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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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National Day on Writing A Success at SMH

(San Antonio, Texas) – On October 19, Saint Mary's Hall joined the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) in celebrating and bringing awareness to National Day on Writing. Every student from Kindergarten through Form 12 was able to attend the event during their designated English period.

National Day on Writing celebrates composition in all forms – from stories, poems, and letters to text messages, videos, and audio recordings – and demonstrates how writing is a vital part of everyday life. Thousands of writers from across the country recognize the National Day on Writing with local events, including write-ins, talks by local authors, and poetry slam celebrations using the social media hashtag #WhyIWrite.

This year's theme, *Letters: Send Your Voice*, celebrated the art of letter writing and the powerful ways in which letters send a writer's voice out into the world. This educational and powerful writing event gave students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to:

- Write with a quill and ink, and view a traveling exhibit of 1840s letters (led by a docent from the Sophienburg Museum)
- Practice the time honored art of calligraphy with a local calligrapher's guild member
- Try out historical methods of letter writing, such as sealing letters with wax and typing on manual type writers
- Reflect and write letters of gratitude (to a teacher, parent, classmate, or mentor, for instance) or letters to their future selves
- Write cards of encouragement and appreciation to deployed armed services members

Upper School English Teacher Megan Soukup (and event coordinator), spoke to the event itself, "We were so excited for this event and were glad it was a meaningful and memorable experience for the students. We also think this was an amazing way to showcase that Saint Mary's Hall has the best writing program anywhere – along with opportunities you just can't get anywhere else."

This is the second year that Saint Mary's Hall participates in the event, and SMH is one of the only schools in the city that celebrates National Day on Writing.

Since 1879, Saint Mary's Hall has set the standard for college preparatory education in San Antonio by providing a wide-range of exceptional opportunities in academics, athletics, fine arts, and core values education to create well-rounded students that are successful in college and life. Saint Mary's Hall offers exceptional opportunities for children ages 3 through grade 12.