



MISSION DOLORES ACADEMY SAN FRANCISCO 1852

Supported in part by the Megan Furth Memorial Fund



Annual Report
2013-2014

A Message from our Chairman and Principal

Dear Friends,

In last year's annual report, we concluded our letter to you with the following: "Together, we will accomplish still greater things in the year ahead."

Thanks to your support and the tremendous efforts of our faculty and staff, we did exactly that.

- We educated more students than ever (250 vs. 230 the year prior)
- Our students significantly outgained students nationally as measured by standardized test results
- Our 8th graders' high school placements were again outstanding
- We piloted two new academic programs to address the special needs of the population we serve – with very promising results (see page 4)
- We completed a re-branding project and launched our new website
- Last but not least, Father Charles Gagan returned from his sabbatical to serve as Chaplain and assist the Dominican Sisters with our students' spiritual and moral development

While we celebrate these successes, we also must continue to look to the future. Enrollment is up again this year, which means a greater need for scholarships (see next page). We've also committed additional resources to expand the previously-mentioned pilot programs targeting those students with the greatest academic need.

Our success to date has been possible only with the support of our benefactors. We thank you for your generosity and hope you will continue to support our mission to help break the cycle of inner-city poverty. Together, we will accomplish still greater things in the year ahead - again.

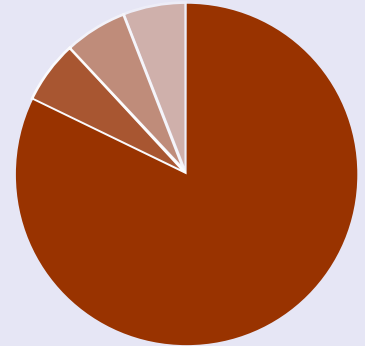


Bob Lalanne
Chairman



Dan Storz
Principal

Class of 2014 High Schools Attending



- Catholic - 83%
- Charter - 6%
- Other Private - 6%
- Public - 6%

Class of 2014 High School Acceptances

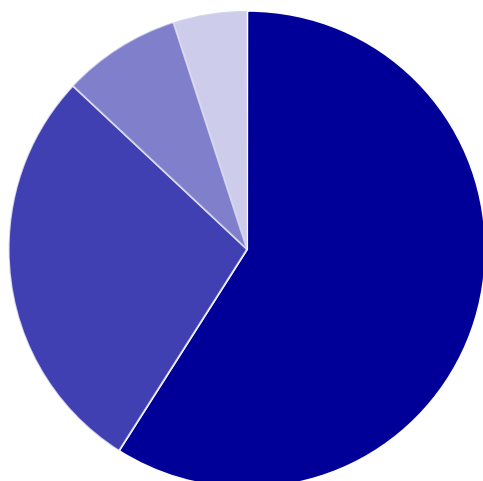
Archbishop Riordan (4)
Convent of the Sacred Heart (1)
Immaculate Conception
Academy (2)
Lowell (3)
Mercy High School (4)
Sacred Heart
Cathedral Preparatory (8)
Saint Ignatius
College Preparatory (5)
Stuart Hall (1)

Key Metrics

For the fiscal year starting August 1, 2013 and ending July 31, 2014

Revenue

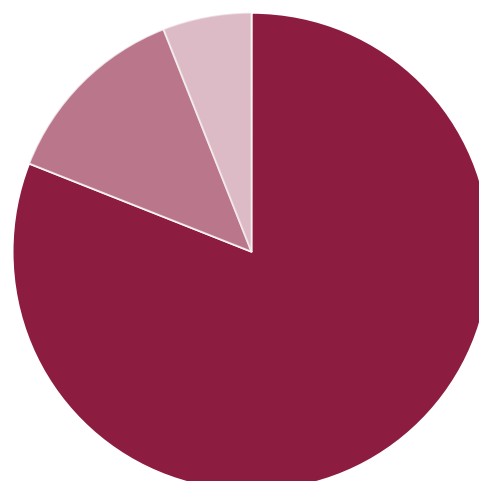
\$2,158,915



- Donors - 59%
- Parents - 28%
- Endowment - 8%
- Other - 5%

Expense

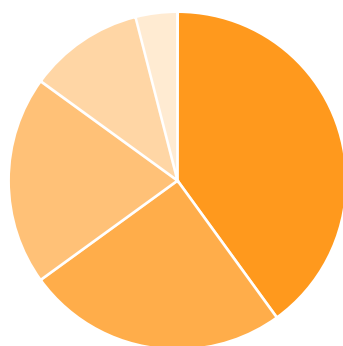
\$2,158,071



- Program - 81%
- Development - 13%
- Administration - 6%

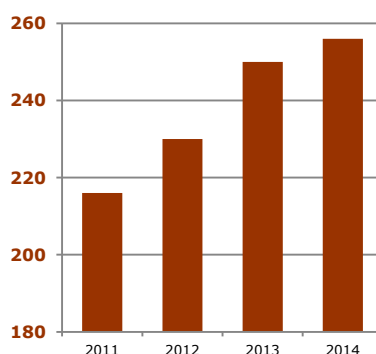
The results presented above are based on unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2015. Audited results will be available after January 1, 2015. To receive a copy of our audited results, please email info@mdasf.org.

Student Ethnicity



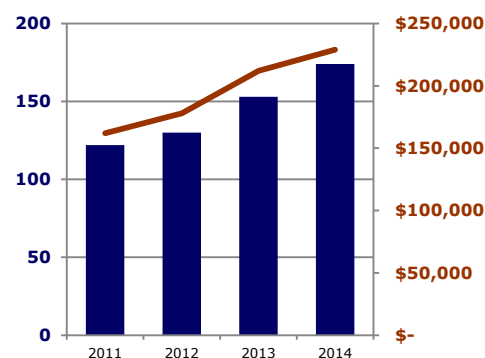
- Latino - 40%
- African-American - 25%
- Filipino - 20%
- Multi-Ethnic - 11%
- Other - 4%

Enrollment



School-Provided Scholarships

Students and Dollars



Mission Dolores Academy admits promising students who reflect the ethnic and socioeconomic diversity of San Francisco and the Bay Area. Since our inception in 2011, enrollment has steadily increased. As we serve more and more students, the need for scholarships has also increased. To learn more about supporting our scholarship program, email development@mdasf.org or call 415.638.6213.

Airol Ubas, Eighth Grade



On the surface, 8th grader Airol Anne Ubas can appear quiet, shy, reserved.

Appearances can be deceiving.

Inside, Airol is a hard-working, disciplined student with a deep faith and steely determination to rise above the challenges she and her family must face on a daily basis.

Airol lives with her mother, three siblings, and extended family in a small apartment in the heart of San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. Traveling to and from Mission Dolores Academy, she and her siblings must navigate a minefield of drugs, violence, and despair.

A straight-A student, Airol sees the Academy as a sanctuary where she feels safe, supported, and challenged, especially compared to the neighborhood schools she attended before Mission Dolores Academy. "I was pretty bored to be honest," Airol says. "Here the teachers are all so nice, and I love how they constantly challenge us and make sure we're understanding everything."

Airol said she enjoys the school's blended learning environment, where classes split time between small-group instruction with their teacher and independent study online. "Having the computers in class is really great. We are always engaged and challenged online, and we have more attention from teachers in the small groups."

Airol's mother, Maria, is functionally deaf and does her best to provide for the family as a caregiver to homebound seniors. She says she very much appreciates what the Academy offers her children. "I want them to have a strong faith. Mission Dolores Academy strengthens their faith as well as offers them a challenging curriculum that will prepare them for high school."

Airol began the process of applying to high schools this fall. Her top choice is one of San Francisco's best high schools – Saint Ignatius College Prep. This summer, she also hopes to attend a program at Stanford University where she can pursue her interest in science.

After high school, Airol's goal is to attend Stanford (her "dream college") and become the first in her family to graduate from college. After that, she wants to combine her love of science and desire to help others by becoming a doctor.

Maria supports her daughter and hopes that Airol's dreams come true. "My dream for Airol is that she is able to attend college, but most of all, I want her to be able to achieve her dreams. Airol is very passionate about her dream to be a doctor, and I hope that she can achieve that someday."

Markel Banks, Recent Graduate

Mission Dolores Academy was founded with the merger between Megan Furth Academy and Mission Dolores School in 2011. In this article, we highlight Markel Banks, valedictorian of Megan Furth Academy's last graduating class of 8th graders.

As a 7th grader at Megan Furth Academy, Markel Banks already knew exactly where she wanted to go to high school. "I knew Saint Ignatius College Prep was the right school for me," she says. Now a senior at Saint Ignatius, Markel looks back on her decision with no regrets. "Going to S.I. was the best decision I ever made."

A consistent honor roll student, Markel cites math as one of her favorite subjects. She is currently taking AP Calculus and credits her middle school math education at Megan Furth as preparing her well for the rigors of advanced high school math.

Markel participates in a dizzying number of extracurricular activities including dance, varsity basketball, and the 200 Hour Club for students who have performed 200 hours or more in community service. Markel says she enjoys serving the community in a variety of ways, most rewarding among them is tutoring younger students.



"I'm going to be a Supreme Court judge."

"I really like working with kids, so I taught Kindergarten and 1st grade students over the summer at a school in the Bay View. Only 100 hours of community service are required, but I did 350, because I really started to have fun with the kids. I'm really excited to continue helping underprivileged kids when I go to college."

Markel also tutors during the school year, often working with students at Mission Dolores Academy. Her mother says she has become a role model for her two younger sisters in 4th and 6th grade at the Academy, as well as her 4-year old brother who will start Kindergarten next year.

Both Markel and her mother cite the support she received at Megan Furth as instrumental in her becoming the young woman she is today. "I believe her education at Megan Furth paved the way for not only Markel, but for our other kids to strive in life," according to her mother. "They saw her potential and supported her, whether she needed a tutor, scholarships, or just encouragement."

Markel agrees. "I had such a close relationship with my teachers at Megan Furth that they knew when I wasn't working at my full potential and they constantly pushed me to be my best."

Markel looks forward to her future with the same confident optimism she showed at Megan Furth. Her top two choices for college are Princeton and Cornell. And after that? "I'm going to be a Supreme Court judge."

Program Update

Two new programs target reading proficiency and summer learning loss

Aware of the additional needs that come with serving children from predominantly low-income households, Mission Dolores Academy piloted two programs in 2013-14 to help address some of those needs. Based on positive results, both programs are being expanded in 2014-15 to help more students.

Reading Development

The ability to read is foundational to all other learning. When students aren't reading at grade level, other educational pursuits suffer. A significant population of students enter Mission Dolores Academy behind grade level in reading—some because little or no English is spoken in the home, others because their parents or guardians have to work long hours at multiple jobs just to make ends meet.

According to Principal Dan Storz, the key is early intervention. “Studies show that children who are not reading at grade level early often never catch up, and may never reach their potential.”

To help students catch up, the Academy piloted the Reading Education and Development (READ) program. Reading Resource Teacher Elizabeth Faherty, along with a community of six volunteers she trained, worked with 17 students on-site eight hours per week. In grade one, students were taught in a small group using the multisensory Orton-Gillingham method which uses visual, auditory, and kinesthetic tools to strengthen sound-symbol coordination and decoding skills. In grades two through eight, students were taught one-on-one with the volunteers using explicit phonics texts to rebuild their phonics, decoding, fluency, and spelling skills.

“As brains are retrained for reading, the phonetic gaps are filled and students begin to gain confidence in a skill that has not come easily to them,” says Faherty. “The kids are clearly proud of themselves as

they learn, which makes them more confident in the classroom.”

Summer School

It's no surprise that a long summer break without academically challenging activities can cause students to forget much of what was learned during the school year. Research from Johns Hopkins University indicates this “summer slide” is more pronounced among children from low-income households who lack the resources to provide summer educational opportunities. Principal Storz has observed similar patterns at Mission Dolores Academy based on students' standardized test scores. “We see tremendous gains during the school year, but there's significant slippage over the summer.”

According to Storz, the school has taken advantage of third-party summer educational programs available to the Academy's students, but there's a significant lack of programs designed for younger students. “We've been able to identify and recommend appropriate summer programs for our students in grades four through eight, but we recognized that few academic summer programs exist for students below the fourth grade.”

To fill that gap, the school piloted a program last summer that was also affordable and convenient for parents. Summer school was taught by Kindergarten teacher Morgan Gwin. Summer school students who also took part in the READ program also continued their work with Faherty. “It was a great program, especially for those kids who need a little extra help. It was a good way to keep everything they've learned fresh,” Gwin said. “We were able to break up the classes into small groups around their needs just like

during the school year, but they also had fun as well. The field trips—including a visit to the fire station, Japanese tea gardens, and the Children's Museum—were socially and culturally enriching.”

Principal Storz reports early data as promising,

Kindergarten teacher Morgan Gwin poses with Mission Dolores Academy students taught over the summer.



while feedback from parents and teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. As a result, the READ program was expanded for the 2014-15 school year. Faherty is now on staff full-time, and she and her volunteers are currently helping 44 students. Details for an expanded 2015 summer program are currently being worked out.

According to Storz, “The addition of these programs is just a start as we strategically address the issues that can hold our students back from achieving their true potential.”

Singapore leaders visit for technology lesson

In January, a 12-person delegation from Singapore’s Ministry of Education toured Mission Dolores Academy as part of a fact-finding mission on innovative ways American schools use technology to improve student outcomes. The Academy was the only San Francisco school – public or private, primary or secondary – the delegation visited as part of their tour of Bay Area schools.

Widely considered one of the best education systems in the world, Singapore’s students consistently score in the top five in Math, Reading, and Science on international standardized tests.

Senior Minister of State for Education Indranee Rajah noted teachers’ effective classroom management. “What was very interesting was the breaking up of classes into sections, the use of technology, and the fact that it doesn’t supplant the role of the teacher, but augments the student-teacher relationship.”

With initial support from Seton Education Partners and funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Mission Dolores Academy was one of the first schools in America to adopt what’s known as a blended learning rotational model, integrating traditional teacher-led instruction with self-directed online learning.



Members of the Singapore delegation with Principal Dan Storz in front of the school.

Hosting such tours is one of several ways the Academy promotes systemic change in education. In addition to the delegation from Singapore, the school has hosted education leaders from Washington DC, Philadelphia, Chicago, Denver, Phoenix, San Jose, and Seattle.

7th and 8th grades get technology refresh

Christmas came in March to Mission Dolores Academy’s 7th and 8th graders in the form of new laptops purchased with a \$25,000 grant from the **Mary A. Crocker Trust**.

Prior to the grant, all of the Academy’s classes exclusively used desktops, with only one desktop for every two students. Now the 7th and 8th grades have a 1-to-1 laptop-to-student ratio.

Mission Dolores Academy Principal Dan Storz says the 1-to-1 ratio along with the extra student mobility gives teachers greater flexibility in lesson planning, assessment, and classroom organization. “Early results are encouraging, and we think there’s value in extending this model to the 5th and 6th grade,” according to Principal Storz.

Alumni Profile: Sacred Heart Grammar School '57

For the third consecutive year, two Mission Dolores Academy 8th graders are benefitting from scholarships established by alumni from the Sacred Heart Grammar School (SHGS) Class of 1957. SHGS is one of several grammar schools that merged over the years to form Mission Dolores Academy. The scholarships honor their former 8th grade teacher and Principal, Sister Elizabeth Sullivan, OP whom classmates fondly remember as “Sister Michael” (Sr. Michael later changed her name to her baptismal name, Elizabeth).

“We’re very grateful and deeply touched by the generosity and commitment demonstrated by this thoughtful gesture,” said Mission Dolores Academy’s Director of Religious Education, Sister Ann Providence, OP.

Juan Francisco Lara, PhD coordinates the effort among his classmates. We asked Dr. Lara to tell us more about why he and his classmates support Mission Dolores Academy.

What did you do after SHGS?

After graduating from Sacred Heart High School in 1961, I entered St. Mary’s College, joined the Christian Brothers in 1962 and graduated from St Mary’s in 1967. I taught at De La Salle High School in Concord and at Cathedral High School in Los Angeles until 1970. I completed an MA at Occidental College 1971 and a PhD at UCLA 1981.

My life has been devoted to teaching. My service includes teaching middle and high school, community college, and at UCLA and UC Irvine as well as the Claremont Graduate School of Education. I served at UCLA and UC Irvine for 35 years and continue to work with local high schools, community colleges and the UC and CSU universities and lead a scholarship program in Orange County. My San Francisco Sacred Heart Grammar and Sacred Heart High School and St Mary’s College education provided the foundation for my life of service in education.

Why do you give to Mission Dolores Academy?

My maternal and paternal grandparents immigrated to San Francisco from Mexico. The Dominican Sisters at SHGS and at St. Dominic’s School taught my mother’s and father’s families. The Sisters instilled character, confidence, conviction and an unshakeable spirituality in each of us. We were taught the value of sharing what little we had with others, whether it was an apple, a cup of cereal, or a shirt that was three sizes too big.

My SHGS Class of 1957 colleagues and I established the Sister Michael-Elizabeth Sullivan Scholarship for a Mission Dolores Academy boy and girl to honor her memory and that of the Dominican Sisters who dedicated their lives to us.

Why do you believe it’s important for alumni of the Academy’s legacy schools to remain involved?

The Mission Dolores Academy student of today needs to know that there are generations who preceeded them, who are the sons and daughters of immigrant families and who believed that through education they could create opportunity for themselves, their families and their community. My SHGS Class of 1957 believes that investment in Mission Dolores Academy will have an infinite return on investment.



SHGS Class of '57 alumni Juan Francisco Lara, PhD (left) and John O'Neill (right) with 2013-14's scholarship recipients at last June's graduation.

Benefactors

We are very grateful for the many individuals and organizations who supported Mission Dolores Academy in 2013-2014. Included below are supporters giving to the Academy between August 1, 2013 and July 31, 2014. If a gift you made during this period is not properly reflected, please contact our Development Office at development@mdasf.org or 415.638.6212, so we can properly acknowledge you.

\$100,000 +

The BASIC Fund
Megan Furth Memorial Fund

\$50,000 - 99,999

Anonymous
Frederick P. Furth
Deborah Minor
Robert and Helen Odell Fund
Viragh Family Foundation

\$25,000 - 49,999

Anonymous
Archdiocese of San Francisco
Mary A. Crocker Trust
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William and Susan Oberndorf

\$10,000 - 24,999

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\$5,000 - 9,999

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Saint Ignatius College Preparatory
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Trust Funds Incorporated
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2015 Luncheon Update!

Our top chefs format returns **April 22, 2015** – please mark your calendars! The Slanted Door's Charles Phan, a longtime friend of the school and this year's James Beard Award winner for best restaurant in America, will once again lead a team of San Francisco's top culinary innovators to benefit our students. We are also excited to announce a new location for this year's event. Due to the increasing popularity of the event, we will be relocating to a larger venue at **The Four Seasons**.



Mission Dolores Academy wishes to thank some of San Francisco's top restaurateurs for their support at our "Top Chefs" luncheon benefit, which raised over \$600,000 for the school. Pictured from left to right: Craig Stoll (Delfina), Laurence Jossel (NOPA), Mourad Lahlou (Aziza), and Charles Phan (The Slanted Door). Not pictured: Thad Vogler (Bar Agricole) and Anne Walker and Kris Hoogerhyde (Bi-Rite Creamery).

Benefactors (continued)

\$2,500 - 4,999

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\$500 - 999

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Special thanks to the following recently retired board members for their service to Mission Dolores Academy:

Bill Campbell
Shannon Dolan
Peter Newell
Paul Walker



We thank corporate partner Wells Fargo for volunteering at the school last fall. 20 employees worked on a variety of projects including helping 3rd graders with Math, beautifying the school yard, and assisting the 5th grade in planting our community garden's fall crop.



MISSION DOLORES ACADEMY

3371 16th Street

San Francisco, CA 94114

Supported in part by the Megan Furth Memorial Fund

mdasf.org | 415.638.6213



2013-2014 Annual Report

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About the School

Mission Dolores Academy is an independent K-8 Catholic school located in San Francisco's Mission District. Our innovative, values-based program prepares students to succeed at the Bay Area's best high schools and lays the moral foundation that will support them the rest of their lives. We serve children and families who otherwise would not have access to a high-quality, private education.