



ENRICH your spirit
CREATE your path
DISCOVER your impact



Bishop O'Dowd
High School



Welcome to **O'DOWD!**

We are a Catholic college preparatory community, engaging students in a rich curriculum that encompasses mind, body and spirit. Our mission is to embolden our graduates to lead and serve for a more just, joyful and sustainable world.

At O'Dowd, we nurture the whole student. Our faculty and staff partners with families to support students in discovering their best selves and unlocking their potential and aspirations.

Our holistic academic program challenges students to explore their interests and passions, charting a rewarding scholastic path that prepares them to make a difference in the world.

Our celebrated co-curricular opportunities - spanning athletics, visual and performing arts, environmental programs, a diverse array of clubs, advanced leadership teams and more, create dynamic, life-changing experiences for students to find and hone their strengths and embrace the power they have to make an impact within the O'Dowd community and beyond.

Our religious education, service learning, community Masses, peer retreats, and opportunities for faith, reflection, and personal development guide our students to connect with enduring values and take action for the common good.

Above all, we are guided by our Charism - spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit - to find God in all things. We embrace our diverse community. We honor strength of character. We rise to academic excellence. We cherish the earth and all living things. We stand for social justice. We seek and hold onto joy.

We welcome you to find your place at O'Dowd.

You belong here.

President
Kim Walsh

Principal
Doug Evans, Ed.D.



AT A GLANCE

1,250
Student Body

20
Acre Campus

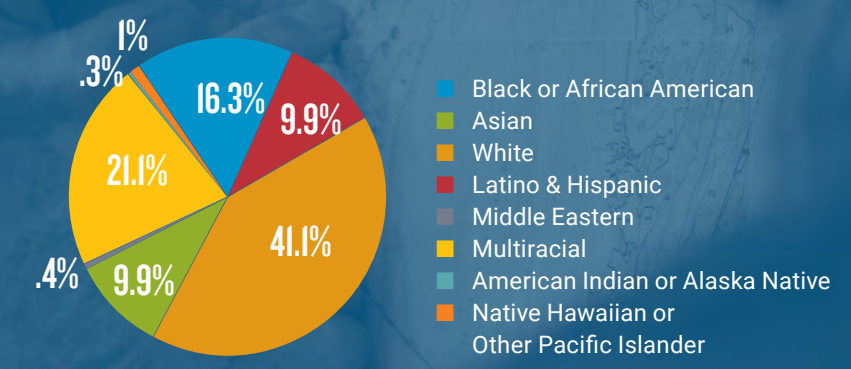
14:1
Teacher/
Student Ratio

26
Average
Class Size

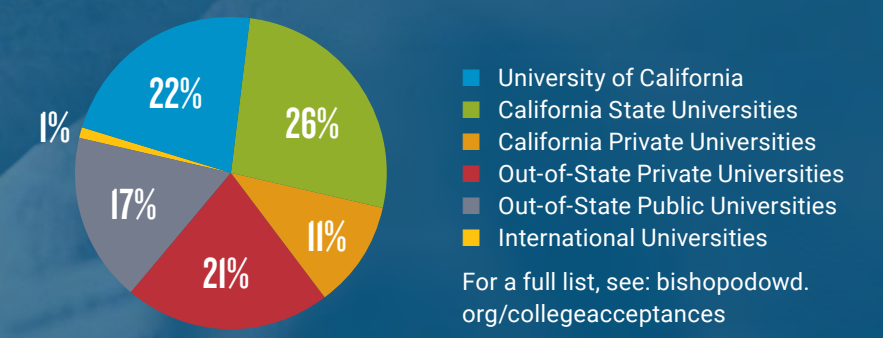
4
Acre Living Lab

26
AP and Honors
Courses

Student Ethnicity



College Acceptances Last 5 Years



ENRICH your spirit

AT O'DOWD, our dynamic connection to the Catholic faith is instilled in every fiber of our community.

We encourage our students to contribute in making O'Dowd a place of belonging for everyone, and to use their voices to build a more just and connected world.

- † Values-based teaching
- † Joyful masses and faith celebrations
- † Formative retreats for each grade
- † Engaged service learning

ENRICH

your spirit



“I was really impacted by the Kairos Retreat. It’s where I felt the most connected to the O’Dowd community, and fully felt the love that religion talks about. At O’Dowd I’ve seen that no matter how my religious beliefs evolve, I will always be welcomed.”

—LUCIA LANIEKI, 11th Grade

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Religious Studies for Spiritual, Ethical and Personal Development

- † The Catholic Experience
- † World Religions
- † Atheism and Faith
- † Peace and Justice
- † Ethics and Media
- † Spiritual Ecology
- † Feminism, Christianity, and Society
- † Church and the African American Experience

Spiritual Formation

- † Community Mass and Liturgies
- † Campus Ministry Team
- † 9th Grade Welcome Retreat
- † 10th Grade Superhero Retreat
- † 11th Grade Kairos Retreat
- † Senior Discernment Retreat

Social Justice and Joy

- † 9th-12 Grade Service Learning
- † Service Immersion Trips
- † Living Lab
- † Spirit Week
- † Multicultural Celebrations
- † Health and Wellness
- † Affinity Groups
- † Giving

CREATE your path

AT O'DOWD, we are committed to offering students a wide breadth of unique courses and immersive learning opportunities to explore their interests, nurture their passions, and develop their own academic path.

- † Supportive teachers guide students to think critically and grow - intellectually and emotionally
- † We are committed to a culture of belonging, where all students feel safe to take academic risks
- † Our robust Counseling Department creates pathways for students to bring their learning into the world



“In Advanced Placement Human Geography I learned about the field of public health for the first time. I was immediately interested in global fertility rates and epidemiology because it combined my interest in statistics and gender studies. I’m lucky to have taken this course at O’Dowd (not all schools offer it!) and discovered my passion. Now I plan to major in public health and address race-based disparities in maternal mortality rates.”

—EVA CARRASCO, 11th Grade

CREATE your path



76%
of O'Dowd students
who applied to a UC
were admitted in 2022,
a significantly higher
rate of admittance
compared to other
public and private high
schools in the area,
where admittance
rates varied between
51-70%.

Source: San Francisco Chronicle

SAMPLE COURSE OFFERINGS

- † Experiential Science
- † Research Trips (Galapagos, Costa Rica, Belize, Yosemite, Montana)
- † Marine Biology
- † Introduction to Sports Medicine
- † Computer Science
- † Robotics
- † Engineering Physics
- † Chemistry of Cooking
- † Digital Arts and Animation
- † Drawing and Design
- † Urban Art
- † The Art of Film and Video
- † Photography
- † Identity and Literature
- † Creative Nonfiction
- † Science Fiction
- † AP Art
- † Hip Hop and Society
- † World Languages (French, Mandarin, Spanish)
- † Immersive World Language Trips (Madrid, Barcelona, Paris, Quebec)
- † Psychology
- † Holocaust Studies Course and European Historical Site Visit
- † War and Diplomacy in the 20th Century
- † The Contemporary Middle East
- † AP African American Studies
- † 10th and 11th Grade Science and English College-Based Research Projects

Check out bishopodowd.org/course-catalog for an extensive list.



“I came to O’Dowd with a passion for mathematics and the physical sciences and found this school was a perfect place to expand my interests. Our teachers make learning memorable and fun. They took me from rudimentary geometry to pursuing vector calculus and beyond. Now I’m in Multivariable Calculus and preparing to major in Mechanical Engineering at Cooper Union, a longtime dream of mine.”

—LINCOLN WILLIAMS, 12th Grade



Over
70%
of faculty
hold advanced
degrees

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

- † Academic Coaching (Goal Setting, Organizational Skills)
- † Peer Tutoring
- † S.M.A.R.T Sessions
- † Support for Learning Differences
- † Dragon Success (Group Based Study Skills and Executive Functioning)
- † Academic Support for Student Athletes
- † Final Exam Prep
- † Career Development Counseling

CREATE your path

DYNAMIC FUTURES IN MATH

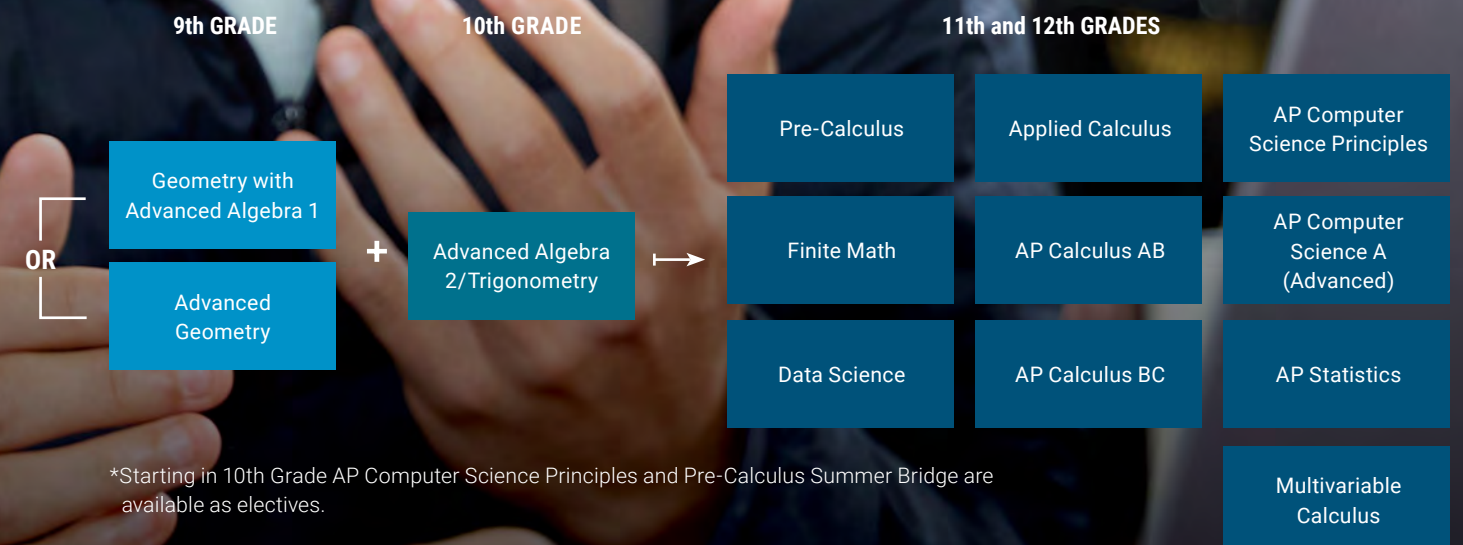
Informed by leading-edge research from the Stanford Graduate School of Education, The University of Chicago, and a growing cadre of mathematicians, data scientists, teachers, and education policy experts, O'Dowd has designed an innovative two-year geometry, algebra and trigonometry course sequence that prepares students to become problem solvers in today's tech and data economy.

We have shifted every student into more advanced math courses that prepare them to pursue their interests in STEAM, business, or social entrepreneurship.

Number of O'Dowd Students Taking AP Math and Computer Science Courses Has More Than Doubled Since 2016



Sequence and Course Offerings*



*Starting in 10th Grade AP Computer Science Principles and Pre-Calculus Summer Bridge are available as electives.



"I have excelled in my math courses at O'Dowd because of the support and resources our teachers provide. You can feel how invested the teachers are in your success. Even though I'm a junior now, my 9th grade math teacher still checks in to encourage me and to let me know that I can always ask for help if I need it. In the future, I would like to major in Biology and minor in Mathematics. I believe in myself because of O'Dowd!"

—KASSIDY COLLINS, 11th Grade

CREATE
your path

**ENGLISH AT O'DOWD:
CREATING LIFELONG READERS, WRITERS
AND THINKERS**

All O'Dowd 9th graders take English 1, grappling together with thought-provoking texts that ask: How do I stand up for what I believe?

Our curriculum hones the strong writing and critical thinking skills that students need to pursue Honors and Advanced Placement Courses.

We deliver differentiated instruction across a broad range of learning styles, supporting students to get excited about literature and push themselves to excel academically.

97%

**2023 AP English
Pass Rate**

41

STUDENTS

**in the Class of 2026 plan
to be the first in their
family to earn a 4-year
degree from a U.S. college
or university**



“I’ve always loved to read, but the English Department at O’Dowd helped me learn to view writing as a craft. In 10th grade Honors English our teacher pushed us to be attentive to nuance and better articulate our opinions, while taking everything we said seriously. I plan to study English in college, bringing everything I learned at O’Dowd with me.”

— RAMONA MCNISH, 11th Grade

DISCOVER your impact

WE BELIEVE that when students find what sparks their curiosity, they discover who they are meant to be and how they may use their gifts to better the world.

From the joy of athletic competition and the creativity of artistic expression and visual/performing arts, to unique clubs and inspiring leadership groups, O'Dowd students discover their strengths, build lasting friendships, and tap into their greater purpose.



“When I first came to O’Dowd in the 9th grade I was shy. But the school community is very welcoming and over time I got more comfortable. I’ve joined Dragon Ambassadors, the Black Student Union, the Athletics Game Operations Team, become a leader on the Track Team, and was selected to be the publicist for the Associated Student Body. I’ve grown as a leader and developed an attitude of kindness and compassion that I will never lose. O’Dowd is a place where you can find yourself and develop your unique identity in a family of students, faculty and staff who support you through the whole journey.”

—CHRISTIAN COLBERT, 11th Grade

DISCOVER your impact



“Latinos Unidos has been a great club for me to connect to the O’Dowd community. I was shy when I first joined in the 9th grade, but by 10th grade my friends gave me the courage to participate in the dances and to help lead events. Now I have so much fun with Latino Unidos! We’ve sold aguas fresca on Cinco de Mayo, choreographed dances, and brought a piñata to the quad for everyone to enjoy. My siblings were part of Latinos Unidos too, and I hope to follow in their footsteps and become one of the presidents by my senior year.”

—SARA TOPETE, 10th Grade

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Academic Co-Curriculars

- † Debate
- † Mock Trial
- † Robotics Team
- † Mathletes
- † Yearbook
- † Student Newspaper
- † Student Literary Journal

Leadership Groups

- † Eco Leaders
- † Solidarity in Action
- † Health and Wellness Leaders
- † Peer Tutoring
- † Campus Ministry Team
- † Associated Student Body
- † Dragon Ambassadors
- † Student Athletic Leadership Team

Clubs

- † Black Student Union
- † Latinos Unidos
- † Italian Club
- † Jewish Club
- † Polynesian Club
- † Desi Club
- † Asian Student Alliance
- † Filipino Club
- † Middle-Eastern Club
- † Unity Club

- † Disney
- † Surf Appreciation
- † Baking
- † Ultimate Frisbee
- † Chess
- † Mountain Biking
- † Computer
- † Dance
- † Dumbledore’s Army
- † Girls Who Code
- † Outdoor Adventure Club
- † Photography
- † Relax and Recuperate

Social Justice

- † Dragon Talks
- † Feminist Club
- † O’Dowd Climate Coalition
- † Bring Change to Mind
- † Women’s Circle
- † IGNITE
- † Bay Area Student Activist Club
- † Activism and Media Club

Athletics

- † Baseball
- † Basketball
- † Cross Country
- † Football

- † Golf
- † Lacrosse
- † Rugby
- † Soccer
- † Softball
- † Swimming
- † Tennis
- † Track and Field
- † Volleyball
- † Water Polo
- † Cheerleading
- † Advanced Athletics
- † Mental Skills Coaching

Visual and Performing Arts

- † Symphonic Band
- † Jazz Band
- † Advanced Jazz Band
- † String Orchestra
- † Chorus
- † Digital Music
- † Drama
- † Dance
- † Photography
- † Ceramics
- † Painting
- † Drawing
- † Computer Arts

THE O'DOWD COMMUNITY WELCOMES YOU

BE CHALLENGED
BE POWERFUL
BE NURTURED
BE SCHOLARLY
BE BOLD
BE FAITHFUL
BE CONNECTED
BE PASSIONATE
BE A CHANGEMAKER
BE JOYFUL

YOU BELONG HERE.



Come take a tour, meet our students, talk with teachers and administrators, visit our website.

bishopodowd.org
Admissions@bishopodowd.org
510.553.8631





Welcome to
O'DOWD
YOU
BELONG
HERE

— HURLEY HALL —



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High School**

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