



Nativity Prep Academy State of the School 2018-2019:

Simply put, during a year of tremendous change, we
learned that the State of our School is strong.

Fall 2019

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Last school year began with a leadership transition with the departure of Brendan Sullivan, a leader who oversaw a period of incredible growth and progress for Nativity Prep. As I stepped into the role of the President following Brendan, I reflected on the fact that leadership transitions can be perilous times for organizations. At Nativity Prep, however, three major aspects of the culture of the organization ensured the transition would be positive and productive.

1. Nativity Prep is a genuine faith community. Everyone involved in the work done here at Nativity Prep has a deep confidence that the future will be bright. This comes from faith in God and faith in the purpose of the work done at Nativity Prep.
2. The board, faculty and staff are talented and incredibly diligent. When the Strategic Plan was being revised, it required commitment and confidence in learning together, and we did just that.
3. We are clear about our mission and purpose, which was clarified and has been enthusiastically pursued from our founding days.

Even though we had expected the last school year to be a planning year, we can see the significant progress we made. Even more exciting is the fact that we completed a community-wide strategic planning process, we listened to all of our constituencies, incorporated their feedback and created a clear road map to higher expectations and deepening our relationships.

Let's celebrate what else we have accomplished.

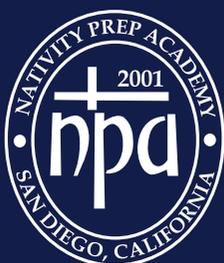
Sincerely,

Dr. Gil Brady
President



Summary

In each of these three areas: The Middle School Program, The Graduate Support Program, and Sustainability, we have made excellent progress. In addition, the new 3-year Strategic Plan ensures that this momentum will continue right up to the planning of our 20th year celebration. **Thank you for being a part of our community.**



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Middle School

We are moving towards an even more engaging classroom experience for our students. We initiated some adjustments to the curriculum of the school, allowing for a personalized learning environment. To support this approach, we purchased a license for a computer adaptive software that will be used in all four core subjects, and increased P.E. from once per week to twice, allowing students more time for physical activity, which is beneficial on a number of levels.

The most exciting curricular change we made this year is the expansion of the arts program. Students can choose from one of four art electives. We extend a special thank you to our partners -- Outside the Lens for photography, transcenDANCE for dance, Trinity Theatre for improv and theater, and Villa Musica for digital music composition. We have committed to finding more ways to display our students' learning. We hope to host several exhibitions that will give the art partners a chance to exhibit their work and for students to have displays of their work up for the public to see.

To make all these curricular changes more meaningful, we moved to trimesters. Having fewer grading periods will slow the year down and allow teachers and students to go deeper in their study. We have also moved to a block schedule, which keeps about the same amount of class time per week but gives more time in a period for teachers to work on lessons.



Graduate Support Program

After reviewing the elements that Nativity Prep has developed as part of our Graduate Support program, we are confident that we are **developing a program of graduating students from college at a rate that is far superior to the national average.** We are confident this will have a meaningful impact in the local San Diego community and beyond.

We are pleased to share that our recent high school graduates have started their freshman year of college at the University of San Diego under the Torero Promise program, which provides admission and financial assistance packages for students from Catholic high schools who earned a GPA of 3.7 or higher and have completed at least three AP or honors courses.

We continue to expand our support for our college students:

- Our staff will visit our college freshmen at their universities, connecting with them on their college campuses to better understand any obstacles they have and to offer encouragement and support.
- We will also be taking Nativity Prep parents on a college campus tour in San Diego. This will help our students' parents become more familiar with the college environment their children will experience.



Sustainability

At the end of the 2018-19 school year, we conducted our first Graduation Promise Campaign to provide a much clearer picture of the financial commitments we will have the subsequent school year. This campaign allowed Nativity Prep to plan ahead and be more thoughtful about the resources needed to accomplish our mission. **As a result of the Graduation Promise Campaign, we go into the current year having already received commitments on close to 85% of the operational budget.**

In addition to covering the operational budget for the last school year, the Philanthropy Department raised over \$1.8 million dollars for our annual program needs and we received additional bequests totaling over \$1.6 million that has provided Nativity Prep with a solid financial reserve.

Our Philanthropy Department also worked with several consultants to craft a more comprehensive and clear marketing and communications plan. The challenge moving forward will be to execute on this plan and learn what tactics and strategies are most effective. The proactive approach to development will allow us to focus on expanding our community of supporters by inviting new donors to join us in making a difference in the lives of those we serve. We can walk alongside and help transform the lives of our students and graduates but only with the philanthropic resources that make our mission possible. We look forward to welcoming more individuals and organizations to join us in this important work.

