



## ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

*Today's Young Woman. Tomorrow's Leader.*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### St. Mary's Academy Partners with Portland City United and the City of Portland on Buckman Field Renovations



Portland, Ore. – **October 21, 2010** – St. Mary's Academy proudly announces, in partnership with Portland City United (PCU) and the City of Portland, the renovations of Buckman Field in northeast Portland. Slated for completion in early 2011, the newly updated Buckman Field will include two 80x120 square yard synthetic turf playing surfaces and provide a home field for St. Mary's soccer and lacrosse programs. The total cost is estimated at \$1.8 million.

"The Buckman Field Project provides an ideal solution to the partners involved, but it also improves the field quality for Benson High students and northeast Portlanders," said St. Mary's Athletic Director, Anna Maria Lopez '78. "It really is a win-win for the entire city."

While the downtown location of St. Mary's offers numerous benefits including cultural immersion and proximity to numerous museums and galleries, the one amenity it lacks is accessible adjacent property to build athletic facilities. This disadvantage led school officials to research opportunities within an eight-mile radius to secure modernized athletic facilities for the Blues soccer and lacrosse programs. The partnership with PCU and the City of Portland to renovate Buckman Field provides opportunities for each organization to use the fields based on an agreed timetable throughout the year.

Further, the project offers an economic and cost-effective collaboration in which costs are allocated based on each organization's use of the fields. St. Mary's and Portland City United entered into a ten-year lease, with option for first right of refusal for renewal. The life expectancy of turf is approximately ten years, and St. Mary's Academy and Portland City United will have first option to refurbish the field turf, including but not limited to funding, materials and installation. St. Mary's Academy will fund approximately \$450,000 of the total renovation expenses.

**(more)**

Once completed, Buckman Field will finally offer soccer and lacrosse teams a home field and alleviate irregular practice and competition locations that, until now, shuffled between Delta Park, Willamette Park and Portland State University's Stott Field. Its renovation will also provide a modernized facility in which students are less likely to be injured, are ensured competitive equality by playing on surfaces like other schools in the Mt. Hood Conference and offer parking and seating for spectators.

In addition to benefitting St. Mary's Academy, the project offers several additional advantages to its partners and the Portland community including adjacent Benson Tech High School, who will have use of both fields during the school day, after school for their teams and for state playoffs. It now also offers the northeast Portland community a state-of-the-art field. Previous to this plan's inception, Portland Parks and Recreation had no plans to update the field with synthetic turf. Additionally, the project provides Portland City United (PCU) with additional sites for various athletic events, which will be needed once PGE Park becomes the new professional soccer team's home field.

For additional information or questions, please contact Crystal Ghassemi, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at 503-724-8589 (cell) , 503-721-7715 (direct office) or [crystal.ghassemi@stmaryspdx.org](mailto:crystal.ghassemi@stmaryspdx.org).

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*About St. Mary's Academy Athletic Program*

As a member of the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA), St. Mary's Academy competes in eight 6A level sports in the Mt. Hood Conference. St. Mary's also competes in lacrosse under the auspices of the Oregon Girls' Lacrosse Association (OGLA). St. Mary's Academy has won 19 OSAA State Championships in five different sports as well as 2 OGLA State Titles in lacrosse. Additionally, the Blues have won numerous academic state titles, twice winning the OSAA Scholar Athlete Award for having the highest percentage of graduating seniors earning a 3.50 cumulative GPA and a varsity letter in an OSAA sanctioned sport.

*About St. Mary's Academy*

Founded in 1859 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy is an all-female Catholic high school and Oregon's oldest continuously operating secondary school. The student body represents a diverse background of young women from over 30 urban, suburban and rural communities in Oregon and southwest Washington. St. Mary's Academy is distinguished by its development of the whole person, and is the only school in the state to receive three U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools awards. For more information about St. Mary's Academy, please visit: [www.stmaryspdx.org](http://www.stmaryspdx.org).