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SANTA FE GIRLS' SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 7, CONTINUING LEGACY OF EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS TESTING IN THE TOP 15% OF THE NATION

Eighth Grade Students from Non-Profit, Private School Benefit from Small, Single-Gender, Seminar-Style Education

SANTA FE, NM, September 7, 2010—Santa Fe Girls' School, a non-profit, private middle school for grades 6–8, is pleased to begin its twelfth year of operation, working to continue the successful trend of its eighth graders graduating with scores on nationalized tests in the top 15%. Founded in 1998, the Girls' School now has 11 years of data indicating that its single-gender, seminar-style classes of 15 students produce eighth grade students who test in the 85 percentile on the TerraNova nationalized tests in reading/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

"We are very proud of our graduates' test scores," says Lee Lewin, co-founder of Santa Fe Girls' School. "The data give us one indication of how our approach yields confident, smart girls, particularly when we examine the fact that, over the last six years, many of our incoming sixth grade students test up to two grades behind." Eleven years of data also reveal that almost 100% of Girls' School graduates complete high school and graduate from college. According to the National Governors Association' Cohort Graduation Rate, in 2009, 66% of New Mexico students graduated from high school.

In the 2010-2011 school year, 35% of the student population is non-anglo and 20% of the students will take advantage of financial assistance. These numbers are consistent with those student populations of the past 12 years. There are limited spots available in the sixth grade class for the 2010-2011 school year. Financial assistance is available, and tuition is half the cost of other private middle schools in Santa Fe.

About Santa Fe Girls' School

Founded in 1998, Santa Fe Girls' School was conceived in response to the community's need for a small academic setting where adolescent girls from a variety of economic and cultural backgrounds could thrive in a single-gender environment that cultivates emotional growth and intellectual strength, preparing girls for the demands of high school, college, and young adulthood. The Girls' School is a 45-student, private 501(c)(3) middle school for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls—the only one of its kind in New Mexico. Visit santafegirlsschool.org.

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