



MISSION DOLORES ACADEMY

In partership with the Megan Furth Memorial Fund

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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Welcome

Dear Friends,

Over the past few years, you have received annual reports from Mission Dolores Academy praising the impressive academic progress of our students, our innovative program, and the richness of our school community. At the risk of being repetitive, 2015-16 was another stellar year at MDA!

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our benefactors and the tireless work of our faculty and staff, we were able to accomplish some amazing things last year:

- Our school has undergone a \$2 million renovation thanks to the abundant generosity of the Shea family.
- Our students again significantly outperformed students nationally based on standardized test results, and 92% of our 2016 graduates went on to attend top Catholic, independent and charter college preparatory high schools (see page 3).
- The Western Catholic Education Association granted us a full accreditation for the maximum term of six years.
- Enrollment increased to 257 students, our fifth consecutive year of growth.
- With the help of the Herbst Foundation we were able to complete a seismic retrofit of our gym roof, making us the first school in San Francisco to respond to a recent city mandate affecting private schools, and making our school safer for our students.
- We continue to produce outstanding results even though we have the second lowest tuition in the Archdiocese and have not raised tuition in five years.

2016-17 is off to a tremendous start. Enrollment has increased, teachers and students are engaged, and our improved campus is now the jewel of the Mission.

Thank you for your trust, advice, and financial support. Because of you, Mission Dolores Academy continues to be a truly special place. Go Tigers!

With Gratitude



Paul Recktenwald
Head of School

Fr. Charles Gagan
Founder

We are committed to keeping tuition affordable for our families:

- **Second-lowest tuition** charged among K-8 schools in Archdiocese of San Francisco
- **Zero tuition increase** in last 5 years (vs. 11% average among K-8 schools in Archdiocese of San Francisco)
- **Over \$1 million in scholarships** provided in the last 5 years (\$233,000 in 2016 school year)



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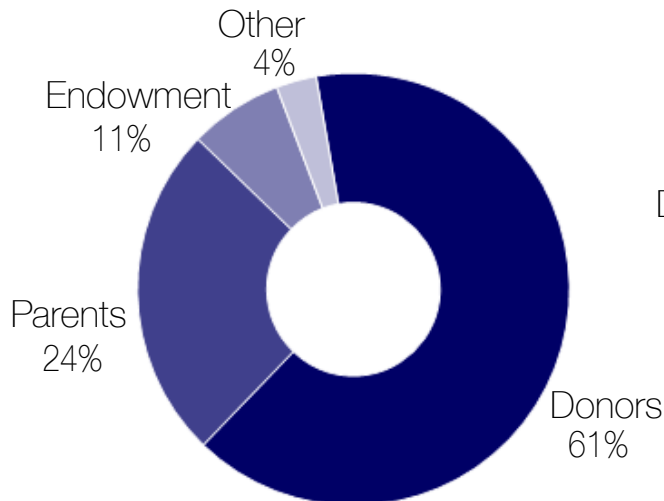
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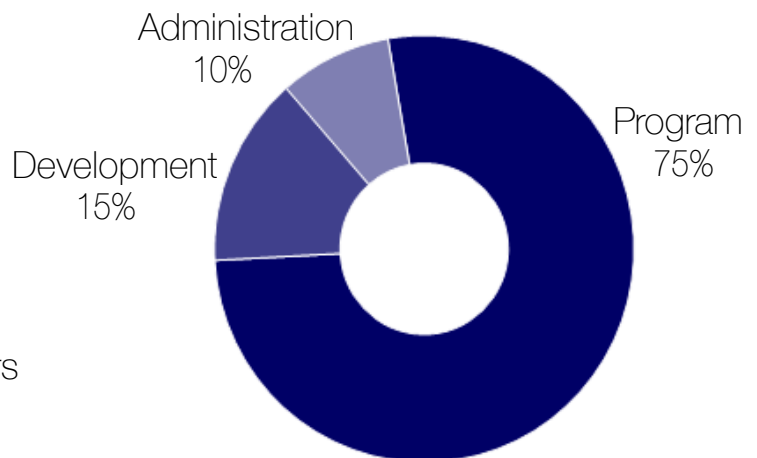
Metrics

Results are for the fiscal year starting August 1, 2015 and ending July 31, 2016. To provide a clearer picture of the school's ongoing revenue and expenditure, Shea Family Charities contributions are not included.

Revenue: \$2,649,004

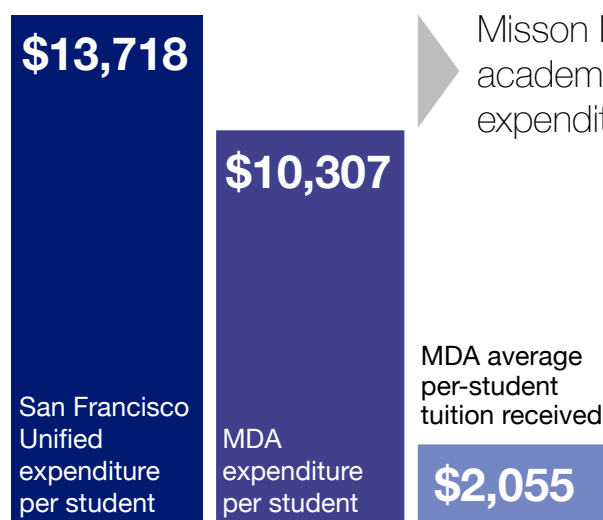


Expense: \$2,648,957



Results are unaudited. To request a copy of audited results when they become available, please contact our Development Office.

Per-Student Financial Metrics



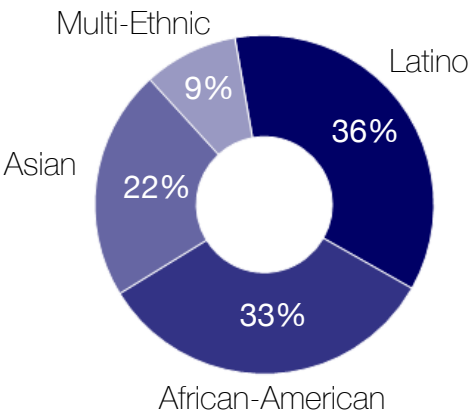
Mission Dolores Academy delivers outstanding academic results (see next page) at a lower expenditure/student than local public schools.

Even with the second-lowest tuition in the Archdiocese, 86% of our families required some form of tuition assistance in 2016. The school relies on community investment to help fund the gap between what it costs to educate our students and what our families are able to afford.

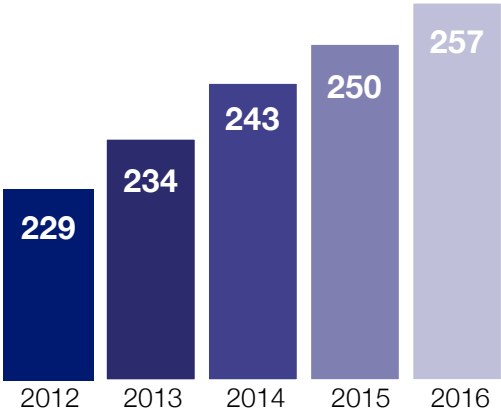
San Francisco Unified School District data is based on National Center for Education Statistics research for the school year ending in 2015, the most recent year data is available. Mission Dolores Academy data is for the school year ending in 2016.

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.



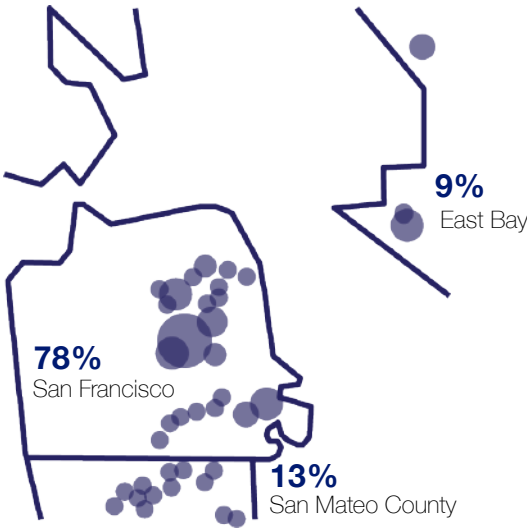
We have educated an increasing number of students in each of the past five years.



Our students once again made significantly greater academic progress than students nationally, based on Northwest Evaluation Association standardized test scores.

	Average Percentile Gains:		
	2014	2015	2016
Math	+8	+10	+6
Reading	+7	+11	+7

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.



92% of our Class of 2016 went on to attend top Catholic, independent, and charter college preparatory high schools.



Our students are consistently accepted into the Bay Area’s most prestigious college preparatory high schools, including:

- Archbishop Riordan
 The Bay School
 City, Arts & Technology
 Convent of the Sacred Heart
 Drew School
 Immaculate Conception Academy
 KIPP
 Lick Wilmerding
- Lowell High School
 Mercy High
 Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep
 Saint Ignatius College Prep
 St. Patrick - St. Vincent (Vallejo)
 Stuart Hall
 The Urban School
 University High School

By definition, average growth equal 0 percentile point growth.

Program Update

The importance of Music

"I would teach children music, physics and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning." **Plato**

At Mission Dolores Academy, we are committed to developing the whole child. At a time when many schools are eliminating Music, we include Music across all grades as part of our curriculum, and violin instruction as an extracurricular.

Students learn the fundamentals of music theory, composition, and history, as well as how to apply these concepts to develop their instrumental and vocal performance skills. At the end of the school year, each grade performs in front of a school-wide assembly and proud parents to showcase what they've learned.

For students in Grades 3 – 8 who wish to pursue their interest in Music further, our String program gives them the opportunity to learn violin. Started in 2009, the program has grown each year, and in 2015-16 a record 23 students participated.

Students are taught by Maestro Calvin Murasaki, a nationally- and internationally-recognized pedagogue and expert in the Paul Rolland Method of "Freedom of Movement" instruction. MDA gained global attention in 2015-16 when Maestro Murasaki gave a presentation about the String program and best practices for teaching violin to inner-city youth at the week-long Paul Rolland Conference for violin instructors.

In addition to playing at the year-end assembly and our Christmas Mass, students in the String program also perform at the school's annual luncheon benefit. Students enjoy performing in front of guests, who enjoy both the music and interacting with our students.

Our String program is made possible by the generous support of benefactors who recognize the value of giving our students the opportunity to further develop their musical talents. In 2015-16, the program received further validation when the school received a grant from the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) used to purchase equipment and accessories used to maintain our violins.



Blended Learning update

Thanks to a generous gift from John and Dorothy Shea, our classrooms received a much-needed technology refresh this year in the form of new Chromebook laptops for Grades K – 6.

The Chromebooks replaced aging desktop computers and monitors first installed in 2011. The switch to Chromebooks gives our students valuable exposure to laptop technology, which is now standard in college preparatory high schools.

The laptops also allow for greater mobility, which in turn gives teachers more flexibility in designing lesson plans. A grant from the Mary A. Crocker Trust in 2013 was used to purchase Chromebooks for our 7th and 8th grade classes. Our middle school teachers adapted their lessons to take advantage of the extra mobility, and now that laptops are in all our other classrooms, they have been sharing their best practices with the rest of our faculty.



Nurturing a love of reading

The ability to read is foundational to a child's ability to succeed in school and in life. Research has shown that students who aren't reading at grade level by the 4th grade are more likely to face a variety of negative life outcomes compared to students who are reading at grade level.

Mission Dolores Academy is committed to developing not just our students' ability to read, but nurturing their love of reading. Four ways we do this are:

1. Our **Reading Education And Development (READ)** program, run by full-time Reading Instructor Elizabeth Faherty, helps our students who are behind grade level - many of whom are learning English as a second language - to catch up.
2. The school's **Reading Workshop** is for all students in Grades 1-4 and develops their love of reading by allowing them to check out books of their preference and matched to their reading level. The workshop and its inventory of 3,600 new books was made possible by a generous gift from Heidi Cortese, a longtime benefactor of the school.
3. Our **Book Buddies** program pairs students in our upper grades with Kindergarten students. Book Buddies not only gives our Kindergarten students one-on-one opportunities to read and be read to, it also develops empathy in our older students.
4. Ms. Faherty is using the latest technology to enhance her students learning experience in 2016-17. Several students are now piloting **Fast Forward**, a software program designed to increase processing efficiency and build critical reading skills. Early results of the Fast Forward pilot are very encouraging.



Summer program keeps students sharp

Over 40 Mission Dolores Academy students spent a large part of the past summer participating in our Summer Scholars summer academic and enrichment program.

Lasting five weeks and consisting of full-day sessions, Summer Scholars includes both academics and enrichment activities, with the academics portion focusing heavily on Reading and Math. The program's goal is to prevent loss over the summer of knowledge gained during the previous school year, a phenomenon known as Summer Learning Loss (SLL).

Research has shown SLL disproportionately affects students from low-income families due to a lack of affordable education opportunities, like summer camps and private tutors, that middle- and upper-income households are able to afford. Research also shows that, by high school, the cumulative effect of SLL over many summers accounts for nearly all of the academic achievement gap between low-income students and those from middle- and upper-class households.

Results for Summer Scholars 2016 are pending; however, data from Summer Scholars 2015 was very promising. An analysis of participating students' standardized test scores showed that, on average, they had completely eliminated their SLL in Math and eliminated most of their SLL in Reading (compared to their test scores prior to participating in Summer Scholars).

Summer Scholars is also designed to meet the needs of our families. Priced at what amounts to less than \$2 an hour, Summer Scholars offers tremendous value. The program's schedule not only provides students with a full day of learning, it also allows parents to work full days and provide for their families.



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\$250,000+

Megan Furth Memorial Fund

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Every effort has been made to publish names correctly, but if we have made an error, please contact us at development@mdasf.org or 415.638.6212.

2016 Top Chefs Benefit Luncheon

On March 16th our supporters gathered for a very special celebration of the school's success, our students' achievements, and the tremendous contribution made by our very special Honorees, Bob & Millicent Lalanne. Thanks to a phenomenal level of support from our many friends, our annual **Top Chefs Benefit Luncheon** at the Four Seasons Hotel was a huge success.

Our annual luncheon is a must-attend in part due to our unique Top Chefs lineup. Guests enjoyed a three-course lunch prepared by some of the city's best-loved chefs, led once again by **Chef Charles Phan** of The Slanted Door. Half of the room enjoyed dishes prepared by Chef Phan, **Gerald Hirigoyen** of Piperade, and **Craig Stoll & Jessica Sullivan** of Delfina, while the other half enjoyed dishes prepared by **Mourad Lahlou** of Mourad, **Salvatore Cracco** of Trou Normand, and **Alexander la Motte** of the Four Seasons. Guests also enjoyed meeting our students during the reception along with violin and vocal performances by our students.

Save the Date!

This year's luncheon will return on **Friday, May 5th** at the Four Seasons Hotel, San Francisco. Led once again by Chef Phan, our 2017 Top Chefs Benefit Luncheon will feature another star-studded line up of chefs, and the other stars of the show: our students!





MISSION DOLORES ACADEMY

In partnership with the Megan Furth Memorial Fund

3371 16th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
mdasf.org | 415.638.6213



Mission Dolores Academy is an independent Catholic K-8 school in San Francisco's historic Mission District. With a history that dates to 1852, the Academy is the oldest K-8 school in San Francisco. We serve students whose families would otherwise not be able to afford a high-quality private education.

