with this new lifestyle of freedom and choices.

To promote the move away from the old habit, four brave Sisters volunteered to model in fashion shows around the country for one year, showing new modest suits and veils. The suits were blue, black and white for nurses. It was stressed that wearing the habit was voluntary. This proved to be quite a learning experience for all concerned.

"It was shocking for us to see our teacher out of her traditional black habit. We did not know where to look; we acted as if she was naked. She finally asked ‘Well what do you think?’ to which someone answered, ‘Cool!’ Weren’t we baby boomers so special to be on the cutting edge of such an historical event?"
“The few moments set apart for prayer will be for us the most important part of the day’s programme. The morning offering and the petition for God’s blessing upon both teachers and pupils will be heartfelt and earnest... We will make them fervent appeals for light and benediction; and then this year must mean for us successful work, and joyful days, and sleepful nights.”

Anna Watters, Class of 1901

St. Teresa’s Quarterly, November 1901

IN YOUR NAME WE PRAY.
ST. TERESA OF AVILA, PRAY FOR US.
ST. JOSEPH, PRAY FOR US. AMEN.

Current Daily Prayer
At St. Teresa’s Academy
Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.

SAINT TERESA OF AVILA
In addition to daily prayer, faith is seen in campus ministry, weekly class Masses, classroom activities and student retreats. Kairos is a powerful retreat most students will make before they graduate. This weekend retreat is a way for the participants to grow closer to one another while realizing the importance of God and sisterhood in their lives.

"For three days, from the evening of April 10 to the evening of April 14, we girls here at St. Teresa strove to take our minds off all these harassing problems of young girlhood and turn them to our God."

"THE GLEAM," APRIL 1927
LACE
I like to think of me as lace
Where God is all the empty space
Oh, to be lace where the light
Flows through beautifully
Patterning me for you.

BY ANNETTE MORAN, CSJ
CLASS OF 1964
PASSED AWAY JULY 8, 2007

THIS POEM WAS WRITTEN AFTER ANNETTE VISITED THE TOWN OF LE PUY, FRANCE, WHERE THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH BEGAN THEIR COMMUNITY IN 1650. THE EARLY SISTERS MADE LACE TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND THE POOR OF LE PUY.
**MORE LEARNING**

The curriculum at STA has always been innovative, rigorous, and proudly traditional.
Boarders at St. Teresa’s Academy lived in a cloistered-like environment: prohibited visits to the city (chaperons required), no nights spent away from the institution, no outside food, and any correspondence was to be approved by the school and parents.

Although boarding at St. Teresa’s Academy was strict, there were definite advantages. You were surrounded by the Country Club District, a beautiful and secluded 20-acre tract in a highly restricted neighborhood and you had the use of a splendid auditorium, gymnasium and bowling alley. Boarders were surrounded with new, modern, and costly furniture. Your meals were plentiful, similar to those served in any high-class hotel and your fellow students were from good, cultured homes.

And, most importantly, you felt safe, secure, and at home, surrounded by the caring Sisters of St. Joseph who tended to your educational and emotional needs.

“Never arise until ten minutes to nine. Your breakfast is served in bed.”

ADVICE FROM A BOARDER
CLASS OF 1925

“The boarders were pleasantly surprised by a delightful Valentine supper. The tables were appropriately decorated and the affair was a pronounced success.”

EXCERPT GLEAM
FEBRUARY 13, 1924

THE BOARDERS
The curriculum at STA continues to evolve and adapt to the challenges of a new and changing world.

**1860’S**
- Analytical Grammar
- Mythology
- Sacred History
- Botany
- Criticism of English Authors
- Mental and Moral Philosophy

“Whether in class or recreation, when permitted to converse at table, or during their walks, the pupils must endeavor to improve the purity of their language and cultivate urbanity of manners. A few years in an Academy would be well employed if nothing else were learned than to converse with the dignity and propriety of a lady.”

From “Prospectus of St. Teresa’s Academy,” circa 1866

**1890’S**
- Bookkeeping
- Zoology
- Elocution
- Chemistry
- History of the Fine Arts
- Instrumental Music

“The intention to be carried out in the studio is not only to teach the pupils how to paint, but to give them intelligent views on art in general.”

From “Art School, Course of Study,” 1891-92

**1910’S**
- Religion
- Medieval and Modern History
- Latin
- Spanish
- Physics
- Harp

“Students are prohibited the use of phones. Any necessary message will be delivered.”

From “The New St. Teresa’s Academy,” 1910

**1950’S**
- Journalism
- Family Living
- Typing
- Citizenship
- Business Education
- Shorthand

“The Juniors listen attentively (in American History III) as Sister Constance explains the happenings of yesteryear.”

From Avila Yearbook, 1958

**1980’S**
- Computer Literacy
- Graphic Design
- Clothing Construction
- Humanities
- Trigonometry
- Women in the Church

“The development of each student’s program is the result of the individual student’s choices; the guidance offered to her by parents, teachers, advisory, and guidance counselors; and certain academic policies of the school and state.”

From Program of Studies, 1984-85

**2010’S**
- Technology & Media Literacy
- Forensic Science
- Ecology
- AP Psychology
- World Faiths
- Mandarin Chinese

“The course offerings presented in this booklet are intended to provide each student with the best possible academic program in light of her individual abilities, her educational growth and her needs in the future.”

From Program of Studies, 2012-13
WOMEN IN SCIENCE AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

In 1902, Marie Curie won the Nobel Prize, no doubt inspiring women around the world. A year later, St. Teresa’s Academy’s own Agnes Rieke (right) would create detailed sketches (left) of her microscope findings. Curie would go on to win a second Nobel Prize in 1911, and STA’s commitment to science would only strengthen over the coming years.
“My teachers were my cheerleaders. Not only did they support me in my studies, but emotionally too. They meant the world to me.”

CLASS OF 1984

Opposite page: graduate at the grotto, 1984
150 YEARS
OF
QUALITY PUBLICATIONS

THE GLEAM
November 1922 – June 1927

"The title, 'The Gleam,' expresses at once our purpose and our aspiration. Our purpose is to throw some light, however faint, on the activities of school-life at Windmoor, and our aspiration, that these efforts may eventually lead to something better." VOLUME I, NO. 1, NOVEMBER 1922

A combination of news and literature, the Gleam was published quarterly by the students of the St. Teresa Junior College and Academy. The spring issues usually included pictures of the graduating class from both the college and the academy. A subscription to The Gleam was $1 a year.

THE AVILA
1942 – 1967

The first Avila Yearbook is published and dedicated to Mary, Queen of Peace, with the prayer that she will once again bring Peace to the war-torn world. The book consisted of 20 pages and featured class pictures, student poetry and a calendar of school events.

THE DART
1943 – present

For the first time, the high school publishes its own newspaper, The Dart, which is named after Saint Teresa of Avila. "So great was God’s love for this humble Carmelite nun, that He pierced her heart with His Divine Love." This has been immortalized by the Italian sculptor, Bernini, in his Saint Teresa in Ecstasy – an angel ready to strike Saint Teresa with a dart of love.

TERESIAN
1968 – present

The yearbook changes its name to the Teresian and has grown to 88 pages. The yearbook dance with a new name, the Teresian, held to its traditional date, the night before Thanksgiving. Tessies danced to the theme song, “The Impossible Dream,” as the Sensations played in candlelit Pierson Hall.
“Our teachers did not often expect us to just memorize and repeat things. They expected us to explore, investigate, consider, debate, wonder, create...think.”

CLASS OF 1971

On June 18, 1984, St. Teresa’s Academy was awarded the prestigious “National Award for Excellence” from the U.S. Department of Education. Upon accepting the award, Sr. Barbara Verheyen described the Academy as a school that attempts to teach its students the values and skills they will need to cope with the future. “These students are going to be living in the year 2000.”

“The Kansas City Times”
85% 
AVERAGE PERCENT OF GRADUATES WHO RECEIVE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

100% 
ACCEPTANCE RATE INTO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

79 
NUMBER OF DIFFERENT ZIP CODES REPRESENTED IN THE CURRENT STUDENT BODY THROUGHOUT THE GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA.

50 
NUMBER OF AGENCIES THROUGHOUT KANSAS CITY WHERE STA STUDENTS PROVIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE
3D PRINTERS ARE A NEW ADDITION TO STA. THESE PRINTERS ENHANCE THE CURRICULUM ON MANY LEVELS. THERE ARE PLANS TO HELP THE DEAR NEIGHBOR BY PRODUCING PROSTHETIC PARTS TO BUILD HANDS FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.
STA students have always shown a competitive nature when it comes to athletics. In the early years, the students competed as classes until they later battled other schools. But through it all, they built character, promoted school spirit and had a great time.
“The sport which currently has found favor with the majority of the girls and which occupies the center of attention, is hockey. In spite of all the sore shins, there is a certain fascination with hockey – the girls have caught the spirit of the game and great rivalry is shown between the competing teams.”

If we girls are not expert athletes by the end of this year, it will not be for want of careful pains-taking in that direction. Dr. D. Whitmer, a specialist in physical culture, spends one hour with us each week, and our daily practice is carefully superintended by the Sisters in charge of the work. Gymnasium suits are made of navy blue, trimmed in white braid.

"ST. TERESA’S QUARTERLY"
FEBRUARY, 1903
The Birth of the
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

“With the beginning of school also came the beginning of a new club at St. Teresa’s. This organization was under the able leadership of Pauline Reardon, the physical education teacher. It was composed of girls who, through their outstanding athletic ability, had been awarded school letters. This new group came to be known as the Athletic Association.”

“THE DART”
1945

Above: a group gathers in the gymnasium, 1955
Title IX had a huge impact on STA after becoming effective in 1975. Title IX required schools to give an equal chance for women to play sports and receive college scholarships based on athletics. STA immediately fielded competitive teams despite the fact that their “gymnasium” was not qualified for regulation play. In addition, the early teams wore their gym suits in competition until the Mother’s Guild stepped in to buy official uniforms for the players. A member of the class of 1976 received an athletic scholarship to play volleyball, a first for STA. Since this time, STA athletes have excelled in multiple sports receiving scholarships from schools across the country.
WE HAD A
FIELD DAY

"STA athletes showed their form on the annual Field Day. Spectators, who were not-so-athletically inclined, preferred to sit in huddled groups and watch the professional skills of their classmates."

"THE AVILA" 1967
THEN & NOW

Track in the 1970s proved rather dicey, as runners had to maneuver through the small cut-out sections of speed bumps they encountered around the circle drive of St. Teresa’s Academy.

“I knew that the school was committed to educating young women. However, when the administration dedicated the Goppert Center in 1982, it became clear that the school was also committed to developing the whole person and considered athletics and extra-curricular activities a critical part of the education process.”

CLASS OF 1987
“It was incredibly humbling and rewarding to work so hard with such a talented group of young ladies and win the first of what would be many soccer championships for STA.”

CLASS OF 2002

“This year for the first time, we have had volleyball, real teams and a pennant for the victor. The sophomores won the final game, thereby receiving a gold and white pennant with their class numerals on it.”

“The Glem”
November 1924
We need not resort to a dictionary or an encyclopedia to get a definition of school spirit. We all have it, we’re going to cling to it, and make this school year our most successful, eventful and memorable one.

“THE GLEAM”
1923

HEY STARS!
WHAT?
ARE YOU READY?
FOR WHAT?
TO BE!
BE WHAT?
NUMBER 1!
YEAH!
OUR SPIRIT’S HIGH;
WE’RE HAVIN’ FUN AND
THAT IS WHY
WE’RE NUMBER 1!

CHEER FROM
1980’S AND 1990’S
MORE EXPRESSION

STA students come alive through music, theatre, poetry, and the visual arts.
SCHOOL SONG

The school song, sung for the first time by the student body on October 26 at the close of the mission meeting, was a surprise for Sister Constance and the faculty. It has the same melody as STA’s previous song, but the lyrics have been revised by Sister Olive Louise. They are as follows:

WE SALUTE OUR ALMA MATER,
AND CITE HER PRAISES STRONG,
THE HAPPINESS WE’VE FOUND HERE NOW
ECHOES IN OUR SONG.

Chorus:
LOVED STA WE ARE LOYAL AND PROUD
OF YOUR SPIRIT SO FIRM, OF YOUR TEACHING TO TRUE,
LOVED STA WE ARE GRATEFUL AND PLEDGE,
OUR HEARTS SINCERE TO YOU.

TRUST IN GOD OUR MOTTO,
WITH EYES ON HEAV’LY GOALS,
THE SEAL OF OUR GREAT TERESA
FINDS ECHO IN OUR SOULS.

“The Dart”
November 15, 1955
The World is a

STAGE

HIAWATHA

In 1934, the senior class performed the play, “Hiawatha.” This was an interesting choice as the main character was a man. In 1934, boys were not allowed to act in plays at the Academy, so this role fell to three women. The costumes for this play were quite detailed, which added greatly to the success of this production.
In 2014, St. Teresa's Academy Theater Department performed "Into the Woods," musical by Stephen Sondheim. This was truly a group effort as three departments, four teachers, and over 100 students worked together to stage this production. Their efforts were rewarded with a number of Blue Star Nominations, which included several for technical achievements.

As St. Teresa's orchestrated their production of "Into the Woods," Meryl Streep and her fellow actors were taking on the same musical. They too received multiple nominations for their film.
"Picture the young lady any place but in that magnificent library which is to be a prominent feature in our new building."

"THE GLEAM," FEBRUARY 1924

View of the Music and Arts Building from the Windmoor Center
ORIGINAL ARTWORK, CLASS OF 2014
The Madrigals, in white dresses and long gloves, were known for performing many of their pieces acappella.
THE STA “SOUND CREW” RUNS THE BOARDS FOR ALL THEATRE PRODUCTIONS. THE STUDENTS MENTOR EACH OTHER AS THEY MASTER THE SKILLS NEEDED TO PRODUCE ALL OF THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF A PRODUCTION, INCLUDING MICROPHONES, MUSIC, AND SOUND EFFECTS.
More Traditions

New and old, our traditions tell the story of treasured experiences and friendships.

Opposite page: Four vivacious juniors fulfill a long cherished desire to ring the old bell. This bell was commissioned by Fr. Donnelly for the STA Campus on Quality Hill and later moved to the Music and Arts Building in 1910. It woke the sisters from morning slumber, announced times for Holy Mass, prayer, study, and meals.

The bell is currently on display in The Windmoor Center.
**The STA Uniform**

STA students have always worn their uniforms with pride. Luckily they have evolved over the years, from black alpaca dresses with black hats and summer buff chambray dresses to bold plaids with embroidered blazers and colorful sweaters.

“Oh, the versatility of the uniform!”

*THE GLEAM*
APRIL 1925
WEDDING DAY VISITS

If a bride wanted to share her special day with the beloved sisters from St. Teresa’s Academy, she needed to literally bring the wedding to them. The Sisters were not allowed to attend weddings, so they were delighted when one of their students would come to sign the St. Teresa’s Academy guestbook with her new husband and wedding party in tow.

“Directly following our Mass at St. Elizabeth’s, our entire wedding party paraded down Main Street to St. Teresa’s. After visiting with the Sisters and signing their guestbook, we piled back in our cars and headed to our dinner reception.”

CLASS OF 1943
“When my daughter received her ring last year, I talked with several other STA alumae at the ceremony who said they had given their daughters their ring. I thought it was a very sweet sentiment but knew there was no way I could give up my own ring. I loved it too much. And, I’m so glad I didn’t. Today, it brings me great joy when both my daughter and I are wearing our rings at the same time. A powerful connection between us.”

CLASS OF 1984
“The traditional May Procession and Crowning was held recently in the school auditorium. Several senior sodalists, carrying the school banners, led the student body down the aisles as they entered, singing hymns of Our Lady. The processionists were attired in pastel dresses in order to carry out the May theme. Proceeding the singers, was the May Court. The members wore formals of light shades of yellow, pink, blue, and green, and carried small contrasting bouquets of baby mums. The court was followed by queen and sodality prefect, wearing a white dress and long blue satin cape. She carried a large spray of white roses.

“The Dart”
May 25, 1954
In the 1960-70s, each class looked forward to choosing and naming their mascot.

The Student Council at St. Teresa’s Academy introduced “Twinks” as the school’s new mascot in 1995.
Each year, the Academy recognizes a senior who exemplifies “the best of the best,” the finest personal qualities and characteristics of an STA student, including religious and moral character, leadership, loyalty, responsibility, and service.

“Receiving the Academy Woman Award was an incredible honor. It solidified that a community of women who are faith and service oriented was very much where I belonged. This environment provided an amazing foundation for my adult life.”

CLASS OF 1983
LET'S PLAY

CARDS

Imagine the conversations held over a handful of cards.

Although there were beautiful rooms for playing bridge and other card games on campus, students in the 1930-40s were only allowed to play cards in the boiler room of the Music and Arts Building. A small area didn’t stop the students from enjoying each other’s company as the room filled with lively conversations.

"Bridge was not an amusement for her, but a serious business, which required study and thought, and yet she enjoyed a game of Bridge with three good players, more than anything else."

"THE GLEAM"
APRIL, 1923
Through the years, mothers and daughters have celebrated with teas, luncheons and fashion shows.

Grandmother’s Tea is now “Grandparents’ Day” including Grandfathers in a campus-wide Open House.

"Father/Daughter Dances and Mother/Daughter Luncheons were very special times with my parents; they were a way to share in my days as an STA girl!"
LET'S
DANCE

The guidelines at the dances of the '50s were quite different from those an Academy girl would experience today. “Most of our dances were held in the gym, strictly chaperoned by the sisters. At the end of the dance we would have to show them our dance programs, which would have the listing of all of the boys we danced with. Usually, we’d write down the boyfriends of the girls we ran around with, but we’d only dance with our boyfriend.”

“The Kansas City Times”
1976
It is during this ceremony where we remember and celebrate the 150 years of powerful women who have walked the halls of STA before us. Women who, through their confidence, individuality, selflessness, and hard work, have shown bright like the stars to transform the STA community into what it is today.

CLASS PRESIDENT 2016

PASSING OF THE LEGACY

BEGINNING IN 2010, THE INCOMING FRESHMAN CLASS IS GREETED ON THEIR FIRST DAY ON CAMPUS BY THE RINGING OF THE HISTORIC BELL. EACH FRESHMAN STUDENT THEN RECEIVES A SAINT TERESA OF AVILA MEDAL AND PRAYER CARD FROM MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR CLASS. IT IS A POWERFUL AND MOVING CEREMONY.
MORE SISTERHOOD

NEW AND OLD, OUR TRADITIONS TELL THE STORY OF TREASURED EXPERIENCES AND FRIENDSHIPS.

Opposite page: last class photo at old St. Teresa’s Academy, 1909; above: first student, Laura Coates
“Life-long friends, countless memories.”
CLASS OF 1967

“I was blessed to have walked the hallways of St. Teresa’s Academy.”
CLASS OF 1971
Once upon a time, a little girl grew up in Kansas City. She ran through neighborhoods playing games of tag during the stiflingly hot Midwestern summers, donned overstuffed parkas to shield her from the gut-punching cold of the sledding winters, skipped merrily through the spring days searching for all things beautiful and sauntered past the lovely fall afternoons savoring both the smell of the encroaching cold and also the hint of endless possibility. All the while, the girl kept growing, until one day she entered the halls of St. Teresa’s Academy – still just a whisper of who she wanted to be.

In those classrooms, with those teachers, in the heat and the cold and the passing of the years, she grew from a freckle-faced fourteen-year-old with a mouth full of braces and a lot of questions into a young woman ready to grasp her future, armed with both knowledge and a more confident (and, by then, perfectly-aligned) smile. The other girls who stepped lightly or jumped boldly, who stomped loudly or danced quietly through those doors with her became her friends. Together – and with the help of great teachers, much patience, some faltering, many successes, a few setbacks and much joy – they carved out the beginnings of the lives they wanted to build.
But high school is much like the preface to a good book. It is only after graduation that the chapters are actually written. And life is not a timid author! Life is written boldly, with many exclamation marks, a lot of questions, and plots that twist and turn in a meandering path – rarely straight, many in a direction you never planned. And so, it is not so much the events that matter – there will be both good and bad in every life story – but the company that you keep.

St. Teresa’s Academy grew some of the most amazing women, and forged some of the most powerful friendships, of my life. Many of the same girls who giggled and gossiped next to me at the lunch table, studied for chemistry exams across from me in the library, and poured over Shakespeare beside me during study hall were the same women who showed up on a hot, sunny August morning for my sister’s memorial. A day that I was sure I would NEVER survive and somehow, with some kind of amazing grace, they made me laugh again. They told stories of when we were young and silly and stupid. When we believed that sisters never die and dreams never falter. Stories of when songs made us stop in the street to dance – uniforms rolled high and shirts tied up to reveal taut bellies. When we did crazy things because we were sure that bad things never happened and vacations happened every day – not just when we booked a trip and flew somewhere. They made me laugh until my cheeks hurt and my stomach lurched and once again I was young. And my grief was tamed.

These were also the same girls who, almost thirty years later, helped me find my way out of a harrowing breast cancer diagnosis. They told me that I was beautiful when I lost all of my hair to chemo, that I was strong when I felt most weak, and that I was not alone when I stood on the edges of dark fear. They told stories of the past to remind me of whom I once was and made plans for the future to remind me of whom I was yet to be. They threw parties to celebrate my successes and lifted me up when I faltered. And, always, they bowed down with me to pray.

These are the friendships that have lasted through the seasons and slid on into the decades, survived tragedies that once seemed unimaginable, and shared triumphs that once were only dreams. A little girl was lucky enough to attend a school that not only grew beautiful minds but also grew beautiful, lovely, strong, funny, wise, and wonderful women – women that I (still) call my friends.
When My **MOTHER**
Went to **ST. TERESA’S**

"One afternoon after school, my mother and I were walking through the hall when she stopped in front of one of those queer old graduation pictures and laughingly pointed out herself as one of the group.

Then she began to tell me of her experiences at St. Teresa’s Academy thirty years ago:

"The girls then were just as mischievous as they are now. One day, when Sister told us to recite all together, we started to sing a then popular song entitled "All Together Once Again." Of course we were punished for this, and deprived of our recess for a week. When I graduated the dresses were very different from those of today. Ours had long tight sleeves, a tight basque waist, high necks, long full skirts and bustles. The girls in my class wore high black shoes and black stockings. This was a point of contention because the girls had wanted to wear light slippers and stockings to match their dresses, but the Sisters would not allow it. So you see, we had trouble about the eternal clothes question, even then."

CLASS OF 1927 RECOUNTING MEMORIES FROM THE CLASS OF 1886
"THE GLEAM"
FEBRUARY, 1925
“Oh what fun we had! Morning until evening the laughter never stopped!”

CLASS OF 1935
“TESSIE”

“STAR”
"I don’t think there are women on this planet that make me laugh as hard, or make me feel as supported and loved, as my STA sisters do."

CLASS OF 1992

“I made life long friendships and treasure them even today! What a blessing it was to meet such wonderful life friends at STA.”

CLASS OF 1955
“WHEN I TELL PEOPLE WHICH HIGH SCHOOL I WENT TO THEY ALWAYS SAY, ‘YOU’RE AN STA GIRL. THAT EXPLAINS IT!’”

Class of 2003
“I believe it speaks volumes that my dearest friends now are the friends I made at St. Teresa’s. We see each other often, care for one another, and support each other through good time and bad.

When I tell this to other people, the usual reaction I hear is, ‘I cannot even remember the people I went to high school with.’ I cannot imagine not having these women in my life.”

CLASS OF 1961
“We still keep in contact after nearly 35 years, and that is the best part!”

CLASS OF 1984

“A little girl was lucky enough to attend a school that not only grew beautiful minds but also grew beautiful, lovely, strong, funny, wise and wonderful women.”

CLASS OF 1982
“I am thankful for the friends I made then and know that being accepted by my classmates during those teen years helped form a stability inside me that has lasted all my life.”

Class of 1979
“I’ve said many times that choosing St. Teresa’s was of the best decisions I’ve ever made. Being an STA graduate means that you are part of a sisterhood that lasts forever. I am so proud and privileged to be able to pass this lifelong legacy to my three daughters.”

CLASS OF 1995
MORE HISTORY

AS THE OLDEST SCHOOL IN KANSAS CITY, WE HAVE A HISTORY LIKE NO OTHER
1839

St. John Francis Regis church is built by Father Le Roux on the first Catholic property in Kansas City at Eleventh and Penn streets. Later, this 15’ x 32’ log structure will serve as both house of worship and living quarters for Father Donnelly.

1846 The cornerstone is laid for a brick structure which faces Broadway about halfway between 11th (also known as Chouteau Street) and 12th Streets. This building is 70’ x 30’ and is erected by Father Donnelly to replace the log structure church.

1857 In a letter to Father Dalton in 1879, Father Donnelly explains that Father Le Roux gifted the church with a bell. This is the bell Father Donnelly gave to the Sisters of St. Teresa’s convent. The bell is later moved to the current Music and Arts Building in 1910.

1860’s These are the days of shoot-outs in the streets of rough and tumble Kansas City. The iron gates, set into the eight foot wall that surrounds the grounds, are locked every evening. This is not so much to keep the girls in, as to keep such undesirable people as Jesse James out.

1864 Before the Battle of Westport many Kansas Citians had money and valuables that were not safe in a bank or in their homes. Trusting Father Donnelly, they gave the treasures to him for safe keeping. He buried the treasure in a wooden box three separate times on the evening of October 21, 1864, continuing to dig it up and move it to a more secret location. After the battle Fr. Donnelly returned to dig the box up but it was gone. Whether in the excitement of the times he had forgotten the real hiding place, or whether someone else discovered it and removed the box during his absence, was never known.

1866 St. Teresa Academy is opened and dedicated by Archbishop Kenrick. The large two story school is built of bricks from Father Donnelly’s own brick-yard. 140 students, representing French, Irish, German, Italian, Spanish, and Americans, are registered.

1868 The St. Joseph statue is given as a Christmas gift to the Academy from the family of Laura Coates, one of the Academy’s first students. Expecting a small classroom statue, Sister is greatly surprised to receive a six foot statue imported from Italy.

1869 The city directory states that St. Teresa’s Academy contains 30 boarders and eleven teachers. 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 leaving 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.

1885

The graduating class of 1885: Eva Gordon, Jennie Conness, Lizzie Brennan, Josie Cosgroff, Stella Mason, Mary Shine, Katie Gibbs, Margaret Redding.
A pageant takes place in Assembly Hall to celebrate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the school. The students perform a tableau, where curtains open to show people frozen in position.

St. Teresa’s Academy is the first Catholic school on the affiliated list of the University of Missouri.

The large family residences on Quality Hill are gradually being abandoned as the city grew south. Businesses are being erected on all sides of the Academy and Sister Evelyn O’Neill realizes the need for a new site for the school. In a borrowed horse and buggy she tells the driver to head south. When the property is sighted, Sister said, “That’s it.” She names the place Windmoor, for it is (and still is) a windy place.

Ground is broken for the new school at 56th and Main by Bishop Hogan on the Feast of St. Teresa of Avila.

The cornerstone of the Music and Arts Building is laid. Archbishop John Glennon, assisted by Bishop Hogan and Bishop Lillis, dedicates the new St. Teresa’s Academy. The building is constructed by the Job Hollinger Construction Company (MVSC) for $350,000.

The graduating Classes of 1916, 1917, and 1918 gift the frieze currently located on third floor of M&A. The frieze, a replica of Luca della Robbia’s Cantoria in Florence, Italy, is based on a theme borrowed from Psalm 150.

The original St. Teresa’s Academy school at 11th and Washington streets is demolished.

Students and alumnae celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St. Teresa’s Academy with a meal in the dining room of the Music and Arts Building.

St. Teresa’s Academy becomes a member of the North Central Association of High Schools and Colleges.
1937

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt presents a lecture. Proceeds from the lecture are to enhance the science and library facilities.

1938

A new Hammond organ, entirely electronic with no pipes or reeds, is purchased for $1,250 from JW Jenkins Music Co. and installed in the Music and Arts Auditorium.

1940

Ground is broken for Donnelly Hall on the Windmoor campus by (left to right) Msgr. McDonald, Archbishop O’Hara, and architect Maurice Carroll.

1943

St. Teresa’s Academy publishes its own newspaper, “The Dart,” which is named after Saint Teresa of Avila.

1944

The Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes is installed due to the generosity of the Class of 1944, the uncle of Sister Gonzaga Connors, and Carolina and Santa Lococo.

1947

The class ring evolved through the years. Pictured is a drawing of the ring as it looked in 1947.

1949

Martha Becker is named the first ever Academy Girl. The award is given for religious and moral character, loyalty to St. Teresa’s Academy, and the ability to command, among other attributes.

1950

The faculty in 1950 consists of 16 people, thirteen Sisters of St. Joseph, one priest, and two lay persons.

1955

Sister Olive Louise introduces the school song. It has the same melody as St. Teresa’s Academy’s previous song, but the lyrics have been revised.

1959

The first Father-Daughter Dance is held and continues to be a treasured annual tradition at St. Teresa’s Academy.
1960

St. Teresa’s Academy opened the 1960-61 school year to a record-breaking number of girls. The enrollment totals 342: 125 freshmen, 83 seniors, 67 juniors, 67 sophomores, surpassing all others in the history of the Academy.

1963

With the college moving to south Kansas City, the Academy expands to fill both academic buildings: Donnelly Hall and the Music and Arts Building. With more room and facilities, St. Teresa’s Academy is at the apex of development with a thriving school.

Fr. Bernard Donnelly’s portrait is retouched and presented to the school by Mrs. Elizabeth Hackett, a graduate of the Class of 1886. Mrs. Hackett is the “mother” who recounted her memoirs on pages 116-117.

1966

Students had planned for two years to celebrate the centennial with a float in the American Royal parade, but less than two hours before the parade started, a truck collides with the float on its way to the starting point. 300 enthusiastic St. Teresa’s Academy students march in the parade instead.

1973

The first Teresian Award for meritorious service and loyalty to St. Teresa’s Academy is presented to Miss Pauline Reardon, dean of students, and Msgr. Arthur Tighe, spiritual director of the Academy.

1981

The convent area in M&A is closed. The sisters move to a two-story house on 53rd Terrace. The house has six bedrooms and a room converted to a chapel on the first floor.

1982

The Endowment Scholarship Fund at St. Teresa’s Academy is established with the help of contributions from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schweiger and the St. Teresa’s Alumnae Association.

1983

St. Teresa’s Academy is the first private school to receive the National Excellence in Education Award. Sr. Barbara Verheyen, principal, receives the award from Secretary of Education Terrell Bell. President Reagan speaks at the luncheon.

1984

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1986

The tennis team wins the state championship.

1986

Renovation of M&A during the summer of 1988 sees the creation of a new chapel.

The dedication is held on October 1. The new chapel is made possible by a gift from Martha Becker Head. Mr. and Mrs. Amado Mamuric donate the stained glass window.

1988

The 125th anniversary of the Academy is celebrated by recreating a country frolic. The campus is transformed into a scene from 1866. The frolic offers something for everyone: an old fashioned ice cream booth, puppet shows, square dancing, and a real live showdown.

1991

The 125th anniversary of the Academy is celebrated by recreating a country frolic. The campus is transformed into a scene from 1866. The frolic offers something for everyone: an old fashioned ice cream booth, puppet shows, square dancing, and a real live showdown.

The cross country team wins the State Championship.

The M&A Building is officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The structure is noted for its distinctive neo-classic design. St. Teresa’s Academy is recognized as the oldest educational institution in Kansas City.

1992

Fall 1999 sees the total redesign of the school’s quad, an expanded parking lot, the demolition of the old boiler building, and the addition of a softball field.

The Academy kicks-off the public phase of the $8 million Bridging Three Centuries Capital Campaign. The Phase I exterior renovations are complete. Additional remodeling of the buildings will continue for the next three summers.

2000

St. Teresa’s Academy issues the first annual Mother Evelyn O’Neill Award. The award recognizes a woman from the metropolitan area who exemplifies the core values of St. Teresa’s Academy: excellence in education, community stewardship, social justice, and assistance to the poor.
2001

Donnelly Hall is rededicated as phase two of the Bridging Three Centuries Capital Campaign. The $3.4 renovation includes new heating and cooling systems, new plumbing and electrical systems, refurbished and expanded classrooms and laboratories, a redesign of administrative space, and complete handicap accessibility.

2005

The Expanding Universes campaign begins in January 2005 with the goal of raising $8 million over five years to support and expand the Endowment Fund.

Students dine and converse in the cafeteria, recently named The Commons. For approximately $900,000, the cafeteria underwent renovations including the addition of a kitchen area, the redesign of the columns, and the raising of the floor in the space that was formerly known as the pit.

2010

The 2010-2011 school year marks the introduction of a one-to-one laptop program. All students are issued personal laptop computers loaded with the latest software. A wireless campus allows students to conduct research, take online tests, communicate with peers and teachers, and submit assignments from anywhere on campus.

2011

The Chapel of St. Joseph, named in memory of Jeanne Collins Thompson, a long-time supporter of both Catholic education and St. Teresa’s Academy, is dedicated. The ceremony includes the anointing of the altar and walls, the incensing of the chapel, the dressing and lighting of the altar, and celebration of the Eucharist.

2012

St. Teresa’s Academy celebrates the opening of the Windmoor Center with a ribbon cutting and open house. The building includes: 150-seat chapel, high-tech classrooms, and a new beautiful gallery space.

The Windmoor Center officially opens for classes.

The McDonnell Family Sports Complex is dedicated on March 21, 2012. The new facility, including track and field, is completed in the fall of 2011. The complex is the result of an urban partnership between the University of Missouri Kansas City and St. Teresa’s Academy.

2015

The soccer team wins the State Championship.

The Expanding Universes campaign begins in January 2005 with the goal of raising $8 million over five years to support and expand the Endowment Fund.
WHEN THE ROAD HAS CEASED ITS TURNING
AND WITH FOLLY I AM THROUGH,
AND MY HEART KEEPS ON A’ YEARNING,
THEN I’M COMING BACK TO YOU—

Windmoor!

"THE GLEAM"
JUNE, 1928
HAVE A GREAT DAY,
STA!