

# TLC TIMES

The Future is Now

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## Blue Ribbon Spotlight

### School of Excellence

By: Lacey O

On November 8, 2016, hundreds of schools, including St. Augustine of Canterbury School, gathered in Washington D.C to be honored with a Blue Ribbon Award of Excellence.

Over 350 schools received this fine honor for *Exemplary High Performance*. St. Augustine of Canterbury in Kendall Park, New Jersey was very proud to be bestowed with this title. The school has been an active part of their community for over 55 years, and they truly deserve their new title.

Consisting of 458 students, St. Augustine recognizes each child's distinct personality and teaches them to use their talents to be lights of the world.

St. A's always displayed a sense of community and family. St. Augustine Home School Association President Leilani Okamura stated, "Our community has a mutual respect and value for our faith, education, technology, surrounding community and advancement." The school truly has all these qualities and it is no doubt many other people feel the same way.

Eighth grader and National Junior Honor Society Member Taylor Okamura spoke to National Catholic Education Association

members at the Blue Ribbon Convention. "St. Augustine is special first because we are a Catholic school and also because we have a great sense of community, we're like one big family, everyone knows everyone and we all help each other," she told NCEA President. The St. Augustine family is the greatest and their Catholic side really shines through.



U.S. Department of Education  
Blue Ribbon Seal

One of the many reasons St. A's received this award is because of their many advancements. St. Augustine School is very modern and advanced in technology. The school has several chromebook carts, 2 Dell computer carts, Ipads, netbooks, Smart Boards, aqua-boards, and so much more. The students are engaged in learning, and get to use modern devices.

But all the credit doesn't belong to the computers. St. A's teachers are top notch and make learning

special. Mrs. Okamura said, "The teachers and staff are here because they care and it shows. It's not simply about collecting a check at the end of the day".

Once a teacher or new students signs up they are immediately part of the St. A's family.

Everyone at St. Augustine is enthusiastic about Blue Ribbon and take pride in their new establishment. Surely, it doesn't stop here for this fantastic school. All are excited to see what will happen in the near future. The spotlight shines greatly on St. Augustine, and clearly, it will never dim.



Students at the  
Blue Ribbon Announcement  
(Taylor O.-third row, first girl)