



2020-2021

annual report

from the head of school



Dear Laurence Community,

In a year where we were required to spend time physically apart, we were reminded of the importance of our special community, and that we are truly **Stronger Together!** The pages of this annual report will take you through the journey of life at Laurence - pandemic edition!

We firmly believe that what makes us unique and creates the magic that is Laurence is **our people, our passion, our purpose, and our programs.** These four P's gave us the strength and resilience to succeed in the most challenging year in our nearly seven-decade history.

Our people – parents, administrators, faculty, staff, students, grandparents, and alumni – all came together in numerous ways to support the continuation of the Laurence educational experience. I am amazed and touched by the outpouring of generosity of time and resources that our parents showed – donating tents and PPE supplies, helping to modify our

physical campus, increasing donations, and so much more. A special thank you to several groups: our Medical Task Force, who guided us every step of the way to ensure the health and safety of every member of the community; our Board of Trustees, led by Michael Lifrak, who quadrupled their time commitment to Laurence and provided incredible leadership as we navigated the constantly evolving set of pandemic protocols; and our Parent Association, led by President Annie Goto, for bringing forth their incredible talents and showing a determined commitment to fostering our community and finding creative ways to bring us together.

Our faculty, staff, and administrators went above and beyond last year, reinventing everything we do at Laurence to deliver a cutting-edge elementary education virtually and in a physically distanced in-person environment. Classroom teachers provided extra emotional support to students and families. Specialists created immersion model lessons and

taught outside. The Administrative Team and staff worked tirelessly to facilitate ever changing plans. Everyone picked up an extra duty, from carpool to lunch supervision to sanitizing.

And last, but not least, our incredible, kind, and hardworking kids – through all these changes and emotional ups and downs, they kept pushing. They showed up with grit for virtual learning, were delighted when they returned to campus, continued to give back to make the world a better place, and reminded each of us of **our passion and purpose.**

Our programs also remained strong, though they looked different in many aspects. We expanded to a 1:1 technology program across all grades, enhanced our social studies curriculum, and put “Kindness in Action” through our Character Education Program. We also created our first **Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism & Inclusion Strategic Action**

Plan to help us better deliver on our mission and expand inclusivity and belonging for all members of the Laurence community. And our secondary school guidance program saw our 6th graders accepted to top upper schools. I’m so proud of all that our students have accomplished!

We have lived through quite a year together. I am grateful and honored to be your Head of School, as we navigate through these unprecedented times.

Warmly,

Laurie Wolke
Head of School

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non-discrimination policy

Laurence School does not discriminate based upon race, color, disability, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or national or ethnic origin in the educational instruction, administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, financial aid or scholarships, athletic or other school-administered programs, and any other activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School.

accreditations

California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS)
National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC)

memberships

Common Sense Media
Independent School Alliance
Private School Village
Socal POCIS

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We make every effort to publish accurate information. If we made an error, please accept our apologies and contact the Development Office at (818) 782-4001.

from our board of trustees

Dear Laurence Community,

WHAT A YEAR THAT WAS! Like all of you, looking back at the 2020-2021 school year produces a wide range of emotions. But for me, the one that rises to the top is pride. Pride in the entire Laurence community, what it stands for, what it has done, and what it will do together in the future.

First and foremost, pride in our teachers and staff. They started the year teaching online, then worked tirelessly to return to in-person learning. I can't say enough about their dedication and the positive impact they had on our children last year.

Pride in our amazing Head of School, Laurie Wolke, and the entire administrative team. They worked non-stop to meet the changing needs of our teachers, staff, and students. They planned for a return to school, re-planned when the rules changed, and then finally implemented a seamless return to campus. They were able to keep the school as a cohesive, joyful, and caring place through everything, both online and then in person.

Pride in our Board of Trustees, who helped develop a reopening plan, the new "Village of Dreams" project, and other new spaces on campus to accommodate social distancing. All the while, we have kept our eyes on the long-term success of Laurence and its finances, advancement, and strategic planning. We were pleased to welcome Dr. Sheila Vasan to our team of Trustees and look forward to working with her during the coming years.

Pride in our students, especially the Class of 2021, who endured 15 months of a pandemic during their time at Laurence and who matriculated to the top schools in Los Angeles. I know I speak on behalf of the entire Board in wishing our graduates well and thanking their departing families for their support of Laurence over the years.

Pride in the school's ability to replenish itself with amazing families. We were thrilled to welcome 31 new families,

including 24 Kindergarten families, to Laurence this fall. When you are able to meet them and you see these new faces, please introduce yourself and get to know some of the outstanding additions to the school.

But most of all, pride in our community. We were able to sustain record giving to the *Laurence Fund*, *Jacobson Scholarship Fund* and the *Laurence Community Support Fund*. This allowed our community to stay together and ensured that Laurence students were able to learn and to thrive in a safe environment. We were able to raise money for, build, and open the "Village of Dreams" for our sixth graders. With the generous commitment of our parents, Board of Trustees, grandparents, faculty, staff, alumni parents, and alumni, we truly made a difference. We also engaged in a community-wide effort to develop a multi-year *Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism, and Inclusion Strategic Action Plan*. We are committed to building a foundation of empathy, kindness, acceptance, respect, and understanding in our children, and we strive to be better with both urgent action and thoughtful reflection.

We proved that we are truly stronger together, even when forced to be apart. We are all inexorably bound together by our love for our children and the school that allows them to learn, thrive, grow, and become the "Total Child." Thanks to all of you for your continued support and participation in our inclusive, joyful, and supportive community.

Sincerely,



Michael Lifrak
Chair, Board of Trustees



2020-21 board of trustees

Michael Lifrak, Chair	Louis Friedel	Edgar Khalatian	Lisa Stone
P.J. Shapiro, Vice Chair	Alvin Galstian	Darrell Lane	Sharon Walter-Goldsmith
Jake Blumenthal, Treasurer	Ann Garrett	Bobby Lee	Jillian Weinstein
Julie Bowen, Secretary	Jeff Huberts	Kelly Lynch	Denise Wong
Terrence Barnum	Chris Jones	Channing Power	
Bill Frank	Kerry Kennedy	Steven Serratore	

Dear Laurence Community,

YES, THIS PAST YEAR WILL BE A YEAR WE WILL NEVER FORGET, but your flexibility, positive attitudes and compassion have made all the difference in the world to our children and Laurence community. Thank you for your time, talents, and energy shared, and the creative and selfless ways you were still able to make an impact for our children, Laurence, and our community, together. Despite the challenges we faced, our year included many successes for the Parent Association and Laurence students.

We shared in so many *firsts* together: Our very *first* Drive-Thru Uniform Exchange, and Halloween Boo-Thru, hosted by our amazing administration, teachers, and staff! Our *first* remote learning school year with state-of-the-art OWL cameras and advanced technology! Our *first* online Holiday Boutique! Laurence's *first* ever 6th grade Field Day! One *HUGE first* was our virtual Spring Event, where we came together and raised more than half a million dollars! And our community further evolved by recognizing and celebrating each other's diversity in a multitude of ways, including successfully producing Laurence's *first Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism & Inclusion Strategic Action Plan!*

Our Parent Association *Virtual* Meeting attendance was off the charts, regardless of all our Zoom fatigue! Our Party Book Chairs still found a way to keep the parties going and raised as much money as in past years thanks to your attendance and participation! And although parent volunteers were not allowed on campus, our Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week was filled with tremendous heart, love, and thoughtfulness, and expressed our gratitude to our teachers and staff! And you all remained adaptable, dedicated, and available for the few volunteer opportunities we could safely participate in! Outstanding!

A heartfelt thank you to last year's PA Executive Board; Diana Brown, Jen Davis, Michael Eaglin, Anne-Marie Esser, Tina Khalatian, Chiara Slewett, and Joanna Woodruff. You have been generous in your leadership, and it has been a privilege to work with each of you! And to all our Laurence families, thank you for your unwavering support and kindness.



I am so proud and humbled to be a part of this remarkable Parent Community! Let's stay safe and remember, regardless of this unpredictable pandemic, our goal remains to safely keep our children on campus for in person learning! With this goal in mind, let's make 2021-2022 another unprecedented year of IMPACT and success!

With love,

Annie Goto
PA President, 2020-2021

2020-21 executive board

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Annie Goto, President | Anne-Marie Esser, Vice President |
| Diana Brown, Vice President | Tina Khalatian, Vice President |
| Jen Davis, Vice President | Chiara Slewett, Vice President |
| Michael Eaglin, Vice President | Joanna Woodruff, Treasurer |

our remarkable team

Never has a year required more from our Laurence administrators, faculty, and staff! The Laurence team met last year's challenges with dedication, innovation, and flexibility, truly demonstrating that everyone was "all in!"



- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Dana Ackerman | Caryn Kolbrenner | Bernard Redmond |
| Jessica Alva | Greg Kovacs | Christina Rios |
| Marlon Angeli | Jennifer Kovacs | Jonah Robinson |
| Liz Beck | Sue Kroopnick | Robert Romano |
| Sarah Berson | Cyntoria Lampkin | Eric Ross |
| Jeannine Brager | Gina Landau | Tanika Schliebe |
| Lauren Bruns | Jena Laolagi | Vicky Sedgwick |
| Kevin Butler | Eden Laur | Jesse Servin |
| Claudia Cadena | Evelyn Lemus | Shawn Shahmiri |
| Maria Calvo | Jennifer Levin | Ben Sheridan |
| Lauren Cantrell | Sarah Levine | Samantha Shreder |
| Melissa Casillas | Sam Levy | Marco Siliezar |
| Jose Castellanos | Alloffs Lima | Liz Silverman |
| Mary Chen | Yoorie Lu | Kelly Spinks |
| Sabrina Crame | Rachel McKinney | Whitney Stange |
| Maria Crossman | Corinne Metling | Sandy Stone |
| Claire Daley | Brittany Miller | Mark Tennyson |
| Lucy Dovlatyan | Carly Miller | Wilder Tobar |
| Marlon Espino | Kimberly Milman | William Tobar |
| Alexis Figueroa | Brittany Moreland | Melissa Walkes |
| Katie Fragapane | Michelle Morris | Aimee Ward |
| Erin Fraser | Maggie Muir | Marisa Wedemeyer |
| Kaila Garcia | Steven Nairin | Meredith Williams |
| Xylene Garcia | Dana Oakley | Wendy Wolin |
| Susie Harmon | Kat O'Brien | Laurie Wolke |
| Jolie Held | Reyna Osuna | Chase Woolner |
| Eric Hogenson | Monica Petersen | Carole Zwickel |
| Beth Kaplan | Megan Pyle | |
| Rachel Kavanaugh | Brian Recker | |

medical task force

The Laurence team also included a very special group of parents (and an alumni parent), who generously gave of their time and expertise to keep the Laurence community healthy and safe. On behalf of everyone at Laurence, we would like to thank our incredible Medical Task Force!

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Robert H. Cho, MD, FAAOS | Christian Koch, MD | Chris M. Tang, MD, MS |
| Scott W. Cohen, MD, FAAP | Sharon Lee, MD, MS | Sheila Vasan, MD |
| Adam I. Friedman, MD | Eric Snyder, MD, MS, FACEP | Michael Wolke, MD |

academics



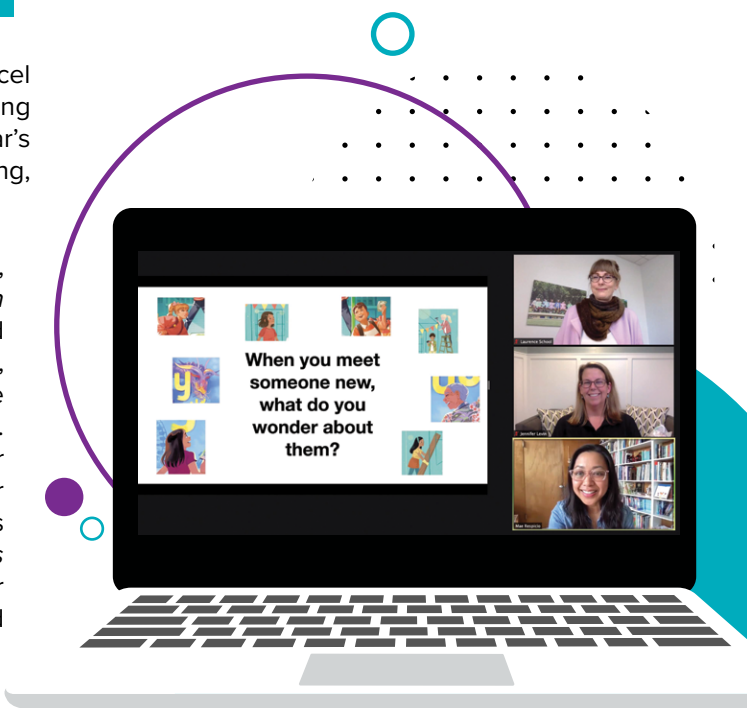
“While the past year brought many challenges, we are proud to share how much our students grew academically, socially, and emotionally. Our instruction remained strong, and our teachers persevered through virtual teaching. We continued to ensure that our students’ individual needs were met in all subject areas. Our entire community also mastered many important soft skills including flexibility, patience, independence, grit, and resiliency, which will continue to make an impact well into the future.”

Liz Silverman,
Director of Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

virtual visiting authors

Laurence Librarian, Jennifer Levin, didn’t let the pandemic cancel our Visiting Authors Program, which brings inspiring, award-winning children’s authors and illustrators to speak with students. Last year’s authors created interactive virtual experiences, sharing tips on writing, character development, and finding story ideas.

For many of these authors, inspiration sprang out of their cultures, backgrounds, and families. Mae Respicio, author of *Any Day with You*, *The House that Lou Built*, and *How to Win a Slime War*, shared that growing up, there were no books about Filipino-American kids, so now she writes them. Rafael López told students that his style of illustration is influenced by his son and the way children draw. Tami Charles wrote her latest book, *All Because You Matter*, for her son. This book is a reminder for him and all children that no matter what they hear and see, they are important. Finally, author (and Class of 2021 mom), Donna Tetreault, shared her book, *Dear Me: Letters to Myself, For All of My Emotions*. Inspired by experiences with her own kids, the book teaches young children how to recognize and manage the emotions they feel throughout the day.



science spotlight

by Aimee Ward, Science Specialist

What a year in science?! Science is all about hands-on learning, and Ms. Lemus and I made it our goal to ensure that each student continued to experience science at home as they would in our science lab.

In 1st grade, we took a virtual field trip to the Wildlife Learning Center. We were introduced to an eagle and Western Screech owl and learned how they use their special features for survival. During the lab, students dissected owl pellets, discovering what owls eat and how they obtain energy to live.

A highlight of 4th grade’s year was our tour of the Pacific Ocean. Teachers each transformed their rooms into a different region – the coral reefs, northern, southern, and tropical Pacific. Students discovered the unique characteristics of each area and what marine animals are best adapted to survive. Back on campus, students dissected and learned about market squids, a critical food source for a variety of marine life. They observed the various internal structures that help the squid to move, grow, and reproduce.

In 6th grade, students learned about cells and how these building blocks of life make up all living creatures. Using a Foldscope – a paper microscope – and an iPad, students were able to view different specimens, including their own hair and cheek cells. We learned how a virus attacks our cells, how vaccines work, and how scientists use technology, such as a cryo electron microscope, to take pictures and 3D print a virus.



diversity, equity & inclusion at laurence



BY CHRISTINA RIOS,
DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION
& CURRICULUM

At Laurence School, our mission and “Total Child” Values define the core of who we are, and we have always been committed to creating a diverse and supportive community that models inclusivity. During the 2020-2021 school year, we made significant strides in deepening and expanding our work to ensure that we are living up to our diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) commitments and moving our community forward as our world evolves.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

At the beginning of the year, we formed a 22-person DEI Working Group consisting of leaders from the Administration, Board of Trustees, faculty and staff, and Parent Association. We collaborated to create our *Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism, and Inclusion (DEAI) Strategic Action Plan*, which is focused on anti-discrimination and celebrating and including all cultures and identities. The group met weekly, focusing on feedback from members of our community who shared their experiences regarding race, identity, and equity and in-depth discussions about how best to ensure that our students leave Laurence

with cultural competence, an understanding of race, and confidence that they can be agents of change. The writing and editing of the plan also incorporated feedback from our DEI consultants, Janine Hancock Jones, Head of DEI at Harvard-Westlake, and Dr. Steven Jones, CEO and Founder of Jones Consulting.

A secondary, but important outcome of the group’s discussions was an update to our mission and value statements. The updates reflect our intentional focus on equity and fostering a strong sense of belonging to ensure that students and community members of all backgrounds and experiences are valued and respected.

SCHOOL-HOME PARTNERSHIP

We also worked to strengthen the school-home partnership and inclusivity by inviting parents to engage in conversations around DEI through listening and learning sessions, which opened up opportunities for authentic and challenging dialogue. These discussions included parent education tailored for the different grade levels with Dr. Jones. His talks focused on further nurturing our culture of inclusion by unpacking the complexities, nuances, and benefits of a diverse community of families, students, teachers, and staff. As we worked to develop

a common vocabulary and shared understanding around DEI, Dr. Jones also facilitated a retreat with the Administrative Team and Board of Trustees to support the development of an inclusive leadership team and high-performing Board. These retreats helped the team identify, develop, and model the dynamics of building trusting relationships across differences and learn the skills of inclusion necessary to demonstrate culturally responsive leadership within their specific roles.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It was equally important for the faculty and staff to participate in professional development to help them build inclusive and equitable classrooms, and to learn how to infuse DEI into the learning environment. The year’s school-wide opportunities included: the National Association of Independent School’s People of Color Conference; Harvard-Westlake’s Pollyanna Conference, implicit bias training led by Janine Hancock Jones; and discussions about integrating multicultural perspectives with Dr. Shamaine Bertrand, Assistant Professor of Elementary Education at Illinois State University. Everyone also participated in book club discussions about *So You Want to Talk About Race*, *How to be an Antiracist*, *White Fragility*, and *Between the World and Me*.

CURRICULUM

The Kindergarten through 6th grade teachers and specialists also continued to build and deepen Laurence’s anti-bias and anti-racism program through Learning for Justice’s four domains: identity, diversity, justice, and action. This included integrating multicultural perspectives and history through all subject areas, with an initial lens on social studies, and guiding conversations about kindness, acceptance, and respect through our Character Education program. A thorough classroom library inventory was also completed last year to ensure that books include themes of diversity, justice, and inclusion, as well as equitable representation. As teachers continued choosing literature, they evaluated the storylines for stereotypes, authenticity, whose experience is centered in the story, and any bias that may be expressed. They strived to equip their students with the skills necessary to help them navigate the diverse world that we live in.

Our work in DEI is an ongoing process and journey that involves constant reflection and growth. I am optimistic and eager to implement the goals and initiatives highlighted in our *DEAI Strategic Action Plan*, while staying true to Laurence School’s mission and “Total Child” Values.



Janine Hancock Jones (above) and Dr. Steven Jones (right) consulted with Laurence last year to help us strengthen our DEI Programs.

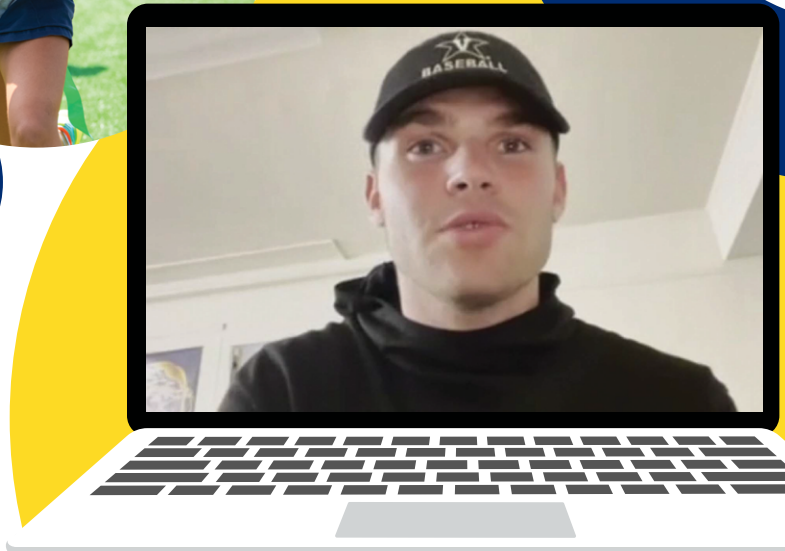
the arts

Visual and Performing Arts remained an important aspect of our Laurence curriculum, as our specialists put their creativity to the test, reinventing and innovating throughout the year. To accommodate pandemic restrictions, the school year featured an immersion model with four-week, focused sessions in visual arts, music, dance, and drama. Ukuleles and keyboards made their way into students' homes during virtual learning, while back on campus mid-year, children painted al fresco in the green space behind the Library. And because the "show must go on," a musical performance came together through Zoom recordings and the magic of editing and our 6th grade Kids' Court trials were livestreamed to parents and throughout campus!



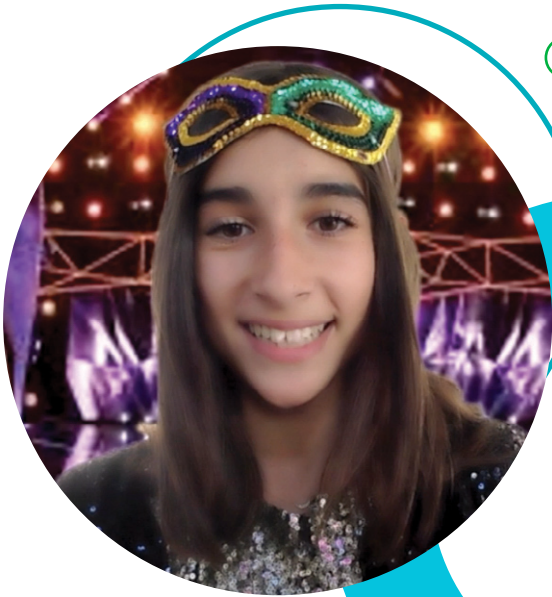
athletics

Laurence coaches met the challenges of 2020-2021 by Representing the "L"! With their positive attitudes and focus on perseverance, they kept physical education in the daily lives of our students. From encouraging at-home workouts and outside play to working on sports skills and hosting Kindergarten dance parties and dress-up days via Zoom, they not only kept our students physically fit, but they kept spirits high. Our coaches also helped upper division students get back on campus with after school sports conditioning and our first ever After School Kickball League! The year ended with a celebration of our Lightning Athletes and 6th Grade Hall of Fame Induction at our virtual Sports Ceremony, which featured guest speaker, Sam Hliboki ('13), who currently pitches for Vanderbilt University's baseball team.



school life

How do you keep students connected when they're physically apart and separated into stable cohorts? You "solve and evolve!" Big Buddy activities moved to Zoom, as students created collaborative dances and studied the Chinese Zodiac for Lunar New Year, 6th grade students started the *Enlightning* podcast, interviewing members of the faculty and administration about how the school met the challenges of the pandemic, and our Halloween Carnival transformed into a spooktacular Boo Thru, allowing students to safely see the whole faculty and one another in costume! Red, White, Blue & Green Assemblies also continued in video format with participation from students across all grade levels, sharing jokes, poems, songs, dances, and cultural celebrations!



community service



Making a Difference



Laurence students continued to giving back and making a difference in their community throughout the pandemic. With the help of parents, led by our Community Service PA Committee, many of our grade level service projects continued last year, including SOCKtober, our Thanksgiving food drives, the Holiday Toy Drive, and SOUP-er Bowl. Additionally, we even expanded the program, adding a new community service partner, Heart of Los Angeles, which was the beneficiary of the Toy Drive, and a weekly sandwich making project for the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry.

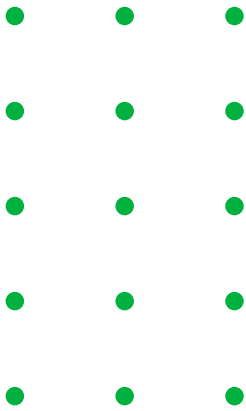
More impressive, however, was the incredible leadership students showed outside of these school projects, continuing our "Making a Difference" tradition. They supported numerous organizations and causes dear to their hearts by collecting books, food, and toys, and more! They also wrote letters of gratitude to First Responders. Students shared their work via video during assemblies, and Mrs. Wolke even surprised them with a HUGE "Making a Difference" award.



graduation

In June, we were thrilled to celebrate the Class of 2021 *together* on the Lightning Field! With masks and distancing, 6th grade families joined faculty and staff to watch 48 incredible students carry on the Laurence graduation traditions. Each student shared a favorite quotation, along with its personal meaning to them, and the entire grade sang together for the first time since before the pandemic. We are incredibly proud of this graduating class, who remained optimistic, worked hard, and supported each other through a difficult year. The important lessons they gained from this experience will further propel them to great success in the future!

2021 acceptances	
CAMPBELL HALL	24
HARVARD-WESTLAKE	22
BUCKLEY	18
CHAMINADE	7
OAKWOOD	6
VIEWPOINT	5
BRENTWOOD	4
SIERRA CANYON	4
MARLBOROUGH	3
MILKEN	2
ARCHER	1
CROSSROADS	1
GEFFEN	1
OAKS CHRISTIAN	1
WESTRIDGE	1
WINDWARD	1
OUT OF STATE	5
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	



matriculation

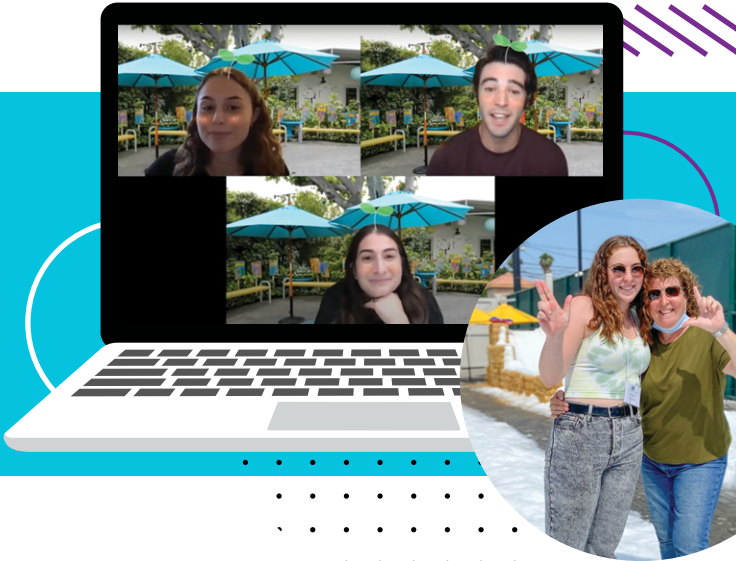
The Class of 2021 matriculated to some of the best independent secondary schools in Los Angeles. Our secondary school guidance team, comprised of Head of School, Laurie Wolke, our 6th grade faculty, and administrators worked collaboratively with students and their families to help determine which schools provided the best personal fit. Like the classes before them, their reputation as Laurence students and incredible accomplishments gained each of them multiple acceptances.

The Class of 2021 will be attending the following schools: Archer, Brentwood, Buckley, Campbell Hall, Chaminade, Crossroads, Harvard-Westlake, Marlborough, Milken, Oaks Christian, Oakwood, Phoenix Country Day, Ransom Everglades (Florida), Singapore American School, Viewpoint, Waterford (Utah), and Westridge.

alumni on campus

To our surprise, the year brought a unique opportunity for alumni to spend time on campus! Several graduates joined our Laurence staff, supporting students and teachers as they returned for in-person learning. Their contributions truly made it possible for our kids to come back together, and we were thrilled to see their (masked) faces back at Laurence!

- Jolie Held (2015)
Eden Laur (2011)
- Carly Miller (2004)
Jonah Robinson (2007)



alumni notes



Adeline Grimmer (2015), a 2021 graduate of Marlborough, attends Tufts University. Adeline is pre-med and is majoring in mathematics, chemistry, and religion. She is involved in visual arts, tech, dance, basketball, the Mayor's Youth Council, and is assistant stage managing the Tufts theatre group. Last summer, Adeline was a camp counselor at Camp Merri Mac in North Carolina, mentoring 5th, 7th and 8th grade girls, and also leading backpacking and basketball. At Marlborough, she received the Dartmouth Book Award, Gold Key Award for Scholastic Art, 2-D Art Award as Outstanding Student, Academic Achievement Award, the Senior Award for Performing Arts, and was a member of the California Scholarship Federation for four years.

Benjamin Himmelman (2016), a senior at Lake Oswego High School, currently lives in Lake Oswego, Oregon. He enjoys piano and math, and is currently a math and piano tutor.

Lexie Ben-Meir (2015), graduate of The Archer School for Girls, is attending UC Berkeley. Lexie is majoring in molecular biology and received the Founders Award upon graduation.



Riley Bock (2015) (above) is a 2021 graduate of Harvard-Westlake School, where she was a member of the Latin Honors Society. She currently attends the University of Notre Dame studying neuroscience and behavior. Last summer, Riley interned for a facial plastic surgeon conducting research and writing articles about facial retaining ligaments. Riley is involved in pottery and golf.

Emery Genga (2015), a 2021 graduate of Harvard-Westlake School, is attending Boston University School of Theatre.

Jolie Held (2015), graduated with honors from deToledo High School in 2021. She is currently attending Case Western Reserve University and will double major in psychology and cognitive sciences, and play on the volleyball team. This past summer, Jolie worked at Laurence's summer camp and volunteered at Children's Hospital.

Jennifer Kaplan (2015), a 2021 graduate of Sierra Canyon, is a freshman at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, where she is studying communications and business administration. She is enjoying her freshman year, participating in sorority activities, as well as joining the school's dance team and investment club.

Nicole Golenberg (2014), a 2020 graduate of Marlborough, attends The University of Michigan.

William Simon (2014), a 2020 graduate of Buckley, attends LMU, where he is in the Honor Society and *Magna Cum Laude* Society. He owns "Fisher Surfboards," making and shaping surfboards. He is an Eagle Scout, and received the Presidential Service Award.

Francis de Beixedon (2013), a 2019 graduate of Harvard-Westlake School, attends Duke University and studies economics. At Duke, he is a member of the *Cum Laude* Society. He enjoys running, collecting musical records, art and museums.

Michael Gaven (2012), a 2018 graduate of Harvard-Westlake School, currently attends the University of Colorado, Boulder, studying musical theatre. This past summer, he was a camp counselor at Skylake Yosemite Camp. Michael is interested in golf, music, and theatre (singing, acting, and dancing). After he finishes his theatre degree at Boulder, he will spend the next year training to become a professional golf player!

Gabi Golenberg (2012), a 2018 graduate of Marlborough, attended USC and spent a semester in Rome.



Edén Laur (2011) (above), graduated from Oakwood School in 2017, and attended California State University, Northridge, majoring in family studies and minoring in communication. At CSUN, she made the Dean's list all four years and was nominated to serve as the chair of diversity and inclusion for the CSUN student body. Edén has worked as a teacher's assistant at Laurence for the last year, and enjoys writing music, hiking, yoga, writing, playing with her dogs, and playing tennis.

Kristen Gourrier (2010), a 2016 graduate of Harvard-Westlake School, attended New York University where she studied Political Science. During her senior year at NYU, Kristen worked for the New York State Attorney General's Office. She is now attending Harvard Law School to earn her Juris Doctor, and still credits Laurence with giving her the foundation she needed to

succeed at every level up to this point. During the year between college and law school, she worked as a paralegal in complex commercial litigation. Kristen loves to visit home in Los Angeles and enjoys hiking and healthy eating while she's here!

Greta Pasqua (2010), a 2016 graduate of Buckley, attended USC where she graduated *summa cum laude*. At USC, she received the USC Music Department Outstanding Graduate, Popular Music Ensemble, and Most Valuable Collaborator awards. She is currently a singer/songwriter in Sherman Oaks and enjoys gardening, cooking, and traveling.

Christina Woo (2008), a 2014 graduate of Harvard-Westlake School, attended Brown University and studied biology. Christina is a second-year medical student at New York University School of Medicine. She lives in New York and recently started rock climbing.

Evan and Kari Burdzinski (2007), 2013 graduates of Harvard-Westlake School, attended Emory University. Evan studied business and finance, and Kari studied nursing. Evan lives in Studio City and works as a senior financial analyst at Creative Artists Agency in Century City. He recently became a chartered financial analyst, and enjoys sports, reading, music, and traveling.

Kari is currently pursuing her Masters of Science in Nursing at the Emory University Nell Hodgson School of Nursing, and will graduate this December as a nurse practitioner in adult gerontology primary care. Kari is a registered nurse at Emory University Hospital on the solid organ transplant unit, and spent 63 days as a nurse in the COVID Unit.

Allegra Mantovani (2007), a graduate of Campbell Hall, attended Loyola Marymount University where she studied finance and graduated *cum laude*. Allegra also received her Masters of Science in accounting from LMU. She currently works at KPMG Los Angeles as a CPA. She enjoys crafts, baking, and taking care of her chickens and bulldogs. Allegra lives in Los Angeles with her husband and identical twin daughters.

Colette Woo (2005), a 2011 graduate of Harvard-Westlake School, attended Columbia University and studied engineering. Colette then attended the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

Law School and graduated with her JD in 2019. She currently lives in Los Angeles and works in patent law.



Christina Woo (left) and Colette Woo (right)

Natalie Kato (2004), graduated from Campbell Hall and Bryn Mawr, where she studied math and computer science. At Bryn Mawr, she was the president of the student council and co-chair of her graduating class alumni committee. Natalie is currently earning her MBA at Johns Hopkins University and is a tech lead at Vanguard. She lives near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Emily Dillon (Davis-Williams) (2002), graduated from the Birmingham High School Magnet program in 2008. She attended Otis College of Art and Design and graduated in 2012 with her B.F.A in product design, and then backpacked through Europe for the summer after college. Emily earned her M.S.W. from the UCLA Luskin School of Social Welfare and currently works as a psychiatric social worker for LAUSD. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, raising monarchs, art, and design. She is the mother of two beautiful kids, Asa (3) and Rosemary (5).

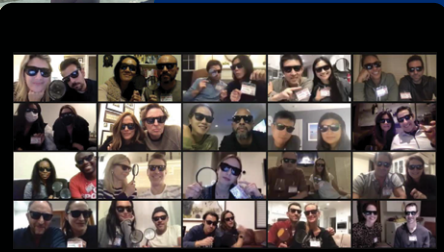
Nicole Kato (2001), graduated from Campbell Hall and Swarthmore College. She studied engineering and received her Masters of Science in engineering at USC, and she is currently finishing her MBA at Johns Hopkins University. Nicole has worked for a few companies as a CTO, and Disney as a web developer and full-stack engineer. She co-founded Course Scout, which provides virtual golf course tours. She manages two houses and a condominium, which she and her husband Shawn, a Major in the Air Force, own. Nicole and Shawn live in Centerville, Ohio, and are moving to Edwards Air Force Base, where Shawn will teach Aerospace Engineering.

OUR GRADUATES ARE REPRESENTING THE "L" AT SELECT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

American University, Amherst College, Barnard College, Bentley University, Boston College, Boston University, Bowdoin College, Brandeis University, Brown University, Bryn Mawr College, Cal Arts, Cal Poly Pomona, California Lutheran University, Carnegie Mellon University, Champlain College, Chapman University, Clarkson University, Colby College, College of the Holy Cross, Columbia College Chicago, Columbia University, Cornell University, Drew University, Duke University, Durham University, Claremont McKenna College, Emerson University, Georgetown University, George Washington University, Grinnell College, Harvard University, Indiana University, Johnson & Wales University, Lafayette College, Loyola University New Orleans, Miami University of Ohio, Mills College, Muhlenberg College, Nazareth College, New York University, Northeastern University, Northwestern University, Oberlin College, Ohio State University, Otis College of Art and Design, Parsons School of Design, Pitzer College, Princeton University, Reed College, Rhode Island School of Design, San Francisco State University, Santa Clara University, Smith College, Southern Methodist University, Stanford University, Syracuse University, Texas Christian University, Trinity College, Tufts University, Tulane University, University of Arizona, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UCLA, UCLA School of Law, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, The University of Chicago, USC, University of Colorado - Boulder, University of Georgia, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Miami, University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame, University of Pennsylvania, University of St Andrews, University of Texas, University of Texas at Austin, University of Toronto, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Vanderbilt University, Villanova University, Washington University in St. Louis, Wellesley College, Wesleyan University, Willamette University, Williams College, Yale University, and Yale Law School

parent association

Our Parent Association found many incredible ways to support our school last year, despite the challenges! The PA started off the year with the *Stronger Together Community Event*, chaired by the 2019-2020 Spring Event committee, enjoyed virtual Party Book events throughout the year, turned our annual Holiday Boutique into an online shopping experience, and hosted the first ever virtual Spring Event & Auction. Parents also kept our community connected by helping with the Halloween Boo Thru, creating virtual cultural celebrations during Lunar New Year, Black History Month, and Armenian History Month, organizing community service activities, creating fun family dance parties, and more!



parent association committee chairs

Boutique Wells Butler Sylvia Friedel Patty Joy Michelle Shapiro	Faculty/Staff Appreciation Lauren Born Vicki Davis Ellis Orly Elson	Kari Garman Annie Goto Stephanie Nortman Michelle Shapiro	Vicki Davis Ellis Orly Elson Heather Frank Amy Friedman Noelle Galstian Tracy Garcia Dana Garfin Sarah Greenberg Kim Henderson Jennifer Koch Vanessa Lachey Mari Lanin Amy Lavker Marie Ly Kim Malin Erica Maslow Kate Nelson Kelly Nemecek Stephanie Nortman	Ashlie Passen Kathryn Perlín Lisa Pierce Emily Roth Pont Johari Rollins Jacquelyn Rosati Danielle Serratore Lisa Shannon Michelle Shapiro Melissa Shayfer Angelina Snyder Jenny Sonbolian Erin Stanley Kristin Stern Ghazaleh Tencza Gamze Trygstad Cher Van Amburg Sophia Whang
Community Service Jacquelyn Rosati Emily Roth Pont Jenny Sonbolian	Party Book Samantha Hanks Kim Henderson Lisa Pierce Lana Safoian Lisa Shannon	Yearbook Lorraine Dahlinger		
Dads' Club Michael Eaglin Matt Levy Scott Zimble	Spirit Wear Noelle Galstian Ranya Moizel	Room Parents Abby Arad Lori Armstrong Simran Baidwan Natalie Bennett Lesley Boone Teng Evelyn Chen Debra Chow Marites Coulter Meaghan Curcio Elise Doganieri Domenica Dunlap		
DEI/Global Garden Roxann Mosley	Spring Event & Auction Kara Barron Dani Brenner Jen Davis			

party book hosts

Our annual *Party Book* fundraiser beautifully translated into virtual experiences that both kept our community connected and raised important funds for our school. We are grateful for the following host families:

Baidwan/Bonotto Family	Choi/Schaefer Family	Henderson Family	Luu/Ngo Family	Rinderknecht Family
Brown Family (Khatira & Michael)	Davidian Family	Huberts Family	Mosley Family	Ross Family (Starlyn & David)
Brown/Hardnett Family	Farber Family	Israel/Robb Family	Novack Family	Safoian Family
Brown/Neil Family	Goto/Lynch Family	Koch Family	Philipps/Silverstein Family	Peter Sattler
Bunch/Mercado Family	Griffin/Carroll Family	Krygier Family	Tanika Ray	Woodruff Family
Cho Family	Hanks Family	Lanin Family	Reischerl/Grant Family	
	Helbing Family	Lee Family (Yvonne & Jason)	Rinderkatz Family	

spring event & auction

Late Night with Laurence was a huge success thanks to our chairs, led by PA President Annie Goto, the *many* volunteers who helped them, and the incredible Laurence talent who contributed to the comedy sketches and gave musical performances! We would also like to thank our emcees, Julie Bowen and Oliver Nathan (a.k.a. DJ Spider), for performing live that evening! And of course, we are grateful to the many parents who sponsored the event at every level and for the outpouring of generosity during the evening for the *Laurence Community Support Fund* and *Jacobson Scholarship Fund*. Last year's event and auction was one of our most successful to date thanks to all of you!



lead scholarship donors and premier event sponsors

Anonymous (2) Kate Nelson and David Alderman Azimuth Capital Management BOA Steakhouse Bolton & Company Khatira and Michael Brown Mike Comrie Jenny and Brian Davidian Don Chicho Tequila Blair Rich and Zev Foreman Heather and Bill Frank Sarah Greenberg Elizabeth Banks and Max Handelman Jennifer and Andrew Harding Carol Yeo and Yeu Hong The Huberts Family The Kahane Family Maggie Melikjanian and George Karayan Amanda and Craig Katz Denise Wong and Philip Khosid Suzanne Kolb Kremlin Vodka Vanessa and Nick Lachey Sophia Whang and Bobby Lee Maniaci Insurance Services, Inc. Tara Bunch and Eleanor Mercado	Ranya and Danny Moizel Nocking Point Wine Kelly and David Nemecek Melissa and Brian Norgard Pacific Platinum Services Danielle and Steven Serratore Sarah and Shawn Shahmiri Lisa and P.J. Shapiro Liz and Marc Silverman Liz and David Skulsky Erin and Paul Stanley Sushi Roku Laura and Jeff Tremaine Laurie and Michael Wolke
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top auction winners and donors

Kara Nortman and Jake Blumenthal Khatira and Michael Brown Mike Comrie Jenny and Brian Davidian Alexandra Kerry and Julien Dobbs-Higginson Raina Dragonas Hilary Duff Blair Rich and Zev Foreman Beth and Marc Gamby Sarah Greenberg Carolina and Mario Guddemi Debra Chow and Josh Huang Lindsey and Jeff Huberts Molly and Robby Kang Sue and Steve Kroopnick Vanessa and Nick Lachey Yvonne and Jason Lee Rachael MacFarlane and Spencer Laudiero Tara Bunch and Eleanor Mercado Ranya and Danny Moizel Melissa and Brian Norgard Joanna Perlman Lana and Tony Safoian Danielle and Steven Serratore Lauren Peng and Chris Tang Laura and Jeff Tremaine Jillian and Craig Weinstein
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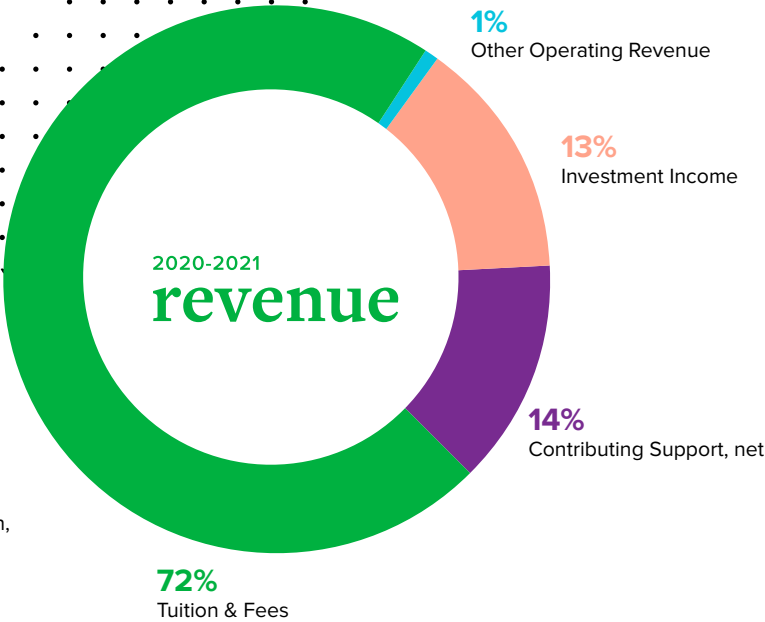
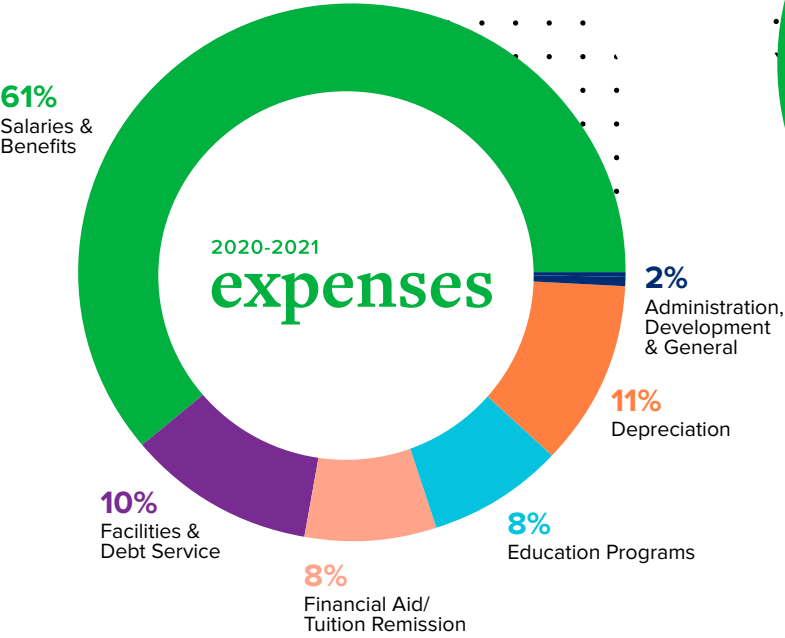
report on philanthropy



Philanthropy within the Laurence School community has never been greater than in the 2020-2021 school year. As we began the year, unsure of what fiscal uncertainties might be ahead, we saw an increase in giving from many families, while others found ways to support the school despite facing their own unique challenges. Thanks to your generosity, we also increased financial assistance to ensure that our community remained intact. We are honored and humbled by your philanthropy, which demonstrates that we are truly *Stronger Together!*

We are deeply grateful to each and every parent, grandparent, administrator, teacher, staff member, alumni, alumni parent, foundation, corporation, and friend who contributed to this amazing success!

by the



numbers

village of dreams

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In 2020, we launched a small, but important capital campaign to bring 2,000 additional square feet of new classroom space to our campus to support the incredible growth of our cutting-edge academic and enrichment programs. This new building is located on the former Field of Dreams and includes: three state-of-the-art classrooms; additional K-6 flexible learning spaces; increased opportunities for project-based, hands-on learning; flexibility for small group teaching and learning; and integrated access to outdoor garden and lunch areas, including our newly relocated Edible Garden.

We are incredibly grateful for the many people who made the completion of this project possible with their financial support, time, and talents. In addition to our generous donors, we would like to especially thank the following project leaders: **Jake Blumenthal**; **Louis Friedel**; **Alvin Galstian**; **Jeff Huberts**; **Edgar Khalatian**; **Bobby Lee**; **Michael Lifrak**; **Kelly Lynch**; and **Danny Moizel**.

thank you to our donors for making our dreams come true!

- Brenda and Terrence Barnum
- Kara Nortman and Jake Blumenthal
- Julie Bowen
- Domenica and Andrew Dunlap
- Heather and Bill Frank
- Sylvia and Louis Friedel
- Noelle and Alvin Galstian
- Sharon Walter-Goldsmith and Lee Goldsmith
- The Huberts Family
- Janine and Chris Jones
- Maro and Jack Kalaydjian
- Loretta and Victor Kaufman
- Tina and Edgar Khalatian
- Francine and Darrell Lane
- Sophia Whang and Bobby Lee
- Jay Lieberman/The Derfner Foundation
- Iris and Michael Lifrak
- Annie Goto and Kelly Lynch
- Ranya and Danny Moizel
- Channing and Scott Power
- Danielle and Steven Serratore
- Sarah and Shawn Shahmiri
- Lisa and P.J. Shapiro
- Laurie and Michael Wolke
- Sally Cai and Mars Yuan





mission statement

Laurence endeavors to develop the unique abilities and potential of each of its students in a diverse, inclusive, supportive, and equitable learning community, where rich traditions and an innovative curriculum foster educational excellence and a strong sense of belonging, joy in learning, pride in oneself, integrity, mutual respect and a commitment to the "Total Child."