



Dominican Sisters  
**VISION OF HOPE**

# School Matters



Summer 2023

## Welcome Nicole Johnson! Vision of Hope's New Executive Director

**Nicole Johnson has been selected as Vision of Hope's next Executive Director**, and comes into the role held by Ann Magovern, who steps down on July 31st.

Nicole comes to Vision of Hope after serving at St. Aloysius, a parish school in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, for the last 20 years; five of those years as a 3rd grade teacher and fifteen as Principal.

Nicole's deep commitment to the St. Aloysius community speaks to her dedication to Catholic education, especially for those most in need. Her leadership skills, passion for education, experience with Catholic funders in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and proven administrative skills, all position Nicole to successfully lead Vision of Hope as we continue the educational legacy of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. When asked about her new role leading Vision of Hope, Nicole remarked, "I am extremely excited to join the Vision of Hope family after serving the inner-city community of St. Aloysius School for over 20 years. I had not intended to leave my school because I truly love the community: I view my role more as a vocation than a profession. It feels as though God (and Sister Johnnie) have bigger plans for me."



Outgoing Executive Director, Ann Magovern, Board of Directors Chair Edward Corey, and Incoming Executive Director Nicole Johnson at *Day at the Races*, May 20th, Golden Gate Fields, Berkeley.

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—Nicole Johnson

Nicole will begin her work with Vision of Hope on July 10th and work with Ann until the end July. This timeline ensures a smooth transition process.

We are excited to welcome Nicole into this role expertly managed by Ann. We thank Ann for her dedication and service to Vision of Hope. During her tenure over many years, the staff has grown, *Blended Learning* and *Parents in Action* Programs have blossomed, millions have been raised for tuition assistance, and Vision of Hope is a stronger organization for which we are grateful.

# Bragging Writes

*Updates from the principals at our eight Vision of Hope Schools*

## LOS ANGELES SCHOOLS

### **Sacred Heart**

Four Sacred Heart 8th graders were awarded a competitive scholarships through the Onward Scholars Program. In addition to a scholarship covering 75% of the students' high school tuition, the program promotes scholarship, mentorship, and college access. Awardees were: Bryan Nguyen (Cathedral High School), Ignacio Chaparro (Bishop Mora Salesian High School), Nadya Rocha (Sacred Heart High School), Lizeth Rivas (Sacred Heart High School).

### **Santa Teresita**

Santa Teresita successfully piloted their first transitional kindergarten program and have a class for the upcoming school year. Santa Teresita was also selected to participate in the LMU's Center for Catholic Education's Fostering Culture for Educating the Whole Child: Spiritual, Social, Emotional, Mental Wellness. The LA Department of Catholic Schools also selected Santa Teresita to become a Solidarity School, which is a three-year program focused on delivering high-quality instructional resources in Literacy and Math.

### **St. Frances X. Cabrini**

Many applied, few were chosen! Congratulations to scholarship recipients for Loyola's 2023 Summer Session: Gerald Castrodos, 7th gr., Jadden Herrera, 6th gr., & Mauro Tejada, 7th gr. These students received full scholarships based on their strong academic achievement and were recognized as "Top Performers" by the Director of Summer Scholarships and his committee.

### **St. Ignatius of Loyola**

Students are thriving at Loyola! 8th grader, Holly Barrientos, received the full four year San Miguel Scholarship given by La Salle High School. Rising Senior, Karyme Morales, St. Ignatius Class of 2020, is spending the summer at Columbia University, where she earned an internship in science and technology and is pursuing her dream of becoming a Disney Imagineer. Former St. Ignatius student and teacher, Allison Nava, earned her Doctorate in Urban Education from Loyola Marymount University this past Spring. Owen Chacon (St. Ignatius class of 2019) will be attending the University of Notre Dame this coming fall.

### **St. Michael's**

After 7 years St. Michael's enrollment went back up to 300, with middle school classes (6th - 7th grade) having more than 35 students per class. New Development Director, Colleen Consola, started in August, got acquainted with donors, sent out an appeal, and raised over \$30K. Shea Family Charities is returning to St. Michael's to renovate the cafeteria, auditorium, music room, and library.

## BAY AREA SCHOOLS

### **St. Elizabeth**

The Diocese of Oakland awarded second grade teacher, Minerva Corona, and her class special recognition. Throughout the year, Ms. Corona and her students consistently displayed remarkable progress in mathematics and reading. At that time only 5% of the students were performing at or above grade level in Math. Through Ms. Corona's dedication and belief in the potential of all her students, 67% of the class are now at or above grade level!

### **St. James**

Congratulations to budding female scientists of St. James! Middle school science teacher Ms. Li entered 8th-grade students Geleena Cordova and Layla Morales into the Mercy Burlingame High School science fair, and the students took 2nd place!...And on International Women's Day! Both girls will be attending ICA Cristo Rey High School in the Fall.

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

SAIC is excited to offer Summer Camp—the first since 2019! Students have classes in mathematics, literacy, Social-Emotional Learning, and a STEM project each week. The camp runs for 4 weeks from June 12 - July 7.



**Bishop  
David O'Connell  
In Memorium  
1953–2023**

We fondly remember Bishop Dave on July 16th, which would have been his 70th birthday. We will be forever grateful for his 20 years of service on our Advisory Board, and for his loving care of our schools, especially St. Frances X. Cabrini and St. Michael's, where he served as pastor.

## Every School Wins!

*Day at the Races* was a hit! More than 200 of our family and friends (including a wonderful turnout of Dominican Sisters, student volunteers, principals, and teachers) gathered for a fun-filled Day at the Races, May 20th, Saturday afternoon, at Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley. Through the generosity of our donors, our event and Online Auction raised over \$155,000 for our eight Vision of Hope Schools.

Special thanks to our event Co-Chairs, Angela Stanfel and Carol Zweifel—we are grateful for all that you do!



## Parents in Action (PiA) : Empowering Families

Vision of Hope's newest program, Parents in Action (PiA), is growing and empowering families! Apart from offering personal development workshops and learning opportunities, PiA Program Director Danny Diaz recruited parent leaders to join Vision of Hope's first *Parent Advisory Council (PAC)* and contracted *Family Liaisons* at each of our Los Angeles schools. While PAC promotes communication and directly links families to VOH, our Family Liaisons act as a local point of contact for PiA and assist in promoting activities and driving participation. Most recently, nine of our parents joined leaders from across the country in a three-day institute to grow their leadership skills and learn to leverage power to drive change for students and families in our communities.

PiA also expanded into the Bay Area, where our new Program Coordinator, Jacquie Hernandez, partnered with our Dominican Sisters to introduce a round of Faith Formation activities! Jacquie graduated from Cristo Rey San José Jesuit High School and earned her Bachelor's in Business with a double concentration in Digital Media and Marketing at Saint Mary's College.



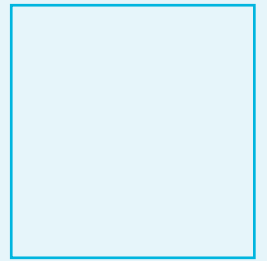
PiA Program Coordinator Jacquelin Hernandez and PiA Program Director, Danny Diaz.

Parent Advisory Council from left to right: Lisa Lowe, Gabriel Flores, Vanessa Ramirez, Francis Zenteno, and Jessica Aguilar at Vision of Hope Board Meeting at St. Michael's.



Dominican Sisters  
**VISION OF HOPE**

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**Save the Date!**  
**Vision of Hope Luncheon**  
**Los Angeles**  
**November 15, 2023**  
*Giving Thanks by Giving Back*

# Help Us Meet Our Year-End Goal!



We close this year with incredible gratitude for the opportunity to play a part in the lives of our Vision of Hope students. Your support makes it possible to give all students the opportunity to access an incredible education that prepares them to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders!

This year, 73% of our students received tuition assistance directly from Vision of Hope. To continue this support of our schools and their students, we ask that you make a gift today to Vision of Hope.

Our goal is to raise \$815,000 for Vision of Hope's annual fund, which is the engine behind our tuition assistance program. **We need \$155,000 to meet this goal by July 31st.** Every gift makes an impact on a student and their family! Together, we can ensure the ongoing success of our students and the educational legacy of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose.



**Scan the QR code to opt-in and make your gift to support the Annual Fund by July 31st. Thank You!**