

ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# 70

THE NEXT SEVENTY

MOVING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

THE CELTIC MAGAZINE 6TH EDITION | 2023





# The Next 70 at St. Nicholas



ABOVE: TRANSFORMATION BACK THEN AND NOW.

The original photo shows a school beginning to take shape with a smaller footprint on the El Monte property. A boutique staff and a small student body formed Catholic education in Los Altos Hills. Fast forward, we are positioned to enroll upwards of 275 students in TK-8th grades in 2024-25 and have a faculty and staff of 36 who nurture our students.

As the 70th official anniversary year comes to an end this October, all the rich history and tradition that comes from a legacy institution has been shared through the different platforms. These precious vintage pictures tell a unique story, but it is now time to turn to the future. The Next 70 years.

Catholic education has been transformational for our youth. The alumni featured in this issue will share more about why this school created a foundation that shaped their lives and why they did not hesitate to enroll their children to experience the same Celtic magic.

In this issue of *The Celtic*, see how our school has advanced in our school metrics, how the community has been reinforced after COVID and how practicing Catholic values continues to be what differentiates us from our neighbors.

Herein, we are proud to present our future school campus plans for ensuring our school meets and exceeds the needs of the next 70 year students. Explore what is taking shape to create more space for the growing number of faculty servant leaders and see the exciting reimagined frontage that will welcome the next generation.

With your help, we will continue the mission the Sisters of Mercy began in 1953 and forge the path for the next several decades of Celtics to be transformed. The words in the Prayer of Archbishop Oscar Romero particularly are meaningful as we take responsibility for a future we truly believe in. I humbly ask for your time to review our magazine and support The Next 70 vision.

“We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.”

– Archbishop Oscar Romero



**Blessings,**  
Jan Popolizio  
Principal, St. Nicholas Catholic School



ABOVE: JAN POPOLIZIO, PRINCIPAL, ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND REV. MATTHEW D. STANLEY, PASTOR, SAINT NICHOLAS AND SAINT WILLIAM PARISH WITH STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY.

It is hard for me to imagine how long is seventy years. In 1953, Pope Pius XII sat upon the throne of St. Peter, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower occupied the Oval Office. As I write this, I have been the Pastor of St. Nicholas School for less than one hundred days. And yet as I review this passing of time, I stand quite proud of what we have accomplished over these past seven decades.

We continue to make it our highest priority to strengthen the Catholic identity of our school. Our parents volunteer countless hours and make financial sacrifices to provide the best facilities and the most innovative programs possible. Our non-school parish families remain supportive and appreciative of the vitality that our largest ministry brings to Saint Nicholas and Saint William Parish.

Great institutions of learning, leadership, and legacy are sustained by a commitment. We focus on developing the whole child — spiritually, academically, emotionally, physically, and socially. The mission of Catholic education has always been one that shines the Light of Truth that comes to us from Christ. Together, let us forge ahead with confidence knowing that “here on earth God’s work must truly be our own.”

As Pastor, I am entrusted with the spiritual and pastoral care of our Catholic people. This is an awesome task and a privileged responsibility. And yet, no one person can do this work all alone. How blessed I am to have professional, dedicated, and experienced educators and administrators to collaborate with me in the day-to-day work of Catholic education.

Your commitment and investment in St. Nicholas School is one of the many blessings for which I give thanks every day. I am very grateful for the trust you have placed in us. We have been given a unique opportunity to mold, nurture, and influence the children you have placed into our care.

We constantly strive to improve on what we have to offer our students. It takes money. It takes time. It takes planning. We promise to invest your resources well to make possible the mission we have been given as Catholic educators. Please consider a gift to this year’s Capital Campaign. Each gift is a pledge of your commitment to continue the mission of Catholic education for the next seventy years.

“The test of time proves everything.”

– Uche Onyinyechi Richard



**Sincerely,**  
Rev. Matthew D. Stanley  
Pastor, Saint Nicholas and Saint William Parish

# By the Numbers

1

**Community** is the number one reason **parents** join St. Nicholas School

3

Resources **Specialists**

11

1:11 **ratio of students** and teachers in TK all day

13

**Faculty** members who hold **masters degrees**

14

**After** school **programs**

16

1:16 **ratio of students** to teachers in **K-1st Grades**

17

Unparalleled **17 Acres** to explore and learn

31

Students helped by **Financial Aid** in the 2023-24 school year

32

Cap on students **largest class size**

44

New Student **Conflict Managers**

56

**Faith formation** & service opportunities beyond **religion class** for our students

99

**% Acceptance** Rate in Catholic High Schools

240

2023-24 faculty's total **years of teaching** experience

5600

Average **financial aid** award

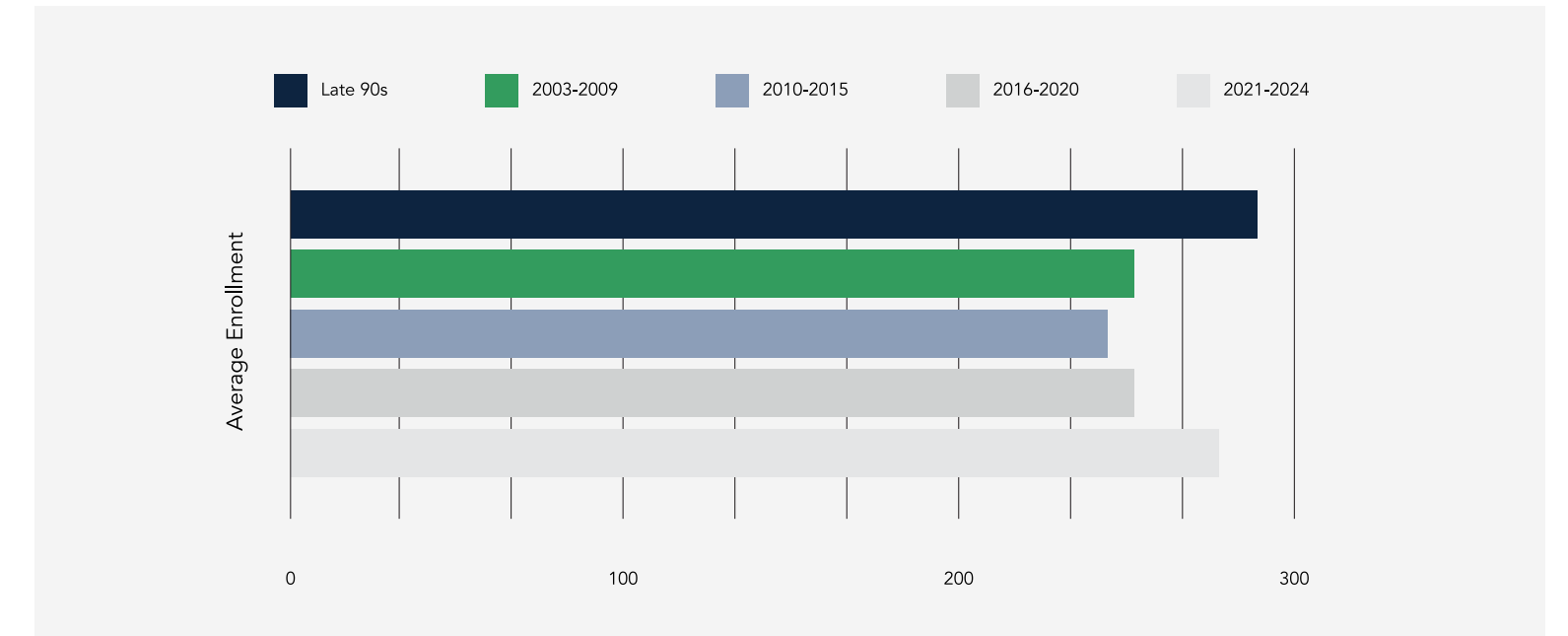
# Our Time is Now

## Focus on Stewardship

Our 2023-24 school theme is focused on stewardship in the classroom, school and community. In the classroom, teachers work with students to help them recognize their strengths and God-given gifts. Inspiring and observing all our students to work together for a greater purpose is one of the most important pillars at St. Nicholas Catholic School. Our expectation is for our students to leave our school and to be beacons of light in their new communities. Through this work of activating their faith they will also come to realize their worth and value in this world.

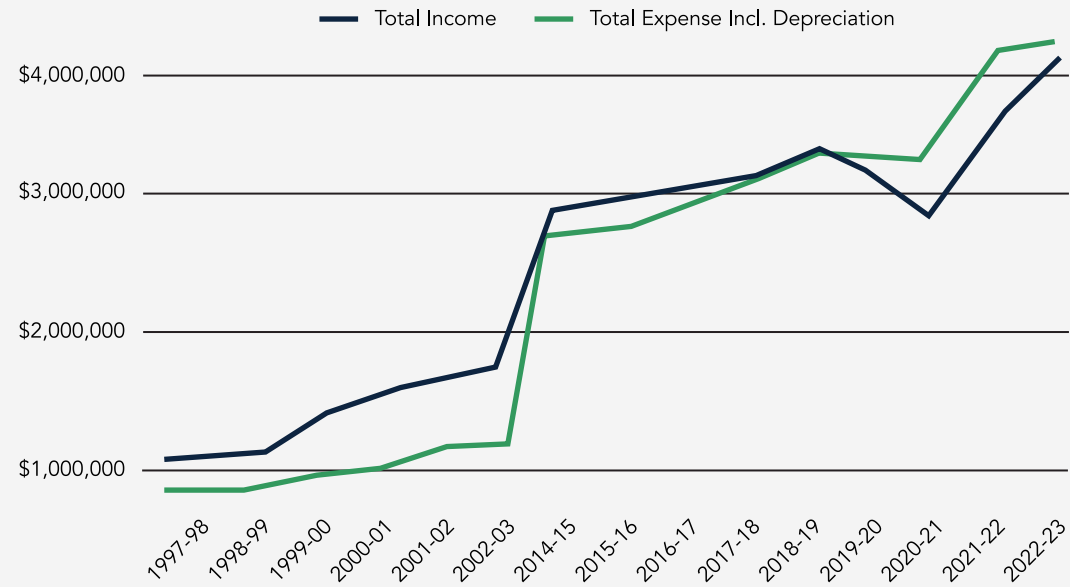
## Increased Enrollment and Stabilization

Our student population has steadily increased and has stabilized after the pandemic. Families found our school during challenging times in their communities. The fruits of a dedicated faculty team being responsive at that moment to offer academic programs for those at home became well known. Our current families are our best marketing when they share their positive experience with others. We will continue to illustrate the realization that Catholic education will always be a beacon of hope for all.



# Fiscal Sustainability & Secured Tuition Assistance Programs

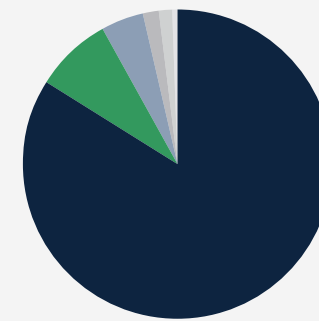
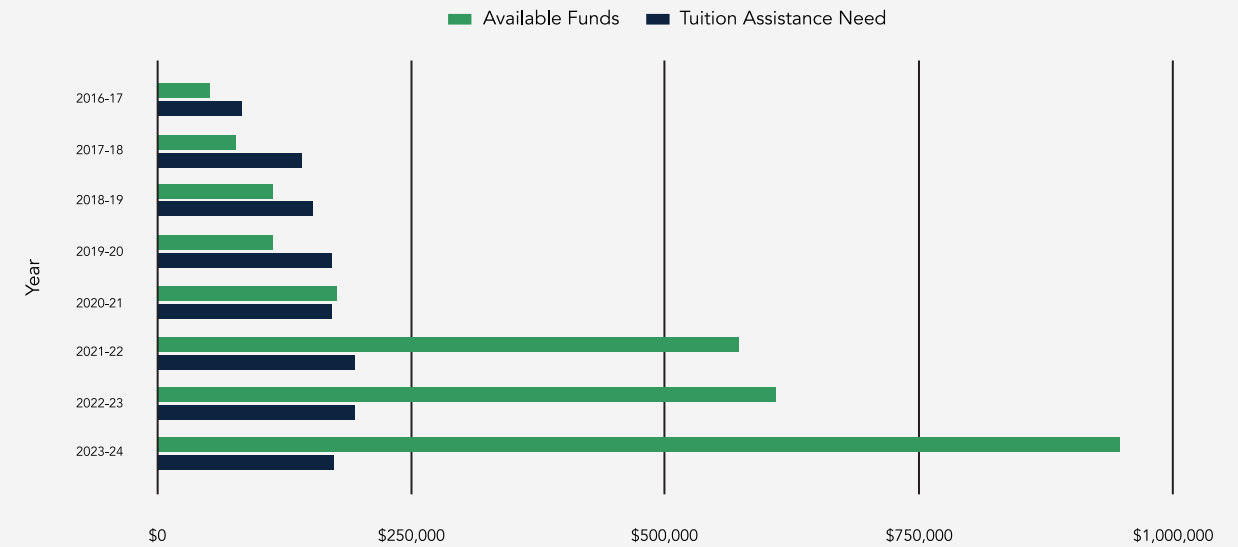
## St. Nicholas School Income Vs Expenses



For years St. Nicholas and most Catholic schools developed tuition structures far below the cost of education. Dipping into reserves to make the budgets balance was a tried and true strategy for decades; a strategy that is no longer viable. Over the past four years the work of dedicated parents on the Finance Committee and the School Advisory Board led by the administration yielded a new structure that ensures sustainability for the future of St. Nicholas generations.

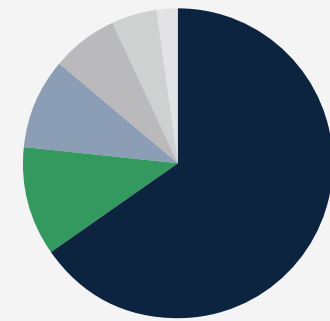
Along with this new structure comes a commitment to ensure that no family desiring a Catholic education is ever turned away. For the past three years our focus has been on building a tuition assistance program that can serve the next generation of families. Through the generosity of many parishioners and school families we have met our goals and will continue to offer support for all those in need.

## Tuition Assistance Strong In Funding Availability



2022-23 St. Nicholas School Income \$4,515,305

- Tuition & Fees \$3,797,369
- Endowment Fund \$77,000
- Other Income \$203,776
- Fundraising & Annual Appeal \$358,365
- Parish Subsidy \$65,000
- St. Nicholas / St. William 2nd Collection & Online Giving \$13,795



2022-23 St. Nicholas School Expenses \$4,515,305

- Salaries & Benefits \$2,958,116
- Capital Reserve \$314,616
- Instruction \$425,259
- Facilities & Depreciation \$505,696
- Administration \$211,618
- Financial Aid Reserve \$100,000



# Proven Academic Performance and Readiness for High School

Students at St. Nicholas School continue to show strong and consistent academic achievement year after year. The growth scores each year are closely monitored to ensure that every student advances in their academic knowledge at a level that is better than average and at a rate of a minimum one year. This growth metric is a key indicator of a strong instructional program and culture of learning facilitated by dedicated faculty and staff.

We are so proud of our Class of 2022-23 and congratulate them on their many options they had to choose from amongst the finest secondary schools in the Bay Area.

Students advance in accelerated math courses beginning in sixth grade at St. Nicholas School. Our advancement philosophy is founded on years of experience and has always been and will always be data driven. Utilizing this approach we have seen nearly a hundred percent of our students graduate from St. Nicholas School and enter their high school programs in the next advanced level course. Sound philosophy yields proven results.

99%

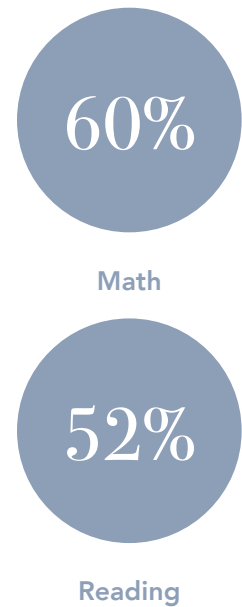
High School  
Acceptance Rate With  
Multiple Offers

98%

Of those who took the  
Advanced Placement  
Math Test

## 2022-23 Academic Year

The median growth for all students in grades 1st-8th at St. Nicholas:



A growth score\* of 50% is typically one year of growth from Fall to Spring

\*Measured Using Renaissance Learning STAR Data, May 2023

# Strong Sense of Community

The number one reason families enroll at St. Nicholas School is our strong sense of community. For seventy years this has been what parents report. It doesn't take six degrees of freedom to find an alumni or a parent who knows someone from St. Nicholas. We are proud that our school offers our families a sense of belonging and connection. Last year, our Carnival was the capstone that brought the Los Altos Community together. We also brought back our Spring Musical that showcases the amazing talents of our students. Our sports program is back on track post Covid. Our Dad's Club has grown to over forty members and our events already in this new 2023-24 school year have brought out the crowds.





# Buddy Time: A Treasured Tradition & Part of our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Program

During the first month of every school year, the 8th grade students have their initial Buddy meet-up with our youngest, our TK students. Our oldest mentoring the youngest is a beautiful experience to watch unfold all year long. The first exchange is met with shyness and nerves on both sides. By the second and third exchange this special relationship begins to develop. After our all school morning assembly, the 8th graders will stay back to give their TK buddies a high-five or a quick hug. As the year progresses, these young adolescents who are navigating the challenges of junior high remain the strong nurturers as they step into that TK classroom. Helping to dry tears, cutting paper, reading stories and asking how they are doing all make up the work they do as a big Buddy. Similarly, the other grades are all paired with younger grades, and spend time together throughout the year. A treasured tradition and an SEL experience to help even the quietest introverts develop their social skills.





The background features a large, stylized number '70' in a light green color, centered on a dark green background. The '7' is composed of several overlapping, rounded shapes, and the '0' is a simple, thick-lined circle.

# The Next 70 Capital Campaign

The Past

# Making Our Campus Beautiful

## Capital Projects Completed

1992-2004

**\$2,500,500**

Science Lab, AC in Gym, Fire Sprinklers, Roofs, Asbestos Abatement & Carpeting in classrooms, Parking lot paving, Bleachers and Security System

2017

**\$171,966**

**Gym Renovation**

2018

**\$120,000**

**Gym New Roof**

2019

**\$78,157**

**Jr. High Renovation**

2020

**\$148,210**

**Gr. 1st-5th  
Upgrades**

2021

**\$229,255**

**Gr. 1st-8th Roofs**

2022

**\$114,320**

**Science/  
Kinder Roof**

2022

**\$125,779**

**Renovated 2  
Bathrooms**

2023

**\$153,000**

**Iron Gate  
and Fence**

**Total \$3,641,187**



The Future

# Our Vision Moving Forward

A vibrant and engaging Catholic community providing the highest quality programs that inspire and nourish the body, mind, and soul of every student and parent.

## Capital Campaign Plan Inclusions

**Add AC/New Heating  
1st-8th Grade Classrooms  
and Around Campus**

### **Chapel Remodel**

Multi purpose room for events, to provide project-based instruction space, art classes, meetings and retreats

**Restructure Tech Room  
to Include Learning  
Resource Space**

### **Remodel the Administration Building**

Increase Space for Programs

Renovate Two Original Adult Bathrooms  
and Two Student Bathrooms

Enhance Front Entrance  
and Enhance Offices

Renovate & Expand  
Faculty Room

Modernize & Commemorate  
the Mary O'Shea Library

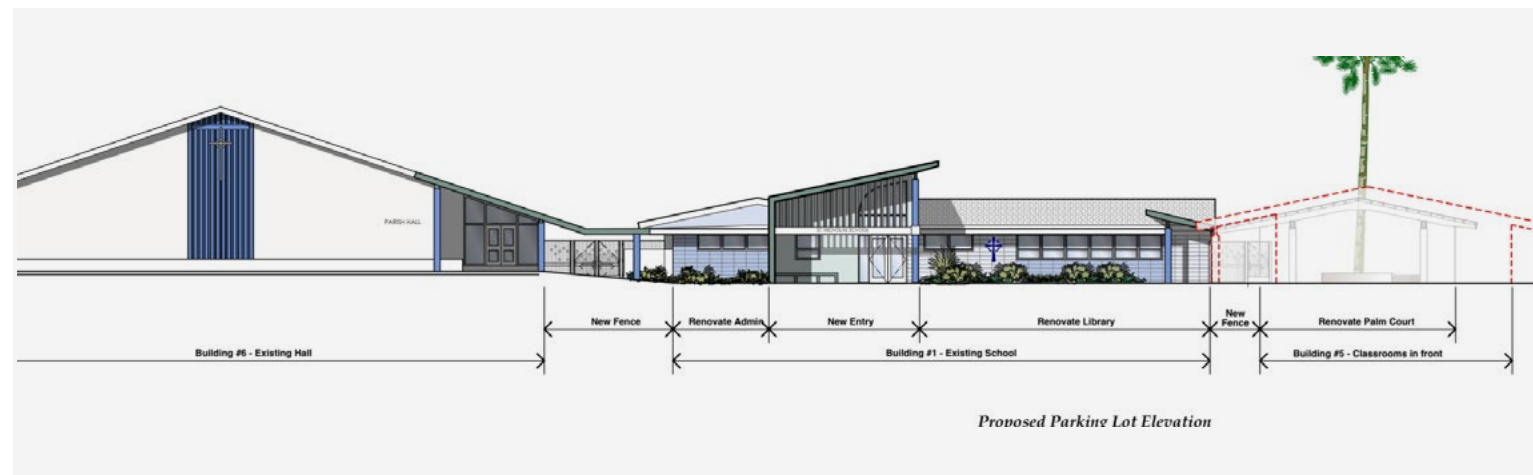
Add a meeting room for  
parent group & faculty meetings

# The Administration Building

## Existing Frontage



## Elevated Entrance



ABOVE: \$3 MILLION TOTAL COST.

## Frontage & Lobby Upgrades

A more elevated face of the school is planned as we dawn the next 70 years.

In order to create an encounter for those who come through our doors, it is time to replace existing entrance doors and cabinetry and create an experience as you drive up the hill.

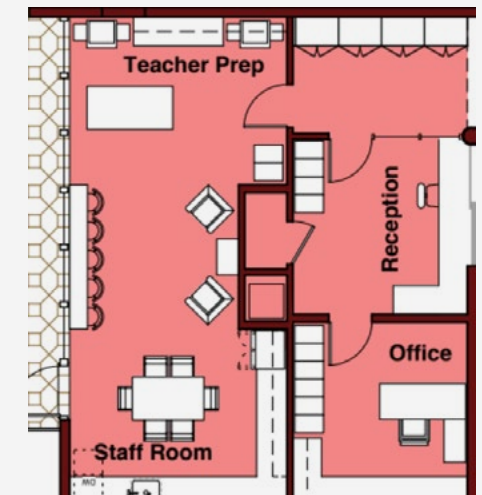
## Library and Palm Quad

Preserving the Mary O'Shea Library

Modernizing the space with more engaging seating and user-friendly stacks along with adding window boxes to showcase monthly themed books.

Beautiful large glass doors will open up to the infamous Palm Tree Quad

These gathering areas will have new hardscape, seating and greenery



ABOVE: A LOOK INSIDE THE ADMIN BUILDING REMODEL INCLUDES: TWO NEW STUDENT BATHROOMS, FACULTY & ADMIN UPGRADES REPLACING ORIGINAL ADULT BATHROOMS, EXPANDING FACULTY ROOM TO ACCOMMODATE GROWING NUMBER OF PROFESSIONALS SERVING STUDENTS, ADD MEETING ROOM TO HOLD PARENT AND BOARD MEETINGS AND TO MODERNIZE THE MARY O'SHEA LIBRARY



# AC and New Heating Units

## Physical Configuration Per Room



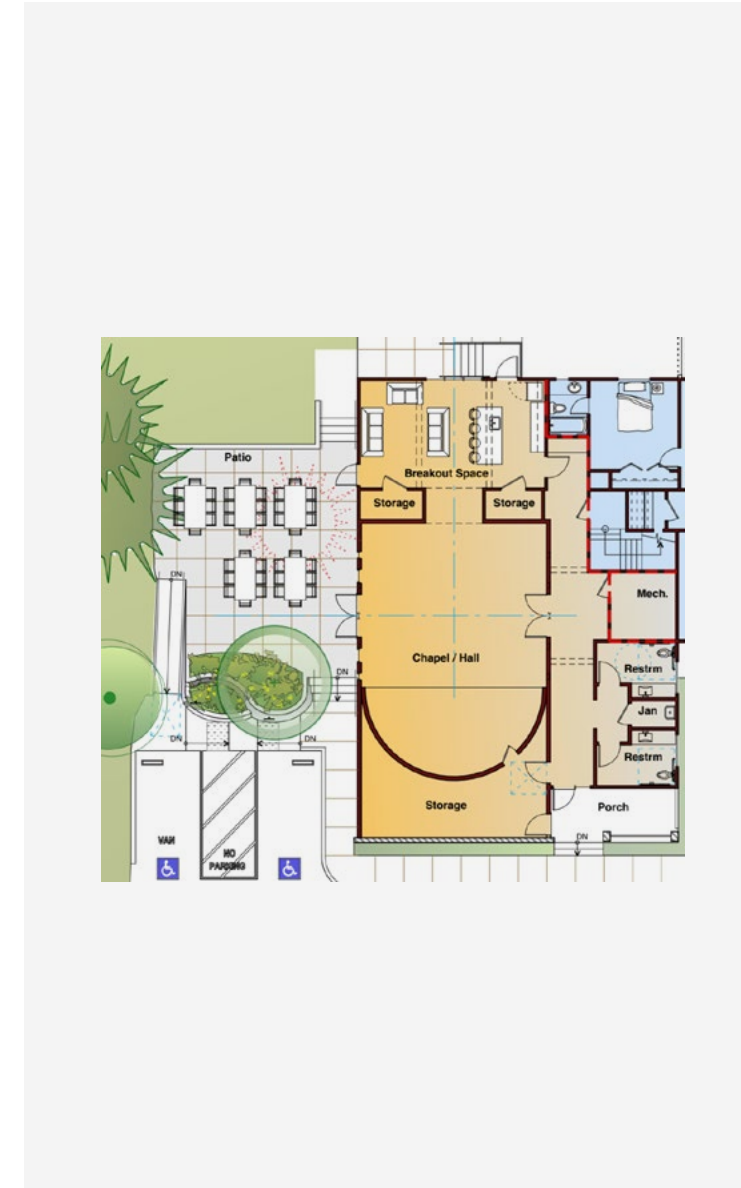
ABOVE: LARGE CLASSROOMS.



ABOVE: \$500K TOTAL COST. ABOVE RIGHT: SMALL ROOMS.



# The Chapel | Reimagined Space



ABOVE: \$500K TOTAL COST.

## The Chapel Space will Include

Retreat Space, Breakout Room  
Meeting Space, 2 Bathrooms, Large  
Patio Deck Storage, a Kitchen and a  
Guest Bathroom

Transforming spaces to meet multiple purposes help maximize the potential on our campus. In what was the original Chapel, we will maintain space to have small liturgies but also will allow for a space to create and collaborate. Our art classes and project-based learning opportunities will have the benefit of large tables and great lighting to produce quality work.

Adjacent to this space is a casual gathering area that will be used for retreats, different learning opportunities and small adult gatherings.

# Tech Room

With Additional Two Resource Spaces and Offices Making Space for More Resource Learning While Keeping a State-of-the-Art Tech Lab



## Tech & Resource Renovations

With the growing number of our students' needs, we are expanding our ability to serve all our students.

Retaining a Tech and Innovation Lab was an important priority; our students learn to code, learn about their digital footprint, evaluate between biased or fake sources and so much more!

# Vibrant Community

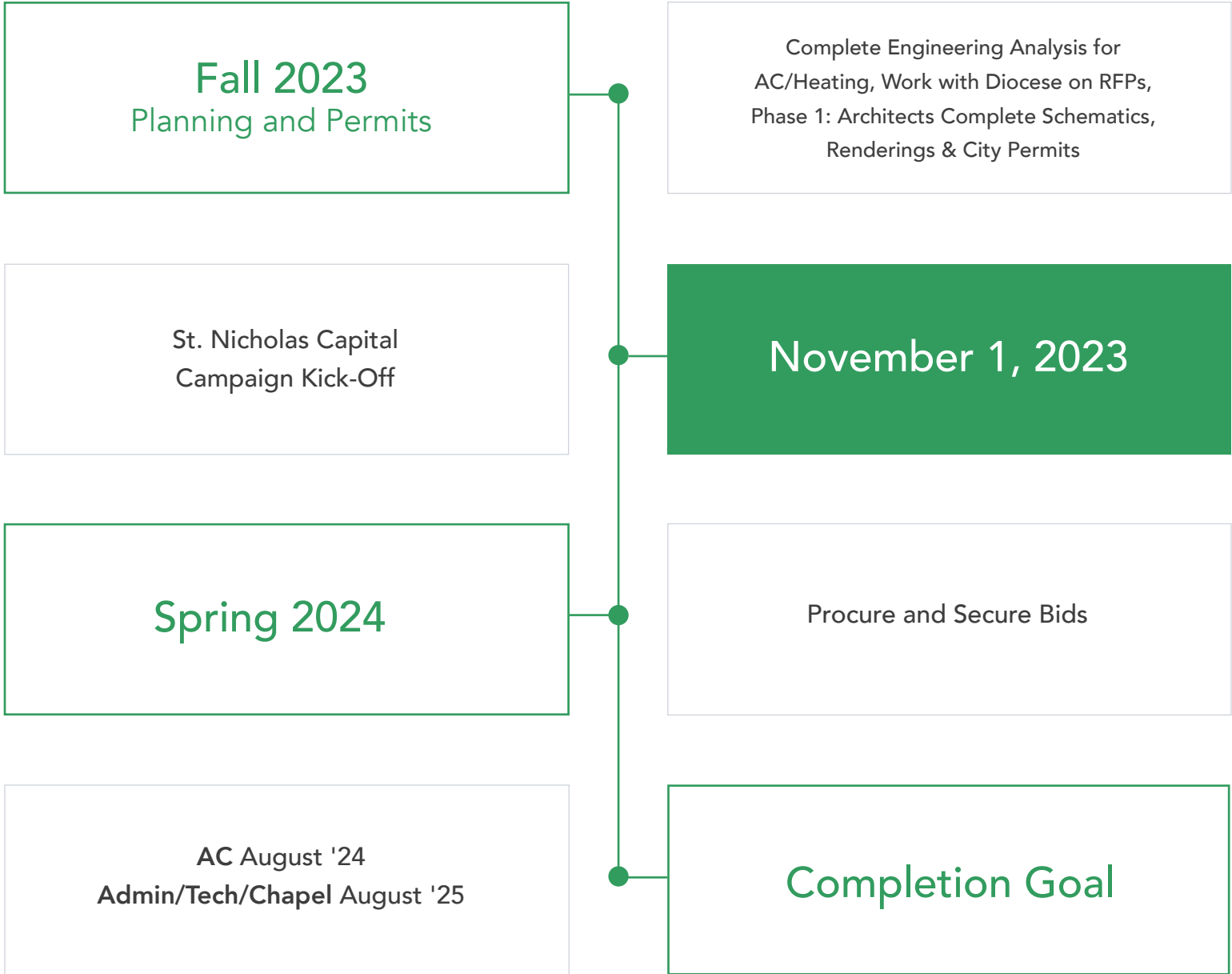




# Preliminary Cost Estimation



# Timeline



# Capital Campaign Outreach

## Help us Reach our 4 Million Goal!

Dear Friends, In 1953, 600 visionary parents came together to raise half the costs to build this school, convent and hall. Seventy years later we come back to parents, parishioners, and friends with a plea for help to update our school to move into the next 70 years and beyond. The updates and refreshes we ask for are NEEDS, not wants... air conditioning in our classrooms, remodeled bathrooms with hot running water, an updated administration building, more space for programs, and resource rooms.

I humbly ask you to join me in giving. We need to raise \$4,000,000 for this to happen and if ever there was a community to do it, it is this community.



Join me in giving,  
Cheryl Caligaris  
Development Director St. Nicholas School

## All Donors' Names Will Appear in the Following Year's The Celtic Magazine

If you wish to remain anonymous, please contact:  
**Diana Szelong**  
[dianaszelong@stnicholaslah.com](mailto:dianaszelong@stnicholaslah.com)

**Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond donors** will be honored at a St. Nicholas Donor Appreciation Reception in winter 2025!

## Giving Levels

### Diamond

\$50,000 and above

### Platinum

\$20,000 - \$49,999

### Gold

\$10,000 - \$19,999

### Silver

\$2,500 - \$9,999

### Bronze

\$1,500 - \$2,499

### Celtic

\$100 - \$1,499

## Make your Mark at St. Nicholas

**Gifts of \$10,000 and above** will receive a brick with your family name; **Gifts of \$20,000 and above** will have the opportunity for project naming, on a first come, first serve basis

## Other Ways to Give

### Gift of Stock

When you decide to give a gift of appreciated securities directly to St. Nicholas School rather than selling them and donating the proceeds, you could be creating a dual tax advantage for yourself. The full fair market value of the stock is tax deductible in the year you give the gift (stock owned for more than one year). You pay no capital gains tax on your profit no matter how much the securities have increased in value. The value of your stocks for income tax purposes will be set by the value of the stocks on the day that your gift is made. On actively traded securities, the value is the mean or average between the highest and lowest quoted sales price on the day of your gift.

[www.dsj.org/ways-to-give/stock-transfers](http://www.dsj.org/ways-to-give/stock-transfers)

## Double Your Impact, Employee Match Programs

Many corporations match employee donations to St. Nicholas School.

To find out more please contact:

**Diana Szelong**  
650-941-4056 x2  
[dianaszelong@stnicholaslah.com](mailto:dianaszelong@stnicholaslah.com)

You can also inquire if your company participates in this program by going to:

[www.doublethedonation.com/stnick](http://www.doublethedonation.com/stnick)

## All Gifts Need to be Received by Jan. 30, 2025

### Every Gift Matters, Every Gift Counts!

Tax ID # 94-2734503

### Please Send Checks to:

**Development Department**  
St. Nicholas Catholic School  
12816 El Monte Road  
Los Altos Hills, CA  
94022-4607

### Pay by Credit Card:

[stnicholaslah.com/ways-to-give](http://stnicholaslah.com/ways-to-give)

### For All Questions:

Cheryl Caligaris  
650-941-4056 x3  
[ccaligaris@stnicholaslah.com](mailto:ccaligaris@stnicholaslah.com)



Thank you.

**Catholic Education is Transformational:**

"St. Nicholas gave me the moral guidelines and academic foundation for me to be able to prosper at the next level and ultimately have a successful career."

– Alumni Student





# Donor Appreciation

## 2022 Annual Appeal | Including Mary O'Shea Fund, Endowment Fund

Aditya Agarwal & Shriya Gupta  
Adrian Agogino & Elizabeth Nunez  
Rafael Aldana & Elena Angoloti  
Anonymus  
Hassane Azar & Nariman Elias  
Bruce Barsi - De La Cruz Foundation  
Mark & Anne Bongji  
Marion & Helen Brown  
Shawn & Mary Bujalski  
William & Donna Burke  
The Campi Group  
Jon & Kelly Cassin  
Alex & Elaine Chalfin  
Andy Chow & Fiona So  
Scott & Sara Cohn  
David & Nicole Colclough  
Thomas Corrigan  
Arlene Corsino  
Ari & Julie Delay  
Mary Dorie  
Thomas & Kristine Dowd  
Xiao Tao Duan & Fang He  
Robert & Michelle Dykes  
Erik Edwards  
Juan Fernandez Royo  
Ruth M. Foley  
Erik & Audrey Foraker

Jim & Liz Frazier  
Robert & Hannah Geiger  
Yemeserach Getahun  
Madison Giles  
William & Wendy Goodman  
Varun Gopalakrishna & Nirmala Kovvali  
Louis Halamek  
Jorge Heraud & Erika Carrero  
Thomas & Judith Hogan  
Dan & Janet Hutcheson  
iSmile Foundation  
Brian Johnsrud & Noelle Gonsalves  
David & Catherine Juran  
Christopher Kim & Andrea Cu  
John & Mary Komo  
Norbert & Mary Kordsmeier  
Jamie Koury  
Ted & Nicholette Kraus  
Billy Kwong & Charlotte Chan  
Christine Lam  
Al & Maureen Lane  
Shanahan & Lisa Lim  
Fei Liu & Jing Huang  
Greg & Joan Loney  
John Lynch  
Josh Manion & Julie Oberweis

The Honorable Stephen Manley  
The Honorables Socrates & Patricia Manoukian  
Dejan Markovic & Svjetlana Radovic  
Chris & Heidi Mayon  
Patricia & Melissa McGregor  
Allan McLeod  
Nicholas G. & JoAnne Moore  
Oscar & Monica Ochoa  
Jason & Elizabeth O'Grady  
John & Kelley O'Keefe  
Daryl & Molly Oshatz  
David & Eileen Pachkofsky  
Viput Patel  
Joe & Vicki Perna  
Steve & Jan Popolizio  
Mike & Lynn Radakovich  
Colby Ranger  
Gerald Richard & Josephine Leo  
George & Salma Richmond  
John & Jennifer Rickard  
Richard & Susan Roche  
Peter & Virginia Roman  
Walter Thomas Rossi  
Sally Schroeder  
Patricia Schuck  
Donald Scifres

Fernando & Margarida Serpa  
Eun Jeong Shin  
Carol Sidel  
Marc & Lisa Sidel  
Nishant Singh & Khyati Kapoor  
Patrick & Anne Marie Starr  
Brian & Janet Thompson  
Donald & Aihua Tran  
Andrew & Lynne Tseng  
James & Janis Walker  
Qiyan Wang & Ella Li  
Walter & Julia Washington  
Tracy Weiss  
Theodore & Addie Wong  
Dolores Wood  
Frank & Gema Wood  
John & Joanne Wrenn  
Xing Xia  
Dicky Yan & Wing Liu  
Vivian Vu Yasutake  
Samuel Yen & Eve Farrington  
Lewis Zaratzki & Kimberly Carahasen  
John & Angela Zucker

## 2022 Fund-A-Need The Next 70

Andrew & Brooke Atherton  
Chris & Jennifer Bridgman  
Cheryl Caligaris  
Alex & Elaine Chalfin  
R. David & Jamie Dicioccio  
Thomas & Kristine Dowd  
Matias & Jennifer Duarte  
Robert & Michelle Dykes  
Mark & Stephanie Flier  
The Geschke Foundation  
Varun Gopalakrishna & Nirmala Kovvali  
Jorge Heraud & Erika Carrero  
Brian Johnsrud & Noelle Gonsalves  
Andrew Kim & Ji Hyun  
Grant & Jamie Koury  
Kirk Krappe & Cassandra Owens  
Ted & Nicholette Kraus  
Michael & Ramela Laptalo  
Matt & Sara Lee  
Jordan & Lauren Legge  
Daryl & Molly Oshatz  
Dustin & Jaclyn Owen  
Eric Paoli & Meg Monge  
Robert & Liz Parham  
Andrew & Lisa Pattison  
Lisa Penades  
Ramiz & Raya Petros

Steve & Jan Popolizio  
Mike & Lynn Radakovich  
Richard & Susan Roche  
Donald Scifres  
Negar Sadrzadeh  
Greg Vosganian & Amie Rooney  
Vivian Vu Yasutake  
John Wagner  
John & Joanne Wrenn  
Samuel Yen & Eve Farrington  
Dennis Young & Maria Crowder





# Celebrating St. Nicholas





## Where Are They Now?

# The Evans Family



## Stephen Wenceslao Evans

Class 2003

**High School** Bigfork High School (MT) and Los Altos High School (CA); graduated!

**College** Honors Program at UT San Antonio; (BS) summa cum laude in biology, chemistry and mathematics

**Graduate Program** Stanford University; (PhD) neuroscience

**Stephen has two daughters** with his wife Maggie and lives in Los Altos. After high school, Stephen enlisted in the army as a medic and was severely wounded in Iraq. Suffering a Traumatic Brain Injury and multiple burns, he recovered at BAMC in San Antonio TX. During rehab, he won a Gold Medal for kayaking in the Pan American Paralympic games. He attended The Honors Program at UT San Antonio where he majored in Biology with a focus in neurobiology. Stephen joined the PhD program in Neuroscience at Stanford University. He is in the process of starting a scientific/ educational nonprofit called the Boulder Creek Research Institute.



## Nicholas Evans

Class 2004

**High School** Bigfork High School (MT) and Los Altos High School (CA)

**College** University of Maryland and University of California, San Francisco

**Nick graduated from Los Altos High School**, where he enjoyed working on cars, swimming, and playing football. After High School, he joined the Navy as a Helicopter Rescue Swimmer and saw the world. During his time in the Navy, he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland. After leaving the Navy, he continued traveling the world before he settled into the world of healthcare, using his GI Bill to pay for nursing school at the University of California, San Francisco. He now works as a paramedic and emergency registered nurse at Highland Hospital in Oakland. He is married to the love of his life, Chandrika. They live in San Francisco and enjoy hiking, cooking, and cultivating house plants.



## Mikala Evans

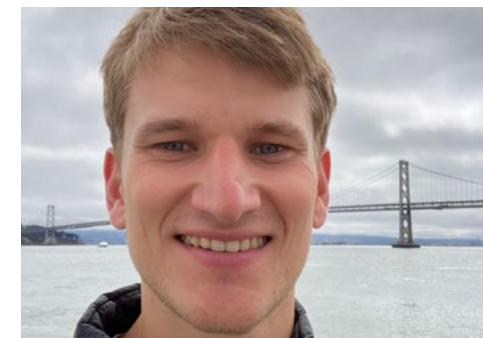
Class 2007

**High School** Presentation High School

**College** Washington University in St. Louis

**Graduate Program** UCLA (Master of Public Health)

**Mikala played tennis** and excelled academically at Presentation High School in San Jose. She won 5 college scholarships and graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a major in biochemistry and a minor in religious studies. This included studying abroad for two months in Granada, Spain. Mikala went on to get a master's in public health in Epidemiology at UCLA, and now works at 23andMe as a Quality Engineer. The Company recently completed its IPO. She loves working for a company that values preventative healthcare and allows people to benefit from knowledge about their genome.



## Michael Evans

Class 2010

**High School** Bellarmine College Prep

**College** UCLA Undergrad (Statistics, Cognitive Science)

**After St. Nicholas**, Michael attended Bellarmine, where he excelled academically, played football, ran track, and won the Battle of the Bands! He paid for much of his UCLA undergraduate degree with numerous internships - Wells Fargo, Activision/Blizzard, UCLA Consulting, and Facebook (twice). Michael currently works as a data scientist at Discord [pre-IPO], after studying statistics at UCLA and working several years at Facebook/Instagram. He lives in San Francisco, and enjoys the city while being close to family. He remembers his time at St. Nicholas fondly -- digging for clay in the sandbox, Mrs. O'Shea's reading tests, Mr. K's old projector, Mr. Komar's math class, and of course the "McRib" at hot lunch. He hopes they still supply Otter Pops at the Walk-a-thon.





## Where Are They Now?

# Select Alumni



**Lisa (Billiet) Penades**

Class 1974

**High School** Saint Francis High School

**College** University of Puget Sound

**Lisa and her husband** Henry live in Santa Clara, CA with their 14 year old rescue dog Chiquita. They are both retired from medical device manufacturers Intuitive Surgical and Auris Health. After retiring, Lisa completed 8 courses in the Interior Design program at West Valley College. Lisa's sister Nancy (St. Nick Class of '85) and she are currently renovating their parent's 1968 cabin in Arnold. Family keeps them active with 14 nieces and nephews and four great-grandchildren. This brings so much joy to their lives! For fun they enjoy game nights, a wine tasting club, and lots of traveling.



**Michael Manoukian**

Class 1999

**High School** Saint Francis High School

**College** University of California Davis, University of San Francisco, Santa Clara University School of Law

**Michael has fond memories** of attending "St. Nick's" along with his brothers, Matthew, and Martin. While at St. Nicholas Michael met several of his lifelong friends who still proudly refer to themselves as "Raiders". While attending USF where he obtained a Masters in Sport Management, Michael was inspired to continue his educational journey, and he went on to obtain his Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University School of Law. Michael lives in Santa Clara, and is now an Attorney at Hopkins & Carley in the firm's Litigation and Employment & Labor Practice group. Outside of work, Michael loves spending time with his friends and family.



**Brooke (Winkler) Atherton**

Class 1996

**High School** Saint Francis High School

**College** UCLA

**Brooke Atherton remains a proud Celtic** having attended Saint Nicholas Catholic School for nine years, graduating in 1996. Upon graduation, Brooke attended Saint Francis High School and then UCLA, where she excelled academically and athletically as a member of the women's swimming team. After college Brooke moved to San Francisco where she worked in various roles in the technology and healthcare industries. Brooke is now back in Los Altos, married with three kids and spends her time raising them and coordinating their busy schedules. Her oldest son Jack is currently a first grader at Saint Nicholas, who is also a proud Celtic!

# Prayer of Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

**We plant the seeds that one day will grow.**

**We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.**

**We lay foundations that will need further development.**

**We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.**

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

**This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.**

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

# The Fabulous Ms. French

## 25 Years at St. Nicholas in Her Own Words

**It all began with an interview on a Sunday...** In 1998, I was in a place of change and looking for a more positive and fulfilling career. In a conversation with my mom, she suggested I reflect on what I enjoyed the most and felt that I was best at. The conclusion of my thinking was that I had a great love and passion for education, teaching and working with children.

I had been out of the classroom for several years and being a product of Catholic Schools, I decided to apply to the Diocese of San Jose. I had interviews with several schools, the last being with Sister Barbara Nixon, the principal at St. Nicholas. On that Sunday morning, my mom and I went to Mass at St. Nicholas Church and then drove up to the school for the interview. I will never forget driving up the hill for the first time! It was just a feeling that I will never forget.

I was hired on Wednesday, signed my contract on Friday and school began on Monday! Teaching 5th grade with 36 children in my first class!

I taught 5th grade for 5 years and thoroughly enjoyed it. It was the perfect grade for me to teach, as I returned to education. I was their teacher and they were mine. We learned a lot from one another and I realized what I had been missing! I have so many fond memories and am still in contact with many of the students in each of my classes today. I even had the pleasure of working with two students I taught, who returned to St. Nicholas as teachers.

During this time, I began my Masters work at Santa Clara University. It was suggested to me that if I was considering a path in Administration, that I think about teaching primary grades, in order to further diversify my teaching experience. And just by coincidence, an opening became available in 2nd grade that summer and I moved "across the quad" to the second grade classroom. I was so excited to become part of their faith journey through the teaching and preparation of receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Teaching 2nd grade for 13 years was pure joy! The children with their wide eyed wonder, excitement and eagerness to learn kept me young at heart!

They were like 'sponges', soaking it all in! While teaching 2nd grade, I became a co-vice principal for the primary grades, K-4th. Shortly thereafter, I left the classroom to become the fulltime Vice Principal and Director of Admissions.

I feel truly blessed to have been a part of the St. Nicholas community for 25 years. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of each students' educational and faith journey. I can only hope that I made an impact or difference, which is the reason I became an educator/ teacher and returned to the classroom!

Each and every child, parent, administrator, teacher and staff member have left an imprint on my heart! I thank God each day for guiding me up that hill, on Sunday!



ABOVE: STACY FRENCH WITH STUDENTS AT ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

Stacy embodies a deeply personal confidence, respect, joy and love for others; And a true Catholic commitment to the educational growth of every child given to her care. Stacy ignites learning and personal growth in all students!

– Sr. Barbara Nixon, SNJM, Principal of St. Nicholas School in 1998, Currently Director of Faith Formation, St. Anne Catholic Church

Stacy French has been the backbone of St. Nicholas School for all of the years we have known her. She has been that faculty constant that all the parents could look to... day in and day out... for her 'old school' approach to delivering the faith-based education we all knew, and hoped for our children to experience. Generations of children have benefited from having had her in their young lives. Many thanks to Miss French from the Pellegrini Family!

– Ron Pellegrini, Alumni Parent

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

– Benjamin Franklin







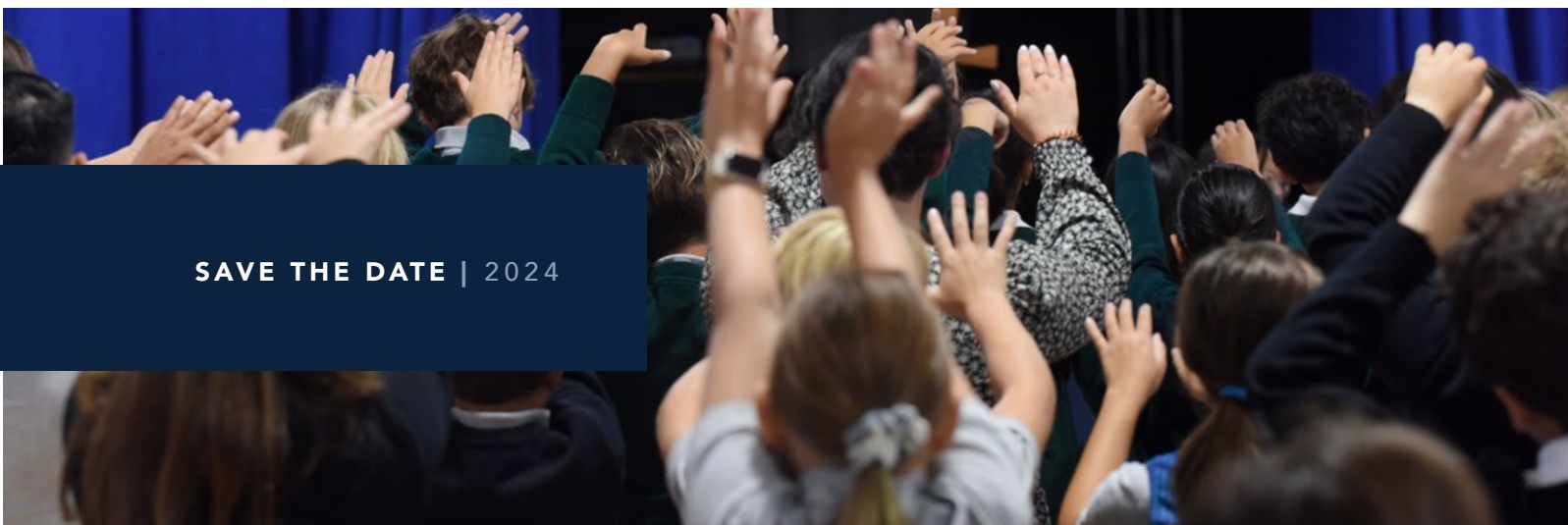
## St. Nicholas Catholic School

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SAVE THE DATE | 2024



January 27

Father Daughter Dance



January 31

Grandparents Day



March 23

Auction Celtic Safari