

Higher Expectations. Deeper Relationships. Better Outcomes.

Dear Friends of Nativity Prep,

Nativity Prep students are nothing short of remarkable. They persevere. Our students embody resilience, not necessarily by choice, but out of the sheer necessity of their circumstances, their fortitude consistently tried and tested. As an educational community, we strive to nurture their resilience, encouraging them to leverage it as an invaluable asset. It is not only an asset to them but to the educational communities, they are members of.

Their diversity of life experience enriches classroom conversation and expands the life perspectives of their peers. Their commitment to high expectations, without excuses, inspires others to uphold similar expectations for themselves. Their dedication to living lives of service enhance the communities in which they claim membership. We invest in our students, knowing they are the change makers our world needs.

This past May, we reveled in a momentous milestone: The inaugural cohort of Nativity Prep students, who have been beneficiaries of USD's fully funded Torero Promise, donned their graduation caps. Among them were Kimberly NPA '15, OLP '19, USD '23, and Brigitte NPA '15, OLP '19, USD '23 (see image). These bright young women are testaments to the transformative power of education.

I first encountered Kimberly and Brigitte when they were eager 8th graders embarking on their academic journey at Nativity Prep Academy. I had the honor of watching them bloom during their high school years at OLP, their potential growing into remarkable achievements. To have the opportunity to share in their triumph as they celebrated their college graduation underscored the profound impact of Nativity Prep's 11-year commitment to our students.




Experiencing this journey alongside them, and playing even a small role in their phenomenal growth, is one of the greatest privileges I've ever known. Their determination, resilience, and success is a profound testament to our mission.

Reflecting on this journey, I realize that Nativity Prep is much more than an educational institution. It's a beacon of hope, a place where dreams are nurtured, potential realized, and futures built. It's a testament to the notion that with perseverance, dedication, and the right support, nothing is impossible.

Their achievements serve as an inspiration not just for the future students of Nativity Prep, but for anyone who dares to dream and works tirelessly to turn those dreams into reality. It is a concrete affirmation that every journey begins with a single step, and we're here to make those steps count. Enjoy this newsletter of celebration, recognizing that each student's educational journey is creating a ripple effect of positive change in their family and our world, and as such, each should be celebrated!



With Gratitude,

Jessica Hooper,
President

HIGH SCHOOL SIGNING DAY

The Nativity Prep Graduate Support Team organized and hosted the inaugural High School Signing Day for the 8th grade class! During the event, each student signed their name making their high school decisions official. In the fall, our students will be attending the Academy of Our Lady of Peace, the Bishop's School, Cathedral Catholic High School, Cristo Rey San Diego High School, Francis Parker School, Mater Dei Catholic High School, Mt. Helix Academy, and St. Augustine High School.

What made this event even more special was having a representative from each high school attend the ceremony. They celebrated some of the newest members of their schools' incoming freshman class and brought them swag!



COLLEGE SIGNING DAY

The Nativity Prep Academy Class of 2019 is headed to college! Below is a list of all of the schools our students will be attending in the fall. They have worked so hard and have overcome many adversities to reach this incredible milestone. We are so proud of all of our first-generation students. Congratulations!

- Itzel M. - California State University, Fullerton
- Jose R. - California State University, San Marcos
- Jacqueline T. - San Diego State University
- Jose V. - University of California, San Diego
- Gilbert E., Kimberly J., Giselle O., Miriam V. - University of San Diego
- Carolina D., Andrea G., Abraham G., Sergio I., Juan L., Kevin Q., Jose V. - Community College



8TH GRADE GRADUATION

Congratulations to our 8th grade class on their middle school graduation! On Friday, June 16, we celebrated our 19th commencement for Nativity Prep Academy's Class of 2023. We gathered as a community in our St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Chapel to celebrate the achievements of our 8th grade class.



GRADUATIONS & CONTINUING EDUCATION

Congratulations to all of our college and continuing education graduates!

College Graduates

- Jair E. - CSU Northridge
- Vivana A. - CSU Fresno
- Abraham F. - University of Notre Dame
- Miriam C. - University of San Diego
- Ashley G. - University of San Diego
- Alondra G. - University of San Diego
- Brigitte J. - University of San Diego
- Kimberly S. - University of San Diego (pursuing her Master's at USD)
- Jennifer P. - San Diego State University
- Jacqueline S. - CSU San Marcos

Master's Program Graduates

- Marisol L.- San Diego State University
- Moises M. - San Diego State University
- Milenia Q. - University of Southern California



From left to right: Alondra G. graduated from the University of San Diego, Viviana A. graduated from CSU Fresno, Moises M. earned his Master's Degree from San Diego State University.

NATIVITY PREP SAN DIEGO CHOSEN FOR BOSTON COLLEGE STUDY ON CHARACTER FORMATION

Catholic schools are dedicated to fostering holistic education, cultivating the spiritual, ethical, and moral principles of students along with their academic proficiency and socio-emotional health. In an endeavor to delve into the successful methodologies adopted by Catholic schools in character building, Professors Martin Scanlan and Andrew Miller from the prestigious Lynch School of Education and Human Development at Boston College handpicked Nativity Prep Academy San Diego as one of twelve exemplary Catholic schools in the United States for their research.

Dr. Scanlan spent a week at Nativity Prep Academy this past May to learn more about the intentional strategies we use to foster character development in our students. He visited with the intention of evaluating how we holistically integrate intellectual, social, ethical, and spiritual dimensions into our teaching and learning. He left in awe of our community and the strong sense of belonging members of our community expressed through their interviews with him.

As an added bonus, schools that were selected to participate in the study were invited to send two faculty members to participate in the Pedagogies of Character Formation Summer Institute at Boston College this summer. Jodi Drake and Jen McPherson attended the conference this July. The event opened avenues for collaboration with peers from three distinct Catholic school networks: NativityMiguel, Jesuit Schools Network, and the Two-Way Language Immersion Network of Catholic Schools. Mrs. Drake reminisced, "We didn't just contribute to the development of tools aimed at advancing character and whole-person formation. We also helped create resources for Catholic school educators nationwide to incorporate an intentional character-forming curriculum. What resonated most with me was the opportunity to connect with peers from the NativityMiguel Coalition Schools and explore ways to support each other in our shared mission."

Participation in this study has enabled Nativity Prep Academy to significantly impact the nationwide discourse on character formation in schools. In essence, it amplifies the power of love that reverberates in the daily life at Nativity Prep. Our ethos of 'You are loved' is not merely a phrase, it is an affirming reality, a state of existence for our community.



Jodi Drake and Jen McPherson enjoying a conference break with a hike along the Charles River in Boston, MA



**BOSTON
COLLEGE**

Footnote

Nativity Prep Academy San Diego is part of the NativityMiguel Coalition of schools, an alliance of fifty nonpublic schools serving students from pre-k through twelfth grade in the U.S. and Canada that work together to bring equity to all students through education.