

The background features a large, light purple circular logo. The top half of the circle contains the text "NATIVITY SCHOOL" in white, uppercase letters. The bottom half contains "HOME OF THE PANTHERS" in white, uppercase letters. In the center of the circle is a stylized panther in a pouncing pose, also in light purple. Two white paw prints are positioned on the left and right sides of the circle.

# Nativity School

*a K-8 Catholic School*

A presentation for  
Nativity School Community

By Anna McDonald, Ed.D



# The Vision of Nativity

## **OUR SCHOOL MISSION**

to educate and prepare the whole child within a nurturing environment based on Catholic values and beliefs in order that the child may become a responsible and active member of the Church and society.

## **OUR SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY**

Nativity is a faith community in the Catholic tradition. We strive to build community in our school, families, parish and neighborhood. We exist as an extension of the family and offer our students a quality education within a positive atmosphere of cooperation, concern, and caring.

Nativity School stresses the Gospel message as a way of life and a basis for responsible decision making. We value the family and recognize that parents are the primary educators of their children. We value the dignity of each individual, as a child of God.



# Academic Excellence

**Nativity School is known for its academic excellence and record of success. Nativity consistently receives the highest level of Accreditation from the WCEA and WASC.**

Nativity is a K-8 Catholic school with 275 students from diverse cultural backgrounds. Nativity has a long history of academic success. Nativity offers a rigorous academic program that is complemented with cutting edge integration of technology. The vision of Nativity's Integrated Technology program is to complement the solid academic foundation with rich technology to engage students and enhance the learning environment.

## **Nativity has an exceptional faculty and staff:**

- All FT teachers are fully credentialed
- 75% hold a Masters in Education; Resource Specialist has an Ed.D.
- Specialists employed for Computers, PE, Spanish, Music, Algebra, Science & RSP
- The majority of the faculty have been with Nativity for over 10 years.
- Specialists, support staff, and instructional aides keep teacher : student ratios low in core subjects.



# A Unique Program

**Nativity seeks to educate the whole child and to instill a strong sense of community and service. In addition to a rigorous curriculum, Nativity offers special enrichment opportunities to students.**

Nativity is one of the few Catholic elementary schools that offers foreign language instruction & a robust technology program for K-8 students.

Nativity has an outstanding record of top placement in the Archdiocese of SF's Junior High Academic Decathlon. (Coaches are volunteers.)

Nativity supports the individuality of each child by offering both a Resource Specialist Program (for students with identified learning differences) and Advanced Literature and Math courses in the Junior High.

- Spanish, Music & PE twice a week
- Altar Server Program
- Art in Action
- Student Council
- Community Outreach
- Choir and Music Appreciation
- Advanced Literature & Math
- After-school Robotics, Destination Imagination
- Yearbook Club; Total Golf Adventures
- Academic Decathlon Team
- Baseball, Basketball, Track, and Volleyball Teams
- Girl and Boy Scouts
- No Bully!
- Daily Hot Lunch Program & Extended Day Care



# What Makes Nativity Exceptional

Most of our families, when asked, cite several reasons that they knew Nativity was the right school for their family.

These reasons include:

- Value centered Catholic education & strong Catholic Identity
- Rigorous academic curriculum that utilizes 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills
- Graduates 99-100% acceptance to desired high school of choice
- Dedicated faculty of highly qualified teachers and staff
- Differentiated instructional program that serves a wide range of students: challenging those who are gifted and providing RSP for those who need academic support
- Award winning athletic program
- Extraordinary parent community; active Board and PTG
- A wide variety of leadership & co-curricular opportunities for students



# A Learning Community

**Nativity School is proud of its graduates & many return to give back. One faculty member is an alumna along with 4 staff members. Four teachers are parents of Nativity students. Many current parents are graduates.**

Nativity has an outstanding placement rate at local Catholic high schools to which the majority of our graduates matriculate. Over the last 5 years, Catholic high school acceptance and attendance have held steady, despite the economy.

**The following chart indicates the graduation statistics for the past 5 years:**

- |         | Attending Catholic | Attending Public |                |
|---------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| – Year  | High Schools       | High Schools     | <b>Total</b>   |
| – 07-08 | 24                 | 9                | 33             |
| – 08-09 | 24                 | 6                | 30             |
| – 09-10 | 28                 | 2                | 30             |
| – 10-11 | 27                 | 2                | 29             |
| – 11-12 | 24                 | 5                | 29 (predicted) |



# Best Practices in Education

Known across the peninsula as exceptional school, Nativity ranks in the top tier of local schools for parent satisfaction, consistent program improvement, and robust academics.

Nativity incorporates research-based, scientifically proven best practices such as Curriculum Mapping, RTI<sup>2</sup>, program monitoring & frequent assessment such as DIBELS, IAAT, the UC Berkeley MDTP, the ACRE, and the 3Rs to inform instruction. The faculty works together as a team to ensure a seamless transition between each grade.

The entire K-8 curriculum is mapped backwards from the most competitive high school requirements to the kindergarten level in order to pace and individualize the class curriculum, school program, and instruction, to maximize the academic experience for each child.

This design is supported by our highly qualified faculty and support staff. Professional Development for all teachers is strongly encouraged.



# Progress and Growth

Nativity School uses multiple measures to monitor student progress, academic achievement, and to improve instruction.

Nativity regularly collects data and program information from various sources. Both formative and summative data is collected and analyzed frequently for school improvement. For example, data is used to tailor instruction to the needs of the individual student. Teachers use summative data to determine if a student will qualify for an accelerated class or would benefit from additional support in RSP. Formative data are used to inform instruction, evaluate curriculum and benefit the overall school program.

## IE: Criteria for placement in Advanced Literature Gr. 6-9

- ITBS/CogAt scores (90%ile and above)
- 3Rs end of year benchmark assessment
- Report card grades (measure overall performance)
- Curriculum based measures
- Portfolios, writing samples, informal assessments
- Teacher recommendations





# School Accountability

Nativity School consistently ranks high on the national scale for student achievement on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

The ITBS is administered each September for students in Grades 2-8.

The CogAt (cognitive abilities test) is given to Grades 3,5, and 7 and provides ability data. Data from the ITBS and CogAt are used to monitor student growth, to inform instruction and curriculum, student grouping, and test subjects in the ITBS are

- Reading
- Language arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science



*The following slide looks at Nativity ITBS data in comparison to the 53 elementary schools of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Scores are represented as Grade Equivalents (GE). ITBS is a norm-referenced test.*



# Measured Success

In a longitudinal comparison of Nativity & the 53 schools of the Archdiocese of SF, Nativity students outperformed the average Archdiocesan student, across all grades & subject areas: >10% of Nativity students rank in the highest the quartile (75-99<sup>th</sup>ile) when compared to the Archdiocesan average. Nativity graduates average 4 years of academic growth (GE) in all subjects. (Core=R/LA & Math)

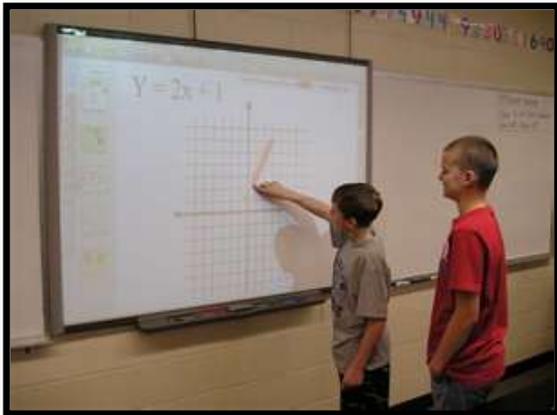
Core Total GE Growth

School GE Scores for each Grade in Core Total													
2011 - 2012	Grade 2	2nd to 3rd	Grade 3	3rd to 4th	Grade 4	4th to 5th	Grade 5	5th to 6th	Grade 6	6th to 7th	Grade 7	7th to 8th	Grade 8
Class of	Avg GE	Gain	Avg GE	Gain	Avg GE	Gain	Avg GE	Gain	Avg GE	Gain	Avg GE	Gain	Avg GE
2018	2.6												
2017	2.6	1.4	4.0										
2016		4.2	4.2	1.5	5.7								
2015		0.0		5.2	5.2	1.3	6.5						
2014		0.0		0.0		6.5	6.5	0.8	7.3				
2013				0.0		0.0		8.5	8.5	2.0	10.5		
2012						0.0		0.0		10.2	10.2	2.6	12.8
<b>Ave Growth</b>		<b>1.40</b>		<b>1.68</b>		<b>1.95</b>		<b>3.10</b>		<b>6.10</b>		<b>2.60</b>	
Diocesan GE Scores for each Grade in Core Total													
2011 - 2012	Grade 2	2nd to 3rd	Grade 3	3rd to 4th	Grade 4	4th to 5th	Grade 5	5th to 6th	Grade 6	6th to 7th	Grade 7	7th to 8th	Grade 8
Class of	Avg GE	Gain	Avg GE	Gain	Avg GE	Gain	Avg GE	Gain	Avg GE	Gain	Avg GE	Gain	Avg GE
2018													
2017	2.4	1.3	3.7										
2016		3.7	3.7	1.5	5.2								
2015		0.0		5.1	5.1	1.4	6.5						
2014		0.0		0.0		6.5	6.5	0.5	7.0				
2013				0.0		0.0		7.5	7.5	1.8	9.3		
2012						0.0		0.0		9.3	9.3	1.9	11.2
<b>Ave Growth</b>		<b>1.23</b>		<b>1.65</b>		<b>1.98</b>		<b>2.67</b>		<b>5.55</b>		<b>1.90</b>	
<b>School to Diocese</b>	#DIV/0!	<b>0.17</b>	+0.5	<b>0.03</b>	+0.3	<b>-0.03</b>	0	<b>0.43</b>	+0.65	<b>0.55</b>	+1.05	<b>0.70</b>	+1.6



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills at Nativity

**Cross Platform Integration: computer lab with 20 PC desktops, portable netbook cart, laptops & computer stations deployed throughout the campus & iPad carts for K-8**



**Wireless access available over entire campus**

**SMARTboards in every classroom, class sets of SMART response units & teacher slate tablets**



**Broadband**



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills are interwoven throughout the K-8 curriculum & embedded in daily life.

Students learn with the most up-to-date Web 2.0 resources and curriculum.



Nativity teachers are well-versed in Web 2.0 teaching and learning to complement their lessons.

# So what does it all mean?

- Nativity School faculty & administration analyze & utilize data to promote the vision, mission, and goals of the overall school program.
- Data illustrates that the longer a child is a student at Nativity, he or she will have consistent academic growth, as measured by ITBS, curriculum based measures, and teacher collected data.
- Reading, Science, and Social Studies were equally strong with all scores well above our Archdiocesan peers.
- Technology is an integral component to our program and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills are critical to student achievement.
- We can incorporate ITBS and assessment data to drive instruction, inform curriculum, and make important decisions to refine and improve our whole school program.
- K-8 curriculum is mapped backwards and clearly aligned to ensure the success of our Nativity graduates.