Local School Graduates First Seniors

The Siena School, founded in 2006, sends first five graduates to college

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, June 14, 2010 – The Siena School (“Siena”) announced today that it would hold its first graduation ceremony on Tuesday June 15, 2010. The first five graduates will receive their diplomas at a ceremony at Imagination Stage in Bethesda. Peter Jablow, CEO of The Levine School of Music in Washington DC will be the commencement speaker, and the graduates will also be addressed by Siena Founder Erik Heyer.
“This is an extraordinary occasion for us,” said Mr. Heyer. “To grow from 15 students in our first year to over 70, and to receive our school accreditation and hold our first graduation in the same year is very exciting.” The School was founded in 2006 with grades 5-9, and has grown to over 70 students in grades 4-12. All five graduates have been accepted to college. “Our students have so much to be proud of,” said Jilly Darefsky, who serves jointly as head of school with Clay Kaufman. “We are thrilled to see their academic confidence grow and have them so eager for college.”

Siena is accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and is an affiliate member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). Siena’s Advisory Board includes national educators as Katherine Merseth of Harvard University; Nancy Streim of Columbia University Teachers College; Lou Salza, head of Lawrence School in Ohio, and Margaret Harrington, chief operating officer of Victory Schools in New York.

Distinguished local educators on the Advisory Board include Abigail Wiebenson, retired head of Lowell School; William Stixrud, well known area psychologist specializing in learning disabilities, and director of William Stixrud and Associates in Silver Spring, Maryland; Claire Nissenbaum, founder and director emerita of the Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center, a nationally accredited training program for dyslexia teachers and tutors located in Rockville, MD; Robin Church of the Kennedy Krieger Institute; and Janet Wintrol, director of Ivymount School Programs in Rockville, MD. The Advisory Board also includes Matthew Moyer of National Geographic, one of the nation’s rising young photojournalists.

About The Siena School

The Siena School in Silver Spring, Maryland serves bright, college-bound students with language-based learning differences, such as dyslexia. Siena’s staff and board of advisors include distinguished national, state and local education leaders and professionals. The school was established in 2006 to serve students in grades 5 – 9, and currently serves grades 4 – 12. Siena’s program is designed for students with mild to moderate learning needs who are
experiencing a discrepancy between their academic achievement and intellectual abilities in one or more areas such as reading, writing, oral expression or math. Siena delivers an individualized educational program featuring small class sizes, research-based instructional methodologies, a highly trained staff and an educational environment specifically designed to meet the unique needs of our students. For further information, The Siena School can be contacted at (301) 592-0567 or on the web at www.thesienaschool.org.

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