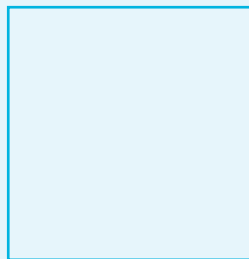




Dominican Sisters  
VISION OF **HOPE**

1555 34th Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94601



Dominican Sisters  
VISION OF **HOPE**

# School Matters



Summer 2024

## Hats Off to Our Graduates!



St. James School Graduates of 2024

Our eight Vision of Hope schools, standing on the Dominican Sisters' pillars of service, community, prayer, and study, are delighted to share the news of our students' academic journeys to Catholic High Schools. Many of our students have gone above and beyond, earning partial and, in some cases, full scholarships! As St. Ignatius of Loyola School Principal Ileana Wade shares, many of their alums are now Seniors in high school, receiving college acceptances. One former parent's daughter has received scholarships and early admission at nine of the dozen schools she applied to. This parent attributes the success to elementary school: "St. Ignatius is why she is who she is. She is a direct reflection of the school. I will never be able to repay you all." We want to express our deep gratitude to our generous donors and the Vision of Hope community, whose unwavering support has made these achievements possible. The crests and seals below represent a select list of Catholic High Schools and Academies that have accepted rising 8th graders from our Vision of Hope schools.



Saint Anthony-Immaculate Conception Compudopt Parent Cohort, Spring 2024.

## Parent Workshop Attendance Surges in the Bay Area

The Bay Area PiA (Parents in Action) Program has seen remarkable growth and impact, exemplified by our faith formation workshops with the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. These workshops have fostered a unique and enriching cultural environment. They are special not only for their educational value, but also for the strong sense of community they build. Additionally, PiA successfully launched our Compudopt Digital Skills workshops. This academic school year we hosted two workshops in the fall and two in the spring in both San Francisco and Oakland. Attendance has grown from a small number of parents to a sizable cohort of 10. This is just the beginning, and we are excited to continue expanding the PiA Program in the Bay Area.

"It has been rewarding to see how our parent participation has grown and continues to grow."

Sister Karen Elizabeth Zavitz, O.P.



If you have not yet had the opportunity to give this year, we ask that you please consider a donation before our fiscal year ends on July 31st. Your gift enables our schools to continue providing a quality, affordable and life-changing Catholic education in communities where it matters most.

Scan the QR code or visit [www.visionofhope.org](http://www.visionofhope.org) to make your gift!



# Day at the Races



# Every School Wins!

## Day at the Races Crosses the Finish Line

"Day at the Races has grown tremendously since the beginning. We have made new friends, increased our auctions, and had more fun. It is sad that it is over, but exciting to see what is next."

Angela Stanfel  
Day at the Races Committee Co-Chair

over \$100,000, which directly benefits our eight Vision of Hope schools, and students. We especially want to thank our Event Champions: Lois and Frank Noonan, Irene S. Scully Family Foundation, and Diane B. Wilsey.

Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley has announced the permanent closing of its doors, thus ending our Day at the Races tradition that began in 2008. This event boosted our schools, brought joy and community to our Vision of Hope family, and continued Sister Johnnie's joyful idea of friend-raising. Although the track is closing and our last race has run, stay tuned for exciting news about upcoming Vision of Hope family events. We look forward to creating new traditions, especially with an incoming generation of friends and supporters!

Nearly 200 of our friends, Dominican Sisters, parent and student volunteers, principals, and teachers gathered for a fun-filled *Day at the Races* on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley. With their help and the support of our generous donors and sponsors, after expenses our event and corresponding online auction raised



"Thanks for the memories! Our farewell to *Day at the Races* was truly memorable. Although the door closed on this event, many attendees confirmed their ongoing connection to VOH and committed to supporting future events – we are blessed!"

Carol Zweifel  
Day at the Races Committee Co-Chair



## Rising Star: Daniel Hernandez



"To talk to God is to not ask for something in prayer as much as to thank him and ask for blessings."

Daniel knows service. As President of the Student Council at St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School, Daniel has led many creative fundraising campaigns including: fun *Pie-in-the-Face* challenges, *Free Dress* school days, and now he has his eyes on a snow cone machine for summer treats. Daniel has also been a staunch supporter of *Day at the Races* as a student volunteer. He credits his religion teacher, Mr. Pinto, along his journey for instilling the confidence to talk to God. Next year, Daniel will continue his Catholic education at Nativity High School. They are fortunate to have him!

**Daniel Hernandez**  
8th Grade, President of Student Council  
St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School  
Class of 2024

## Alumni Spotlight: Erika Rodriguez (De Luna)



"I am very involved in my children's education because it is essential for nurturing their faith, fostering their spiritual and moral development, and preparing them to live as committed disciples of Christ in today's world."

Erika Rodriguez (De Luna) is an alumna of Sacred Heart Elementary School and their fifth-grade teacher! Her 25-year career in academia is driven by her passion for educating and shaping the minds of future generations. Erika remembers her school days fondly: "The Dominican Sisters ensured we received a well-rounded education. Their mission was palpable in everything they did." It's no wonder Erika ensured that her three children, Kyle, Riley, and Taylor, received a quality Catholic education.

**Erika Rodriguez (De Luna)**  
Sacred Heart Elementary School  
Teacher, 5th Grade

- 1989 Sacred Heart Elementary School
- 1993 St. Michael's High School
- 1998 Cal State University, Los Angeles, B.A. in Social Work
- 2007 Loyola Marymount University, M.Ed.