

Celebrating

25 years of Transformative Education in the Jesuit Tradition



A Letter from the President



Dear Friends of Nativity,

It is with profound gratitude and a heart full of thanksgiving that I present the 2025-2026 Impact Report for Sacred Heart Nativity Schools. This year marks a momentous milestone in our history as we celebrate our Jubilee Year, the 25th Anniversary of the opening of Sacred Heart Nativity School for Boys (2001) and the 20th Anniversary of the opening of Our Lady of Grace Nativity School for Girls (2006). For a quarter of a century, Msgr. Mateo Sheedy’s dream and Fr. Peter Pabst’s legacy has thrived, transforming lives through the power of a Jesuit education.

We remain deeply grateful for the steadfast support of our Board of Trustees, partners, benefactors, dedicated educators, and families, as well as the Society of Jesus, the Diocese of San Jose, and the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. Through your exceptional generosity, we provide an extended day and extended year curriculum that offers students from low-income backgrounds access to a transformative education, thereby diminishing barriers and enabling them to fulfill their God-given potential.

Over this past fiscal year, our commitment to cura personalis—care for the whole person—has remained at the core of our work. Our dedicated faculty and staff recognize the unique potential in every student, supporting their spiritual, moral, intellectual, and emotional growth. We are proud to nurture future moral and ethical servant leaders who are prepared to innovate, include, and invite a more just society.

All students from the Class of 2026 earned a place at one of the six Catholic high schools in the Diocese of San José, with students qualifying to attend advanced courses in Spanish, English, and Math. Also this year, we had our first ever High School Student Support Symposium where representatives from five Catholic high schools gathered to share best practices on how they support students like our Nativity students. Attendees affirmed what we know of our students: that they are conscientious, respectful, well-formed in their faith, and resilient, hard-working students who are flourishing and fully grateful for the opportunities they have been given.

We welcomed four new Trustees in 2025: Tom Biagini, alumni Sintia Marques (‘14), Anne Milligan, and alumni Juan Romo (‘04). We thank Trustees Scott Maguire, Emily Ruvalcaba, and Sandra Sepulveda, for six impactful years of service on the Board and Board Committees.

We welcome new Board of Trustees appointees— Rosio Gonzalez, Fr. Ed Fassett, SJ, Silvia Scandar Mahan, and Patty Tennant—who will join us as we engage in the work of strategic planning along with our current Board, led by Dr. Roger Garcia.

We thank our teachers Hernan Calderón and Ben Osborne for their service, and we welcome Megan Milligan, Theo Figueroa, and Sara Castro to our faculty and staff. Likewise, we thank Michael Serranía who served as principal from 2022-2026 and we welcome Lorraine Shepherd back as principal after a four-year sabbatical. She is returning to us with renewed vigor and experience where she gained incredible insights in her roles as professor in the LEAD program at Santa Clara University and as a leadership coach with the Jesuit Schools Network.

This past summer, we welcomed the Class of 2029, and they enjoyed a 5-week preview into life as a Wildcat. Moreover, we are grateful to our devoted partners who offered six weeks of meaningful summer enrichment and formation to our rising 7th and 8th graders: to Bellarmine College Preparatory where our Sacred Heart students strengthened their academic and social skills as part of the BUILD program; to Notre Dame High School where our Our Lady of Grace students engaged in a variety of meaningful programs that exposed them to STEM and Robotics, public speaking, leadership, theatre arts, creative arts, and sports and wellness; and to Presentation High School who provided us the venue so that our OLG students could focus on building confidence as women leaders through the Girasol program and through the Women’s Leadership Symposium panelists who shared their profound journeys and the wisdom they gained along the way to become women leaders. We thank the leadership at these schools, as well as our symposium panelists: Dr. Holly Asadi, Mary Aumack, Sylvia Bonilla, Rosio Gonzalez, Anne Milligan, Bertha Minnihan, Sandra Sepulveda, Dr. Maura Tarnoff and Kelly Waiss.

This past year, we “Walked Together in Mission”, providing access towards success for our deserving students, while accompanying our families and our alumni towards a path that leads to opportunities to flourish and thrive.

As we look to the future, we remain United in Hope for your steadfast and sure companionship. May this Jubilee Year encourage us to find God in one another and in the beautiful community we have built together.

With immense gratitude,

Cecile Mantecón
President and Director of the Work

About Us

Mission

The Sacred Heart Nativity Schools transform lives through education by laying the foundation for young students to succeed in college prep high school programs, post-secondary education (college, trade/tech/vocational, military service), and beyond.

The Schools provide a Catholic education for students of low-income families with priority given to those of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish community.

In the Jesuit tradition, Nativity scholars are guided and accompanied as they deepen their relationship with God to become people for and with others.

Philosophy

We are a Catholic Nativity middle school steeped in the Jesuit tradition. Located in the Guadalupe-Washington neighborhood of San José, we support an underserved urban community within the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish.

We believe that everyone is created in the image and likeness of God. To that end, we provide a holistic education that supports the growth and development of each student intellectually, spiritually, physically, and emotionally. Our Ignatian tradition nurtures each child to grow within our Catholic faith, to act according to our faith, and to develop a lifelong relationship with God.

Our educational program seeks to create youth who are architects of their own future and contributing members of their communities. **We believe that the Nativity Miguel school structure is the most effective model in educating, building healthy self-esteem, and empowering our students.** Our program features an extended school day and year, ongoing assessment and inquiry, strong partnerships with our families, and support beyond eighth-grade graduation.

We seek partnerships with our families and parish, to build a community that supports our students, preparing them to be forces of courage, compassion, understanding, insight, and moral fortitude in the world.

We instill in our students the Jesuit, faith-based commitment beyond oneself, to become people of competence, conscience, and compassion.

Our Journey



Why SHNS?

Our students come from hardworking families who have made tremendous sacrifices in pursuit of a better future. Many are the first in their families to navigate college-preparatory education or higher education. Their families bring extraordinary strengths—perseverance, faith, love, and an unwavering commitment to their children, but often have limited access to the educational pathways and networks that open doors. **Our students don’t lack potential. They often lack opportunity.**

EDUCATION THAT OPENS DOORS

Inspired by the Jesuit tradition of cura personalis—care for the whole person—we accompany students during some of the most formative years of their lives. Through rigorous academics, small class sizes, an extended school day and year, individualized support, leadership development, enrichment opportunities, and deep partnerships with families, students build the knowledge, confidence, and character needed to thrive in high school and beyond.

ACCOMPANIMENT THAT LASTS

Our commitment does not end at eighth-grade graduation. Through Graduate Support, Nativity continues walking alongside students through high school, college, trade and vocational programs, military service, and into adulthood. We remain a trusted source of encouragement, guidance, and connection as graduates navigate each new stage of life.

WHAT OPPORTUNITY MAKES POSSIBLE

Education is how we accomplish our mission. Opportunity is what that education creates. Year after year, our students demonstrate what is possible when high expectations are matched with unwavering support. They leave Nativity prepared for rigorous college-preparatory high schools and go on to pursue higher education, vocational training, military service, and meaningful careers. Many return as educators, advocates, professionals, volunteers, and leaders who strengthen the communities that first believed in them.

These outcomes are not accidental. They are the result of teachers, Graduate Support and staff, families, volunteers, foundations, and donors choosing to invest in young people long before the world fully recognizes what they can become.

BELIEF IN ACTION

When you support Sacred Heart Nativity Schools, you do more than fund a student’s education. You invest in young people who understand their worth, recognize their gifts, and are prepared to contribute meaningfully to their families, communities, and our world.



Quick Facts

 **2001**
Founding year for Sacred Heart Nativity School for Boys

2006
Founding year for Our Lady of Grace Nativity School for Girls

 **6th-8th**
Grades served

27 of 27
8th grade graduates of 2026 chose to attend Catholic High Schools

 **100%**
High school graduation rate
Compared to national average of 80%

 **84%**
Of Nativity Alumni enrolled in college (*graduating classes from 2011-2021*)

 **14:1**
Student to teacher ratio

 **17**
Faculty and staff

 **89**
Students

A Year of Impact

A Day in the Life

At Sacred Heart Nativity Schools, each day is designed to give students the time, attention, and opportunities they need to thrive. From the moment they arrive until the school day ends, students are surrounded by a community that knows them, challenges them, and believes in their potential.

A STRONG START

Students begin the morning at 7:30 a.m. with a meal and time to connect with classmates and teachers. The day is grounded in community, faith, and a shared commitment to learning. For many students, Nativity becomes a second home—a place where they feel known, supported, and ready to grow.

MORNING — BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Morning classes focus on English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and other core subjects. Teachers closely monitor each student’s progress, providing individualized support, targeted interventions, and encouragement along the way.

Students also have opportunities to slow down and simply enjoy learning. For Hyab, a current student, one of those moments is DEAR-Drop Everything And Read.

“My favorite part of the school day is DEAR because it’s a nice and calming time. I get to read more and find books in my classroom that I like.”

Learning at Nativity is about more than mastering challenging material. Students learn to ask questions, advocate for themselves, try something new, and persist when learning is difficult. Hyab has seen that growth in herself: when she arrived, she knew only a few words of Spanish. Today, she is learning grammar and plans to hold conversations and write in Spanish.

AFTERNOON — TIME TO EXPLORE AND GROW

After classes end, students head to Homework Club, where they have dedicated time to complete assignments with teachers, tutors, and classmates nearby to provide support. Then the day shifts to enrichment, with opportunities ranging from STEM, music, and personal growth to art, athletics, and leadership development. For some students, that means ending the day on the volleyball court.

For Hyab, the relationships she has built are just as important as the activities that fill her day.

“My friends are always cheering me on. My classmates are what make the school day go by fast because they are encouraging and want to see me succeed.”



By the Numbers

\$25,000
Student Scholarship

\$26,500 - \$1,500
Cost per pupil Parental Contribution

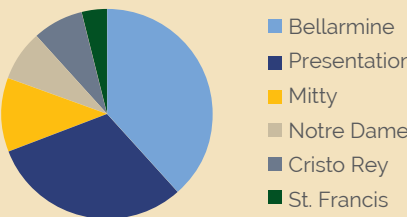
 **3**
Daily meals provided

 **26**
Different zip codes represented

 **11**
Enrichment Programs and 3 sports for all grades

 **50+**
Community And Parent Volunteers

Class of 2026 High Schools



Beyond Graduation

Walking with our Students

ACCOMPANIMENT IN ACTION

At Sacred Heart Nativity Schools, eighth-grade graduation is not the end of a student’s relationship with the school. It is one milestone in a journey that begins when a student and family first encounter Nativity and continues through high school, post-secondary education, and the transition into adulthood.

This long-term commitment is at the heart of Nativity’s Graduate Support Program and what we mean when we speak of accompaniment.

Graduate Support begins well before graduation. Starting in seventh grade, students explore high school options and prepare for the application process. Throughout eighth grade, staff work closely with students and families to complete applications, navigate financial aid, and make informed decisions. Students also prepare for the academic and social transition to high school, developing skills in self-advocacy, decision-making, and navigating new environments.

High School Signing Day celebrates this important milestone, as eighth graders announce where they will continue their education surrounded by the families, teachers, and community members who helped them reach it.

And the relationship continues.

Once graduates arrive on their new campuses, Nativity remains connected to students, families, and high school partners. Graduate Support staff monitor academic progress, help students navigate challenges, connect them with resources, and provide a trusted place to turn when something does not go as planned.

Workshops throughout high school help graduates adjust to ninth grade, become involved on campus, maintain academic progress, and prepare for college or another post-secondary path. Campus visits, college tours, family meetings, reunions, athletic events, graduation celebrations, and the annual Alumni Baccalaureate Mass keep students connected to the Nativity community that has known them for years.

Sometimes accompaniment means helping with an application or addressing an academic concern. Other times, it means showing up at a game, sharing a meal, making a phone call, celebrating a graduation, or simply noticing when someone has not shown up and reaching out to ask why.

Graduate Support continues evolving as alumni move into college, vocational and training programs, military service, employment, and adulthood. The form of support changes, but the underlying promise remains the same:

You are known. You are valued. You do not have to navigate what comes next alone.

This is accompaniment made tangible: sustained relationships, individualized guidance, careful follow-up, and celebration. Taken individually, the actions may seem small. Together, they create a network of trust and support that helps young people recognize their possibilities and continue moving toward them.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SINTIA MARQUEZ JIMENEZ

is a 2014 alumna from Our Lady of Grace, currently working in fund development, supporting organizational strategy, operations, and community-focused initiatives. She is a graduate of the University of Redlands, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics, a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy, and a minor in Mathematics. Sintia is passionate about creating opportunities for underserved communities and using her skills and perspective to contribute to meaningful change. She currently serves on Sacred Heart Nativity Schools’ Board because she believes in its mission, knows first-hand how the school supported her, and wants to contribute to its work and impact on the students and the community.

Our Community

FAITH, FORMATION, COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS

Sacred Heart Nativity Schools is more than a place students come to learn. It is a community rooted in faith, strengthened by relationships, and united by a shared belief in the promise of every young person.

Our Catholic identity and Jesuit tradition shape how we educate and accompany students. Through prayer, reflection, service, and opportunities for spiritual formation, students are encouraged to recognize their own gifts, grow in compassion, and understand their responsibility to others.

The year included weekly masses and reflections on Mass led by students and staff, the yearly Blessing of the Animals, visiting the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph for Catholic Schools Week, walking the Stations of the Cross, collecting and packing goods for the Farmworker Caravan in December, and regularly visiting and helping students at Morgan Autism Center in San Jose.

The Jesuit principle of cura personalis—care for the whole person—calls us to see each student fully: their strengths and challenges, their family and culture, who they are today, and who they are becoming.

FAMILIES AT THE CENTER

Families are essential partners in a Nativity education. From the admissions process through eighth-grade graduation and beyond, parents and caregivers work alongside faculty and staff to support their children’s academic, personal, and spiritual growth. They commit to a rigorous academic program, an extended day and year, and active participation in the life of the school. In return, they become part of a community committed not only to their child’s success at Nativity, but to the journey that follows.



ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

Nativity’s roots in the Sacred Heart community run deep. The schools were created in response to the hopes and needs of families in the Washington/ Guadalupe neighborhood and remain connected to the community that gave rise to Father Mateo Sheedy’s vision. That sense of belonging extends across our two schools and continues long after students graduate. Alumni return to visit, celebrate milestones, volunteer, mentor younger students, and reconnect with the teachers and staff who helped shape their journeys. In doing so, they strengthen a community that grows with each graduating class.

At Nativity, community is not simply something that surrounds our schools. It is how the mission comes to life. Students learn that they belong to something larger than themselves and that, as their own gifts grow, they too have something meaningful to offer others.



Thank You

Our Jubilee Year

This is a historic academic year marking two and a half decades of transforming lives through Jesuit education and a commitment to a “Faith that Lives Justice”. This year of celebration is built upon the foundation of our past, the vibrancy of our present, and our hope for the future. It is guided by our theme, **“UNITED IN HOPE, living our faith with JOY, and inspiring others through acts of SERVICE and MERCY”**.

As we honor the visionaries who founded our schools, Msgr. Mateo Sheedy and Fr. Peter Pabst, S.J., and celebrate the scholars who carry our mission forward today, we are reminded that we are called to live out our faith with joy, trust in God’s promises, and serve as beacons of light in our community.

As we look toward the next generation of transformative education, we humbly invite you to join us in this historic year. We ask for your continued prayers and your support. Whether through your presence at our community events or your commitment to sustaining our future, your partnership is vital to our mission.



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Vanessa Wilchez
Patricia Winter
Rita Xenos
Elizabeth Yamaoka
Marilyn and Paul C. Yee
Magi Young and James Silva
Jennifer Zermeno
Genie and Bryan Yamaoka
Marilyn and Paul C. Yee
Jennifer Zermeno

IN-KIND

Mary and Stephen Almassy
Anonymous
Aqui Cal-Mex
Gerri and Bill Beasley
Bella James Women's Boutique
Berliner Cohen, LLP
Natasha and Nickhil Bhav

Sylvia Bonilla
Cathy Bonnici
Fred and Willy Brown
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Carrie and Chris Whitaker
World Wrapps
Yard House

We are especially mindful of those marked with an asterisk (*), who have looked to the future and informed us of their intention to leave a legacy gift to benefit Sacred Heart Nativity Schools, and those marked with a cross (†), whose memory and legacy continue to bless our students.

These lists were developed with great care and attention. We sincerely apologize for any errors and ask that you contact us at Advancement@shnativity.org or at (408) 993-1293 x 215 so we can correct our records.

Gifts In Memory of

Lorraine and Raymond Caruso
Joanne Cuniff
Carmen Olympia del Rosario
Joe De Maria
Clyde LeBaron
Dan Morse
Peter Pabst, SJ
Carol Prodis
John Zoria

Gifts in Honor of

Joe De Maria
Sister Bobbi Green
Karen and Tim Johnson
Msgr. Mateo Sheedy

THE CAMINANTES SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORSHIP

Walk with a student from sixth grade through graduation.

The Caminantes Scholarship ensures that each student is fully supported and the Schools can then direct fundraising efforts toward other priorities, creating lasting sustainability for the future.

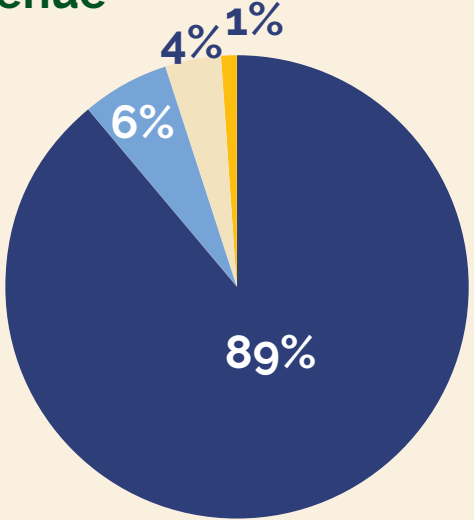
A three-year sponsorship of \$75,000 provides full educational and program support for one student, from their first day of 6th grade through 8th grade graduation.

To make a gift or pledge today, contact Advancement@shnativity.org or go to our website at www.shnativity.org/donate-now.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

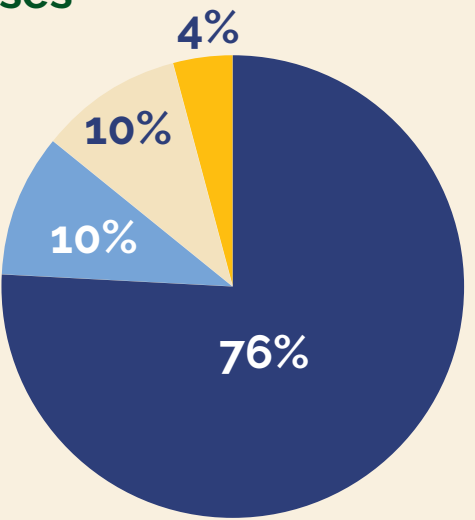
Revenue



Total: \$2,057,769

- Donations & Sponsorships
- Family Commitment/Tuition
- In-Kind Contributions
- Other Income

Expenses



Total: \$2,359,561

- Salaries & Benefits
- Facilities & Rental Expense
- Other Expenses
- Student Programs

We invite you to join our mission and celebrate our Jubilee Year. Every gift is appreciated and makes a difference to our students. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law (Tax ID# 94-1275235). Many companies offer **matching gifts** as a way to support their employees' philanthropic efforts. Contact your personnel or human resources department to initiate a match.



Online Gifts / Credit Card



Gifts via credit card may be made at our online link: shnativity.org/donate-now/
Shnativity.org/donate-now/



Checks

Checks may be made payable to Sacred Heart Nativity Schools and mailed or delivered to:
Sacred Heart Nativity Schools
Attn: Advancement Office
310 Edwards Ave.
San José, CA 95110



In-Kind Donations

To make an in-kind donation that may provide a budgetary savings to the school, particularly for an event, please contact the Advancement Office.



Gifts of Stock and Securities

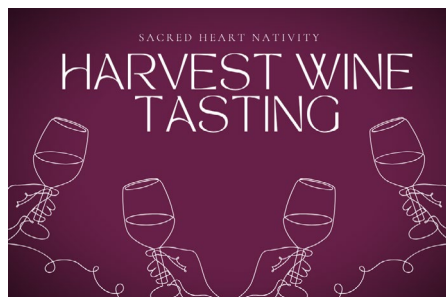
Visit our website at shnativity.org/support-shns or contact the Advancement Office for these gifts.
Advancement@shnativity.org
(408) 993-1293



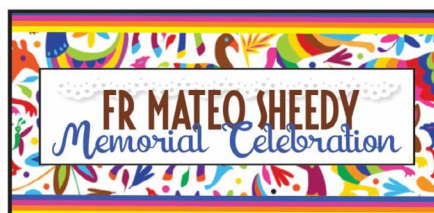
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SAVE THE DATES



November 17, 2026



February 25, 2027



May 1, 2027

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