



**ENRICH** your spirit  
**CREATE** your path  
**DISCOVER** your impact



Bishop O'Dowd  
High School





# Welcome to **O'DOWD!**

We are a college preparatory community, guided by the Catholic educational tradition, to engage students in a rich curriculum that encompasses mind, body and spirit, and emboldens 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 partner with families to support students in discovering their best selves and unlocking their potential and aspirations.

Our holistic academic program, including hands-on learning experiences, challenges students to explore and take risks, uncovering their interests and passions to chart 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  
J.D. Childs

Interim Principal  
Lisa Lomba, Ed.D.





## AT A GLANCE

**1,250**  
Student Body

**20**  
Acre Campus

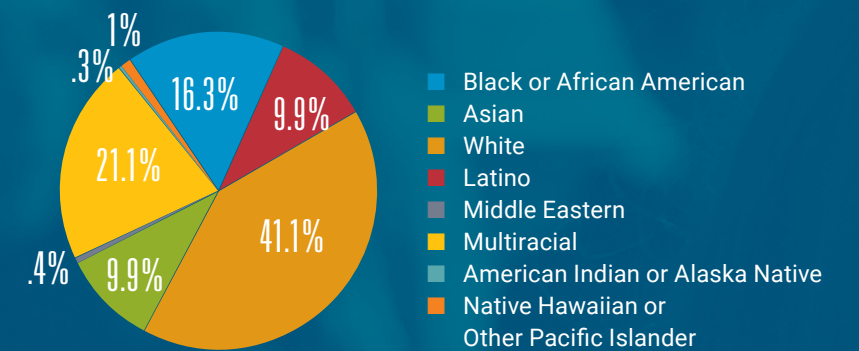
**14:1**  
Teacher/  
Student Ratio

**26**  
Average  
Class Size

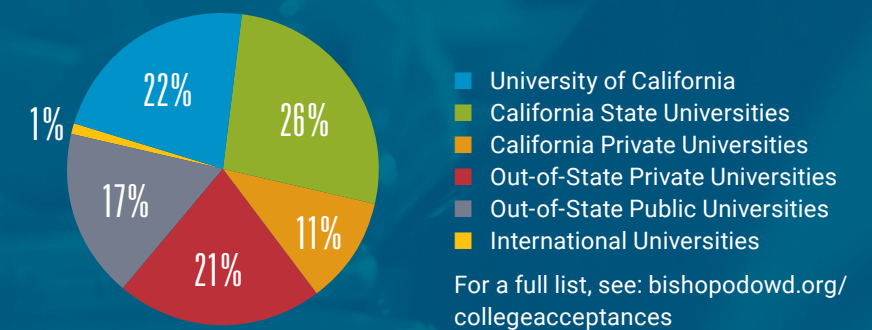
**4**  
Acre Living Lab

**27**  
AP and Honors  
Courses

### Student Ethnicity



### College Acceptances Last 5 Years



For a full list, see: [bishopodowd.org/collegeacceptances](http://bishopodowd.org/collegeacceptances)



# ENRICH your spirit

**AT O'DOWD**, our dynamic connection to the Catholic faith is instilled in every fiber of our community. We offer lively values-based teaching, joyful Masses and faith celebrations, formative retreats for each grade, and a long tradition of engaged service learning. Students of all religious backgrounds form their own, unique connection to O'Dowd's charism of finding God in all things, and support each other to build a community culture grounded in meaning and purpose. 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 equitable, connected world.



# ENRICH your spirit



*“I see faith wherever I go at O’Dowd. I see it when we’re in the Living Lab, caring for creation. I see it when we pray together before a game, and when we see the expressions on the crowd’s faces when we score. I see it when we have food and supplies drives. I see it in the classroom, when we’re learning together. I see faith everywhere, and that’s what builds and strengthens our community.”*

**—YSABELLA, 11th Grade**

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Religion Courses 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
- † 12th Grade Discernment Retreat

### Social Justice and Joy

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



# CREATE your path

**AT O'DOWD**, we are committed to offering students a wide breadth of unique courses and relevant learning opportunities to explore their interests, nurture their passions, and develop their own academic path. Our teachers, alongside our robust college counseling department, create a supportive environment that guides students to think critically, engage their subject material, and bring their learning into the world. We believe strong teaching relationships are the gateway to growth, and O'Dowd students form lasting bonds with their teachers, creating a culture in which students feel safe to take academic risks and ultimately succeed. Our students make an impact in their communities — bringing more justice, joy, and sustainability to our world!



*“ I took Science and the Environment as a freshman. And I really enjoyed that. So the next year I took Biology and Honors Chemistry. And this year I’m taking AP Biology and Environmental Science. It’s cool how we can customize our course load at O’Dowd, because I’ve been able to see how much I like science and to keep exploring that.”*

**—WILLIAM, 11th Grade**



**CREATE**  
your path



## SAMPLE COURSES

- † Experiential Science Research Trips (Galapagos, Costa Rica, Belize, Yosemite, Montana)
- † Marine Biology
- † Introduction to Sports Medicine
- † Computer Science
- † Robotics
- † Engineering Physics
- † 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
- † Race and the Law
- † Holocaust Studies Course and European Historical Site Visit
- † War and Diplomacy in the 20th Century
- † The Contemporary Middle East
- † Black Nationalist Movements
- † 10th and 11th Grade Science and English College-Based Research Projects

*Check out our course catalog for an extensive list*



*“I came to O’Dowd because I could see that the art program was strong. I’m focused on graphic design and painting. My art teachers have given me a lot of freedom to express myself. It’s empowering. I’ve been able to share my work in The Muse, which is the student-edited art and literary journal. My dream career is to work at Pixar and make short films about climate change.”*

**—DORIAN, 11th Grade**



Over  
**75%**  
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





# DISCOVER your impact

**O'DOWD BELIEVES** that when students find what sparks their curiosity, they discover who they are meant to be. We offer inspiring co-curricular programming, from athletics and visual/performing arts, to clubs and leadership groups. Through these opportunities, students explore their interests, discover their individual strengths, build lasting friendships, gain self-confidence, develop strong collaboration and communication skills, and tap into their greater purpose. As students connect to what they care about most, they connect to the greatest, most joyous ways to make a contribution - on our campus and in our society. Our co-curricular programs are designed to ensure that O'Dowd students understand who they are and how they may use their gifts to better the world.



*"I love the opportunities at O'Dowd. My AP Environmental Science course made me passionate about global justice and I got inspired to start a student-led organization called ImpactZ. I'm so proud to see my peers speaking up about the issues that matter to them. Through ImpactZ, I've learned not to be afraid to take risks, and that's made me a stronger leader."*

**—MARY, 11th Grade**



**DISCOVER**  
your impact



*“I’ve learned so much about leadership as the captain for the volleyball team. Before O’Dowd, I didn’t see myself as a leader. But now I know how important it is to be part of something bigger than myself, how it feels to help others. In college, I’m going to study economic and political science. I want to be a progressive politician and give back to my community.”*

—SAM, 11th 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
- † Photography
- † Ceramics
- † Painting
- † Drawing
- † Computer Arts



THE O'DOWD COMMUNITY WELCOMES YOU

BE CHALLENGED  
BE A LEADER  
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](http://bishopodowd.org)

[Admissions@bishopodowd.org](mailto:Admissions@bishopodowd.org)

510.553.8631







LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER

ALL



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