

SHA GLOSSARY of TERMS

NAME/TERM	DEFINITION
ARCH STREET	Our second campus, on Arch Street from 1888-1924.
THE BEAT	The name of our school newspaper published by Upper School students.
BRYN MAWR	Our fourth and current campus, on Bryn Mawr Ave. from 1978-today. Within the Network of Sacred Heart Schools, we are referred to as Bryn Mawr.
CDSSH	Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, our former name until 2017.
CHEZ NOUS	The name of our literary magazine created by Upper School students. The student editorial staff also sponsors an Open Mic in the Mansion each year.
THE CONFERENCE	The Conference and its committees work on behalf of the Provincial Team of the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States-Canada Province. The Conference which serves as a think tank on mission for the schools within the Network.
CONGÉ	French for time off or holiday, Congé is a surprise in-school holiday in most Sacred Heart schools when students leave their regular schedule or classes and channel all their energy into celebration and fun!
THE CONSTITUTIONS	The foundational guiding documents of the Society of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ), last updated in 1982.

CORIE	Corie is the name of our school's lion mascot. Named after the Latin word for heart, Corie represents the spirit and heart of our Sacred Heart community
DAY OF SERVICE	Twice a year, the school sets aside time to participate in service together. Each division organizes their own activities and reflections to live Goal III.
EDEN HALL	In 1847, the first Sacred Heart school in the Philadelphia area opened in the Northeast. It closed in 1969. Although a separate school from our school, it shares our RSCJ heritage.
ESPACIO	Spanish for "space." Designed to create time in our busy schedules to develop the habit of being quiet to listen to God, there is a short window of time set aside each day to pause in silence and stillness. This is a tradition in all Network schools.
FIELD DAY	An end-of-the-year day of competition, pitting the Red Team against the White Team. Students compete in games and races, as well as team dances to earn bragging rights for the next year. Team pride runs deep.
FORMAL UNIFORM	For special days and assemblies, students wear formal uniform. For Upper and Middle School students, the most specific pieces of formal uniform are the red blazer and white polo. For Lower School students, formal uniform implies the green sweater with the jumper.
FRESHMAN DAY	Celebrated on or near Halloween, this event welcomes the ninth grade and celebrates the twelfth grade through

	themes, costumes, and skits.
GOALS & CRITERIA	The <i>Goals and Criteria</i> outline the essential principles and values of Sacred Heart education. First written in 1975, the criteria for each of the five goals are updated every fifteen years. Currently in its fifth edition, it remains the pivotal document for students, families and educators of the Sacred Heart. This articulation of mission continues to play a fundamental role in supporting mission integrity by expressing the timeless principles at the heart of Sacred Heart education.
GOÛTER	French for “to taste.” Refers to a surprise snack—a favorite SHA tradition!
HEARTROOM	Daily gathering of all Upper School students in the gym for prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, announcements and activities.
JANET ERSKINE STUART, RSCJ	Janet Erskine Stuart was a transformative leader of the Society of the Sacred Heart who emphasized the importance of deep interior life, intellectual rigor, and personal freedom in education. Serving as Superior General from 1911-1914, her most well-known work is <i>The Education of Catholic Girls</i> (1912), a foundational text outlining her philosophy of education that combined intellectual formation, spiritual depth, and personal freedom. Her vision helped shape a global approach to faith-based learning that fostered both academic excellence and spiritual growth in young women.
LILY PROCESSION	Celebrated on the Feast of the

	Immaculate Conception (December 8), the Lower School leads Mass by presenting lilies to the Blessed Mother.
MATER	Mater Admirabilis, or “Mother Most Admirable,” is the name given to the fresco painted in 1844 by Pauline Perdrau, a Religious of the Sacred Heart, at the Society of the Sacred Heart school then located at the top of the Spanish Steps in Rome. Over time, the fresco’s original bright colors faded, leaving Mary in the now-iconic pink cloak that has become so closely associated with Mater Admirabilis. The painting contains several meaningful symbols: the lily represents Mary’s purity; the distaff symbolizes her work; the open book represents her life of prayer; and her eyes reflect her humility. Reproductions of Mater Admirabilis can be found in Sacred Heart schools around the world. The Feast of Mater Admirabilis is celebrated on October 2 when Sacred Heart communities wear pink in honor of the distinctive color of Mary’s cloak and to celebrate the enduring presence of Mater in Sacred Heart tradition.
THE NETWORK	Refers to the 25 Sacred Heart schools in the United States and Canada historically interrelated and committed to the vision articulated in the <i>Goals and Criteria</i> .
OVERBROOK	Our third campus, on City Line Avenue from 1924-1978.

PRIMES (pronounced “preems”)	A tradition in Sacred Heart Schools, it is a weekly awards ceremony for Lower School students in the Chapel.
PRIZE DAY	The formal, traditional end of the school year assembly at Sacred Heart schools where students are recognized for achievement and progress. Per Sacred Heart tradition, seniors wear laurel wreaths.
PROVINCIAL TEAM and PROVINCIAL	The Society of the Sacred Heart is structured into regions which are called provinces. The leader of each province is called the Provincial. She works with a group of sisters named the Provincial Team. As of August 2026, we are in the United States Canada (USC) Province.
THE <i>REBECCA</i>	The name of the ship that brought St. Rose Philippine Duchesne from France to New Orleans in 1818.
RED DOORS	The iconic Red Doors are found at the entrance to the School House, atop the hill. They are a real and symbolic entry point to SHA.
RING MASS	A special Mass and ceremony when the eleventh graders receive their class rings. Celebrated at all Sacred Heart Schools, SHA's traditions include the green stone, juniors being escorted by two seniors, and the turning of the ring.
RSCJ	Abbreviation for the Religious of the Sacred Heart (or Religieuses du Sacré-Cœur de Jésus), the founding order of all Sacred Heart schools. Collectively, RSCJ are called The Society of the Sacred Heart. The leader of the

	Society of the Sacred Heart is called the Superior General and resides in Rome.
SHCOG	Sacred Heart Commission on Goals, responsible for regulating and evaluating the commitment and compliance with the <i>Goals and Criteria</i> in each of the Network of Sacred Heart member schools. All Sacred Heart schools experience a SHCOG visit every five years. SHCOG works on behalf of the Provincial.
ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT, RSCJ	Born in 1779, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat was the foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart, dedicated to the education of young women rooted in faith, intellect, and compassion. Living through the turbulence of post-Revolutionary France, she recognized the need for spiritual renewal and believed deeply in the transformative power of education. She died in 1865, the same year that our school opened. She was canonized in 1924. Her legacy endures through a global network of Sacred Heart schools that continue to form individuals of conscience, character, and compassion.
ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE, RSCJ	Born in 1769, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne was a pioneering missionary who brought the Society of the Sacred Heart to the United States, dedicating her life to education and service on the American frontier. She is especially remembered for her perseverance, prayerfulness, and her work with Native American communities, particularly the Potawatomi, who called her “the Woman Who Prays Always.” Her courage and

	faith laid the foundation for Sacred Heart education in North America, inspiring generations of service and spiritual dedication. She died in 1852 and was canonized in 1988. Although French by blood, she is often considered an American saint because the majority of her work took place here.
WALNUT STREET	Our first location, on Walnut Street from 1865-1888. When the school first opened, it was called Academy of the Sacred Heart.

SHA LOCATIONS

PLACE NAME	LOCATION
DOOLEY (MARIE CORNELIA DOOLEY BUILDING)	The school building on the left, as you drive up the hill. Houses mostly Upper School classes.
DINING ROOM (PEGGY BRUDER DINING ROOM)	The Dining Room is located in between the Mansion and the Schoolhouse. With inspiring views of the hill, it is where you will find everyone at lunch.
DUCHESNE ROOM	Part of the Sophie Center that houses books for Upper School and serves as a meeting space as needed.
GORMLEY GYMNASIUM	Attached to the Dooley Building and used for gym classes, sporting events, as well as Mass, Heart Room, and school performances.
INNOVATION CENTER	Part of the Sophie Center used for technology and innovation classes, as well as student and faculty work space.

MANSION	The historic mansion is attached to the School House. Originally called Hillbrook House, it was designed in 1908 for the Blabon Family. Currently, the area on the first floor is home to the Chapel, Small Dining Room, US Counselor Office, and Enrollment Office. The second floor includes the offices for Head of School and other administrative staff, as well as the Conference Room and Rebecca Center.
PAC (PERFORMING ARTS CENTER)	Located beneath the Dining Room, this space is home to music education and small assemblies.
REBECCA CENTER	A collection of office spaces on the second floor of the Mansion, this space houses student support offices such as College Counseling and Academic Support.
SCHOOLHOUSE	The school building at the top of the hill, inside the Red Doors. Houses Preschool, Lower, Middle, and some of Upper School.
SMALL DINING ROOM	The small room between the Dining Room and Mansion lobby. Used as an eating space during lunches and as a meeting or gathering space at other times.
SOPHIE CENTER	Located at the end of the first floor of the School House, the Sophie Center houses the Duchesne Room, Innovation Center, and Library.
SUN PORCH	The area connected to the Dining Room and the Mansion lobby. Used during the school day as an extension of the Dining

	Room or for independent work. Used for events at other times.
WETLANDS	This is protected green space at the bottom of our campus.

IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	IMPORTANCE
December 12, 1779	Birthday of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat.
1800	Founding of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
1818	Arrival of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne to the United States and the opening of the first Sacred Heart school in the Americas (St. Charles, MO).
November 18, 1852	Feast Day of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne. She died in 1852 and was canonized in 1988.
May 25, 1865	Feast Day of St. Madeline Sophie Barat. She died in 1865 and was canonized in 1924.
1865	Opening of our school (then the Academy of the Sacred Heart) in Philadelphia in late summer.
May 6, 1882	Blue Hyacinth Day celebrates the legacy of Janet Erskine Stuart, RSCJ because she experienced a life-changing spiritual awakening and embraced her religious vocation while sitting in a garden of blue hyacinths on this date.
1999	Our school officially joined the Network

	of Sacred Heart Schools.
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