

100%
OF STUDENTS
graduate from high school.

OF ALUMNI HAVE ENROLLED IN COLLEGE and other post secondary programs.

The late Monsignor Mateo Sheedy, the pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, saw the children of his parish struggle to finish high school, resulting in limited educational and career opportunities. Early adolescence is a critical stage in the lives of young people, and Fr. Mateo envisioned a middle school that would provide the academic, spiritual, and emotional support needed to inspire the students to transform their lives through education. In the early months of 2000, a Jesuit priest, Fr. Peter Pabst, became available to undertake this project, bringing with him the Nativity model of education.

In early 2001, rehabilitation of the 50-year-old Sacred Heart School began, and the first sixth grade class of boys started school in September of 2001. To complete Fr. Mateo's dream, Our Lady of Grace Nativity School for girls was opened in July of 2006.

We now have 80 students in grades 6, 7, and 8 and are the only non-profit, private Catholic middle school in the San Jose area focusing on academic intervention for underserved students.

Our families earn an average income of \$30,000 and are only asked to pay \$40 per month to cover activity fees. Currently, 96% of the youth we serve are Latinx, most are from immigrant families, and English is likely not the primary language spoken in the home. The schools provide a Catholic education for students living within the surrounding neighborhood, with priority given to those of the Sacred Heart Parish community.

The Nativity Schools seek to lay the foundation for students to succeed in college prep high school programs, in college, and beyond. For the past few years, we have seen 85% of eighth graders gain acceptance to a Catholic, college prep high school, and 100% of our alumni graduate from high school on time. Of recent high school graduates, 90% are enrolling in college, university, and other post-secondary programs. College students are graduating from schools such as Santa Clara University, San Jose State, Cal State Merced and UC Santa Barbara, just to name a few.

Dear Friends and Supporters of Nativity,

We are thrilled that school started last month with everyone back on campus! The sounds of joyful students filling our hallways and classrooms make our hearts so happy. We have missed having a full house, and it feels great to be back.

As we put the finishing touches on our five-year strategic plan, our theme, "Ignite our Community's Curiosity and Reimagine Success," is reflective of some of the

changes and difficult decisions we were forced to make last year due to COVID-19. Our academic programs and the newly formed Support Services team fill us with much hope, and we feel that the pandemic could be considered our "cannonball moment." Like St. Ignatius, we dug deep and kept the learning continuous, focusing not only on academics but on prioritizing the social-emotional wellness of our students. Last year, even with our hybrid learning model, our students achieved measurable success and grew both academically and spiritually.

During this 2021–22 school year, the Ignatian Year, with 100% of our students back on campus and new team members in place, we build on the momentum from the last school year to ignite the excitement and joy of learning in many ways:

- Opening the school year with an all-school novel where students can engage in literature, and critically think and act on social justice issues.
- Returning to an active and engaging activity period in extended day programming where students can participate in clubs including art & advocacy, philosophy, volleyball, coloring, soccer, and more!
- Gathering as a community to engage deeply in scripture and prayer every Friday celebrating Eucharist, Liturgy of the Word, or dialogue together during Christian Life Community groups.
- Offering students new technology such as Chromebooks that connect with large TV monitors in each classroom. Teachers are equipped with new applications and resources to prepare students as 21st-century learners.
- Committing to Cura Personalis and our care for the whole person with the formation of a Support Services team. The team was formed to support not only our current students but also alumni and families with services in academic, career, socio-emotional, and spiritual needs.
- Integrating curriculum and expanding cross-curricular programming such as offering fiction and non-fiction books with stories that relate to the specific content of the STEM class.

We are so grateful for your support throughout the pandemic and want you to know how much our entire school community appreciates you and holds you in our prayers every day.

With Gratitude and Blessings,

Ruben Soft Ir.

Deacon Rubén Solorio President Lorraine Shepherd Principal

Smaine T. Shighwood



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# THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS





### THANK YOU TO OUR MOST RECENT TUTORS!

Bill Blockie

Eileen Block

Genie Florczyk

Samantha Fontilla

Michelle Hansen

Tim Johnson

Sr. Catherine King

Sr. Anne Locke

Rich Ragany

Curtis Westerfield

### **HOW VOLUNTEERS INSPIRE SUCCESS**

With the many uncertainties we faced last year, one thing that remained constant was our committed group of volunteer tutors from the community, who join us every year to work with students on classwork and high school application essays.

Nativity students enter the 6th-grade testing one to two grade levels behind in English Language Arts (ELA) and math. When it comes to interventions that can help students get back on track, tutoring (one-on-one or in small groups) is top of mind for most educators. Whether it was over Zoom, or socially distanced on the school campus, the tutors proved invaluable. As Principal Lorraine Shepherd says, "the tutors were an instrumental part in our students' success last year."

The tutors at Nativity believe that they personally benefit as much as the students. Katie Burke, one of the original tutors starting in 2006, says, "when I stepped out of my blessed world to understand how much the students had to deal with outside of school, I realized how very strong they were. It was a great gift and pleasure to work with them."

Bill Blockie decided to focus his retirement on providing service to others. When he's not taking his therapy dog to the Jesuit Retirement Center, he is helping Nativity students with English language skills including vocabulary, reading, writing, and understanding current events. He enjoys integrating his Catholic faith with his teaching and is "so happy to have found this school."

Tim "Coach" Johnson says, "Instead of retiring, I have 'refocused.' My greatest joy comes from using my "God-given, how-lucky-I-am" 'gifts' to work alongside motivated, determined, inspirational Nativity students who are hellbent on Breaking the Cycle of Poverty through Education." Tim works with eighth graders to prepare their essays for the private high school applications AND works with high school alumni on their applications to college. He finds it particularly satisfying to witness immediate, tangible results.



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#### STAFF

# IGNATIAN EDUCATOR

"Whatever you are doing, that which makes you feel the most alive...that is where God is."

~St. Ignatius of Loyola

Congratulations to **Jonathan MacArt**, the winner of the 2020–21 Ignatian Educator Award. This honor is given to the faculty member who best exemplifies the spirit of Magis, a Jesuit philosophy of doing more for Christ, and therefore doing more for others.

Jonathan graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory in 1988 and has always felt the sincere need to return the "gift" of an Ignatian Education that he received and enjoyed. In the past seven years at Nativity Schools, he has fulfilled his life-long dream: to be an Ignatian Educator.

During the award ceremony, Lorraine described some of the reasons that Jonathan was chosen for the award this year:

"Particularly in the last 18 months, Jonathan has been a stabilizing force as we navigated the challenges of educating our students through the pandemic. He is the self-proclaimed germophobe in the building, but he did not waver in his care of our students. There were many demands put on him, but he never said NO to a request."



# NEVV STAFF MEMBERS





PATRICIA LOPEZ — Associate Director of Graduate Support

Patricia graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminal Justice. She began working in education in 2001, and one of her favorite jobs was working on programs which support parents during their students' educational journey. While working at the Roberto Cruz Leadership Academy, she came to Nativity on numerous occasions to work with the 8th graders to understand their high school options and graduation requirements in preparation for college. Her experiences make her a perfect fit for the Graduate Support Team, and we are thrilled to have her. Patricia says," I am excited to jump back into this Academic Advisor/ College Advisor role with the Grad Support program. I love helping students navigate their high school journey and support them through their college planning process. I am happy for this opportunity and feel blessed to be part of the Sacred Heart Nativity Family".



**HECTOR MARTINEZ '11 –** 

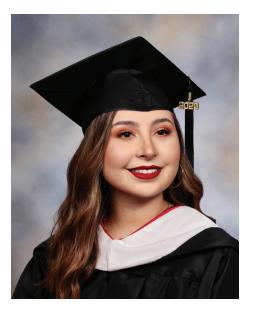
Spanish Teacher

Hector is one of our distinguished alumni who have found their way back to the Nativity campus. He recalls being very excited to attend Nativity as a sixth grader and has fond memories of his time as a middle school student, especially attending Saturday school. He attended Bellarmine College Prep High School and graduated from Santa Clara University in 2019 with degrees in Psychology and Spanish. Hector is excited to be back at Nativity teaching Spanish. He feels at home in this community and remembers that his basic values were formed here by his teachers and mentors. He understands that teaching is a big responsibility and hopes to inspire his students, in the Ignatian spirit, to become men and women for others.



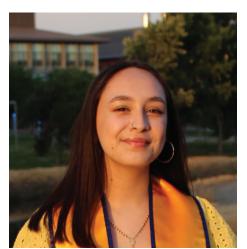
IVIEMA BERNAL '11 - Counselor

When asked what it was like to attend Nativity as a middle school student, Iviema recalls, "when I attended Nativity as a 6th grader, I was incredibly shy and quiet. But, as I was encouraged by my teachers, I began to open up and became part of the student council." Iviema attended Notre Dame High School and then went on to earn degrees in psychology and Spanish studies at UC Santa Cruz. She is currently attending Santa Clara University in pursuit of a master's degree in counseling psychology. She is thrilled to be back at the place that helped crack open her shell. "I hope that I am able to help the students and be part of a team that is determined to make a difference in this community." She says, "I am learning a lot from my peers and am definitely learning a lot about myself as I work with the students".



### **DIVIANA NAVARRO** – English Language Arts Teacher

Diviana was born and raised in Watsonville and attended a public college prep charter high school called Ceiba College Prep Academy before earning a double degree in Communications and Spanish from Santa Clara University. When asked why she wanted to teach at Nativity, she said, "Sacred Heart Nativity is a very special place with a mission that resonates deeply with me and my own lived experience as a first-generation, low-income, Latinx student. I am passionate about serving the Sacred Heart Nativity school community because of how important it is to get more BIPOC students to and through college and beyond." She hopes to not only grow as an educator, but as a role model and mentor-figure for the students. This is her first year teaching in an actual classroom, and she is thankful to no longer be on Zoom. She says, "I am so grateful to have joined such a welcoming and understanding community".



### MARISOL MARTINEZ '13 - Magis Coordinator

Marisol is the youngest of our alumni hires and sees many positive changes in the school since she was a student. She is excited to be part of the school community and looks forward to helping students visualize a positive future for themselves. When describing her experience at Nativity, she says "My middle school years shaped the way that I did my schoolwork. I learned to organize my workload so that I still had energy to do activities after school. Those organizational skills helped me in high school and college, and I still implement them in my life today." Marisol attended Saint Lawrence Academy for the first three years of high school, and then graduated from Notre Dame, San Jose. She went on to UC Merced, where she earned a degree in psychology with a minor in Spanish. "When there was an opportunity to work at Nativity, I thought what better way to give back than to return to my own middle school and help the students, knowing that once, I was one of them."

### **FACULTY AND STAFF**

Iviema Bernal '11 Maria Buckallew Atziri Cendejas '17 Julie Henriques Rose Jimenez

Pam Klaus

Patricia Lopez

Jonathan MacArt

Hector Martinez '11 Marisol Martinez '13 Jacqueline Mendez Diviana Navarro

Marc Ortiz

Jennifer Packard

Patricia Perez Barbi Phipps Lewis Poche

**Robert Rodrigues** 

Jackie Romo

Lorraine Shepherd

Deacon Rubén Solorio

Raul Tornel

# CLASS OF 2021 GRADUATION



### CELEBRATING NATIVITY'S 18th GRADUATING CLASS

Sacred Heart Nativity Schools celebrated a Baccalaureate Mass and graduation ceremony on May 28th to honor the Class of 2021. The event was held in the parking lot of the school, and COVID protocols were followed. With the graduates seated in the middle, immediate family members encircled the students with their cars and folding chairs to witness the ceremony. We were honored to have the Most Reverend Bishop Oscar Cantú preside over the Mass and ceremony, assisted by Rev. Luis Vargas and our own Deacon Rubén Solorio.

Principal, Lorraine Shepherd, sums up the class as being one filled with JOY and LAUGHTER. Even after the pandemic forced the school to close part way through their 7th grade year, the students remained positive and were diligent in completing their schoolwork.



In the words of valedictorian, Camila, "It was a year we'll all remember. Despite the unprecedented times of Covid and social unrest, we made it the best year possible. We persevered, showed resilience, and adapted in these tough times. To the staff, faculty and our families who have shown us tremendous support and love all three years, we thank

you .To my fellow classmates and friends who never failed to lighten up the classroom and make me laugh, I thank you. Where has the time gone? We have created many memories."

This was a strong class full of hard-working students, as evidenced by the high number of students who were accepted to private Catholic high schools—21 out of 26 students.

Deacon Rubén told the students, "If you were able to survive the pandemic during your 7th and 8th grade years,











there is no limit to what you can do in high school; you will continue to rise and thrive!"

This sentiment was echoed by the male valedictorian, Luis, in his speech to the class:



"We spent a lot of time on Zoom until we were allowed back on campus, but we never gave up hope and we were as cheerful as we had always been. It is too difficult to know what is in store for all of us in the future. Yet, I wouldn't have been able to get into my high school of choice without Nativity's help and so I am grateful for all the opportunities given to me. The

class of 2021 thanks all who supported us and all who will continue to support our bright futures ahead in high school, college, and the unknown."

Camila and Luis jointly wished the students well: "Our dear classmates, we are all about to enter the next chapter of our lives. Congratulations Wildcats. We did it! We'd like to leave you with these words from St. Ignatius of Loyola, Go Forth and set the world on fire!"

(Camila is now attending Notre Dame San Jose and Luis attends Bellarmine College Prep.)

### ALUMNI BACCALAUREAT MASS

On the feast of Saint Ignatius (July 31), Nativity welcomed alumni who had graduated from 8th grade, 12th grade and college during 2021 for a special Baccalaureat Mass to honor their achievements. We were joined by The most reverend Bishop Oscar Cantú who presided over the ceremony.

As part of the ceremony, we were able to honor the three recipients of the **Ignatian Magis Award**. This award is given to a community member who best exemplifies the spirit of the magis, the more, that leads us towards the greater glory of God and models the values of

Ignatian spirituality with significant commitment to Cura Personalis, the care of the whole person, providing leadership and selfless service to our students, alumni, and families.

- 2019 honoree: **Kevin Eagleson** who served for 14 years as principal
- 2020 honoree: **Rose Jimenez** who has served the school for 20 years
- 2019 honoree: **Jesus Piceno** '04 who has served as a volunteer for 10 years

Alumni and their families enjoyed catching up with old friends, and visiting the middle school where they began their journey of success. Many of our alumni are inspired to come back to vounteer at the school, because they care so much about the Nativity community.













## THANK YOU!

Maria and Eric Bellafronto

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### \$50,000+

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Do Good Docs Corporation Facebook **Fidelity Foundation** First Tech Federal Credit Union The Foundation for Hispanic Education The GE Foundation The Law Offices of Timothy Gill Guadalupe/Washington Neighborhood Assoc Guerra Realty Company The Guidace Family Foundation The Steven L. Hallgrimson Foundation Inc Heffernan Foundation Heritage Bank of Commerce Hewlett Packard Enterprise Hopkins & Carley lacopi, Lenz & Company Institute for Leadership in Ministry Italian Catholic Federation of St. Martins Church Jesuits West Province Latino Education Advancement Foundation LUNA Mexican Kitchen M & J Storage Marchese Family Foundation Menard Family Foundation Microsoft Corporation Mission City Community Fund Mora Family Foundation Moreno & Associates Morgan Stanley Notre Dame High School Olander Family Foundation Our Lady of Refuge

Outrageous Foundation

Pacific Gas and Electric Company PF Charity Pfahnl and Hunt Presentation High School Quest Foundation Ravizza Family Foundation Republic Urban Properties Rocketship Education Network Support The Sage Fund Saint Francis High School Santa Clara University Patricia A. and Stephen C. Schott Foundation Serrano Flectric The Leo M. Shortino Family Foundation Claire Graham Smith Trust St. Cyprian Parish St. Elizabeth Catholic Church St. Francis of Assisi Parish St. Thomas of Canterbury Church The Sovereign Order of St. John Starbucks George G. Stuart and Jeanette A. Stuart Charitable Trust Total Quality Maintenance, Inc United Way of Greater Atlanta University of Notre Dame VMware, Inc Warmenhoven Family Foundation

Young Men's Institute

Because you, our supporters, are very important to us, these lists were developed with great care and attention. We sincerely apologize for any errors and ask that you contact Pam Klaus at (408) 993-1293 x220 or pklaus@shnativity.org, so we can correct our records.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

REVENUES	
Unrestricted Gifts	\$1,538,719
CA School Nutrition Subsidy	33,878
Tuition and Fees	58,500
Quasi Endowment Draw	289,000
Misc. Revenue	206,488
Total	\$2,126,585
FYPENCES	

EXPENSES		
Academics	\$1,304,175	
Management and General	411,676	
Martha's Kitchen Lunch Payments	33,878	
Fundraising	335,772	
Total	\$2,085,501	
Note: These results are preliminary as they have not yet been		

Note: These results are preliminary as they have not yet been formally audited.

Note: Revenue does not include temp restricted donations received of \$48,566 or corresponding expenses.

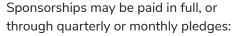
# STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

### If you are looking for a way to support Nativity and gain a connection to the students, this program is for you!

At Nativity, we provide a tuition-free education that enables students to improve their circumstances through educational opportunities. The average annual income for Nativity families is \$30,000, which is well below the average income in San Jose of \$142,000. While students enter our program testing one to two grade levels behind in English and Math, when they graduate from 8th grade, they are at or above grade level and prepared to attend a college prep high school. Key elements of our program include:

- Small class sizes with 13-15 students
- Laptop computers for all
- Extended school day from 7:45am – 5:00pm (Three meals are provided)
- Monthly Saturday enrichment programs
- Co-curricular programs include athletics, robotics, art, and Folklorico dancing
- An 11-month school year from September to July

When you sponsor a student, you'll hear directly how the school is helping them envision a positive and exciting future.



- \$20,000 supports a student for a year
- \$10,000 supports a student for one semester
- \$5,000 supports a student for one quarter

We encourage groups of friends or relatives to pool funds toward a student sponsorship.

Please contact Pam Klaus for details: pklaus@shnativity.org



### Thank you to the 2020-21 Student Sponsors

Mari and Manuel Alba Mary Sue Albanese Thomas Biagini **Blach Family Foundation** Jennifer and Philip DiNapoli Nancy and Charles\* Geschke Ladies of Charity Mendard Family Foundation Mora Family Foundation Joanne and Michael Moul Peggy and Lon Normandin **Outrageous Foundation Quest Foundation** Sandy and George Quinn Grace Sanfilippo Patricia A. and Stephen C. Schott Foundation Claire Graham Smith Trust George G. Stuart and Jeanette A. Stuart Charitable Trust Andrea and Joe Thomas Craig Ulrici Anna and Don\* Waite

Warmenhoven Family Foundation

\*Deceased





# PLANNED GIVING & ENDOVMENTS



In partnership with the Catholic Community Foundation, Sacred Heart Nativity Schools are fortunate to have multiple planned giving and endowment options for our generous benefactors.



### **Consider a Planned Gift**

By naming Sacred Heart Nativity Schools in your will, trust, retirement account or other accounts, you can play a major part in breaking the cycle of poverty through education for years to come. These gifts are exceptionally important as they allow us to develop long-term, lasting enhancements to our programs and facilities. There are many simple ways you can leave a planned gift.

#### **Bequest**

Talk to your estate planning attorney to include a simple percentage or dollar amount in your trust

#### **Retirement Account**

Name Nativity Schools as the beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement account – talk to your financial planner about if this could save your heirs on taxes

### **Insurance Policy**

Name Nativity Schools as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy

#### **Financial Accounts**

Create a "payable on death" (POD) account for money in a bank account or a "transfer on death" (TOD) account for funds in a brokerage account

With the Catholic Community Foundation – our planned giving partner – we can introduce you to an estate planning attorney, help you brainstorm and organize your charitable giving desires, and show our appreciation for your gift.

Everyone leaves a legacy. It's up to you to decide what that legacy will be. We hope that you will consider including Sacred Heart Nativity Schools as part of yours.

Endowments are often the perfect recipient for planned gifts because they provide permanent support for the school.

### Sacred Heart Nativity Schools Fund for Tuition Assistance

This permanently restricted endowment supports tuition assistance for our students. The endowment is invested so that it will generate income for our school FOREVER. This fund is managed by the Catholic Community Foundation.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, all gifts made to the Sacred Heart Nativity Schools Fund for Tuition Assistance will be matched up to \$250,000, which will help us reach our goal of \$1 million. There are still \$116,000 matching dollars available!

If you would like to donate online to the Sacred Heart Nativity Schools Endowment, please follow this link: catholiccf.org/shnativity

If you prefer to make a donation to this fund by check:

- Please make your check payable to "The Catholic Community Foundation" and mail it to 777 North First St., Suite 490, San Jose, CA 95112
- Include in the memo line or a note that the gift is for the "Sacred Heart Nativity Schools"

### Sacred Heart Nativity Schools Operations Fund

Sacred Heart Nativity Schools has a quasi-endowment fund that is managed by Morgan Stanley and provides a predictable and steady source of yearly income to support operating expenses. Gifts to this endowment are made directly to Nativity Schools and help secure the future of the schools. For more information, please contact Pam Klaus, pklaus@shnativity.org.

All donations are fully tax-deductible.

## DEI STATEMENT



### DEI Statement (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)

With the wide range of social justice issues that emerged in the past year, many discussions were held within the Nativity classrooms.

Last spring, a group of students developed the following statement which is supported by our entire school community.

### At Sacred Heart Nativity Schools, WE:

- strive for a community where we respect the dignity of all students, teachers, and staff no matter their race, identity, gender, religion, ability, culture, beliefs, or citizenship because we are all human who will be respected and seen as family. WE especially stand for equality and justice for oppressed people and minorities. WE know we are stronger together.
- are open to new ideas to create a better community knowing that growth and development are tools for learning. This means educating ourselves and others about the good and bad in the world.
- include others, making sure people feel comfortable and accepted. This
  means creating a happy environment and always inviting people with diverse
  knowledge and experience to our school community. This means creating a
  community based on respect.
- fight for justice by being activists and leaders for our school and the greater San Jose community. Students can begin their journey of leadership through Campus Ministry, Student Council, and Nativity ambassador.

WE, the Sacred Heart Nativity Schools students, stand for equality, growth, leadership, faith, justice, and dignity.



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### **GOLF**

### Thank You for your Support!

The 14th Annual Peter Pabst, S.J. Legacy Tournament was a tremendous success. Held on September 27 under bright blue skies, 80 golfers enjoyed a glorious day of golf, games, and raffle prizes. A silent auction delighted golfers and non-golfers alike, and helped raise much needed funds for the students of Sacred Heart Nativity Schools and Cristo Rey San Jose Jesuit High School.







**SAVE THE DATES** 



### January 28, 2022

Father Mateo Sheedy Memorial Event. Community members gather to remember the founder of Sacred Heart Nativity Schools.



### May 21, 2022

FIESTA is our largest fundraising event of the year. Expect lots of fun surprises as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the school.

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### MISSION STATEMENT

### BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION

Sacred Heart Nativity School for boys and Our Lady of Grace Nativity School for girls are urban Catholic middle schools. In partnership with the Society of Jesus, the Diocese of San Jose, and the Parish of Sacred Heart, the schools seek to lay the foundation for young women and men to succeed in college prep high school programs, in college, and beyond. The schools are dedicated to providing a Catholic education for students of low-income families with priority given to families of the Sacred Heart Parish community. In the Jesuit tradition, Nativity students are encouraged to deepen their relationship with God as they become women and men for others.