

Higher Expectations. Deeper Relationships. Better Outcomes.

Dear NPA Family,

As we embark on another exciting academic year, I am filled with pride and optimism for the journey ahead. Our school continues to thrive, and I'm eager to share some updates that will set the tone for a successful and fulfilling year for all.

First, I want to extend a warm welcome to our newest members—the 6th-grade class! Transitioning to middle school is a significant step, and we are excited to guide these young minds through the next chapter of their academic and personal growth. As part of the welcome, our staff and faculty visited each student and their family at home—a tradition that had paused during COVID but has now been restarted with great success. To our new 6th-grade families, I encourage you to get involved, ask questions, and immerse yourselves in the supportive and vibrant culture that defines our school.

In addition, I'm thrilled to announce a new academic milestone for our 8th-grade students: the introduction of Algebra I as part of their curriculum. This rigorous course is designed to challenge students and prepare them for future academic success in high school and beyond. The ability to offer Algebra I to 8th graders reflects our commitment to fostering academic excellence and ensuring that every student is ready for the next stage of their educational journey. I'm proud to share that over 60% of our 8th-grade students qualified for this course.

Recognizing that education is a partnership between school and home, this year we have launched a monthly series of parent workshops. These sessions will cover a range of topics designed to help parents better understand the academic and socioemotional aspects of their child's education. Topics will include understanding the grading system, navigating digital tools for internet safety, and supporting children's mental health and healthy living. We believe these workshops will strengthen the connection between home and school, empowering parents to be active participants in their child's success.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of our annual fundraising golf event! For two decades, this event has been a highlight for our community, bringing together alumni, parents, and friends of the school for a day of fun, camaraderie, and support for our students. The funds raised at this annual event have made a lasting impact on everything from student programs to facility improvements, and we thank all those who participated this year.

As we begin this new school year, I invite each of you to take part in our community's ongoing success. Whether by volunteering, attending events, or simply staying informed, your involvement is crucial. I also encourage you to help us grow our school's vibrant community by spreading the word to friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, and anyone else who values exceptional education. The more people know about Nativity Prep, the brighter its future will be.



Lastly, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our donors for their ongoing support, which helps Nativity Prep continue making a lasting impact. To our staff and teachers who provide the daily care and love needed to nurture young minds, to our Trustees for their valued guidance, and to our volunteers and mentors who return each year to make meaningful contributions to the lives of our students—thank you. The strength of our school lies in the passion and dedication of many, and together, we will continue to inspire and educate the next generation.

Thank you for your unwavering support. I look forward to all we will accomplish together this year.

With gratitude,



Dr. AJ Antun
President

ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thank you to all who attended the First Annual Alumni Reunion in August! It was so nice to reconnect with old friends, we always love hearing what you have been up to recently.

Come on out to our Fall Council Meeting October 23 at 5:30 pm in College Corner! We will discuss the plans for our newly launched Mentoring And Guidance Initiative Program! Please RSVP to mariac@nativityprep.org.



NMC SPIRIT WEEK

Last month, we joined our member schools in celebrating the NativityMiguel Coalition Spirit Week! Our faculty and students enjoyed a dress-down day to show off their NMC spirit by wearing purple and to get excited for the school-wide basketball free-throw and knock-out competition! We ended the celebratory week by having a day of service cleaning the campus and writing letters to Monarch Cottages, an assisted living facility. We are proud to be one of 50 member schools across the United States.



SUMMER AT NATIVITY PREP

Middle School

Summer provides the perfect opportunity to encourage learning outside the student's normal classroom setting. This year our students attended different programs all over San Diego County:

- For the first time, we had 7 students attend an Entrepreneur Camp at Warren Walker for 2 weeks.
- 2 students attended a 4-week summer program at Francis Parker.
- 17 attended Bishop's 4-week Summer Knights program.
- 24 attended a week-long workshop at the Elementary Institute of Science.
- 12 attended Nativity Summer School, aka Principal's Bootcamp, for a smaller, 1:1 tutoring environment which has proved to provide significant improvement.

All students had the opportunity to attend a week-long YMCA summer camp at either Camp Marston (current 7th graders) or Camp Surf (current 8th grade). All these programs were offered to our students at either a low-cost to families or free of charge. From what the students had to share returning back to school, they love attending these summer programs!



They ended their summer on a fun note, with an overnight trip to visit Whittier College, Loyola Marymount University, UC Santa Barbara, and CSU Long Beach, where one of our graduates, Moises Cardenas, gave us an insider tour!



FRANCIS
PARKER
SCHOOL



High School

This summer all of our high school students either attended summer school at their own school or a two-week Graduate Support workshop at Nativity Prep. From a wide variety of tasks like continuing to develop skills and habits that aided them in their high school transition, and undertaking the college application process, to researching and presenting different colleges and careers and beginning to draft their college essay, all students are one step closer to college readiness.



SAVE THE DATE

CHEERS

TO THE 11 YEARS
a Nativity Prep Wine Event

APRIL 13, 2025

FALL SPORTS

Our fall athletes are now in action! Get a fun start to your weekend, join the Spirit Squad cheer on our co-ed flag football team as we take on other Diocesan schools! Learn more about game times on our website calendar. We hope to have you cheering us on!

GO MAGI!



NEW TEACHER WELCOME!

We are exhilarated to welcome a new cohort of teachers joining us this school year! We are grateful to have you join the Nativity Prep family for this next chapter of your career. Let's have a wonderful year!



Dr. Jackie Aparicio is coming to us with a diverse background in higher education and K-12 experience. She will be the school's new counselor and work alongside Mrs. Alvarez as the Associate Director of Graduate Support! Dr. Aparicio loves meeting with our students and getting them to view challenges through a different lens. She is most excited about getting to know our students and watching them continue to thrive and be successful beyond their time at Nativity.

Mr. Justin Lopez formerly taught high school World History and Economics before taking on the role of the middle school's new Social Studies teacher! When Mr. Lopez isn't coaching football or whipping up a recipe with the cooking club, he is studying hard to earn his credential and receive his masters at CSU Fullerton. He loves hearing the students' curious questions and listening to the stories they have to share. Mr. Lopez has taken great pleasure in joining a tight-knit and supportive community!



Ms. Lauren McGuire is joining us from just down the street where she was a Jesuit Volunteer at St. Katherine Drexel this last school year. As our new Physical Education and 8th Math teacher, Ms. McGuire loves interacting with the students, whether it be inside or outside the classroom. A good day for Ms. McGuire is a day we can all work and learn productively together. She is most excited about getting to know the students and helping them achieve their goals!

Ms. Gina Saputo is coming to us from Orange County, where she graduated from UC Irvine with a degree in Educational Science. She has always been passionate about working with students! Ms. Saputo is our new ELA teacher, she will also be a Media Club director and is hoping to lead the volleyball team to victory! A good day for Ms. Saputo is a day filled with laughter and knowledge. She is excited to immerse herself in the Nativity Prep community and make herself a known member of all the families who support Nativity.



GOLF CLASSIC

The 20th annual Golf Classic was full of fun, community, and support. Thank you to all who participated and those who made the event possible. Through this event, we raised just over \$100,000! With your generosity, we will continue to impact the lives of our students. A huge shout out to Illumina, for providing hardworking volunteers that allowed for an easier event flow! We are grateful for the day you dedicated to us, we couldn't have done it without you! If you are interested in volunteering for a special event, reach out to Bridgette Ouimette at events@nativityprep.org



ART PRATT FOUNDATION

Nativity Prep was honored to receive a grant from the Art Pratt Foundation to support purchasing one of three new inventor's tables to be used in our STEM Center. The STEM Center currently serves our middle school students during the school day, GSP students on Thursday evenings, and will allow us to develop summer programming for low-income students from the surrounding community to experience hands-on science, math, and engineering programming.

Our new inventor's tables are a high-quality design which support project-based learning and will enable our teachers to truly make STEM learning accessible and engaging for students. The unique design allows for easy cleaning, transport and storage, so students maximize their learning time. Project based learning helps students master complex STEM concepts to prepare them for rigorous high school courses and real world applications, which support our mission of preparing students for acceptance to and graduation from college.

The Art Pratt Foundation was established after the passing of lifelong and loyal rotarian, Mr. Art Pratt. The Old Mission Rotary, which serves the local community and supports the foundation, partners with organizations that benefit children and youth. We are proud to be the beneficiary of this grant and to live out the legacy of Art Pratt here at Nativity Prep.

Thank you to the Old Mission Rotary and The Art Pratt Foundation for empowering our future STEM scholars!

