

**PRESS RELEASE – 11/25/09**

***Grey Nun Academy Celebrates 2009  
Blue Ribbon School of Excellence  
Award***



In recognition of its excellence, the Department of Education named Grey Nun Academy a 2009 Nationally Acclaimed Blue Ribbon School on September 15, 2009. This award is the most prestigious education award in the country, for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support. One of only 13 schools in Pennsylvania and one of only 314 in the country, Grey Nun Academy is now one of the select PreK-8 private schools to be chosen for this award of merit. On Tuesday, November 3, 2009, school principal and assistant principal, Marianne Finnegan and Sister Martha Moyle, GNSH, were presented with the Blue Ribbon award by Ms. Aba Kumi, Director of the Blue Ribbon Schools Program for the U.S. Department of Education, at an awards ceremony at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC.

On November 20<sup>th</sup> the Grey Nun Academy community gathered for a school-wide celebration to honor its achievement. Attending were Grey Nun Academy students, their families, faculty and staff, alumni and board of trustee members. Guest speakers at the celebration included Ms. Elizabeth Williamson, the representative from the U.S. Department of Education, Sister Julia Lanigan, President, Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart and Dr. David Mino, Chairperson, Grey Nun Academy Board of Trustees. Grey Nun Academy also received Proclamations from Pennsylvania State Senator The Honorable Charles T. McIlhinney, Pennsylvania State Representative The Honorable Steven J. Santarsiero and U.S. Congressman Patrick J. Murphy.

In order to be considered for nomination as a nationally acclaimed Blue Ribbon School, Grey Nun Academy students had to achieve at the highest levels, that is, in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed standardized tests. Other criteria, including a world language, faculty profiles and curriculum and instruction methods were also

considered. This honor is the result of collaborative and enduring efforts among the faculty, staff, and all the members of Grey Nun Academy's school community to focus on the commitment to excellence.

In the spirit of St. Marguerite d'Youville, foundress of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, Grey Nun Academy acknowledged two people who choose to live their life, as a reflection of Marguerite's call to reach out with tender compassion. Mr. Dave Roberts, broadcaster for Channel 6, WPVI - TV, Philadelphia and Julia Oakes, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student at Grey Nun Academy. Mr. Roberts, educated by the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, was recognized for the spirit he shares with his viewers, as well as his broader commitment to the people of the Delaware Valley area. Julia Oakes also exemplifies the mission of the Grey Nuns. Recently, Julia along with some friends, raised and donated \$10,000 to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for childhood cancer research program in the name of her friend and neighbor who passed away from childhood cancer and was a patient at CHOP. Grey Nun Academy applauds both Mr. Roberts and Julia for inspiring our community.

Grey Nun Academy, is a private Catholic co-educational elementary school serving students of all denominations from Pre-kindergarten through Grade 8 located in Yardley, Pennsylvania. Grey Nun Academy is a community committed to the intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual growth of our students. While honoring the individual needs of every child, we deliver strong academics in a nurturing environment, resulting in unsurpassed preparation for high school and beyond. Families interested in Grey Nun Academy are invited to attend GNA's Open House scheduled for Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 12-2 p.m. and Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9-11 a.m. Visit [www.gnaedu.org](http://www.gnaedu.org) for additional information.