

the

ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY

dart

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SPECIAL  
BACK TO  
SCHOOL  
issue  
2009

OPEN

for  
business

In 2009-2010, STA embraces  
staff replacements and works  
toward an inviting atmosphere  
See pages 4 - 5

# New welcoming ceremony stresses spirituality

## Faculty and students plan "Passing the Legacy" service to bring initiation full circle

by ROSIE HODES  
Editor-in-Chief

Seniors and freshmen took part in a new ceremony today designed to embrace freshmen into the STA community, according to president Nan Bone. The ceremony, entitled "Passing the Legacy," included reflections by Bone, principal of academic affairs Barbara McCormick, and senior class president Caroline Thompson. Also, each senior presented a freshman with a St. Teresa of Avila medal, a short note and a prayer card.

Seniors learned about the ceremony yesterday at orientation and it was a "surprise" to the rest of the school today. According to admissions director Roseanne Hudnall, the special prayer service has been evolving over the summer and was not finalized until last week. She believes this type of initiation will continue to evolve and become part of STA's tradition.

"When there's a group of people passionate about something, that's how a tradition starts," Hudnall said.

Hudnall was passionate about adding a spiritual element to the process of welcoming freshmen into STA. For a few years she had thought about incorporating some sort of spiritual commencement (a key piece she felt was missing), but had trouble doing so. Hudnall was excited to learn that Bone had the same excitement for making the welcoming process come full circle.

"That's what an education at STA is all about," Hudnall said. "Developing all sides of a student - spiritually, academically and socially."

In the past the welcoming process has been mainly social through "Frosh Fest" - a week of activities between Little Sisters (freshmen) and

Big Sisters (selected upperclassmen). Senior class secretary Kelsie Fiss said it is important to have the "silly" aspect of "Frosh Fest," but that it can be exclusive because not everyone is involved.

"Now it is the whole school welcoming them," Fiss said.

Fiss also said the ceremony is a good way to help the bond between seniors and freshmen.

"As a freshman the seniors are so cool in your eyes," Fiss said. "Hopefully they see us as a less intimidating force. [The ceremony] shows them our softer side."

Fiss, along with the other class officers president Thompson, vice president Brady Essmann and treasurer Kylie Hornbeck, helped plan and organize "Passing the Legacy." They chose a color of ribbon for the medals and decided on green because it represents the new beginning the freshmen have the opportunity to embrace. They also discovered that green represents "legacy," which Bone believes is very important for freshmen to understand.

"We want to stress the history that these freshmen are walking into at STA," Bone said.

Bone and Hudnall agree that this year is perfect timing to emphasize the legacy of STA because the ceremony featured "A Century at Windmoor," STA's 100<sup>th</sup> year at the Windmoor campus, as a theme. McCormick spoke about the oldest bell in Kansas City, made in approximately 1850, that sits in the first floor hallway of the M&A Building. The bell's ringing represents calling students in to STA and also their calling to go out into the world.

According to Hudnall, incorporating a serious side into the welcoming process is a good way to give freshmen the feel of a Christian environment from the beginning, which she believes is rare and a special quality.

"I see [spirituality] on a daily basis," Hudnall said. "In [students'] kindness and interest towards our community. This ceremony is a way to begin with a firm foundation in a church setting." ★



**Bells are ringing** ★ Principal of academic affairs Barbara McCormick presented the bell, the oldest in Kansas City, as a symbol for welcome in Today's ceremony. McCormick researched the bell's history in *Who is God Like?* PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM



**Warm welcome** ★ Seniors wrote short notes of welcome to freshmen for the "Passing the Legacy" ceremony today. They also presented freshmen with medals. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

## Students test technology

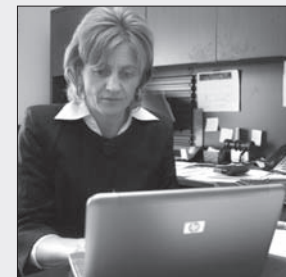
by ROSIE HODES

This year, as part of efforts to update the technology at STA, a few teachers and students will be using mini-laptops in their classes.

According to principal of academic affairs Nan Bone, the administration chose the specific type of computer made by HP because it is small, light, inexpensive and has a potential eight-hour battery life.

According to Bone, this year is a test to see if every student will use a mini laptop in the future. It will help them decide if STA will provide the funds for the laptops and reuse them each year, or have students purchase and keep the computers for themselves.

According to junior Jennifer Blake, who is one of the students participating, there is a chance the laptops will cause distractions during class. To avoid this, the administration would provide a set of textbooks to use in each classroom and students will use electronic textbooks for their homework. ★



**Technology Savvy** ★ Principal of academic affairs Barbara McCormick works on her HP Mini-notebook last Wednesday. A few STA students will be using a newer version of the notebook in their classes this year. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

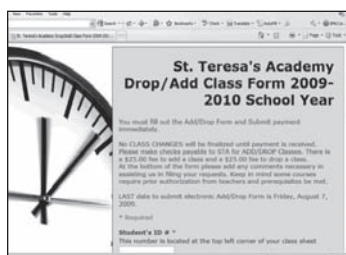
# STA website offers schedule changes to improve efficiency, quality

## Students add or drop classes electronically; find pros and cons

by MADALYNE BIRD  
Features Editor

The application to add or drop a class for the 2009 fall semester was online this summer. This new approach made it more accessible for students and their parents at home to change schedules.

The application itself remained the same: the student gave their name, parents' name, grade and which class they wished to change. Students still had to pay the mandatory \$25 fee



**Quick and Easy** ★ Students used an online application to adjust their schedules for this school year. PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG CARLSON

for changing classes. Although the deadline passed on Aug. 7, academic scheduler Kathy Walters said it managed to save some students a trip to

the school office.

"Usually during the summer we have long waiting lines of students outside the scheduling office," Walters said. "Having the online option made the process of changing schedules much faster and more efficient."

Walters also said that the scheduling office received almost 50 online requests to add or drop classes.

"Receiving applications online also made it easier for our office to spend more time making sure that students were given the best schedules available to them," Walters said.

Seniors Riley Cowing and Laura Havey both made the decision to drop classes this year using the online

application.

"Using the online form made everything easier, all I had to do was fill out the simple questions it asked, write a few comments on why I was dropping the class and click submit," Cowing said. "The whole thing is done online. It was a lot faster than walking in to the administration offices and asking for a form."

However, Havey disagrees with Cowing's statements on the simplicity of the online forum.

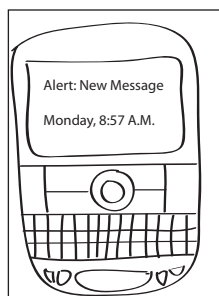
"I much rather would have gone in and spoken to an administrator about changing classes," Havey said. "It would have been less complicated to explain to them why I made the

decision to change classes. I thought using the website was weird and confusing. [It] wasn't really clear on what I was supposed to do. The concept was good, it was just difficult to understand."

After the form was submitted online, the scheduling office received it in a spreadsheet form, listing the students name and what they would like to change. The application was then compared to the student's current schedule.

Although this new online process will not be available to students for the 2010 spring semester, it will be on the school's website next summer for the 2010-2011 school year. ★

# inside out



**Opinion:**  
Adjusting in-school cell phone policies could be for the better  
**See Page 3**



**Entertainment:**  
Hulu.com provides free and legal entertainment and finds wide viewership  
**See Pages 6**



**Sports:**  
Tennis, golf, cross country, softball and volleyball made final team cuts last week  
**See Page 7**



# Cell phone use during school increases learning, not distractions

AN OPINION BY



MEGAN SCHAFF

My cell phone is my best friend. I use it for making phone calls and texting, for checking emails and internet browsing, and for keeping my insane calendar in order. During the three months of summer and on weekends, my best friend and I get along great. It's the eight hours a day, five days a week where I'm not allowed to see him that causes problems. You see, my cell phone, Tom, as he has been named, longs for me to look up what time my tennis match is on Tuesday afternoon, check my email for the important message from my English teacher, google an important fact about the Industrial Revolution for a project, or respond to the text from my best friend. I would love to be able to use Tom to his full abilities when I need him during the school day, but the STA administra-

tion doesn't feel the same way. While they think having my phone with me would only be a distraction, I think having him at school with me would help improve my work and keep me organized.

Allowing students to use cell phones during lunch, activity, frees and passing periods

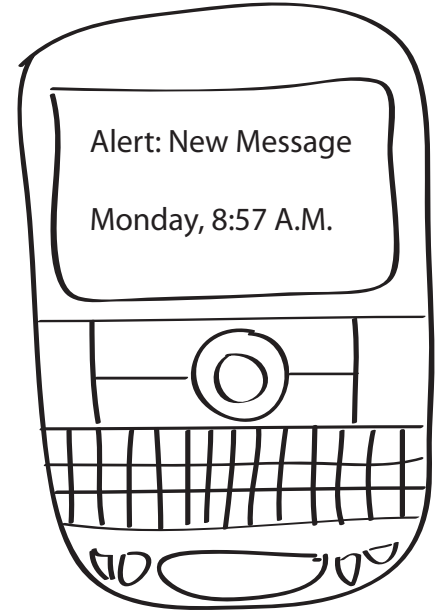
phones could be used as a means for doing important research.

There's no way the administration is going to stop students from using phones during class and obviously there's no way students are going to ignore them for eight hours. If students knew they would be allowed to use cell phones between classes, they would be less inclined to try to break school rules by using them in the middle of a lecture. This decision would dramatically reduce texting during class, which in turn would lead to fewer distractions, which would ultimately lead to more learning and better overall grades.

Some girls with Blackberrys, iPhones and other smartphones have their whole lives on their cell phones. It's not only about texting and phone calls, but checking email, keeping calendars, researching on the internet and using other useful "apps" that have become apart of everyday life. Teachers would have to be especially strict with this cell phone policy - students would only be allowed to use phones during the designated times for specific reasons, or STA girls could possibly abuse the freedom teachers would be giving them. But ultimately I think this decision would limit distractions, keep students more organized, give them more means of communicating and ultimately benefit the entire school.

Administration: if nothing else convinces

you, remember that teenagers are addicted to their cell phones. If separated for eight hours straight, one might become seriously ill. And you don't want 535 girls with severe separation anxiety, do you? ★



Graphic by Madalyne Bird

## Other Schools' Policies

- ★ **Sion: Prohibited during school hours**
- Rockhurst: Prohibited during school hours**
- Pembroke: Not allowed, must be off at all times**

Compiled by Madalyne Bird

would benefit the students, teachers and faculty of STA. Texting during class would be reduced, distractions would be limited and



"The best [thing I did was] my vacation to Orlando. The worst thing [I did] was getting up at eight three days a week for my babysitting job."

- Brianna Casey, sophomore



"The best thing that happened to me was [getting a] new phone and climbing a mountain in montana and the worst was the death of my iPod. It drowned."

- Clare Magers, junior



Compiled by Cara McClain and Molly Meagher

## Voice Off

What was the best and worst thing you did this summer?

"My best was definitely going to France, and my worst was having to do summer homework."

- Haley Mize, senior



"The best thing I did this summer was [going to] camp, and the worst thing I did was getting the swine flu."

- Kate Rohr, sophomore



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# NEW YEAR, NEW BUSINESS

Beginning of school year brings opportunities for updates at STA

## New kids on the block: STA welcomes additions to staff and faculty

by MOLLIE POINTER  
Sports Editor



**Marcia Warwick**

Admissions Assistant

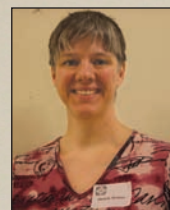
Ms. Marcia Warwick, new this year to STA's staff, will team up with Mrs. Roseann Hudnall in the admissions department. Warwick's job entails the shadow program and recruitment.

Warwick decided to apply to STA after working in a home office setting for 18 years.

"I wanted to work at STA because I wanted to be more engaged," Warwick said. "I didn't want to work by myself anymore."

Warwick wanted to be a part of the changes occurring at STA.

"I value what STA does," Warwick said. "I'm excited to be around the girls." ★



**Michelle McIntire**

Choir teacher

Ms. Michelle McIntire has joined STA's faculty as the choir teacher. McIntire applied for the job after hearing the position was open from former choir teacher and friend, Ms. Shauna Westall.

McIntire worked the past year at Academie Lafayette teaching kindergarten and first grade classrooms and choir second grade through 12th grade.

McIntire has taught clinics with the STA choir and is familiar with the choirs' abilities.

"It's been a while since I have been with a high quality woman's choir," McIntire said.

McIntire has a great deal of respect for single gender music education and is excited to be in the STA environment. ★



**Mark Hough**

Athletic director

### What was your previous job?

"Assistant athletic director, football and track coach, and co-advisor for the students newspaper." Hough worked for Greenhill High school in the Dallas, Texas area.

### What made you apply to STA?

Hough had heard good things from friends in the Kansas City area about STA.

"When the job opened up, I jumped on it."

### Was there something you liked about STA specifically?

Hough was familiar with the private school setting and had an idea what he would be working with by reputation.

"I knew the potential [STA had]."

### Is there anything you would like to change about the current athletic program?

"This is more of an evaluation year,"

Hough said. "There is an evaluation this year for possible changes later."

Hough did express an interest in creating a better relationship between a student's high school team and their off-season club team.

"There is a way to balance multiple sports," Hough said. "If there is a conflict between club teams and high school, we can make it work."

### Is there anything you would wish to bring to the STA athletic program?

Hough would like to look into making the Lacrosse team apart of the program and overall look to make improvements.

### What are you most excited about for the upcoming year?

"Just getting to know everybody and the school," Hough said. "It isn't fun unless you're a part of the everything."

### What tasks have you already dealt with as the new athletic director?

"I have had to fill some vacant coaching positions," Hough said. "I have had to get things in place for the school year." ★

## Open door policy

New principal of academic affairs strives to connect with students

by ROSIE HODES  
Editor-in-Chief

**C**eleste Bremen, Anne Marie Whitehead, Meredith Koch, Libby Randolph... As 530 names -- 530 unique individuals -- shuffle into the

doors of STA today, it is new principal of academic affairs Barbara McCormick's goal to memorize each face and name.

"I am a bit overwhelmed to learn 530 names," McCormick said. "But I will do it because I love to. It might take a long time, but that's okay."

Although McCormick's memorization skills have not yet been put to the test, president Nan Bone said she is a quick learner.

"Sometimes I feel like we're overloading her, but then I'm surprised how quickly she'll come back after absorbing so much," Bone said.

McCormick began her duties as principal soon after the STA search committee announced former principal Nancy Hand's replacement last April. Previously, she was the principal at Our Lady of Peace catholic grade school.

Over the summer, McCormick learned as much information as she could about STA. She studied the course curriculum, the student handbook, STA's history in the book "Who is God Like?," worked with counselors and concentrated a lot of her time learning modular scheduling.

Bone, principal of student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker and junior Alex Stuckey agree that having someone new in a high position is beneficial because there is an opportunity for fresh ideas. Stuckey said it is important for McCormick to have a balanced perspective when working with new and old procedures at STA.

"[McCormick] should be able to look at both sides of a situation," Stuckey said. "She should keep in mind the students' point of view while still staying professional."

According to McCormick, she will make a connection with students by sitting in on classes and experiencing a student's typical day, attending athletic and fine art events and participating in service week and a Kairos retreat. Stuckey believes this type of involvement is important for a principal.

"Adults are always telling us to get involved," Stuckey said. "They should tell teachers and faculty, too. Go to games,

come down for lunch. We might be crazy, but [McCormick] should see that."

According to Bone, McCormick is not a "behind the desk person," and she encourages connections with the students.

"I keep telling her 'Wait 'til you meet the girls!' Bone said. "Enjoy them, be with people, interact -- there's no way to do that behind a desk."

McCormick said she is excited to see the students on campus and work alongside them.

"I want to know the inspiration behind all of the aspirations you have," McCormick said.

McCormick said one way she wants to "roll up [her] sleeves" and work with the students is by helping create the senior slideshow for class day, which she learned about by working with the class representatives. She said they should not send something away to be completed when STA has the resources and skills to complete it here. McCormick has the technological background to help with such a project.

According to McCormick, she began studying technology when she was working towards her Masters degree at Kansas State University. Later, she attended

workshops and then became a technology facilitator at a Computer Magnet School in Topeka.

She and Bone have many plans for making STA more technologically advanced such as using Google Docs (an online document sharing program), establishing a wireless campus, experimenting with lap tops, taking advantage of Facebook and creating webcasts. McCormick said she wants to focus on technology because the field of education does not advance as quickly as other fields, so she wants to try to keep up with other industries and utilize resources available to STA. Bone and McCormick agree that advancing technology is an effort to keep up with the pace of STA students.

"Your generation has grown up with computers," McCormick said. "I guess you could say you're digital natives. We as adults are the immigrants trying to learn it all."

While McCormick knows she has a lot to soak in, she thinks it will be easier when the school year starts and she can see how everything she learned works on a daily basis.

"I am eager to see you here and feel your presence," McCormick said. "It will bring joy to my heart and a smile to my face." ★

"I have been given a lot of advice: to listen, to observe, to be visible and available. I want to invite everyone to come by so that I can meet them."

Barbara McCormick, principal of academic affairs



Welcome to the Academy ★ New principal of academic affairs Barbara McCormick stands in the quad Aug. 12. McCormick previously taught at Our Lady of Peace School. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

## Words from the wise

STA veterans share useful advice on school survival with incoming rookies

compiled by TAYLOR IRWIN & MOLLY MEAGHER  
In Focus Editor & Staff Writer

### Seniors to Freshmen



"My advice would be (even though I find it hard to follow myself) not to procrastinate -- at all. Because you'll feel a million times better if a teacher gives you two weeks to do an assignment and you start it immediately and finish it slowly and intelligently."

--Quinn Beisser

"Well for one, stay on the right side of the hallway to avoid collisions and don't be afraid to ask questions about their new school even if they don't know where the bathroom is."

--Kelsie Fiss



### Old Faculty to New



"Don't be afraid to ask questions, everyone here is so friendly and willing to go the extra mile, and that's what's so great about STA. Just take a deep breath whenever you need it because things are overwhelming at first. Once you find your rhythm things get easier."

--Ann Heid, speech/debate

"You just have to learn to be flexible. Go with the flow. With the scheduling here things can get a little crazy. STA can be intimidating with an all girl environment, but just ask questions and you'll learn soon enough."

--Denise Reuschhoff, social studies





entertainment **WALL**

**Movie**

"Julie and Julia"

A dash of comedy, a hint of romance, and oodles of food. *Julie & Julia*, based on two true stories, has the ingredients for an appealing movie. Julie Powells, played by Amy Adams, lives in 2002 New York, while Julia Childes, played by Meryl Streep, lives in 1948 Paris. Though they are separated by time and distance, their lives seem to mirror one another. Both Julie's failed cooking attempts and Julia's hilariously bold personality had me laughing out loud. Though I was left hungry for more, the film's unique plot and charming characters definitely make it worth seeing.

- Caroline Thompson



**Song**

"Use Somebody"

I have never been a huge Kings of Leon fan, but when I heard "Use Somebody" from their album "Only by the Night" for the first time, I changed my mind. The uniquely rough quality of the main singer's voice pairs nicely with the consistent guitar throughout the song. "Use Somebody" is great to listen to on the way to school because its not too obnoxious for the morning but still wakes you up enough to function in your morning classes.

- Cara McClain



**CD**

"Hot Mess"

Depending on what you are looking for, Cobra Starship's newest album "Hot Mess" can be hit or miss for your musical needs. Being the rock/pop band's third album, Hot Mess provides fun, lively beats perfect for a party; however, it's not the type of music I would listen to while relaxing in bed on a weekend afternoon. The album includes music that made me want to dance, laugh and have a genuinely good time on my summer nights out, but it's likely that I won't be turning to these songs much longer as school starts.

-Taylor Brown



**TV Show**

"More to Love"

Summer reality show "More to Love" is a standard dating show with a relatively unoriginal twist. In typical "Bachelor" inspired fashion, female contestants compete to win the attention of one man, but in this instance they all deal with weight issues. The moral of "More to Love" is supposed to be that love can exist for everyone, completely regardless of their size. While I do believe this is an important lesson for Americans, I feel that the show portrays it's contestants in a mostly negative light and fails to empower. "More to Love" airs Wednesdays on Fox.

-Julia Stapinski



Free TV just for me; sharing is a thing of the past

The screenshot shows the Hulu.com homepage. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Channels', 'Most Popular', 'Recently Added', 'Collections', 'Labs', 'Trailers', and 'Spotlight'. A search bar is on the right. The main banner features the TV show 'LOST' with the text 'hulu days of summer' and 'brought to you by NISSAN'. Below the banner, there are four columns of recommendations: 'Popular Episodes' (The Simpsons: Father Knows Worst), 'Popular Clips' (Saturday Night Live: Digital Short: Mothe...), 'Featured Videos' (Warehouse 13: Burnout), and 'Hulu's Pick' (The U.S. Postal Service honors Dragnet). Each recommendation includes a small image and a 'watch now' or 'explore' button.

Easy Access ★ Hulu.com, a free online TV and movie service, began in March 2007 with the sponsorship of NBC Universal, News Corp., The Walt Disney Company and Providence Equity Partners. One of their TV ads received an Emmy nomination last month. PHOTO COURTESY OF HULU.COM

AN OPINION BY



MORGAN SAID

I come from a family of six kids. Usually, this isn't a bad thing, but just like every family, we sometimes have our differences. For instance, the little girls like to watch Hannah Montana, the boys like to watch sports center and I need my weekly dose of The Secret Life of the American Teenager.

We have enough TVs in the house to accommodate all of our shows, but we don't have enough DVR space to record them all at the same time. The likelihood of all (or any) of us kids being home in the evenings to watch our shows is slim to none, which can lead to major problems (i.e. yelling, fighting, tattle-taling, deleting another sibling's shows, etc.) Since majority rules and I'm usually fighting my TV show battles alone, I end up losing my recording of my show. I always thought, 'tough luck, that's what happens when you're the oldest child,' but not anymore, thanks to a lovely website I like to call Hulu. Hulu, created by NBC Universal and News Corporation, allows

me to log on to their page, search the series I want to watch and pulls up every episode of the series accessible online. Watching TV from a laptop on Hulu is also a great way to pass time in the airport. If only I had known about this exquisite website back in July, when my family sat in the Cincinnati airport for a four hour layover on the way home from Florida; especially since at that point I had read all of my books and exhausted my interest in the movies I packed. Thanks to Hulu, there is one less daily battle to fight in the Said household. Maybe now we could find a solution to our arguments about what's for dinner, what time we have to be in bed, and what movies we see in theatres. ★

About Hulu.com



- What it is:** a free online video source containing most large-network television shows
- Who started it:** NBC Universal and News Corp.
- Pros:** easy to navigate, free TV viewing, easy search engines
- Cons:** not all shows and episodes are featured on hulu.com; videos frequently freeze and have to reload

**Harry Potter** casts a spell of numbers

Harry Potter movie number... **6**

**\$22.2 million** ...made midnight premiere night

**\$396.7 million** in the first five days

**1500** theaters sold out at midnight premiere

Avada Kedavra ★ Star of the "Harry Potter" films Daniel Radcliffe broke world-wide box office records in the sixth film. Courtesy of MCT Campus

Information compiled from CNN.com





**1. Stroke Play** ★ Sophomore Alexis Buford takes a putt during golf tryouts Aug. 12. Buford was on varsity last year and went to Missouri's state competition. **Photo By Hanna Katz**

**2. Run, Baby, Run** ★ Freshman Sara Schwartz, far left, runs with sophomore Mary Kate Jenks, junior Kate Rohr, and freshman Jane Evans, left third row, and freshman Danni Porter at cross country tryouts. To make the team, runners must be able to run three miles in twenty-eight minutes or less. **Photo By Tracy Burns-Yocum**



# TRYING TIMES

Last week, STA students battled for spots on the five fall sports teams

*TRYOUTS*  
BY THE NUMBERS

23 out of 33 girls made tennis

11 out of 11 girls made golf

Cross country had 53 try out

21 tried out and made softball team;

12 freshman made the volleyball team;

32 tried out



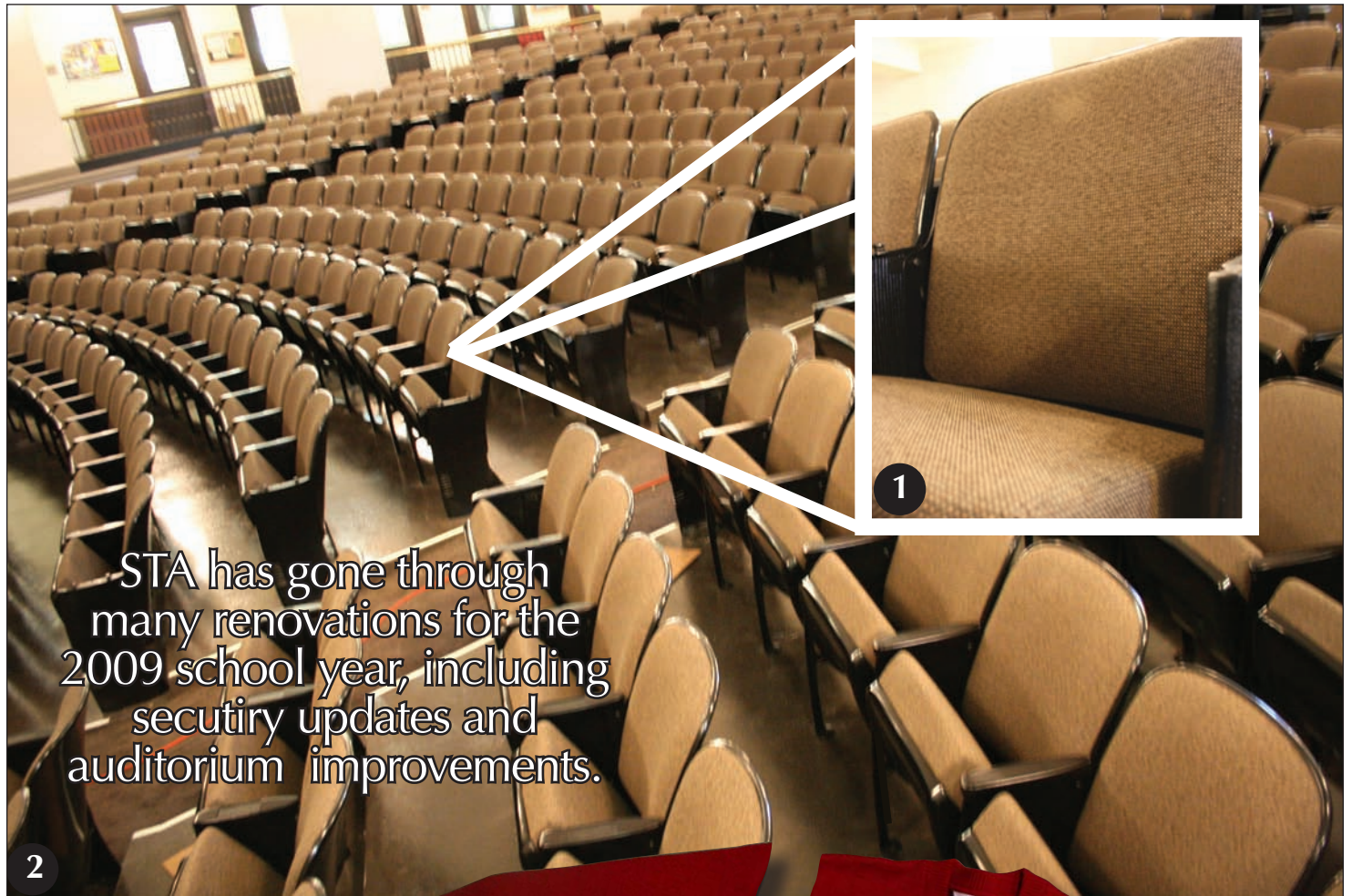
**3. Down and dirty** ★ Freshman Anna Wollery left, gets ready to tag out sophomore Allison Fitts as she slides into second base, during softball tryouts Aug. 11. Wollery made STA's varsity squad, as did Fitts who was a varsity player last year. **Photo by Tracy Burns-Yocum**

**4. Bump, set, spike** ★ Junior Kathleen Hough returns a smashing serve at volleyball tryouts on Aug. 12. Hough eventually joined the cross-country team because she thought it would be better cross training. **Photo by Avery Adams**

**5. Keep Your Eye On The Ball** ★ Freshman Alex Jackson races for a ball during a singles game at tennis tryouts Aug. 10. Jackson was one of thirty-three STA students that went out for the tennis team. **Photo by Tracy Burns-Yocum**



# Out *with* the Old



STA has gone through many renovations for the 2009 school year, including security updates and auditorium improvements.

**1. Take a seat** ★ STA recently updated the seating in the M & A auditorium as well as the stage.

PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

**2. Brand, spankin' new** ★ New seating is just one of many renovations the auditorium underwent during the summer of 2009. Other improvements include new paneling, light fixtures and ceiling.

PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

**3. Changing ways** ★ This year, the language lab and English resource center will be combined in room M204.

PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

**4. Password, please** ★ Security key pads are now positioned on the outside of every door. Each grade level, staff member and faculty member will have their own personal passcode.

PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM



**Sleeveless** ★ STA is offering sweater vests this year as part of the uniform. In addition, fleece vests may also be purchased. PHOTO BY SYDNEY DEATHERAGE

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