



Dominican Sisters  
VISION OF HOPE

# SAIC's New Mission MakerSpace

*Creative Center for Technology, Science and Arts for All Grade Levels*

Visit Vision of Hope's St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School on any given day, and you may see kindergarten pupils practicing coding on their iPads, 1st graders building elaborate marble runs and mazes with cardboard tubes and Legos, 4th graders creating and programming robots, or 8th graders using saws and glue to build bridges and pinewood derby cars.

All of this happening because of SAIC's new Mission MakerSpace and the launching of a new blended learning curriculum. This means that SAIC is not just equipping students and teachers with computers and activity kits, but implementing a return to "constructivist" education, or inquiry/

discovery-based learning.

"Explained simply," says SAIC Technology Coordinator Albert Bricker, "The MakerSpace looks very much like years past shop and home economics classes but with a focus not on sewing and welding, which were needed in the industrial revolution, but on coding, electronics, multimedia and robotics. These are the hands-on skills our students are going to need upon graduation from high school regardless of their chosen pursuit in higher education."

Principal Barbara Moodie recalled that in 2015, Nina Russo, interim superintendent of the Department of Catholic Schools, urged the Alliance of Mission District Catholic Schools (AMDCS) to broaden their curriculums to become magnet schools for the arts or for STEM (science, technology, engineering, math).

Since SAIC had already embarked on a robotics program, Ms. Moodie and Mr. Bricker opted to join the MakerSpace movement, and the school was awarded a \$24,000 AMDCS grant to purchase hardware, furniture and supplies.

The school's pastor, Fr. Moises Agudo then generously agreed to house this new MakerSpace in



Walk through Mission MakerSpace in this video:  
<http://www.missionmaker.space/our-space.html>

# Mission MakerSpace: What Will You Create Today?

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the parish annex across from the school's parking lot.

In the fall of 2017, Mission MakerSpace became a reality and is ever evolving. Coding, technology, music and art take place in one room. Desktop computers, a robotics practice area and a variety of STEM activity kits occupy the largest room.

The Tinker Room features a Lego wall plus boxes of Legos, wood blocks and cardboard tubes to create marble runs and mazes. How-to books on origami and paper airplanes spark student exploration. The former kitchen/break room has become the Science Lab.

The Green Screen Room's south wall, 12 ft. tall, is painted in bright green for computer generated imagery (CGI) used in the movie and television industry. Students in 4th and 5th grades are currently employing the green screen to recreate a skit of Abbot and Costello's "Who's On First."

Principal Moodie believes that once the word spreads about Mission MakerSpace and the school's blended learning instruction, enrollment and academic achievement will continue to rise.

"We ended the last school year with 136 students and started the current year with 153," she says. And for the first time in recent years, there are no combined classrooms, also important to prospective students and parents. "We're building from the ground up, with healthy numbers in the first grade. I don't see a future return to combined classrooms."

Mr. Bricker agrees that Mission MakerSpace can be a marketing tool for SAIC, but more important is the ideology of student-focused education.

"Many of our students do not know how to explore," he says. "They are cooped up in an urban environment, in overcrowded housing, and forced to sit in classes that reward rote memorization. Give them the opportunity to explore, find their passion and learn the core material at their own pace, and I think we'll have plenty of students."



## Bragging Writes

### St. Michael Elementary South Los Angeles



St. Michael's is partnered with Education Through Music-Los Angeles (ETM-LA) for its music program. ETM-LA is a nonprofit that believes in providing students in Title I schools with superior music education taught by highly qualified and trained music teachers. Thanks to the support of ETM-LA, as well as St. Michael's individual donors and the Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation, every student at St. Michael's is

receiving weekly music instruction.

During the first trimester, Mr. DeLeon focused on laying the foundation for singing and building the basics of music notation. For the remainder of the year, he will go more in depth with music theory. Students are currently learning to play the ukulele, recorders, and percussion instruments.

Mr. DeLeon also leads St. Michael's student choir, which performs at our weekly school Masses.

"One of the many benefits of music is it can distract students from their problems and help them find peace through enjoying the music. Music ministry brings us closer to God. It's a great blessing for me to sing Catholic hymns at Mass with our choir," says Mr. DeLeon.

As 8th grader Raul V. said, "The music program is really fun and I am learning a lot. Right now we're learning to play the ukulele. Mr. DeLeon makes learning fun—we play songs and we get to improvise on our own. It makes me want to learn even more."

"I enjoy seeing the children learn and grow through music. It's especially rewarding to see students perform at concerts and to watch their parents' reactions to the performances. I'm looking forward to our next concert in May," Mr. DeLeon said.

### Sacred Heart Elementary East Los Angeles



This fall, as part of a combined religion and art project at Sacred Heart Elementary School, the 8th graders painted portraits of their favorite Saints.

Along with the outstanding academics that our school offers, including online learning with Chromebooks and iPads, science and math STEM programs, and instrumental music, we are first and foremost a Catholic school.

Each of our students is receiving an invaluable foundation, growing in their faith on a daily basis, building their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Communion of Saints.



## St. Frances X. Cabrini South Los Angeles



Fr. Juan Bosco Jimenez, our Pastor, initiated a plan to engage each class to have lunch with him. His calendar schedules lunch with each class. It

is an opportunity for him to encourage each student to continue to improve his or her academic performance by demonstrating positive work ethics, being kind, helpful, respectful, honest, caring and building Christ-like behavior traits.

This gesture not only encourages the school community, it also serves as a catalyst for everyone to shine. Compassionate hearts and giving spirits are inspired in each student.

The canned food and blanket drives sponsored

by the Student Council collected 2,300 cans and 55 blankets. These were picked up by Mr. Rodulfo Ortiz of Catolicos en Acion — Catholics in Action — and were delivered to Tecate, Mexico, this past Christmas.



## Santa Teresita East Los Angeles



Since 1997 —20 years ago — Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy has invited the entire student body and teachers of Santa Teresita School to join together these two very special Dominican schools, with a combined enrollment of 610 students, for a morning of celebration, prayer and friendship as we prepare for the Christmas holiday.

It begins with a bus ride up the hill for our very excited students. Upon arrival at FSHA, each Santa Teresita student meets their very special “Flintridge Buddy.” The “Buddies” are as excited to find their “little buddy” and share the morning.

They make sure that each student from Santa Teresita has the time of his or her life, enjoying the camaraderie, beauty of the hilltop campus, the blessing of friendship, love and prayer, and, of course, special snacks.

At the end of the day each “Buddy” presents their student with a very special Christmas gift.

Santa Teresita is so blessed to partner each year with Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy and experience the joy and happiness each and every student gives and receives from this very special day.

## St. Ignatius of Loyola East Los Angeles

The faculty of St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish School is blessed to be participating in Project SIMPLE with the support of the Catholic Schools Collaborative (CSC) and in collaboration with LMU/Santa Clara Universities.

Project SIMPLE is a five-year program which seeks to create effective, sustainable, thriving Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Through a series of professional development opportunities for faculties and principals, SIMPLE schools receive support in various educational areas including leadership, pedagogy, social emotional learning, technology, adaptive learning, blended learning, student graduate profile development, and STEM.

The program includes ten professional development

meetings for our faculty and an additional ten coaching sessions for our principal each year for the first two years, with more to follow in the coming years. In addition, each principal also receives financial literacy coaching to ensure proper financial operation of the school. Teachers will earn a blended learning certificate as they progress through this program and will truly be prepared to create personalized learning environments to teach 21st century learners.

Through our participation in Project SIMPLE, St. Ignatius will become a model school as well as an effective, sustainable and thriving Catholic school.



## Bragging Writes

### St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception San Francisco



What is your God-given gift? This was our fourth year hosting a Career Day during Catholic Schools Week.

Sister Wanda Szymanko and Ms. Adele Medel, teachers at St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School, organized this event, scheduling speakers throughout the day.

Speakers come ready with a 20-minute presentation of their career and present it to grade level groups. In past years, we have had police officers, firefighters, nurse practitioners, architects, engineers, and more.

This year we were excited to have two women in leadership roles, Fire Chief Joanne Hays-White and Sheriff Vicki Hennessey, speaking to our students. Career Day is important in helping our students to realize that their education is important and that the world really is their "oyster." Imagine the possibilities!

### St. Elizabeth Elementary Oakland



As part of the 21st Century After-School Program, the children of St. Elizabeth Elementary School occasionally travel to local golf courses to learn more about the game. In October, the students had the wonderful surprise of meeting Golden State Warriors player Klay Thompson.

One of the children wrote, "When I saw Klay Thompson, I was so excited. I had no idea what was going on. I felt like I was going to cry and blush. That is how I felt. P.S. I really loved it!"

Overwhelmingly, it was a huge highlight for the students, and many said, "He was really nice and cool...and he is one of the Splash Brothers!" which is the nickname for Klay and his teammate Steph Curry.

The 21st Century Program is a source of learning, enrichment and on a day in October, unexpected delights!

### St. James San Francisco

A St. James Peacemaker is a student who works to build peace and social justice on campus and in the wider community, understands his or her role as a steward of the environment, works collaboratively to resolve conflicts respectfully, and demonstrates respect for human diversity and the dignity of all. They employ the Dominican motto: *To Praise, To Bless, and To Preach.*

This year we awarded the Peacekeeper honor to Leovanni Quintanilla in the 2nd grade, David Gonzalez in the 4th grade, and Joseph Zuloaga in the 7th grade.

Teachers shared these wonderful descriptions:

"Leo Quintanilla shows thoughtfulness and compassion toward his classmates, teachers, and

younger students. He knows that the best way to reach understanding is by listening to others and by treating others the way he would want to be treated."

"David Gonzalez has been a positive role model, not only in 4th grade, but for all other grades. David motivates others to try their best."

"Joseph Zuloaga works collaboratively with others and does not complain about who he is partnered with. Joseph never puts people down and is a very kind person."





Dominican Sisters  
VISION OF **HOPE**

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**February 25: Day at the Races at Santa Anita Race Track**

**May 19: Day at the Races at Golden Gate Fields**

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

# Welcome Kate and Pam to Our Vision of Hope Team

Please welcome Kate Ruggiero and Pam Coe to our Vision of Hope staff.

Kate works in our Oakland office and is responsible for entering all gifts and contributions into the Vision of Hope donor database, preparing weekly acknowledgment letters, and preparing donor reports from Donor Perfect. She will also assist with all of our mailings, office management, board material preparation, and be available for any calls to the office.



Kate is a product of Catholic schools in Alameda and has excellent non-profit administrative skills. She came highly recommended from her previous employers, and we are fortunate to have her join the Vision of Hope team.

## **Director of Annual Fund**

In January we welcomed Pam Coe as the Director of our Annual Fund. Pam will be based in Los Angeles and responsible for implementing administrative and donor-related activities for Vision of Hope's annual

fund campaign. Her primary responsibilities will be outreach and communication to our mid-level donors, lapsed donors, and young professionals for increased support and participation in Day at the Races, Advisory Boards, Development Boards, and volunteer school support.



Pam comes to us with an excellent background in fundraising, media, and communications. She also is very familiar with the Dominican Sisters and Vision of Hope. She served as the Development Director of Santa Teresita and worked with the Specialty Family Foundation and Catholic Schools Collaborative, both of which provide funding and support to our Los Angeles schools.

We are thrilled to have both Pam and Kate as new additions to our Vision of Hope team. Their contributions and expertise will support Vision of Hope as we continue to grow our annual fundraising and support for our eight schools.