FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kathy Flinn, Director of Marketing
216.251.6788 ext. 250

Saint Joseph Academy Senior Margaret Seikel Named Semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program

CLEVELAND, OH – Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced that Saint Joseph Academy (SJA) senior Margaret Seikel is a Semifinalist in the 62nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Margaret competed with 1.6 million students from 22,000 high schools nationwide who took the PSAT/NMSQT®, the initial screen for National Merit Semifinalists. With this honor, Margaret now has the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit® Scholarships worth about $33 million that will be offered next spring.

Margaret is actively involved in both academics and extracurricular activities at SJA. She has completed five Advanced Placement (AP) classes at the school, adding three more this year. She also recently earned the AP Scholar with Distinction Award, the program’s highest recognition. Outside of the classroom, Margaret serves on the executive board of the Model United Nations and is a member of the Ohio Attorney General Teen Ambassador Board, National Honor Society and the SJA Student Ambassador program. She also volunteers her time through the STARS program at Cleveland’s Playhouse Square.

These activities and coursework allow Margaret to deepen her knowledge of history and social sciences, laying the foundation for what she hopes is a career in law or public service. “One thing that I appreciate about the academic challenges at Saint Joseph Academy is that we are not only taught information, we are also given chances to apply this learning,” she says. “For example, I was able to travel to Washington, D.C. as part of my Contemporary World Studies class. We learned about world affairs firsthand at the State Department, including how the United States negotiates international treaties and agreements. Saint
Joseph Academy realizes that learning does not exist in a bubble; they give us opportunities to live it out in the real world.”

Margaret lives in Rocky River, is a graduate of Saint Christopher School and is the daughter of Dr. George and Mrs. Shannon Seikel. Congratulations, Margaret!

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Now in its 126th year, Saint Joseph Academy is the only all-girls Catholic high school in the City of Cleveland. With a current enrollment of more than 725 young women, Saint Joseph Academy is rooted in the spirituality of the Congregation of St. Joseph and works to foster unifying relationships with God and all creation. Each young woman is empowered to achieve academic excellence, and inspired to a life of compassionate leadership and service in a global society. Saint Joseph Academy is located at 3470 Rocky River Drive in Cleveland. For more information, visit [www.sja1890.org](http://www.sja1890.org) or call 216.251.6788.