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Saint Catherine Academy is a private, state-approved school of the Diocese of Bridgeport serving students with special needs. We offer an education program for students who are ages five to twenty-one years old with multiple disabilities including intellectual disabilities and other developmental disorders.

Saint Catherine Academy admits students of any race, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin.

SCHOLARSHIP DINNER HONORS THE SISTERS OF SAINT CATHERINE ACADEMY

On a beautiful June evening, over 200 people gathered under the tent at Fairfield University for our Annual Scholarship Dinner. During the cocktail reception, friends of Saint Catherine mingled and explored the wonderful display of baskets and auction items.

Charles Chiusano, Chairman of the School Advisory Board, welcomed the guests and began the evening by thanking the dinner committee chaired by Chris Herman, a member of the School Advisory Board and Nancy Fontana, parent of a student at Saint Catherine Academy. "This evening represents a culmination of another wonderful year for our students", Charles began. "The support of all of you make our ability to deliver on our mission possible. And for that, we are very grateful."

Monsignor Robert Weiss, also a member of the School Advisory Board, offered the Invocation and Peter Demarco provided music throughout dinner.

Following dinner, Charles introduced Bishop Lori who joined him in thanking the friends of Saint Catherine for their support. "This is a very important mission of the Diocese and one that is very near to my heart. Our ability to offer this alternative to parents with children who have special needs is consistent with our faith. We are blessed to have the generosity of so many to provide for these special children."

This year's honorees, "The Sisters of Saint Catherine Academy" were recognized for their years of service on behalf of the children at Saint Catherine Academy. A recent exhibit at both the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York was titled "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America." This exhibit chronicles how Catholic Sisters helped shape the history and culture of the United States. The power of the exhibit was in its "ability to transform generalities into specific stories." Their

"Tonight, we recognize the sisters, our sisters of St. Catherine Academy. Their dedication to education, their joyful spirit and unselfish devotion have shaped the learning environment and program at St. Catherine Academy," Charles Chiusano, Chairman of the School Advisory Board said.



Sr. Marilyn Muldoon, OSU, Principal, Sr. Anne Marie Dorff, SSND, Sr. Eileen Boffa, RSM, Sr. Cheryl Driscoll, RSM and Sr. Maureen Ulatowski, SSND

faith gave them courage to offer hope as well as the moral and intellectual resources required for success.

Sr. Marilyn, Sr. Eileen, Sr. Cheryl and Sr. Maureen were called to the podium to join Bishop Lori and Charles Chiusano. "Tonight, we recognize the sisters, our sisters of St. Catherine Academy. Their dedication to education, their joyful spirit and unselfish devotion have shaped the learning environment and program at St. Catherine Academy. The unique blend of orders, Ursuline, Sisters of Mercy and School Sisters of Notre Dame, has enhanced our ability to achieve our mission. We are blessed by each of their involvement in our school," cited Chiusano.

The evening continued with a video tribute to the Sisters prepared by Bill Lytton, a volunteer at Saint Catherine Academy. Then Al Barber took the stage for an animated auction that began with his "Duckie" tie securing a bid of \$800 from Terry McClinch. The audience actively participated in the live auction and scholarship challenge that followed.

"The generosity of our supporters makes it possible for us to continue to offer a quality alternative to young people with special needs. This dinner guarantees that we are able to deliver our mission to students who lack the financial resources to attend. The nature of our program requires a high staffing model and the cost per student is \$40,000. This dinner helps us assist those families who want to place their students with us but are not able to afford the cost of enrollment. We are very grateful," commented Helen Burland, President of Saint Catherine Academy.

Make sure you put next year's dinner on your calendar now! June 10, 2012.

A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



The week following Thanksgiving is the beginning of the rehearsal schedule for the annual Christmas Pageant at Saint Catherine Academy. Every year is a different presentation of the birth of Jesus but one thing is always the same—all of the students are active participants in the presentation.

“When we first began, most of our students were not able to have speaking parts because of their limited verbal skills,” reminisces Sr. Marilyn, Principal of Saint Catherine Academy. “The challenge to the staff was to create a performance that allowed all of the students to actively participate showcasing their abilities.”

Sr. Eileen Boffa, RSM, directed the play for several years but turned over the reins this year to Kristen Cooke and Joann LaPorta



who co-authored and co-directed the presentation “A Star is Born”. Interspersing narration and music throughout three vignettes, the standing room only audience was treated to a heartfelt presentation of the Christmas story. The cast including three Marys, three Josephs, an Angel Gabriel, accompanied by three other angels, three shepherds, an innkeeper, a messenger, three kings and the Star of Bethlehem. With the house

lights dimmed, a hush came over the room, as the Star of Bethlehem, played by Ariel Powell, slowly travelled up the main aisle. Ariel’s wheelchair was decorated with small white lights and a simply lit large star that provided a guiding light for the three Kings to follow.

As the stage filled with all of the actors, the audience joined the performers in a joyful round of Feliz Navidad. Treated to a standing ovation, the students posed for pictures and were greeted by their family and friends. Refreshments and a visit from Santa rounded out the morning.

Nancy Matthews, Chancellor of the Diocese of Bridgeport, congratulated the students and the staff for a wonderful performance. “It is a terrific way to begin the Christmas season and a simple reminder of the wonder of the birth of Christ.” **This annual event is held on December 23rd. Be sure to arrive early if you want a seat!**

Our School Advisory Board

The School Advisory Board (SAB) opened the 2011-12 school year with its first meeting on September 9th. Helen Burland, President of Saint Catherine Academy welcomed the board members and shared with them the dvd presentation, “Our Yearbook”, which was a photo montage showcasing the students and staff with the background music of “We are the World”. This dvd was produced by Kristen Cooke and Kyle Tisdale, staff members at SCA.

Charles Chiusano, chairman of the SAB, thanked the board members for their continued support of the mission at SCA and congratulated them on a successful year both in educational and development goals. The challenge for this year is to continue to build on the past successes; to increase the number of people involved in the academy and to diversify the opportunities people have to contribute to Saint Catherine’s.

The board welcomed back Dr. Ed Lenard who had been away for the past year but has returned to the area to open a private practice in pediatrics.



(Pictured left to right) Steve Donahue, Kelly Luff Weldon, Charles Chiusano, Chris Herman, Dr. Margaret Dames, Tony Minopoli, Mike LaBella, Sr. Marilyn Muldoon and Dr. Ed Lenard. (missing from the photo) Al Barber, Dr. Jerry Hemenway, Terry McClinch, Jim O’Brien, Joe Sindelar Tom



Mina Deorio , student at SCA is honored at the Diocese annual “Breakfast of Champions. She receives her medal from Bishop William Lori, as her mom, Kendall looks on.

A PARTNERSHIP WITH TD BANK



Saint Catherine Academy and TD BANK have been partners for several years thanks in large part to the leadership of the School Advisory Board Vice Chair, Michael LaBella. Michael, TD BANK's Market President in Connecticut has served on the Board at SCA for many years.

In January 2011, Lisa McDonnell, TD BANK store manager in Fairfield and her team came to Saint Catherine Academy to offer a financial literacy program called WOW. After several meetings, Lisa agreed to modify the program so that the career class students would be able to benefit from the concepts of money, budgeting and saving, saving and spending, and using checking accounts. Twice a week, the class covered these topics using hands on instruction and an occasional field trip to the local branch.

"Working with the students of St. Catherine Academy was quite a rewarding experience. Their eagerness to learn coupled with their enthusiasm is a direct reflection of the quality education they are receiving at the school, and we are so proud to have played a role in their development. The staff could not



Lisa McDonnell, AVP, Store Manager at TD BANK shows SCA students what is behind the counter at the bank.

have been more accommodating in partnering with us to maximize the experience for the students as well," Lisa shared at the conclusion of the program.

"My favorite part was when we got to go into the bank vault," said Joshua, one of our students reported.

The students were able to open bank accounts and through a compensation pool funded by a TD BANK grant, received stipends for their jobs. The

students then went to the branch and deposited their checks in the bank.

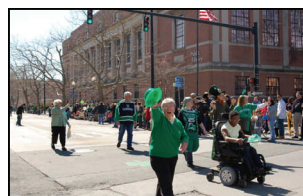
This summer, TD BANK funded a grant application that provided for the installation of two SMART boards and funds to support some professional development for our teaching staff. "SMART Boards allow for an interactive classroom where students are physically engaged in the lesson. We are very grateful for TD BANK's support of our mission at Saint Catherine Academy," commented Helen Burland, President.



Sr. Marilyn, Dr. Margaret Dames, Michael LaBella and Helen Burland with the new SMART board.

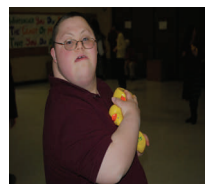
Students March in St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saint Catherine Academy was well represented in this year's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17th. Several students rode the lead float with our school banner proudly displayed while several students and Sr. Cheryl Driscoll and Sr. Maureen "O"Ulatowski marched carrying the school banner. Students who didn't march were on the street as cheerleaders as their classmates passed by. Bob O'Keefe, a good friend of St. Catherine Academy and Fred Cotter made the day possible for our students and staff. Saint Catherine Academy was presented with the "Best Float Participants" Award. But best of all, everyone had a great time being Irish for a day.



Duckie Derby 2011

The students at Saint Catherine helped get ready for the Duckie Derby this year by sorting the over 1000 ducks by number!



School Advisory Board member, Steve Donahue helps "dump" the ducks in the river for their race to the finish line.



The Kohl's volunteers are joined by our own Duck mascot to kick off the day.

Save the Date

**Christmas Pageant
December 23, 2011**

**Duckie Derby
May 19, 2012**

**Annual Scholarship
Dinner
June 10, 2012**



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Artwork created

by the students of Saint Catherine Academy
with our art teacher, Gina Barber




These card packets contain **10 cards**
and are available for purchase for only

\$10

All proceeds benefit Saint Catherine Academy



 SAINT CATHERINE ACADEMY
where learning and caring lead to personal best

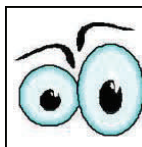
What's New

After School Program

Beginning in October, we will be offering an after school enrichment program two days a week from 2:15 pm—4:30 pm Mondays and Wednesdays. The goal of the program is to offer recreational and leisure activities for our students and opportunities for social interaction with their peers outside of the classroom environment. The program will include arts and crafts, culinary experiences and recreation activities.

Music Therapy

Saint Catherine Academy has entered into a partnership with "Arts for Healing", a non profit organization based in New Canaan, CT. "Arts for Healing" offers programming for people with learning and developmental disabilities to improve the quality of their lives through music and creative arts therapy. Our partnership will bring the power of music therapy centered on personal expression and communication to our students . This pilot program is being funded by the Luff Foundation of New Canaan.



Be on the lookout...

**Annual Fund Campaign Kick off
Fall 2011**

To order, call 203-540-5381 ext. 2010 or
send a check to: St. Catherine Academy