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.
Dear Friends,

It is our sincere hope that the following pages will fill you with a sense of joy and fulfilment. The beaming faces and wonderful programs offered at MDA are a celebration of your generosity and commitment to providing an engaging, affordable education for all. Each and every one of you has been an inspiration, and your collective voice has had a direct impact on making MDA one of the best schools in San Francisco!

Thanks to you, we have been able to both offer and accomplish so much:

- 83% of our 2017 graduating class went on to attend a top Catholic, Independent, or College Preparatory Charter school
- 90% of our young scholars received financial aid
- Enrollment is strong, bolstered by 34 smiling faces in Kindergarten
- 14:1 Student to Teacher ratio
- 2:1 Chromebook to Student ratio
- Inaugural Outdoor Education trip to the Marin Headlands
- Introduction of Latin into the curriculum to fortify vocabulary development
- Expansion of our Literacy Program to offer a Mathematics Specialist
- 20 students received the Sacrament of Confirmation, 23 students received the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and 6 students received the Sacrament of Baptism

It has truly been a wonderful year at Mission Dolores Academy, and we are blessed to have such a thoughtful teaching staff, a caring parent body, and a community of generous benefactors. On behalf of the MDA faculty and staff, we offer a heartfelt thank you.

We are committed to keeping tuition affordable for our families:

- 2nd lowest tuition charged among K-8 schools in Archdiocese of San Francisco.
- 0% tuition increase in last 6 years. Only school in Archdiocese of San Francisco not to have raised tuition.
- $1.3M amount we have provided in scholarships in the last 6 years.

Paul Recktenwald
Head of School
I am MDA!

Fr. Charles Gagan
Founder
I am MDA!

Meredith Essalat
Principal
I am MDA!

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Our Year in Review

Revenue: $2,717,524
Expense: $2,717,484

Results are for the fiscal year starting August 1, 2016 and ending July 31, 2017

Per-Student Financial Metrics

San Francisco Unified expenditure per student $13,970
MDA expenditure per student $10,372
Average tuition MDA receives per student $1,891

MDA delivers outstanding academic results at a lower cost than local public schools.

Even with the second-lowest tuition in the Archdiocese, 90% of our families required some form of tuition assistance in 2017.

MDA relies on community investment to help fund the gap between what it costs to educate a student and what our families are able to afford.
Our School at a Glance

Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Filipino</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Ethnic</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment

Our enrollment numbers continue to increase year-on-year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where our students live

- 78% of our students live in San Francisco.
- MDA families live in neighborhoods including the Mission, Tenderloin, Western Addition, Bay View, Hunters Point and Visitacion Valley.
- 16% live in San Mateo County
- 6% live in the East Bay

High school acceptance

83% of our Class of 2017 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 School
- Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep
- Saint Ignatius College Prep
- Stuart Hall High School
- The Urban School
- University High School

Our academic results

In demographic comparisons, Mission Dolores Academy students outperformed those in public schools by:

- **Mathematics + 36.6%**
- **Language Arts + 18.9%**
Program Update

English Language Arts
In an effort to continually improve the communication of all Mission Dolores Academy students—both orally and in the written word—the school’s English Language Arts (ELA) Program has been broadened to provide a more rigorous platform to enable student growth and achievement.

First, a school-wide Vocabulary series has been added to the curricula — *Wordly Wise 3000* which enables student exposure to highly rigorous, academic language. Secondly, students in Grades Two through Eight are immersed in studying the mechanics of the written word through the inception of the *GUM: Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics* series by Zaner-Bloser. Students are able to better understand the foundation of sentence structure and word choice, leading them to successfully craft longer narratives with detail and fluency.

New Latin Program
The study of Latin offers students the ability to not only learn an ancient language but also the culture, history, ideas, and more of the Ancient Romans. Students will improve their listening, writing, and reading abilities in Latin. Students will read and translate to improve their skills in searching for main ideas, reading comprehension, and acquiring vocabulary. Students will participate in listening and oral reading to learn the correct pronunciation of Latin. Students will be able to compose short sentences into Latin independently. The daily life, ancient history, and culture of ancient Romans will be taught so that students make connections between the language and life of the Romans to their own lives.

MDA Summer Academy
The Mission Dolores Summer Academy was a huge success with 46, 1st-5th Graders engaging in five weeks of academic and enrichment programs. The main goal of the Summer Academy continues to be the elimination of the “summer slide” that so often occurs when children are not challenged over the summer. Before the program began, faculty and administration spent weeks designing a data-driven curriculum that would meet each student’s academic needs. The mornings were designed to look like the school year with small group rotations through Mathematics and Language Arts. The afternoons were designed for fun! Our young scholars rotated through enrichment activities like Art, Dance, Spanish, PE, and Youth SF “Tech Rec”. Students kept their minds active and engaged, while managing to squeeze in some fun!
Program Update

Updated Math Program

MDA is now in year two of our new math curriculum, and we are very excited about the results to date. Both *Pearson Investigations* (K-5th Grades) and *Singapore Math* (6-8th Grades), focus on the visualization of real-life concepts and uses concrete, pictorial, and abstract methods to teach foundational math. Studies have shown that this approach to mathematics instruction is far more effective than simple rote memorization and drill work.

The combination of this new curriculum and our innovative blended learning model allows MDA to design individualized learning paths to specifically address any concept weaknesses and allows students to explore and deepen their understanding of critical concepts.

Extended Literacy Support

MDA’s Reading Education and Development (READ) Program, which has been supporting struggling readers since 2013, took a big step forward this year and became the MDA Literacy Program with the addition of Math Specialist, Christina Lancaster. True literacy is not only the ability to read and write, but also the ability to work with numbers. Alongside Reading Specialist, Elizabeth Faherty who continues to work to increase the reading achievement of our below grade-level students, focusing on early-intervention, Christina is creating a Math Lab Program that meets the math needs of diverse learners. Together, the goal is early intervention and grade-level literacy.

Math Lab debunks the myth that we are born either a math person or not. It is an inclusive environment, where small group instruction prioritizes individual needs of students. Students exit the program and return to the classroom empowered to use tools that work for them, strengthened by a deeper understanding of math.

The MDA Literacy Program classroom continues to house the MDA Bookroom, an over 3000-book collection of fiction and non-fiction books in support of the kindergarten-fourth grade reading workshops- a curriculum built on research about what causes readers to grow: time for voluminous reading, lessons that model and practice deep comprehension, and self-selection of appropriately leveled texts. The bookroom provides the students the opportunity to fill their weekly book bins with books they are motivated to read as they grow in their skills.
The Mission Dolores Summer Academy was a huge success with 46, 1st-5th Graders engaging in five weeks of academic and enrichment programs. The main goal of the Summer Academy continues to be the elimination of the “summer slide” that so often occurs when children are not challenged over the summer. Before the program began, faculty and administration spent weeks designing a data-driven curriculum that would meet each student’s academic needs. The mornings were designed to look like the school year with small group rotations through Mathematics and Language Arts. The afternoons were designed for fun! Our young scholars rotated through enrichment activities like Art, Dance, Spanish, P.E. and Youth SF “Tech Rec”. Students kept their minds active and engaged, while managing to squeeze in some fun!

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2018 Top Chefs Benefit Luncheon

Honoring our beloved Reverend Charles R. Gagan, S.J.
on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination

Thursday, April 19th, 2018
The Four Seasons, San Francisco

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