

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Freshman Gina Santella Awarded Prestigious Rigali Barrett Scholarship

ST. PAUL, MN – September 28, 2009. Hill-Murray School, in partnership with the Barrett family, is pleased to announce that freshman Gina Santella of Maplewood has been awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Dolores Rigali Barrett Scholarship.

This prestigious academic scholarship was established in memory of Dolores Rigali Barrett, mother of seven children, all of whom graduated from Hill-Murray School near St. Paul. Mrs. Barrett was committed to both her Italian heritage and Catholic education, and continually emphasized the importance of studying and working hard in order to succeed. Awarded annually to a Hill-Murray student in high school grades 9-12, scholarship criteria include solid academic standing, Italian heritage, and a written essay describing what the applicant's Italian heritage means to them.

Prior to beginning her freshman year at Hill-Murray, Gina Santella attended Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Maplewood, where she was named "8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student of the Year." Immensely proud of her Italian heritage, Gina and her family enjoy numerous Italian traditions – including participation in the dance group Ballerini Italiani di Minnesota, cooking homemade tomato sauce and pizzelles, and helping to raise money for the maintenance of the Christopher Columbus statue on the St. Paul capital grounds. Gina plans to remain very active at Hill-Murray, and has a wide variety of interests – including student government, yearbook and the student newspaper.

According to Mark Barrett, one of Dolores Rigali Barrett's seven children, "My family and I enjoyed learning about Gina's amazing character, work ethic and Italian pride, and are thrilled that somebody of her caliber has been selected to receive this year's scholarship." Added Dolores' sister Mary Rigali, "Gina is a perfect recipient of this award, and the type of exceptional young student whom Dolores would've loved. We wish her the best of luck as she starts the exciting high school chapter of her life!"

For additional information:

- Dolores Rigali Barrett Scholarship: [www.RigaliBarrett.com](http://www.RigaliBarrett.com)
- Hill-Murray School: [www.Hill-Murray.org](http://www.Hill-Murray.org)