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Welcome to the O’Dowd Community!

We are excited to have your family join our forward-looking community as your student embarks on an O’Dowd college preparatory journey that is a joyful experience with a profound, lasting impact.

An O’Dowd education prepares students to thrive academically and personally. As a Catholic school, we recognize that every student comes to O’Dowd fully equipped to enhance our community. Seeing and serving each student and celebrating their unique story and gifts strengthens our community and the quality of our students’ education. Our outstanding faculty, counselors, coaches, and administrators will help to nurture your student’s success and work with you and your student to address challenges along the way.

As your student makes new friends and engages in the breadth and depth of classes and values-focused programs that reflect the progressive Catholic vision for which O’Dowd is known, they will forge an individual path of self-discovery. They will strengthen their faith, purpose, and talents to be shared for the common good while finding a future and college choice just right for them.

Together, we will continue to find God in all things as your student experiences the joy of an academically excellent, authentically diverse college preparatory community. We look forward to getting to know you and your family and supporting your student on their personal journey.

James Childs, M.A., M.Ed., President

Chris Smart, Ed.D., Principal

UPCOMING EVENT

NAVIGATING O’DOWD

Look for an email and date posted on the Class of 2024 webpage for the scheduled date.

Date/Time: To Be Scheduled

All freshmen and their families are strongly encouraged to attend.

• Meet your classmates, teachers, counselors and coaches
• Learn about student co-curricular activities
• Try on O’Dowd gear to order the right size
• Participate in the parent orientation

Go Dragons!
Class of 2024

Enroll Today to Secure Your Student’s Space

Enroll Online

To secure your student’s space at O’Dowd, please complete the online enrollment contract via your student’s admissions portal under the Enrollment tab and submit the non-refundable $1,100 enrollment fee.

**IMPORTANT:** Please be prepared to enroll online at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2020. We will close the enrollment portal for new student enrollment when we reach capacity.

If you have applied for tuition assistance and have questions regarding your financial aid notification, please contact Nancy MacKinnon in the Business Office at nmackinnon@bishopodowd.org. Please note: The deposit of $1,100 is not reduced by financial aid and should be paid at the time of enrollment.

Ready, Set, Go!

The online enrollment process only takes 30-40 minutes.

Log in to your portal at https://bishopodowd.schooladminonline.com/users/sign_in. Fill out the contract and pay the enrollment deposit. Then complete the remaining checklist items.

To enroll, you will need:

1. Preliminary Course Placement Sheet (received with your decision letter)
2. Family Calendar
3. Health Insurance Information
4. Financial Information

Make Sure You Complete These Additional Steps:

1. Send your student’s California School Immunization Record (with 2020 TB test information; please keep a copy of TB test results) to the main school office, **not Admissions** (by June 7)

2. For athletic participation, please complete the online athletic registration form at http://www.bishopodowd.org/athletic_registration/ (by June 7)
3. If your student was admitted with a summer school requirement, register for the O’Dowd Summer Academy High School Prep program at https://www.bishopodowd.org/summer/prep.php.

4. Request final transcript from current school be sent to the Admissions Office (by June 22)

Make a Counseling Appointment

Scheduling for August family counseling appointments opens at the end of May, and appointments can be scheduled in your admissions portal.

For a complete list of counseling and student support services available during your student’s four-year journey at O’Dowd, please visit our website at http://www.bishopodowd.org/academics/student-support/.

Counseling program questions? Please call (510) 577-9100 x605 or cabdenour@bishopodowd.org

Admissions questions? Please contact our Admissions team at (510) 553-8631 or admissions@bishopodowd.org
Freshmen take seven courses each semester. Please reference the Preliminary Course Schedule sent by email along with the online Course Catalog before enrolling. These resources will support thoughtful decisions about core class schedule and fine arts electives.

Students in the ninth and tenth grade follow a core academic curriculum enhanced by courses in visual and performing arts. In addition to required courses, sophomores are eligible to take Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography, and juniors and seniors choose from a wider range of elective offerings including AP and honors course options as well as independent study. All students must enroll in a minimum of 30 units per semester.

Explore the variety of required courses and wide selection of electives with your student. Read through our online Course Catalog at https://www.bishopodowd.org/pdfs/administrative/Course%20Catalog.pdf
Placement Test Dates

O’Dowd requires placement tests for students seeking placement in classes above Algebra 1, beyond level 1 in a foreign language and placement into our Honors English or English 1 instead of English 1 Intensified. This helps to ensure your student is set up for success.

There is no charge for these placement tests. However, if your student is unable to take one of these scheduled tests for any reason, there is a $50 fee per test to administer them at a later date.

Course Placement Testing

Due to the recent COVID-19 school closure, Course Placement Testing has been suspended and will take place at a later date. Admissions will communicate test dates and times via email to all students who wish to place into a higher level English, Math and World Language.

Math Placement Test

One test for students seeking math placement above Algebra 1.

DATE/TIME: TBD

Algebra 2 Readiness Test

Placement above Geometry with Advanced Algebra

DATE/TIME: TBD

NOTE: By invitation only, for students who pass initial Math Placement Test:

French, Mandarin, Spanish Test

Placement in 2nd or 3rd year of study

DATE/TIME: TBD

Honors English 1 Test

Students seeking placement into Honors English (if you were accepted with Honors, there is no need to register for this test).

DATE/TIME: TBD

English 1 Test

Students seeking placement out of English 1 Intensified and placement into English 1.

DATE/TIME: TBD

Test day information

• Students should report to the lobby of Hurley Hall at least 10 minutes prior to the test time.
• Bring two #2 pencils. Bring pen for English Placement Tests.
• Calculators are not allowed, unless you have a calculator accommodation.
• Student with a diagnosed learning difference will be given time and a half for each exam - testing will conclude at 5:30 p.m. for LD students.
• If your accommodations allow for calculator use, please bring a simple calculator (phones are not allowed and therefore cannot include the calculator on a phone).

Questions? Please contact Darling Vinavong at (510) 577-9100 x316 or dvinavong@bishopodowd.org

Questions? Please contact Darling Vinavong at (510) 577-9100 x316 or dvinavong@bishopodowd.org
Math Assessments

**Math Placement**
Math placement for students who take any math assessment test will be made after considering both the assessment and HSPT scores. The math placement test evaluates students on Algebra 1 skills and concepts derived from the California Common Core Mathematics Standards. Types of questions include integer arithmetic; solving equations; linear equations; systems of equations; exponents and radicals; quadratic equations, including real world applications of these skills/concepts.

The test will consist of multiple choice questions and a few free response questions (word problems). We will provide scantrons and scratch paper. Please bring two #2 pencils. No calculators are allowed.

**Algebra 2/Trig Readiness**
This test is for students who have taken Algebra 1 and Geometry in middle school. It will assess a student’s understanding of algebraic and geometric methods as covered by O’Dowd’s Algebra 1 and Geometry courses. Both courses are derived from the California Common Core Mathematics Standards. A passing score on this test will place students in Honors Algebra 2 and Trigonometry.

Note: Students must take the Math Placement Test before taking this test and prove that they are completing one full year of geometry.
Math Assessment FAQs

My student has completed both high school level algebra and geometry in seventh and eighth grades and is seeking placement into Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry. What do we need to do?

Your student must take the Math Placement Test and the Algebra 2 Readiness Test. The results of these along with High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPT) scores will determine readiness for Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry.

My student has been placed in Math Flex Support, what does that mean?

Students who are admitted with Math Flex Support may opt to take the math placement test to test out of Math Flex Support. If a student does not test out of Math Flex Support they will be required to attend math support during the school year during their flex period. Students who show progress and confidence in their math skills during the school year can place out of Math Flex Support.

What is CORE? My student was admitted into the CORE Program.

CORE (Creating Opportunities to Reinforce Education) placement is determined upon admission to O’Dowd. The CORE program serves students whose HSPT and previous school records suggest that they may benefit from additional support at O’Dowd. These students exhibit academic promise through their application and prior academic record. Students in the program receive targeted support throughout their four years with the most intensive support occurring during freshman year; these supports are tailored to meet each student’s needs.

Students accepted into CORE are required to take English 1 Intensified over the summer and take both English 1 and English 1 Intensified courses during their ninth-grade year. Students can register to take the English 1 Placement test if they would like to place out of English 1 Intensified and into English 1 without the intensified requirement.

Students accepted into Math Flex Support are admitted with a math flex support requirement, meaning they must attend math support during their flex period. They will also be required to take a math diagnostic test in May.

See page 7 for all placement test dates.

Questions? Contact Fran Warmerdam, Counselor at fwarmerdam@bishopodowd.org.
Student Life

Opportunities for exploration, deepening of interests and achievement of excellence at O’Dowd are grounded in college preparatory academics and a wide range of co-curricular offerings.

Health/Wellness The Health and Wellness Program is offered to support the social and emotional growth of the whole student in a community of care. There are four basic areas of focus for Health and Wellness Program: relationship health and wellness, physical health and wellness, mental health and wellness, and community health and wellness.

Students learn about issues related to health and wellness in relationships each year through the Safe Environment curriculum. For freshmen, the Safe Environment curriculum is delivered in the Sexuality and Spirituality course in Religion and focuses on recognizing healthy and unhealthy relationships. The emphasis is placed on the importance of respect for self and others and on the inherent dignity of all human beings.

Students learn about issues related to physical health and wellness through our substance use and abuse prevention efforts. Freshmen learn about the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs through an online course taken as part of the Bishop O’Dowd Week of Welcome.

All students have the opportunity to seek mental health and wellness supports from our School Therapist by self-referral or by speaking to their Counselor.

All students have the opportunity to address issues related to community health and wellness by participating in Dragon Talks which are student-led, faculty and staff-supported conversations that seek to address issues related to the health and wellness of our community. Dragon Talks are hosted and attended with the intention of creating a space where all members of our community feel safe and supported in sharing their thoughts, feelings, and experience.

Advancement of Social and Environmental Justice

Programs that provide opportunities for students to engage in advancing social and environmental justice reflect the moral vision of pursuing the common good at O’Dowd

Service Learning Service Learning is an educational method that deepens understanding about and our response to social justice through hands-on student service experiences within the greater community. Through service experiences that happen locally and beyond, the learning about justice is primary, and serves our Religion department curriculum. Each student completes four projects designed to build life skills as well as knowledge of social justice. This program partners with over 250 organizations annually. Students also may participate in intensive service retreats in other parts of the U.S. and the world.

Solidarity in Action This student club is an empowered group of students who take action to bring forth a socially just and sustainable community. Through solidarity with those who experience injustice, they empower O’Dowd youth to grow as a community of learners and agents of change.
Sustainability The on-campus, four-acre Living Lab ecological study area and adjacent 5,000 square-foot LEED Platinum certified Center for Environmental Studies are highly visible aspects of a deep commitment to sustainability and the development of the next generation of sustainability leaders.

O’Dowd is a leader in the Education for Sustainability movement and a national model of sustainability at the high school level. Sustainability informs all facets of O’Dowd life: campus and operations, curriculum and education with an emphasis on place-based and experiential learning, community engagement and overall culture.

Students actively participate in many sustainability co-curricular offerings including the student action team, Eco-Leaders, which pairs awareness and behavior change campaigns with hands-on stewardship of the Living Lab garden to further progress towards an environmentally sustainable, socially just and economically viable world.

Arts
The arts program at O’Dowd prepares students to excel in a creative and design-driven world. Your student can engage in and strive for excellence in a variety of arts expressions across music, performing and fine arts. From theater, digital music, and ceramics to playing with the Jazz Band, the opportunities for creative expression and learning abound.

Athletics
O’Dowd Athletics has a long-standing tradition of excellence defined by a commitment to supporting participation and skill development in order to achieve at the highest level athletically as well as academically. We field 58 teams across 15 competitive sports with over 700 participating student athletes, including many freshman team opportunities.
Campus Ministry

The Catholic tradition and mission along with the inclusive teachings of Jesus Christ inform O'Dowd’s orientation to our students’ spiritual development and maturation. Students are invited to deepen their faith from their own point of spiritual origin, thereby nurturing and sustaining a diverse community of faith and learning. Campus Ministry and the Religious Studies department align in their goals to ensure that students benefit from a well-integrated spiritual education. Programs include:

**Catholic Faith Enrichment** These opportunities in conjunction with all-school Catholic traditions such as liturgies and the morning prayer enrich Catholic faith at O'Dowd. Opportunities include: Class Masses, retreat Masses, special Masses for student organizations, Lenten Reconciliation Services, drop-in spiritual counseling/direction, weekly drop-in Masses, individual confession upon request and class faith group meetings.

**Retreat Program** O'Dowd’s retreat program offers unique age-appropriate opportunities, from learning how to be part of the O'Dowd community to attending and leading Kairos retreats. These experiences expand our students’ understanding of their faith and their place in our faith community.

**Clubs**

Does your student want to learn how to build robots? Or be a lawyer in mock trial? Are they proud to be Armenian or interested in computer programming? Do they play ultimate Frisbee or do they have the entrepreneurial spirit? Committed to freeing political prisoners? Encourage them to explore one of the many student-run clubs at O'Dowd.

**Debate**

Award-winning, leadership skill building, nationwide traveling — that describes the debate program at O'Dowd (Public Forum, Parliamentary, Lincoln-Douglas, and Policy). Every student is welcome to learn how to compete in the exciting world of debate. Be part of the team that goes to the top tournaments in the country to compete at the highest levels.

**Leadership**

Developing strong leaders is a major focus at Bishop O'Dowd High School. In addition to learning leadership development skills in the classroom, we offer a number of ways students can participate in co-curricular activities that build their confidence while also experiencing the value of giving back to their school, the community and the world. We encourage all students to find leadership-building opportunities that match their interests. Leadership building opportunities include (but are not limited to):

**Campus Ministry Team** The Campus Ministry Team (CMT), a core group of senior leaders, provides leadership in all liturgies and school-wide charity drives and enlivens the faith experiences for fellow students. Peer Ministry is open to all students in each grade so that they can explore their own spirituality, discuss issues relevant to faith and minister to their peers.
**Dragon Ambassadors** Ambassadors are leaders and role models on campus, who introduce prospective students and parents to life at O’Dowd. As an O’Dowd representative, they share their own unique O’Dowd stories which illustrate our positive, inclusive and dynamic learning environment. Being a Dragon Ambassador is a tremendous privilege and responsibility. A cohort of ten juniors and seniors comprise a Captain team which helps to oversee the organization of our Dragon Ambassador program.

**Student Government** The Associated Student Body is led by an elected Executive Council. Every class also has its own elected leadership team. Working together, these students organize events and activities, dances and environmental action and are involved in all school spirit events as well as raising social justice awareness.

**Eco Leaders** The Eco-Leadership Team is an empowered group of Seniors who act to bring forward an environmentally sustainable and just community at O’Dowd and beyond. Eco Leaders act as stewards of the Living Lab, lead Eco Club, organize environmentally themed campus events, and work to implement initiatives that build sustainability on campus as well as in the greater community.

**Solidarity In Action** The Solidarity in Action Leadership team is empowered to grow as a community of learners and agents of change and take action to bring forth a socially just and sustainable community. They serve the community by advocating for and working with marginalized groups in order to leave an impactful legacy that inspires future leaders.

**Health and Wellness Educators** Health and Wellness Educators are a group of Seniors who work collaboratively, both as a group and with other leadership teams, to promote health and wellness within the O’Dowd community. They identify specific health and wellness issues and provide responses to those issues through community awareness campaigns, classroom presentations, assemblies, and individual and group conversations with students, as well as faculty and staff.

**Lead Peer Tutors** Peer Tutoring connects students struggling with homework, projects, studying for tests, and understanding class concepts, with students who have been identified by teachers as knowledgeable, personable, supportive, and enthusiastic about learning. O’Dowd Peer Tutors attend bimonthly trainings to more effectively tutor their peers.

**National Honor Society and California Scholarship Federation**

O’Dowd is proud to be a member school of both the National Honor Society (NHS) and the California Scholarship Federation (CSF). NHS recognizes and honors students throughout the country who exemplify academic excellence, personal character, leadership and service to both school and community. CSF recognizes high standards of scholarship, service and citizenship of students in California. Members of CSF and NHS are recognized at graduation.

Questions? Please visit [http://www.bishopodowd.org](http://www.bishopodowd.org) for details. More information will also be available at Navigating O’Dowd with date/time TBD (see page 3 for details).
Academic Support

O’Dowd addresses student academic performance challenges during their time as Dragons through a layered system of resources and support that is carefully designed and personalized. We believe that students succeed when they are supported by a collaborative program that includes structured communication between the home and school and a concerted case management approach involving all stakeholders, including teachers, coaches, academic support staff and counselors.

Drop-in Tutoring
Staffed by adult and peer tutors, drop-in tutoring is available for all subjects.
Academic Support Center hours: Monday through Friday before and after school as well as during Flex periods, and from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Academic Coaching
Academic coaching is a program available to 11th and 12th graders by referral. Candidates come from the bi-weekly list of students at risk of academic probation. Students have access to an academic coach to strengthen organization, time management, self-advocacy, and study skills.

SMART Sessions
These sessions are subject-area specific, teacher-led study groups held before and after school. Participating students commit to a fixed schedule.

Dragon Success
Dragon Success is O’Dowd’s academic coaching program for 9th and 10th graders. Students work closely with an academic coach who provides help transitioning into high school. Students work on goal setting, organizational skills, planning and time management, effective communication and self-advocacy.

SSA (Support for Student-Athletes)
Student athletes receive grade monitoring, communication with coaches and personal check-ins as needed. This helps students adhere to demanding practice schedules while meeting the academic rigor of our college preparatory curriculum.

Catch-up Support
This support is available for back-to-school transitions following concussion, medical leave or other extended absences.

Questions? Visit the Student Support section bishopodowd.org/academics/student-support/ or contact:

Catherine Harris, Director of Academic Support, x334 or charris@bishopodowd.org
Malik McCord, Academic Support Liaison, x114 or mmccord@bishopodowd.org
Counseling

At the heart of the O’Dowd experience is the relationship that O’Dowd students develop with their counselors and the outcomes that this relationship supports. O’Dowd’s skilled, experienced and caring counselors develop individualized relationships with students, meeting them where they are and empowering them to become their best selves. Each student is assigned a counselor who partners with them and their family throughout their four years at O’Dowd. Within this personally tailored relationship, counselors apply an integrated approach, addressing academic, college and career and personal needs. This holistic approach ensures that students find their place in high school and beyond as they are supported in developing their talents, identifying and responding to challenges, building resiliency and developing competencies.

The Counseling Department’s career services support student growth and development, equipping students with self-awareness, and the personal and professional skills that will benefit them during high school and in life. From how to shake hands and make a strong first impression as freshmen to crafting resumes and preparing for college applications as juniors and seniors, students advance and explore their individual skills, interests, and personalities so they can leave O’Dowd prepared for the opportunities that lie ahead.

Questions? Contact cabdenour@bishopodowd.org
LD/ADHD Services

We believe that intellectual and cognitive diversity enriches our campus community. We welcome students from a broad spectrum of learning profiles and provide resources that allow students to contribute fully to our school.

O’Dowd LD/ADHD services are designed to support students with documented learning disabilities and/or attention deficit through a team-based approach. A full-time specialized counselor coordinates LD/ADHD services. Prior to the start of ninth grade, the counselor meets with each student and family to create an Educational Care Plan outlining student strengths, relative weaknesses and accommodations to the educational environment.

Accommodations Include:

- Preferential seating
- Extended time on teacher–designed assessments and assignments
- Use of laptop/computer for written output
- Text-to-speech resources (for example, audio files of books)

Our LD/ADHD Services Encompass:

- An interface for close collaboration between students, their families and the school
- Design and documentation of appropriate and feasible accommodations
- Referrals and consultation regarding psycho-educational and related evaluations
- Facilitation of requests for accommodations on standardized tests such as the SAT or ACT
- Support and counseling for the application and transition process to college

Questions? Please contact Juliet Arechiga, LD/ADHD Counselor, x618 or jarechiga@bishopodowd.org.
Tuition Information

We are mindful of the investment that you are making in your student’s education. Here are the costs to attend Bishop O’Dowd High School during the 2020-2021 school year and payment options:

- **Tuition** $20,900
- **Enrollment Deposit** (non-refundable; not reduced by financial aid) $1,100
- **Total** $22,000

Additional expenses may be incurred for technology, books, and the Parent Pledge contribution, as well as for optional student activities such as athletics, co-curricular clubs, and student programs.

Please remit your student’s $1,100 deposit during online enrollment to complete your contract.

**Tuition Payment Options**

- **Annual** — Paying your tuition balance in full by July 17, 2020
  
  A $20,900 tuition payment by check will be mailed to the school’s lockbox address, due on July 1, 2020 and considered late if not received by July 17, 2020. Complete annual tuition payment instructions will be mailed to families in June.

- **Semester** — Paying your tuition balance in two payments, the first is due July 1, 2020, and the second is due December 1, 2020.
  
  A $10,450 semester tuition payment by check will be mailed to the school’s lockbox address, due on July 1, 2020 and considered late if not received by July 17, 2020. The second semester payment of $10,450 will be due on December 1, 2020 and considered late if not received by December 17, 2020. Complete semester tuition payment instructions will be mailed to families in June.

- **Monthly** — Paying your tuition balance in 10 installments beginning in July 2020 and ending in April 2021 through Smart Tuition. The monthly due date is specified at Smart Tuition registration.
  
  Families must register with Smart Tuition for monthly tuition processing. An annual fee of $50 to Smart Tuition is combined with the first monthly tuition payment due in July. Families will pay tuition of $2,090 per month beginning in July 2020 and ending in April of 2021. Enroll at [www.enrollwithsmart.com](http://www.enrollwithsmart.com) with school code 11912.

Questions? Please contact Nancy MacKinnon, x171 or nmackinnon@bishopodowd.org.
WE ALL BRING A GIFT TO THE TABLE
Parent Pledge Program

Making the Difference

Your participation in the parent pledge program makes all the difference!

What is the parent pledge program?

All families are asked to make a four-year, tax-deductible pledge to the Parent Pledge Program to maintain an excellent O’Dowd education and bridge the gap between the actual cost to educate your student and tuition charged. Your pledge directly supports an enriched high school experience for your student by providing funding for:

- Dedicated and talented teachers;
- Small class sizes;
- Award-winning programs – such as debate, drama, athletics;
- Enriching campus ministry program;
- Expanded counseling center and comprehensive academic support;

Why is there a parent pledge program?

Tuition and fees cover 89% of the cost to educate your student at O’Dowd. In order to provide a transformative education, we depend on the generosity of parents, grandparents, and friends to help close the gap between tuition and the actual cost of an O’Dowd education. The Parent Pledge Program is an essential element of our fundraising efforts and ensures the highest quality education for your student.
What are the pledge levels and payment options?

During enrollment, you will be asked to select the commitment level that works best for you:

- $175 monthly ($2,100 annually)
- $250 monthly ($3,000 annually)
- $417 monthly ($5,000 annually)
- $834 monthly ($10,000 annually)

We offer monthly, semiannual, and annual direct debit payment options.

If you are unable to participate at one of these levels, please schedule a one-on-one meeting, during the enrollment process, to discuss your participation. (One-on-one Parent Pledge meetings will take place on April 28, 29, 30, and May 2.)

I receive tuition assistance, do I still need to participate?

Families who qualify for tuition assistance are asked to support the Parent Pledge Program at a level in line with their particular financial situation.

Can my friends and family pay my pledge on our behalf?

Yes. Please contact Karolyin Cherryhomes, in the Advancement Office, at (510) 577-9100 x304 or kcherryhomes@bishopodowd.org to make arrangements.

Can I pay my pledge through a matching gift program?

Matching gifts serve as an additional way to support your student’s education and we appreciate your efforts in making your gifts go further through these programs. However, O’Dowd does not credit gifts made from employee matching gift programs toward your annual pledge.

Please give as generously as you can to ensure the ongoing quality of an O’Dowd education for your students and their peers.

Thank you for your support!

Questions? If you have any questions about the Parent Pledge Program, please visit https://www.bishopodowd.org/admissions/parent-pledge-program/ or contact: Marta Grajeda, Development Manager, at (510) 577-9100 x288 or mgrajeda@bishopodowd.org.
1:1 Laptop Program at O’Dowd

All students are required to have an approved laptop to complement the educational experience at O’Dowd.

Incoming students may:

• Purchase a school-distributed Toshiba laptop or
• Bring a school-approved Windows or Mac laptop.

It is highly recommended that students acquire an extended warranty (ex: AppleCare, GeekSquad, etc.). When you purchase the school-distributed laptop or AppleCare for the Mac, your student will have on-site hardware support. Software support is provided only for course-related software programs.

All new students must:

• Sign the O’Dowd New Student Laptop Contract. Located in the online enrollment process.
• Select a Laptop Option. Located in the online enrollment process.
• Attend Tech Check. This is a laptop drop-off/pick-up process during the summer in which the Technology Department activates O’Dowd credentials, installs school-related programs, and makes sure the laptop meets minimum specifications.
• Bring Laptop and Charger to Frosh Orientation.

Questions? For more information about minimum laptop specifications and Tech Check please visit our Technology page at bishopodowd.org/academics/technology/ or email Stephanie Hwang at techsupport@bishopodowd.org.
Transportation, Dress Code, Cafeteria

How to Get Here

Carpools
With students commuting to and from O’Dowd from over 30 different cities, you may be interested in finding a carpool for your student. Find-A-Carpool is a new parent carpool system now being used by O’Dowd. In order to access this parent carpool network, you must:

• Use a Google account (an existing one, create a new one, or set-up a non-Google account as a Google account) to request membership into this group.
• Upon approval, select the city of interest to connect with other parents in the network.

Check out the online instructions to get started. https://bod.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360017871253.

Student parking permits are available only to seniors. Contact Gary Mason at x155 or gmason@bishopodowd.org for more information.

Parking
To complement our campus-wide sustainability efforts, we encourage students to carpool or take public transportation. We provide on-campus parking spaces reserved for seniors. There are additional free parking spaces near our school entrance and in or adjacent to our lower lot.

AC transit
There are two chartered bus lines to/from O’Dowd that serve our students:

• Route 682 starts in Rockridge and runs the length of the Highway 13 corridor.
• Route 680 runs along MacArthur Boulevard from Lakeshore Avenue.

BART
O’Dowd provides free and convenient transportation for students and staff on an O’Dowd shuttle bus to and from campus and the San Leandro BART Station.

Youth Clipper Card
Students can apply for Youth Clipper Cards and receive a discount off of adult fares. Visit the Clipper Card website https://www.clippercard.com/ClipperWeb/discounts/youth.do for more information.

For all transportation information, including schedules and signing up for the shuttle service, use the Getting Here link in the My O’Dowd section at bishopodowd.org.
What to Wear

At O’Dowd, we wear our name proudly—on our polo shirts, sweatshirts and club T-shirts. Our dress code emphasizes that the way we look positively impacts the way we feel: proud to be Dragons.

And, we make it easy!

• Approved O’Dowd polo and O’Dowd outerwear available exclusively at the Dragon Den
• Clean (no holes) pants, jeans, khakis, shorts to the knees, long skirts
• Shoes with backs or back straps

To receive your order for the start of the school year, we recommend placing your order by June 1.

For information and to place orders, visit the online Dragon Den Store in the Students & Parents portal under My O’Dowd at bishopodowd.org.

Where to Eat

Epicurean Group, dedicated to sustainable dining, manages our Cafeteria. This means locally produced, natural foods for delicious meals! Grass-fed or Niman Ranch beef. Eggs from cage-free raised chickens. Seasonal menus—sometimes with vegetables from our Living Lab!

Breakfast and lunch are provided every school day for easy purchase at our Cafeteria with student meal cards.

For information and menus, visit the Students & Parents portal under My O’Dowd at bishopodowd.org.
FAQs

Please visit www.bishopodowd.org for more information about topics addressed here.

What is the deadline for sending final 8th-grade transcripts?

O’Dowd requires that all final 8th-grade transcripts be sent to the school by June 22. Please contact Admissions at admissions@bishopodowd.org with any questions or concerns.

What occurs at the parent education meetings?

Parent education meetings address teen choices and decision-making regarding health and safety issues. All parents/guardians are required to attend one session each year in order for students to participate in school activities.

What is PowerSchool?

What is Schoology?

O’Dowd provides online access to grades. Parents and students may check progress as teachers update grades through PowerSchool. Schoology is the learning management system and provides an online complement to your student’s classes. Course homework, review sheets, and assignments are examples of resources posted on the Schoology site.

How do I contact teachers?

You are encouraged to contact teachers at any time to partner with them on your student’s progress. Teachers are available through email or voicemail (all teacher contact information is posted on the school website). You can expect a response within 48 hours. You will have the opportunity to meet your student’s teachers at Back-to-School Night in early September (see next question).

Why should I attend Back-to-School Night?

Back-to-School Night offers an opportunity to “walk in your student’s shoes” as parents move through classrooms and meet teachers based on their student’s course schedule. Each teacher makes a short presentation on course expectations and policies.

May I request a meeting with a teacher?

Parents are invited to schedule conferences with teachers at any time during the school year.

How do I know which counselor is assigned to my student?

Counselors are assigned alphabetically by your student’s last name. You can locate your student’s counselor assignment on the Counseling page at www.bishopodowd.org.

May my student request a particular teacher?

Student schedules and teachers are determined by the course choices indicated on the Preliminary Course Schedule. Students may not select particular teachers.
What is the Academic Support Center?
The Academic Support Center is located next to the library and is where students can receive support. We offer free tutoring and academic coaching before, during, and after school.

May my student take finals at a time other than the scheduled finals week?
Since finals are an important aspect of your student’s grade, please plan your vacations accordingly as students are not allowed to take exams outside of finals week.

What can I find on the school website?
The school website, www.bishopodowd.org, offers up-to-date information on all aspects of the school. Please contact webmaster@bishopodowd.org with website questions.

Where do I find the school rules and policies?
The school rules and policies are documented for parents and students in the Student-Family Handbook and the Student Planner. An electronic version of the handbook is available on our school website under the Students & Parents portal under My O’Dowd.

What do I need to do if my student is sick?
Please email the attendance office at attendance@bishopodowd.org or call (510) 553-8691 between 8-9:30 a.m. on the day of the absence.

What is the dress code?
Dress code policy is explained above on page 24 as well as in the Students & Parents portal under My O’Dowd.

Where do I access the School Calendar?
The School Calendar is accessed through the homepage of the school website (upper right corner).

How can my student get involved in freshman retreats?
Freshmen will be excused from school to attend a required day-long retreat with their whole class on October 16. The follow-up to the retreat is “Peer Ministry,” an optional faith sharing group. Visit Campus Ministry http://www.bishopodowd.org/faith-justice/campus-ministry/ for more information.
What types of clubs are available for my student?

There are more than 50 student-run school clubs available for your student to join that include academic, social, and sports-related activities. Students can also form their own clubs in areas that they are interested in. Encourage your student to check out the clubs at the O’Dowd Club Fair in September during lunch.

What is Spirit Week?

Chances are you will hear a lot about our famous Spirit Week. This week highlights school pride through a variety of activities. Expect talk about dress-up days, the Night Rally, dance, hall decorations and the Olympics.

What is service learning?

Service learning, an applied, educational method that meets a real need both in the community and in the classroom, integrates student volunteer service with reflection and classroom connections.

At O’Dowd, our four-year Service Learning program focuses on social justice. At agencies around the world, students foster relationships with those most marginalized and thereby gain a personal understanding of the Christian call to reach out to those “on the edges.” Each student completes a total of four Service Learning projects and graduates with a minimum of 100 hours of service.

How many service-learning hours are required for graduation?

Our Service Learning program is project-based: four projects that build on each other. Across four years students engage in a minimum of 100 hours of service.

How can I support my student’s O’Dowd experience by getting involved?

There are many ways to support your student’s O’Dowd experience and to get involved. The Dragon Parents Group is an excellent way to meet other parents and to support your student’s experiences at O’Dowd. From fundraising to parent education nights, formal volunteer commitments to opportunistic ones, please visit the Dragon Parents Group section of the website or email dragonparents@bishopodowd.org with questions.

What is Flex Period?

Flex Period provides students with the time and space that supports their development as well-rounded persons. Flex Period http://www.bishopodowd.org/what-is-a-flex-period/ can be used in a wide variety of ways. We encourage you to work with your child to think through how to make best use of that time.
The Classroom Building contains almost all of the classrooms at O’Dowd. Rooms are numbered sequentially from west to east.

Hurley Hall is the heart of O’Dowd. The main office as well as the principals’ and deans’ offices are located here. Rooms 22-25 are located on the second floor.

The Student Center houses the cafeteria and student lounge. It looks out on the Quad.

Dominican Hall is home to Campus Ministry, Counseling, Academic Support and the Business Office.

Cummins Center houses the president’s office, Admissions, Advancement and Marketing/Communications.
Key Contacts

MAIN: (510) 577-9100
EMAIL: FirstInitialLastName@bishopodowd.org
For a complete listing, visit the school directory under My O’Dowd at bishopodowd.org.

School

PRINCIPAL
Christopher Smart  x175
Principal
Hurley Hall

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPALS
Brian Judd  x166
(Campus Ministry/Activities)
Dominican Hall
Tanya Susoev  x176
(Academics)
Hurley Hall
Jase Turner  x143
(Student Life-Academic Support, Athletics, Summer Academy)
Hurley Hall

ACADEMIC SUPPORT
Catherine Harris  x334
Director
Dominican Hall

ATHLETICS (Dominican Hall)
Carlos Reed
Director
Hillary Kigar  x119
Assistant Director

CAMPUS MINISTRY
Mary Hicken  x165
Director
Dominican Hall

RETREATS
Karen Yavorsky  x241
Retreat Coordinator

SUSTAINABILITY / SERVICE LEARNING
Michael Downs  x233
Director

COUNSELING SERVICES
x605
Dominican Hall

DEANS
Gary Mason  x155
Shannon Donahue ‘95  x192
Hurley Hall

FOOD SERVICE
Vince DiPietro, General Manager
vince@epicurean-group.com

LIBRARY
Annette Counts  x187
Librarian
Hurley Hall Library

O’DOWD SUMMER ACADEMY
summeracademy
@bishopodowd.org

PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
Briana Loewinsohn x314
Chair

PLACEMENT TESTS
Darling Vinavong  x316
Academic Coordinator
Hurley Hall

RECORDS & TRANSCRIPTS
Chris Abdenour  x605
Registrar
Dominican Hall

SECURITY
Mike Dixon  x705
Campus Security Coordinator
Cummins Center

STUDENT ACTIVITIES
Starr Gray ‘98  x111
Director
Hurley Hall

TECHNOLOGY
techsupport@bishopodowd.org
Classroom Building

TUITION PAYMENTS
Nancy MacKinnon  x171
Dominican Hall

Administration

(Cummins Center)

PRESIDENT
James D. Childs x112
Elizabeth Herp, Assistant to the President x335

ADMISSIONS
Kerryn Pincus, Director x603
Moire Bruin, Associate Director x333
Tricia Bevilacqua, Admissions Associate x253

DEVELOPMENT (fundraising and alumni relations)
Rebecca Bischoff, Chief Development Officer x308
Tracey Broadhead Frith, Capital Campaign Director x126
Michelle Hawkins, Director of Development x301
LizaDawn Ramirez, Director of Alumni Engagement & Philanthropy x317
Marta Grajeda, Development Manager x288

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
Shannon Cabral,
Senior Director Marketing and Communications x147
Lisa Lomba  Communications Director x332
Vincent Jurgens
webmaster@bishopodowd.org