

Dominican Sisters

# Vision of Hope

[www.visionofhope.org](http://www.visionofhope.org)

Winter 2017



*Hope and Opportunity through Catholic Education*

## As a 21st Century Learning Center, St. Elizabeth Provides Robust Before/After School Programming

Families of St. Elizabeth Elementary School in Oakland enjoy the benefits of a vigorous before and after school program, thanks to a state funded 21st Century Community Learning Center grant administered by the University of California, Berkeley.

St. Elizabeth is one of six urban schools in the Diocese of Oakland that receives this grant. As a part of this collaborative, SEES receives over \$250,000 annually for their 21st Century Community Learning Center, which provides before school breakfast and activities from 6:30 to 8:00 am, and from 3:00 to 6:00 pm, tutoring, academic enrichment, digital education, free play and field trips. A total of 112 students are participating this year.

This is the seventh year that SEES has earned this grant. It's a prime example of the extra mile our schools are willing to go to support their students and families.

"When school is open, we're open," says Utami Setiyade, Director of the 21st Century program at St. Elizabeth. "We provide programs for our students during spring break and summer vacation and are also open a few Saturdays for special



events such as Soccer Fest, Robotic Competition and Cal Day."

The staff of 13 includes four SEES teachers and one UC student. An associate degree is required, and several have bachelor's degrees.

Academic enrichment encompasses STEEAAM offerings in Science, Technology, Engineering, Executive Functioning Skills, Athletics, Arts and Math. Students are involved with Mouse Squad (learning computers and coding) and Career & College Club. VEX Robotics is popular among third graders attending summer school.

Golf is offered in collaboration with The First Tee of East Bay, and street soccer sponsored by SS USA is available twice weekly.

"Our 21st Century program is a huge anchor for St. Elizabeth," says Principal Deline Easterday. Combined with the regular school day, "We serve

working families by providing quality programming for students from 6 am to 6 pm, and 21st Century targets 'summer loss' with academic classes and fun activities."

To learn more, visit [www.21stcenturyprogram.weebly.com](http://www.21stcenturyprogram.weebly.com).

## Meet Betsy Bliss, Member of Vision of Hope's Board of Directors and Chair of the Northern Advisory Board



"It was probably 17 years ago when I met Sister John Martin Fixa O.P., and I've been captivated by Vision of Hope every since. In the beginning, I was taken by the Dominican Sisters' faith, courage and commitment to educating poor and marginalized inner-city children.

"As I've become more involved I see concretely how much a values-based, excellent education has changed the trajectory of so many young lives. Today more than

ever this mission is crucial to our nation's trajectory.

"Professionally I straddle the worlds of business and faith as a Managing Director at JP Morgan Securities, where I specialize in socially responsible investing. I joined the board of the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University after earning a late life theological degree from the JST, and I also support the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center at St. Agnes Church, San Francisco.

"For fun I enjoy my big blended family which includes six grandchildren."

### **Santa Teresita East Los Angeles**



Santa Teresita School and Sister Patricia Ann Smith, O.P. were happy to present to the Barrios family the very first Christian Parenting Scholarship Award in memory of Sister Pat Ann's parents, George and Evelyn Smith.

Maria and Everardo Barrios are active members of the Santa Teresita Parish. Maria is a lector and both Maria and Everardo participate in the prayer group, Los Evangelizadores. They are the loving parents of Aiden, who is in the 3rd grade, a good student and altar server. Aiden has an older brother who is an alumnus of Santa Teresita and is now a high school sophomore.

Sister Pat Ann and her siblings established this scholarship for Santa Teresita and St. Ignatius Schools. They were baptized at Santa Teresita Parish and later attended grade school at St. Ignatius.

### **St. Frances X. Cabrini South Los Angeles**



St. Frances X. Cabrini School's Student Council raises funds to sponsor ten Thanksgiving dinners to families in need. Students were able to choose families according to need and the number of family members.

The Student Council solicited various local businesses to raise funds for the Thanksgiving dinners. These students went to four offices, and one office generously assumed all the responsibilities of the donation.

Thanks to their generosity, the students were able to continue this amazing tradition that was established at SFXC in 2010.

### **St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception San Francisco**



St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School has brought a spirit of ecumenism to the school community. St. Anthony Parish has rented space to the San Francisco Islamic School (grades K-4) for the past two years. This year, SFIS moved into the St. Joseph's building on Shotwell Street. Students and faculty have formed friendships and understandings of the two religions.

The 1st grades collaborated in art and science and 7th graders experienced the haj in their study of Islam in Social Studies. Children share playground space and games during recess and lunch. Teachers converse while sharing supervision duty in the yard.

This school year, with the assistance of Seminarian Kyle Faller, the schools collaborated in a Thanksgiving food drive to benefit the St. Anthony Foundation.

"We are very proud of forging relationships with people of different faiths and being a model of Christianity through our actions of peace and collaboration," says SAIC Principal Barbara Moodie.

### **Saint James San Francisco**

Yamil Leon, a seventh grader at Saint James Catholic School, won first place in the Archdiocese of San Francisco Respect for Life Essay Contest.

Yamil has been at Saint James since kindergarten and has a brother in third grade. He is a hard worker who strives to make First Honors each year -- and succeeds! He does his homework faithfully. He is well known for his infectious smile.



Yamil will be honored at an 11:00 a.m. liturgy and awards ceremony on Sunday, February 12, at St. Mary's Cathedral. Bishop William Justice will present the award to Yamil at a reception following the Mass.

## Bragging Writes

### St. Elizabeth Elementary Oakland

Within a few short days of the tragic fire in the Ghost Ship warehouse in Oakland, the children of St. Elizabeth responded as good neighbors should.



With the Ghost Ship being only three blocks from the school, more than 70 sixth and seventh graders walked to the site of the memorials left by many people and added their own handmade cards. It was a moment of learning and reaching out to those in pain.

The visit was organized by Principal Deline Easterday and teachers.

### St. Michael Elementary South Los Angeles

St. Michael's School will hold a ten-week educational program called Maestro en Casa to help recent immigrants transition to life in the United States.

Maestro en Casa was developed by MATT for Education, a non-profit organization focusing on integration, education, economic development, and advocacy.

In addition to helping build English language skills, the curriculum covers six areas that are important to an immigrant family as they transition into life in the United States: Basic Living, Health & Wellness, Finance, Workplace, Education, Citizenship & Civic Responsibility.

Principal Anabel Rodriguez, who was trained by MATT to lead this program, says, "St. Michael's has a significant immigrant population, and I'm thrilled that we will be able to help our parents and community members become more familiar with the way our country works. My hope is it will help them to get better jobs, be active community members, and learn how to advocate for their children and themselves. I'm grateful to the Catholic Schools Collaborative for funding this program at our school."

The Catholic Schools Collaborative is funding the Maestro en Casa program at 11 Catholic elementary schools in the South Los Angeles area.



### St. Ignatius of Loyola East Los Angeles

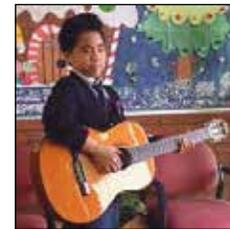
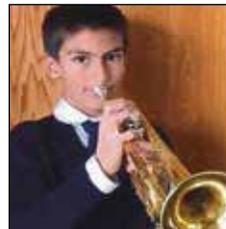
Saint Ignatius of Loyola Elementary School has been home to the Ortega family for 19 years! Nicholas, the youngest of five sons, is currently a 6th grader, Daniel attends Saint Francis High School, and Gabriel is on the road to following his father's footsteps in law enforcement.



The oldest, Michael Ortega, graduated from Saint Ignatius in 2007, then Loyola High School and UCLA in 2015. He is currently a music coordinator for Bunim Murray Productions. Samuel Ortega graduated from Saint Ignatius in 2008, Saint Francis High School and USC with a degree in human biology. He recently was hired by the Department of Defense to do forensic science in Delaware and this fall will continue his education at Georgetown University.

"The Ortega Family has made Catholic education a priority," says Principal Ileana Wade. "The last Ortega brother will graduate from St. Ignatius in 2019. Perhaps a few years from then, the Ortega grandchildren will begin their journey at Saint Ignatius!"

### Sacred Heart Elementary East Los Angeles



Parents and teachers were all proud of the students' accomplishments and progress in learning their chosen instruments – guitar, clarinet, flute, trumpet or violin – at Sacred Heart's Winter Music Concert on December 6. It was testament to the students' hard work as they played Christmas carols for everyone's enjoyment.

Now in its third year, the school partners with the Young Musician's Foundation (YMF), which provides students in grades 4-8 the opportunity to play an instrument. Sacred Heart Principal, Sister Maria Elena Gutierrez, O.P., sees value in teaching the arts as well as the positive effect it has on students' overall academic learning.

Since the majority of families served by the school live at lower income levels, the program is only possible through the shared vision and generosity of donors.

DOMINICAN SISTERS

# Vision of Hope



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## Seeking Support for Technology Initiative Schools Qualify for LMU Blended Learning Program

Vision of Hope's schools in San Francisco, St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception and St. James, have qualified as Blended Learning Partnership Schools by the Loyola Marymount University School of Education's iDEAL initiative (Innovation in Digital Education and Leadership). The full faculty of both schools will participate in the two-year program beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

Gifts are now being sought to finance the blended learning program, which is estimated to cost \$400,000 over next three years, according to Vision of Hope Executive Director Ann Magovern.

Blended Learning is a term used to describe the way online learning is combined with traditional classroom methods and individualized instruction to create a new "blended" teaching methodology. It leverages the internet to afford each student a more personalized learning experience.

The LMU model is an opportunity for students to learn at their own pace, at their own level, through small group

instruction, individual and collaborative practice and using adaptive and assignable software. The program allows teachers to get immediate data on student learning and differentiate the learning in order to maximize student success.

To qualify for the LMU program, both schools had to exhibit readiness for the three pillars of Blended Learning Partnership Schools: leadership, culture and technology.

"This is a dramatic step forward for the academic programs at both schools," Magovern says. "Over the next 2-3 years, we are confident that we will see significant growth in the students' reading and math scores."

She adds, "This would not have been possible without the investment in technology infrastructure that Shea Family Charities made last year at both SAIC and St. James."

Vision of Hope's goal is to expand LMU's Blended Learning program to St. Elizabeth School, Oakland, in the fall of 2018 and to ensure that all eight Vision of Hope schools are integrating and utilizing technology to the fullest extent possible.



Our **2017 Annual Fund Campaign** seeks to raise \$1 million for tuition assistance and program support. To date we have received gifts/pledges totaling \$355,000. We must raise \$645,000 by July 31st to reach our goal. Open pathways to opportunity for our students by donating today at [www.visionofhope.org](http://www.visionofhope.org).