



**MISSION DOLORES ACADEMY**  
**SAN FRANCISCO 1852**

In partnership with the Megan Furth Memorial Fund



**Annual  
Report**  
2015

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# Chairman's Letter

**" True education enables us to love life and opens us to the fullness of life. " - Pope Francis**

Dear Friends,

We all have our favorite Pope Francis quote. When it comes to the topic of education, mine is the one you see above. His words aptly and succinctly describe what we do at Mission Dolores Academy: we teach our students to love life and help open them up to the fullness of that life.

Our faculty and the Dominican Sisters encourage our students' natural curiosity and sense of wonder, helping their understanding of God, the world, and themselves to develop. As their love of learning grows, so too will their possibilities in high school and college, and throughout life.

Equally important is our students' social, emotional, and moral development. Every day our students show kindness, empathy, selflessness, and love to one another and to the broader community: sharing a sandwich at lunch with a new classmate on the first day of school, serving meals in a soup kitchen, singing Christmas carols to seniors at or a retirement home, or using their own savings to purchase food for those less fortunate. It is through these experiences our students grow in their love of themselves, one another, their neighbors, and life itself.

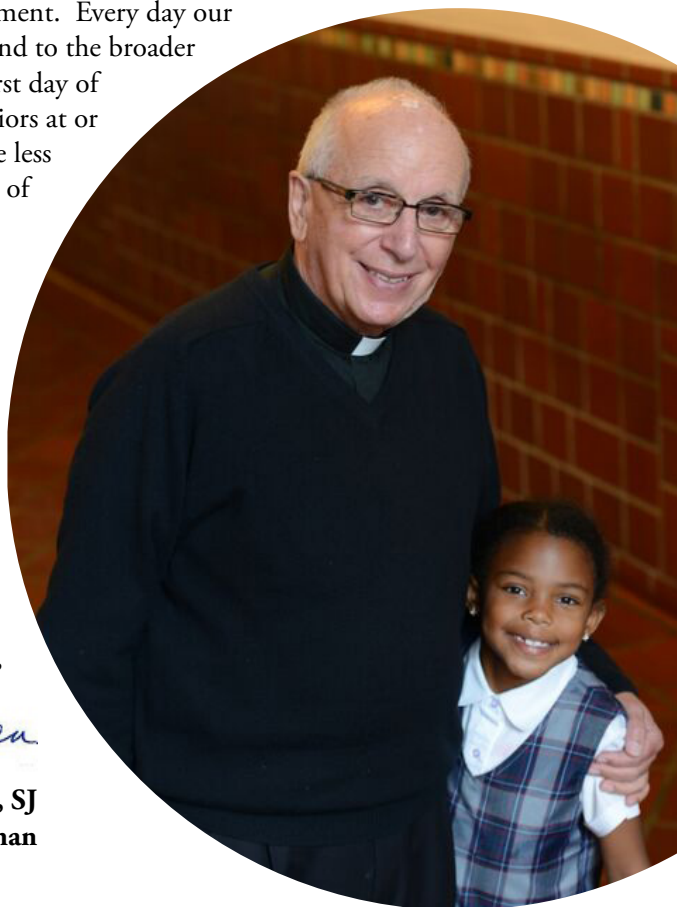
None of what we do would be possible without our families (all of whom make tremendous sacrifices to send their children here), the Dominican Sisters, our dedicated staff, and the support of our many benefactors. Together, we are providing that true education Pope Francis is speaking of.

Thank you for your continued investment in this worthy institution. Your support does more than just help our students learn math and to read and write – it brings love and a richer, fuller life to our children.

Sincerely,



**Fr. Charles Gagan, SJ**  
**Chairman**



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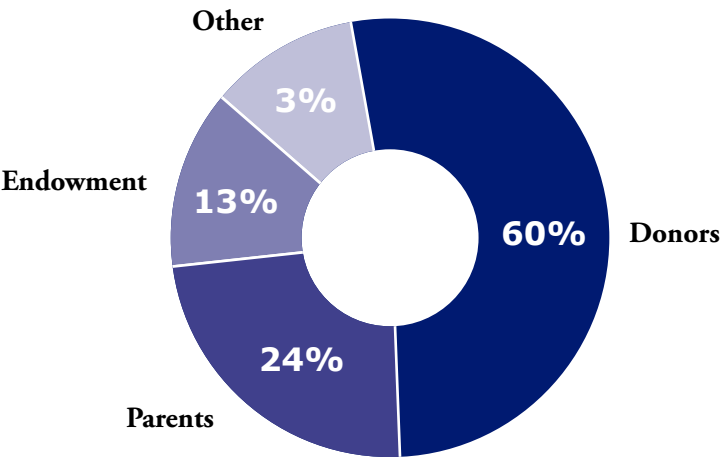
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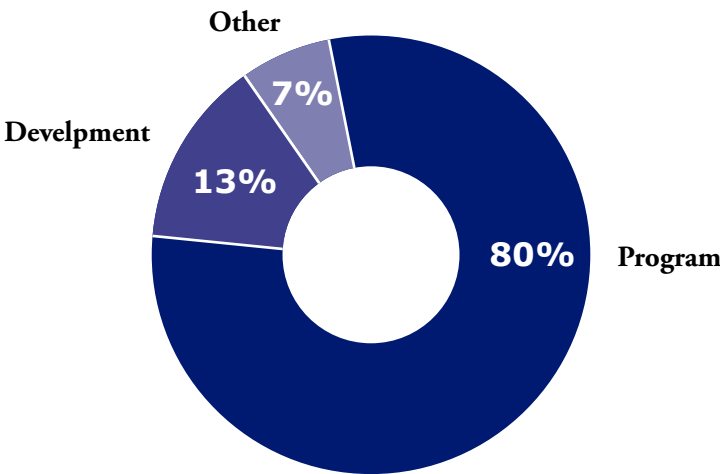
# Financial Highlights

For the fiscal year starting August 1, 2014 and ending July 31, 2015.

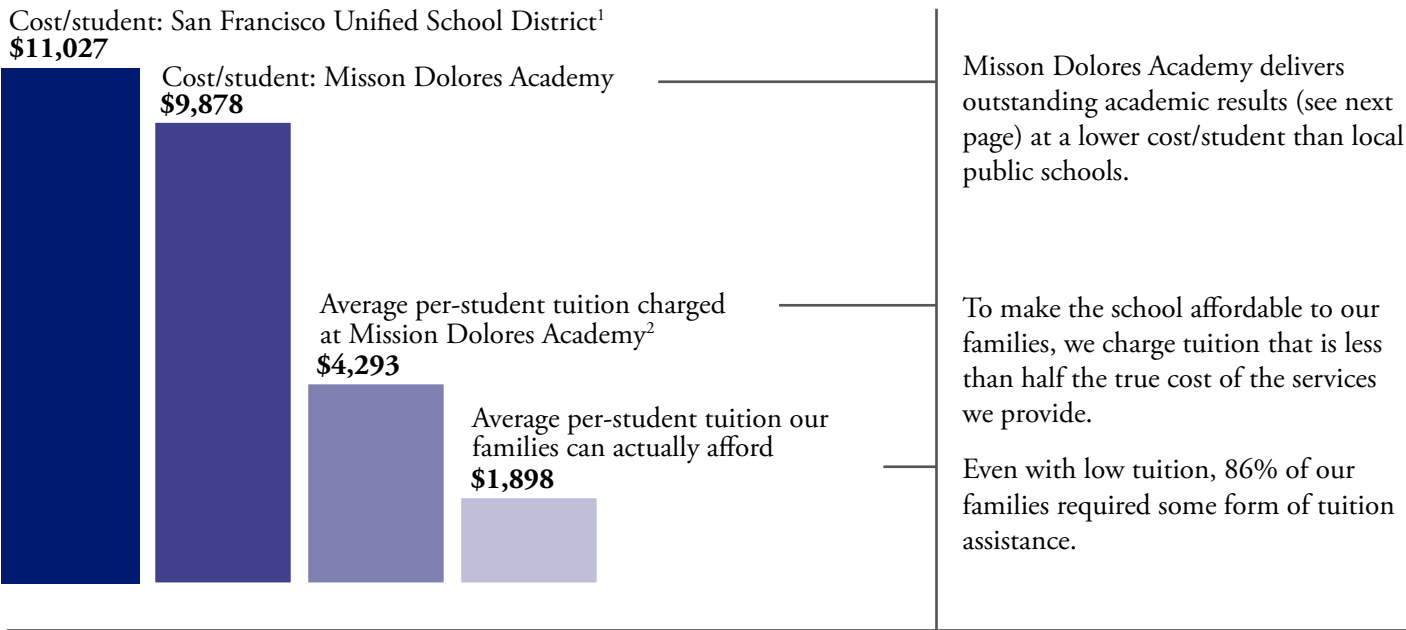
**Revenue**  
\$2,528,797



**Expense**  
\$2,528,753



## Per-Student Results

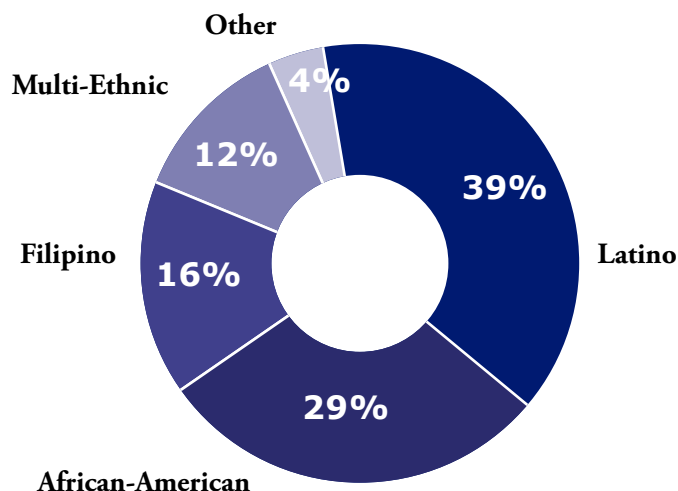


<sup>1</sup> Results are for 2013-14, the most recent year audited financials were available.  
<sup>2</sup> Weighted average of the Academy’s per-family tuition schedule (\$5,000 for one child, \$3,750/child for two children, \$3,000/child for three children, and \$2,250/child for four children.)

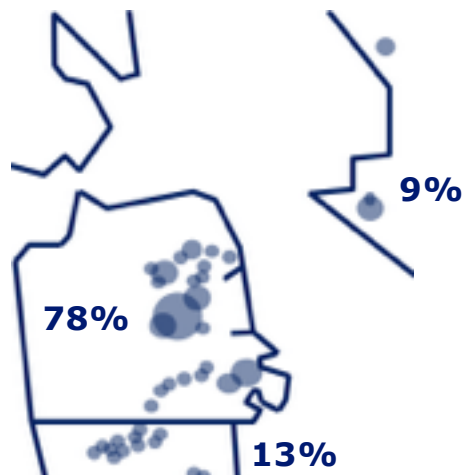


# School Metrics

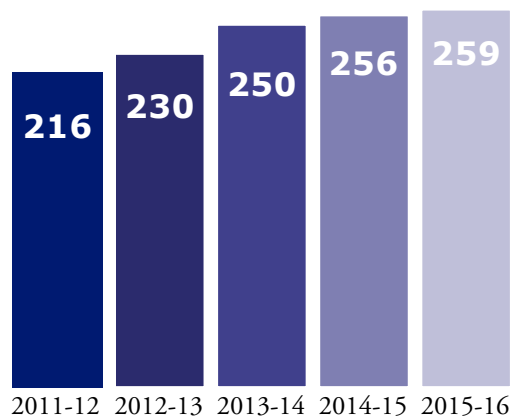
Our student body is one of the most uniquely diverse in the country. We are the only private school in San Francisco with a large African-American population.



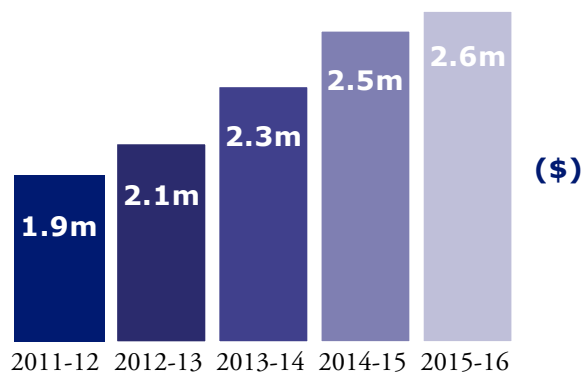
Most of our students are from San Francisco and live in neighborhoods including the Mission, Tenderloin, Western Addition, Bay View, Hunters Point, and Visitacion Valley.



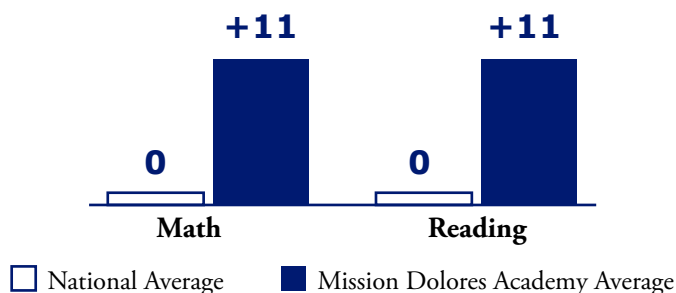
We have educated an increasing number of students in each of the past five years.



We've grown our budget each year to keep up with enrollment while expanding our program offering.



Our students made significantly greater academic progress than students nationally, gaining on average 11 percentile points in both Math and Reading.



81% of our Class of 2015 went on to attend top Catholic, independent, and charter college preparatory high schools including St. Ignatius College Prep, Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep, Riordan, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Gateway, and City Arts & Technology.



# Program Update

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## Blended Learning Program Continues to Impress

The 2014-15 academic year marked the fourth year of Mission Dolores Academy's pioneering blended learning program. The Academy was one of the first schools in the country to commit to a blend of teacher-led, small group instruction integrated with self-directed online learning.

Standardized test data shows Mission Dolores Academy students consistently show above-average academic gains. In the 2014-15 academic year, students on average gained 11 percentile points in both Math and Reading relative to students nationally.

Progress like this has encouraged other schools to adopt blended learning. The Academy has hosted education leaders from Philadelphia, Washington DC, Chicago, Denver, Phoenix, Seattle, and Singapore who are interested in bringing blended learning to their schools.

Most recently, the school hosted a delegation of school administrators from Puerto Rico and Colombia. Leaders from Academia del Perpetuo Socorro, one of Puerto Rico's oldest and most-respected schools, were so impressed they flew the Academy's Principal and two teachers to San Juan to advise the school on its transition to blended learning.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges, which re-accredited the Academy in 2015 for five more years, gave the Academy's academic program high marks: "Mission Dolores Academy is highly effective at creating an environment that focuses on student learning and achievement. This is evident through the blended learning program. The school has made tremendous strides in building up a new school community based on 21st century learning platforms."





## READ Program Delivers Strong Results

Approximately two-thirds of Mission Dolores Academy students come from homes where English is not the primary language. As a result, many students enter the Academy behind grade level in reading.

To help students catch up, the school piloted its Reading Education and Development (READ) Program in the 2013-14 academic year and expanded it in 2014-15. The program is led by Reading Resource Teacher Elizabeth Faherty and has now helped nearly 100 students develop their reading skills.

Student progress is assessed using standardized test scores and regular assessments by Faherty herself. Among students without learning differences (or students suspected of having a learning difference), the average percentile growth in reading was an impressive 18 percentile points. For example, a student entering READ at the 32nd percentile on average later tested at the 50th percentile.

Faherty finds her students' progress extremely fulfilling. "We had one student gain two grade levels in just half a year. We often use poetry to engage our students, and they love it. It's incredibly satisfying to see them come into the classroom excited to read!"



## Summer Program Helps Stem "Summer Learning Loss"

Mission Dolores Academy students continue to make significantly greater academic progress than other students nationally. To retain these gains, the school expanded its summer program, Summer Scholars, in 2015 to serve more students during the summer.

The goal of Summer Scholars is to reduce or eliminate loss of knowledge and skills during summer vacation. Over 70 students participated in the five-week, full-day program featuring the school's blended learning curriculum in the morning and enrichment activities in the afternoon.

Analysis of standardized test scores revealed that students who didn't participate in Summer Scholars in 2014 but did participate in the enhanced 2015 program saw their summer learning loss in Math completely eliminated; in Reading it was significantly reduced.

Principal Dan Storz said, "We are very encouraged by the results we are seeing from the summer program. We've had wonderful feedback from families and students and look forward to making it even more robust in the years to come."





# Donor Profile: Frederick P. Furth

## A long-time supporter of Mission Dolores Academy

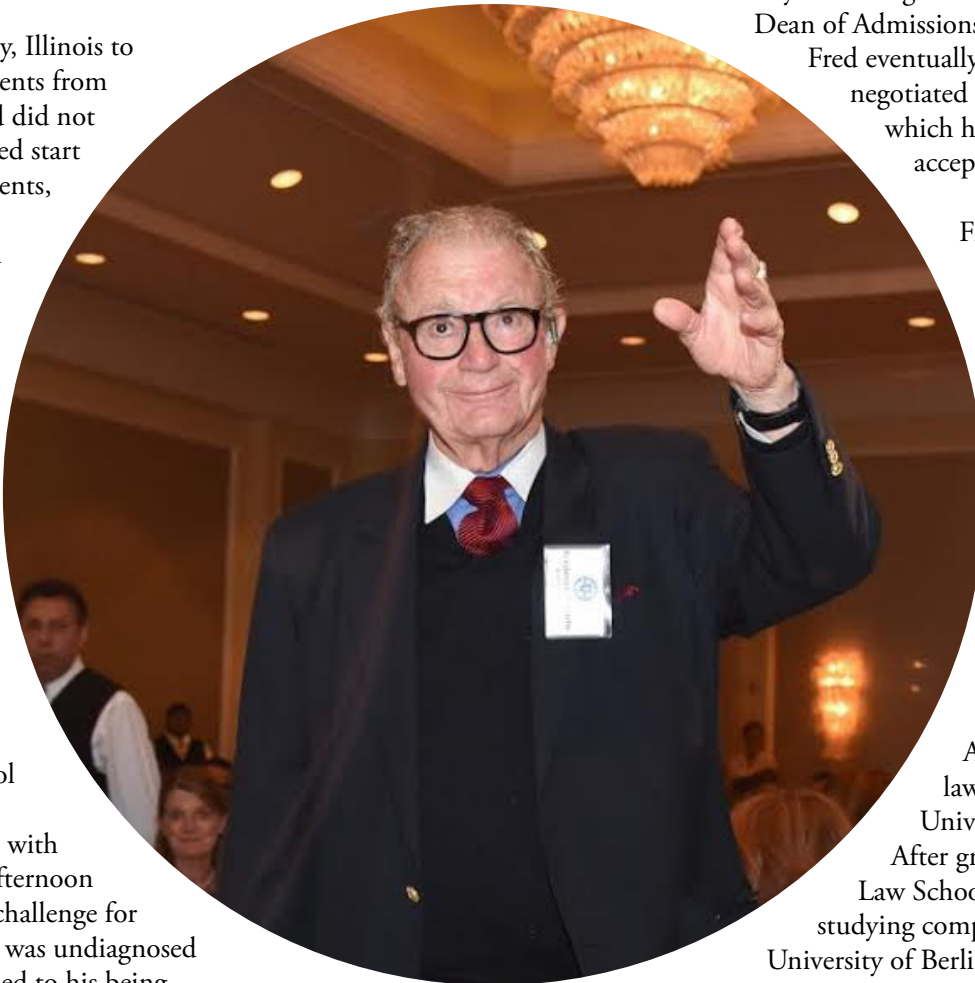
and its predecessor schools, Frederick P. Furth is known for his big personality. He is also known for his even bigger heart, especially when it comes to helping the underprivileged.

Born in Harvey, Illinois to immigrant parents from Germany, Fred did not have a privileged start in life. His parents, both factory workers, could not afford the \$2 a month to send Fred to the local Catholic grammar school until the 5th Grade. In high school, Fred worked at the local post office before and after school every day, and every weekend with only Sunday afternoon off. A further challenge for Fred as a child was undiagnosed dyslexia. This led to his being considered a difficult student who struggled mightily just to get average grades. "When I graduated high school, I'd never read a book cover to cover," Fred recalls.

On graduating high school in 1952, Fred shunned the advice of his school Principal to apply for work at the local gas station and in true Fred fashion, announced to Principal Phillips that he instead planned to attend law school at the prestigious University of Michigan. "That's one of the best schools in the country. You're never going to get in there!" was the stark response from

Principal Phillips. "I didn't get into Michigan of course," says Fred with a big smile.

True to Fred's character, he would not be discouraged and after enrolling at the local college, he immediately began working towards the goal of transferring to the University of Michigan. After calling the Dean of Admissions every month, Fred eventually got through and negotiated the terms by which he would be accepted.



Fred worked hard to improve his grades and was eventually successful in transferring to Michigan, where he would go on to be the Salutatorian of his graduating class. He received his B.A. in Economics and Accounting and his law degree from the University of Michigan.

After graduating from Law School, he spent a year studying comparative law at the University of Berlin and University of Munich.

On his return to America, Fred moved to Wall Street. Seeking a position at the prestigious firm of Cahill, Gordon, Reindel & Ohl, Fred was initially rejected by the firm. Showing once again that he doesn't take no for an answer, Fred eventually managed to convince them otherwise and was hired as an Associate. With unfailing self-confidence and hard work, Fred succeeded in his dream to become a lawyer. He would go on to have a successful career, becoming one of the most prominent lawyers in America.

Fred credits his mother for his confidence and strong work ethic. "My mother gave me two great gifts," Fred explains. "Number one, faith. Faith is a gift. Either you have it or you don't. The second gift she gave me was self-confidence. My mother taught me that no matter what, 'I'm okay.'"

In 1966, Fred set up his own law firm, The Furth Firm LLP, specialising in antitrust litigation. With an interest in social justice and inequality, Fred is most proud of the cases where he represented "the little guy."

That concern for the underdog and the underprivileged has extended to Fred's philanthropic work. In addition to working many years as legal counsel for Glide United Methodist Church, Fred has long been a generous supporter of the Catholic Church (he describes his wealth as "God's check book").

In 2001, through his relationship with Father Xavier Lavagetto, O.P. (then Pastor at St Dominic's Church) Fred was introduced to Father Charles Gagan, S. J. who was Pastor at St. Ignatius Church. Father Gagan approached Fred for help in rescuing Sacred Heart School, a school serving African-American children in San Francisco's Western Addition neighborhood and facing closure.

In 2003, Sacred Heart School merged with the school at St. Dominic's. Not long after, the Archdiocese decided to close the Sacred Heart parish, and all buildings, including the school, were scheduled for demolition. Fred became the new school's saviour by stepping in to purchase the entire property from the Archdiocese for \$5 million. The school was renamed The Megan Furth Academy in memory of Fred's daughter, Megan, who had sadly passed away in 2003 at the age of just 31.

After initially maintaining a split campus, the school soon consolidated at Saint Dominic's, and the Sacred Heart property sold. Proceeds from that sale now

fund the school's endowment, the Megan Furth Memorial Fund.

A talented linguist, equestrian, and teacher, Megan's ambition and talent were apparent from a young age when she became a nationally-ranked rider at just 12 years of age. She would go on to compete internationally as part of the United States Equestrian team. A graduate of New York University with majors in history, philosophy and Italian, Megan became an accomplished writer and poet. Fluent in multiple languages, Megan became the only American professor at Moscow University where she taught in Russian.

"Megan was, no question, the quickest, brightest person I ever met, with the quickest, brightest mind in the world," remembers Fred.

Unlike her father, Megan had enjoyed a privileged childhood, but she always remained grounded. Megan shared the same philanthropic ideals as her father, and they would often collaborate on charitable endeavours. Fred describes his daughter as his social conscience, as she would often influence his decisions on charitable donations.

"Megan would have been proud to have a school that catered to a group of people, hopefully who would have the ability to get into [a college preparatory] high school," says Fred.



In 2011, Megan Furth Academy expanded its mission to help underserved inner-city youth by merging with Mission Dolores School to form Mission Dolores Academy.

Fred's friend Father Gagan says "since 2011, Fred's presence on the school's board, and his chairmanship of the Megan Furth Memorial Fund, have no doubt contributed to the present success of Mission Dolores Academy".

Fred hopes that every child in America can have access to a quality education, and has made great strides to make this a reality for inner-city Bay Area children. At Mission Dolores Academy, Fred explains, "We're picking people who have the potential. We're giving those kids an opportunity."



# Student Profile

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## Student Body President a Natural-Born Leader

Eighth grade student Jadelynn was born a natural leader, knowing from a young age that she wanted to lead others. Student Council President and a straight-A student, Jadelynn is an active and visible member of the school community at Mission Dolores Academy. Her little sister Joy is also a student at the school in the second grade. She is the first Mission Dolores Academy student accepted to University High and Lick Wilmerding, and she will be attending University High on a full scholarship.

She has been a student at Mission Dolores Academy since kindergarten and she describes the comfort and happiness she feels when she attends school “I really like the feeling [I get] when I get to school. I always feel like I’m close with everyone. There’s a real sense of community, and I like that. If I’m having a bad day, I’ll come to school and Mr. Ward will greet me, and I have to crack out a smile”.

Jadelynn is a confident and strong student, interested in leadership and taking charge. By the time she was in 5th Grade she was a class representative on the student council, a role that she continued into the 6th Grade. This year Jadelynn became Student Council President having served as Co-Vice President last year. “I got involved to make friends, make a difference, and also to develop my leadership skills”. This year will see Jadelynn’s new initiatives put into practice, including a monthly dress down day for student to raise money for charity, and a new “pie the teacher” event at the annual school carnival “FIESTA.”

At Mission Dolores Academy, English is Jadelynn’s favorite subject. She is an avid reader, and enjoys the interactive class discussions about literature due to her talkative and outgoing nature. She is also a member of the girls’ volleyball and basketball teams. Her role as President of the student council also sees her leading school assembly every morning, so she is a well-known and popular student.

When Lloyd Dean President/CEO of Dignity Health, visited the school as part of the Great Kindness Challenge, he was so impressed with Jadelynn that he provided her with two tickets to the Dignity Health private box at the Levi’s Stadium for a future 49ers game. Jadelynn gave the tickets to her Father as a Christmas gift, and they both were able to enjoy their first visit to the Levi’s stadium in style!

Jadelynn draws inspiration from strong female role models. She states that her Great Grandmother is her greatest inspiration. She described her admiration for the way that she worked hard to provide and care for her family and continues to watch over them. Jadelynn says that she is also inspired by any powerful woman, and mentions Rosa Parks and Oprah Winfrey in particular for their leadership and strength.





Jadelynn's Mother Jacqueline is also very involved with the school as a member of the FIESTA organizing committee, and is the 2nd Grade Room Parent involved in class activities and other charity events. Jacqueline describes her eldest daughter as a "go-getter" and credits the blended learning curriculum at Mission Dolores Academy for Jadelynn's academic success. "She's always been a good learner, but working with computers (in the classroom) got her more excited, more involved, and more engaged versus just textbooks". Jacqueline also explained how individualized learning at the school is important in challenging Jadelynn appropriately – "she's not held back as teachers provide her with more challenging work. Through the teachers and the curriculum, students can move at their own pace". Jacqueline is also thankful for the additional support in high school counseling and advice on summer programs that Mission Dolores Academy provides. Over the summer Jadelynn attended the Summerbridge program at University High School, an enrichment and advocacy program for middle school students providing a free academic program, high school placement advice, and SSAT prep classes and practice testing.

Jadelynn has just completed her applications to high school and was accepted into several of the City's top high schools. We are very proud that she will be attending University High School on a full scholarship which is a testament to her work ethic and academic success.

When asked about her future college and career aspirations, Jadelynn describes her passion to become a forensic scientist. Inspired by mystery novels and television shows such as NCIS and Bones, she hopes to be involved in social justice and crime prevention in the area of crime scene investigation. She does not yet know where she hopes to go to college, but wants to stay in California, but states that her school of choice must provide the right portfolio of courses to lead her into her preferred career.

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**Mission Dolores Academy is known nationally and internationally for its rigorous blended learning instructional program. To further meet the needs of the population we serve and develop the whole child, our rich program includes the following:**

- Extended school day from 8 am – 4 pm -**
- After-school program from 4 – 6 pm -**
- Free breakfast -**
- Free/reduced lunch for eligible families -**
- Religion class taught daily -**
- Mass celebrated weekly -**
- Sacramental preparation -**
- Art, Music, PE, and Spanish weekly -**
- CYO team sports -**
- CYO counseling services -**
- High school admissions counseling -**
- Chess Club -**
- Violin instruction -**
- Field trips to the Symphony, Exploratorium, -**
- local colleges, and more**
- Regular community service projects across all grades -**



# Donors

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## **\$250,000+**

The Megan Furth Memorial Fund

## **\$100,000+**

Anonymous

The BASIC Fund

## **\$50,000+**

Dignity Health

Frederick P. Furth

The Robert and Helen Odell Fund

Viragh Family Foundation, Inc.

## **\$25,000+**

Archdiocese of San Francisco

Celebrate Foundation

Heidi Cortese

Louise M. Davies Foundation

Patricia and Thomas Doyle

Dana and Robert Emery

The Guardsmen

Millicent and Robert Lalanne

Deborah Lee Minor

Joy and Thomas Misteale

John D. Moriarty

## **\$10,000+**

Anonymous

Elizabeth and David Birka-White

British Motor Car Distributors

Joey and Bill Buckingham

Sue and Todd Carter

Angela and Christopher Cohan

Anne and Scott Davison

Dominican Sisters of San Rafael

Barbara & Jay Fritz Foundation

Carl Gellert & Celia Berta Gellert  
Foundation

Alicia and Philip Hammaraskjold

Cecilia and James Herbert

Mary Jo and Richard Kovacevich

George and Mary Kremer  
Foundation

Denise La Pointe

Rebecca and Robert Loback

Maverick Capital Foundation

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## **\$10,000+ (cont)**

Anna and Mason Morfit

Peter Newell

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## **\$5,000+**

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## **\$2,500+**

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Comcast California

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Union Bank of California

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## **\$1,000+**

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Kathryn Hahn

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Jeannette and Jim Ryan  
Sacred Heart School Class of 1957  
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Daniel White III  
Cheryl and Jerome Williams  
Diane Wilsey  
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Zogsports SF, LLC

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Elisa McCannon  
Jennifer and Brian McNamee  
Noelle and John Micek  
Nanette Lee Miller

## **\$250+ (cont)**

Mission Dolores Basilica  
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Jennifer Sann  
Jeff Schindler  
Alicia and Patrick Shepherd  
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Maja and Adam Smith  
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Sara and Craig Stephens  
Michelle Tapia  
Janice Thacher  
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Anita T. Woo and  
James E. Topinka  
Anne and George Wagner  
Margaret Walden  
Ashley Waltemath  
Nancy and Bob Weber  
Frances and Michael Wilson  
Winegrowers of Dry Creek Valley,  
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Mary Ellen and John Zellerbach  
Maggie Zeman



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Stephen Calegari  
California Community  
vFoundation  
Mary and Patrick Callan  
Zach Cancio  
Lisa and John Carr  
Shelly Carter  
Lisa Castillo  
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## 2015 Top Chefs Benefit Luncheon

Charles Phan of The Slanted Door, reigning winner of the prestigious James Beard Award for Outstanding Restaurant, orchestrated an all-star team for inner-city students on April 22, 2015 at the Four Seasons.

For the third consecutive year, the school's annual benefit luncheon featured a three-course culinary collaboration deftly orchestrated by Charles Phan of The Slanted Door, with contributions from Phan, Anne Walker and Kris Hoogerhyde of

Bi-Rite Creamery, Craig Stoll of Delfina, Alexander La

Motte of the Four Seasons, Charles Hirigoyen of Piperade, and Salvatore Cracco of Trou Normand. The Four Seasons Hotel set the stage for the event. Guests also enjoyed violin and choral performances by Mission Dolores Academy students.

In the past three years, the Top Chefs Luncheon has raised more than \$2 million to fund scholarships and other critical programs benefiting Mission Dolores Academy Students. This year, presenting sponsor Dignity Health underwrote the cost of luncheon. Thanks to their generosity, 100% of proceeds raised from the event will go directly to supporting the Academy.

The chef collaboration is the brainchild of Phan, who grew up in the Mission and is a longtime supporter of Mission Dolores Academy. "I feel it is my duty to help our inner-city youth become successful, contributing members of their community," Phan said.



## **MISSION DOLORES ACADEMY**

In partnership with the Megan Furth Memorial Fund

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