Welcome to O’Dowd!

We are excited to have you join our forward-looking community as you embark on your O’Dowd journey - a college preparatory education enriched by uniquely joyful community life experiences.

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 our students and celebrating their unique stories and gifts strengthens learning and joy for all in our community. Our outstanding faculty, counselors, coaches, and staff will help to nurture your success and support you through any challenges along the way.

As you make new friends and engage in the breadth and depth of classes and values-focused programs that reflect the progressive Catholic vision for which O’Dowd is known, you will forge an individual path of self-discovery. You will find ways to strengthen your faith, purpose, and talents for the common good while finding a future and college choice just right for you.

Together, we will pursue the joy of an academically excellent, authentically diverse learning community enhanced by exceptional co-curricular experiences in athletics, arts, faith, clubs, leadership, and more. We look forward to getting to know your family and supporting you on your personal journey.

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

Lisa Lomba, Ed.D., Interim Principal 2021-2022

UPCOMING EVENT

NAVIGATING O’DOWD

May 8, 2021 | Time TBD

All freshmen and their families are strongly encouraged to participate.

The Class of 2025 webpage will have updates.

GO DRAGONS!
Class of 2025

Enroll and Secure Your Space Today

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 20, 2021. 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 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 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 the end of June.
3. We encourage you to enroll in the O’Dowd Summer Academy High School Prep program to help you prepare for O’Dowd at https://www.bishopodowd.org/summer/prep.php.

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

Admissions questions? Please contact our Admissions team at (510) 553-8631 or admissions@bishopodowd.org

Make a Counseling Appointment

Scheduling for August family counseling appointments will open before June, 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
O’Dowd Academics

Ninth Grade Requirements & Electives

Ninth graders take seven courses each semester. Please reference the Preliminary Course Schedule sent to you by email along with the online Course Catalog before enrolling. These resources will support thoughtful decisions about your 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 bishopodowd.org/courseguide
Diagnostic and Placement Test Dates

With students coming to O’Dowd from more than 100 middle schools across the Bay Area each year, we want to ensure that all students in the Class of 2025 and beyond are set up for academic success with appropriate challenge and support.

O’Dowd requires placement and diagnostic tests for students in Math and English and offers an assessment for advanced placement in World Languages (French, Mandarin and Spanish). Tests will be administered online this year to protect the health and safety of all. Exercising personal integrity in the test-taking process ensures all students’ skills are accurately assessed for appropriate challenge, support, and success at O’Dowd.

We recognize that this past year in remote learning for many has presented challenges to student learning and skill development. With the uneven experience students have had this year in learning, we encourage those seeking additional preparation to take advantage of O’Dowd’s Summer Academy High School Prep program.

There is no charge for these placement tests; however, if your student is unable to take the scheduled tests, there is a $50 fee per test to administer them at a later date.

Algebra 1 Diagnostic & Algebra 2/Trigonometry Readiness (required)

**Tuesday, April 13, 4-5:00pm (5:30 end time for students with accommodations)**

Students who have not yet taken Algebra and Geometry will take a diagnostic test to support their success in our first-year Advanced Algebra 1/Geometry course.

Students who have already taken a full year of Algebra and a full year of Geometry in middle school will take an Algebra 2/Trigonometry readiness test to assess whether advancement to this course is appropriate.

French, Mandarin, or Spanish 2nd/3rd-Year Readiness (optional)

**Wednesday, April 14, 4-5:00pm (5:30 end time for students with accommodations)**

These tests assess students for placement in 2nd or 3rd year courses. If students are taking first-year courses or have not taken a foreign language in middle school, they do not need to take this test.

English 1, Diagnostic and Honors English Readiness (required)

**Thursday, April 15, 4-5:00pm (5:30 end time for students with accommodations)**

Assessment to evaluate skills and placement for English 1 or Honors English.

Questions, inquiries about make-up tests? Please contact Admissions at admissions@bishopodowd.org
English And Math Course Sequence

Math Sequence

Our new sequence for math courses was developed to ensure that we are able to meet all students where they are as well as challenge and equip them for college and the dynamic future that awaits them.

Effective Fall 2021, all incoming ninth grade students will be placed into Geometry with Advanced Algebra 1. The class provides a thorough geometry foundation interconnected with fundamental algebra concepts. In tenth grade, students will take Algebra 2 with Trigonometry. Students’ math experience will include this two-year algebra block, integrated with geometry and trigonometry as well as data science. In eleventh and twelfth grade, students will select their remaining courses, whether those are more focused on data science or a traditional calculus experience. This effective, equitable model will equip all students with an excellent foundation in mathematics. We have included articles below that address how this innovative approach and sequence in mathematics promotes student learning and preparation for the future.

This sequence allows our teachers to differentiate instruction and to appropriately challenge each student. We will have robust opportunities for extra algebra support as well as additional challenges based on students’ needs. Though unusual, if incoming ninth graders demonstrate conceptual mastery of both a full year of Algebra 1 and Geometry, they may be eligible to take Algebra 2 with Trigonometry in ninth grade; students who have taken one year each of Algebra I and Geometry are eligible to take this placement test for advancement.

Learn more

Stanford University: Bringing math class into the data age
Wall Street Journal: The movement to modernize math class
Freakonomics and Stanford Professor Jo Boaler on “the Geometry sandwich”

English Sequence

Similar to our decision to create a sequence for math that provides support and challenge and meets all students where they are, all ninth grade students will take a diagnostic test to assess their readiness for Honors English as well as their need for additional support and challenge during their first year at O’Dowd. To be clear, no students will be automatically placed in Honors English based on HSPT scores as was our past practice.

We reached this decision in order to provide all incoming students with the most accurate placement, with support and challenge based on their needs. We very much look forward to using diagnostic and Honors readiness testing for English students so that we can best see and serve our students.

Questions? Contact Carlos Trujillo, Math & Computer Science Department Chairperson at ctrujillo@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 key areas of focus for the Health and Wellness Program:

**Relationships** Students learn about healthy relationships each year through the Safe Environment curriculum. For freshmen, the Safe Environment curriculum is taught in the Sexuality and Spirituality course, which emphasizes respect for self and others as well as the inherent dignity of all human beings.

**Physical Health** Freshmen learn about the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs through an online course taken as part of the Week of Welcome.

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

**Community Health** 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

We are proud to offer opportunities for students to engage in advancing social and environmental justice, reflecting our commitment to the common good.

**Service Learning** Service Learning deepens students’ understanding of social justice through hands-on service in the greater community. Through local, national, and international service experiences, service supports and strengthens student work in Religious Studies courses. Through O’Dowd partnerships with more than 250 organizations, each student completes four projects designed to build life skills as well as knowledge of social justice.

**Solidarity in Action** Through this club students take action to bring forth a socially just, 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 and adjacent 5,000 square-foot LEED Platinum certified Center for Environmental Studies present unique, hands-on learning that supports the next generation of sustainability leaders.

O’Dowd is a leader in high school sustainability programs, with a wrap-around commitment to “kinship with creation.” We proudly offer exceptional experiential education with an emphasis on place-based learning and engagement through the Living Lab. All learning in the Living Lab supports an environmentally sustainable, socially just and economically viable future for all.
Visual and Performing Arts

The arts program at O’Dowd prepares students to excel in a creative and design-driven world. Students engage in creative expression and learning through robust offerings in performing and visual arts including music, theater, ceramics, painting, drawing, computer arts, and more.

Athletics

Dragon Athletics has a longstanding tradition of excellence. Coaches and teams are committed to excellence and strength in athletics, academics, and character. With more than 50 teams across 16 competitive sports - including many freshman teams - Dragon Athletics offer many opportunities to compete, learn, and grow.

Campus Ministry

O’Dowd is committed to programs that develop students’ spiritual life and faith through the inclusive teachings of Jesus Christ. Students are invited to deepen their faith from their own point of spiritual origin, thereby enriching a diverse community of faith and learning. Campus Ministry and the Religious Studies departments work together to ensure a well-integrated spiritual education. Programs include:

Catholic Faith Enrichment These opportunities, along 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, confession upon request, and class faith group meetings.

Retreat Program O’Dowd’s retreat offerings are unique, age-appropriate opportunities that strengthen belonging in the O’Dowd community and include participating in and
leading Kairos retreats. These experiences expand each student’s understanding of their faith and their place in our faith community.

Clubs
Do you want to learn how to build robots? Or be a lawyer in mock trial? Are you proud to be Jewish or interested in computer programming? Do you play ultimate frisbee or have an entrepreneurial spirit? Committed to freeing political prisoners? Explore one of more than 60 student-run clubs at O'Dowd.

Debate
Award-winning, leadership skill-building, nationwide traveling — these describe 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 participates in top tournaments in the U.S. and compete at the highest levels.

Leadership
Developing strong leaders is a central focus at O'Dowd. You will certainly develop leadership skills through various class, co-curricular, and service projects as you go through your four years. As you grow at O'Dowd, you will identify those areas for which you have special passion and may seek to lead in special areas:

**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. Freshmen are welcome to apply to become an Ambassador. Ambassadors share their unique O'Dowd stories. Being a Dragon Ambassador is a tremendous privilege and responsibility. A Captain team of juniors and seniors lead the Dragon Ambassador program.

**Student Government** Be a class leader! Every class has elected representatives who help to organize events and activities, dances, social justice and environmental action, and school spirit events. Serve your class and strive to join the Associated Student Body and its Executive Council, comprising 11th and 12th graders.

**Eco Leaders** The Eco-Leadership Team, made up of seniors, promote 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** Solidarity in Action is a community of senior learners and agents of change who take action to bring forth a socially just, sustainable community and world. They serve 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  Lead Peer Tutors are 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students. This team is a carefully selected group of dedicated tutors who have shown excellent leadership and service to their peers and fellow tutors. To begin the year, Lead Peer Tutors partake in an Advanced Leaders Retreat to help prepare them for their leadership role. Throughout each semester, Lead Peer Tutors create and administer several training sessions for peer tutors to develop their skills and guide them to be effective resources for students. This dedicated and responsible group of students are an asset to the Bishop O’Dowd Academic Support Department.

Student-Athlete Leadership Team (SALT)  SALT brings together senior O’Dowd athletes from across sports for a year-long class. The class focuses on exploration of individual student-athlete identity, identification and development of personal leadership skills, empowerment of the student-athlete voice, engagement and involvement within the O’Dowd community and Oakland, reflection on youth sport experience, and preparation for life beyond O’Dowd.

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 bishopodowd.org for details. More information will also be available at Navigating O’Dowd May 8, 2021.
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.

Peer Connect
This program connects students struggling with homework, projects, and study skills with peer tutors identified by teachers as knowledgeable, supportive, and enthusiastic about learning. These tutors receive regular training to effectively support their peers.

Questions? Visit the Student Support section at bishopodowd.org/academics/student-support/ or contact: Catherine Harris, Director of Academic Support, x334 or charris@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 neurodiversity 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. Students are supported through educational counseling as well as focused skill intervention and maintenance within O’Dowd’s Academic Support Program as applicable, and through targeted accommodations. Prior to the start of ninth grade, the counselor meets with each student and family to create an Educational Care Plan outlining student strengths, areas for growth, 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 2021-2022 school year and payment options:

- $21,300  Tuition
- $ 1,100  Enrollment Deposit (non-refundable; not reduced by financial aid)

$22,400  Total

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 16, 2021
  
  A $21,300 tuition payment by check will be mailed to the school’s lockbox address, due on July 1, 2021 and considered late if not received by July 16, 2021. 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, 2021, and the second is due December 1, 2021.
  
  A $10,650 semester tuition payment by check will be mailed to the school’s lockbox address, due on July 1, 2021 and considered late if not received by July 16, 2021. The second semester payment of $10,650 will be due on December 1, 2021 and considered late if not received by December 16, 2021. Complete semester tuition payment instructions will be mailed to families in June.

- **Monthly** — Paying your tuition balance in 10 installments beginning in July 2021 and ending in April 2022 through Smart Tuition. The monthly due date is specified at Smart Tuition registration.
  
  Families must register with Smart Tuition for monthly tuition processing by March 28, 2021. An annual fee of $50 to Smart Tuition is combined with the first monthly tuition payment due in July. Families will pay tuition of $2,130 per month beginning in July 2021 and ending in April of 2022. Enroll at www.enrollwithsmart.com with school code 11912.

Questions? Please contact Nancy MacKinnon, x171 or nmackinnon@bishopodowd.org.
Parent Pledge Program

Your Support Makes A 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, for each of their students, 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;
• Campus improvement projects;
• 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 May 4, 5, and 6.)

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 Karolyn 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 13” MacBook Air or
- Bring a school-approved Windows or Mac laptop. Chromebooks and Linux devices will not be sufficient for all classes.

It is highly recommended that students acquire an extended warranty (ex: AppleCare, GeekSquad, etc.). Families who purchase the school-distributed MacBook Air will have the 2-year AppleCare+ warranty and will receive 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 process during the summer in which students will activate O’Dowd credentials and install school-related programs.
- Bring Laptop and Charger to Frosh Orientation. (TBD)

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

How to Get Here

Car
To complement our campus-wide sustainability efforts, we encourage students to take public transportation. We provide on-campus parking spaces reserved for seniors with additional first come, first serve parking near our school entrance and in 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.html for more information.

For all transportation information, including schedules and signing up for the shuttle service, visit https://www.bishopodowd.org/getting-here/
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, intact jeans, dress slacks, or khakis, shorts to the knees
- 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. The link is also on 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, 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 events?
Parent education events 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. Parents may also access the parent directory via 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 Schoology.

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 directory.). 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).

What is 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. It is a great night for parents to meet teachers and see one another.

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?
Because 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 public aspects of the school. Please contact webmaster@bishopodowd.org with website questions.

Where do I find the school schedule?
Weekly schedules and updates are available on the school calendar located on the O’Dowd website and in the Student Planner distributed to students at Orientation.

Where can 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 23 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 any page 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 in the Fall. The follow-up to the retreat is “Peer Ministry,” an optional faith sharing group. Visit Campus Ministry 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 held in September.
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 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 and both formal and informal volunteer opportunities, 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 well-rounded development. It can be used in a wide variety of ways - homework, academic support, teacher/counselor meetings, or simply as a time to recharge. 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, Athletics, Business Office, and Marketing/Communications.

Cummins Center houses the President's office, Admissions, Alumni, and Development.
Key Contacts

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

School

PRINCIPAL
Lisa Lomba
Interim Principal
llomba@bishopodowd.org

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPALS
Kevin Dineen x143
(Academics)
Brian Judd x166
(Campus Ministry/Activities)
Tanya Susov x176
(Academics, DEI)

ACADEMIC SUPPORT
Catherine Harris x334
Director

ATHLETICS (Dominican Hall)
Carlos Reed, Director
creed@bishopodowd.org

Hillary Kigar x119
Assistant Director

CAMPUS MINISTRY
Brian Judd x166

RETREATS
Karen Yavorsky x241
Retreat Coordinator

SUSTAINABILITY / SERVICE LEARNING
Michael Downs x233
Director

COUNSELING SERVICES
x605

DEANS
Gary Mason x155
Shannon Donahue ‘95 x192

Food Service
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LIBRARY
Annette Counts x187
Librarian

O’DOWD SUMMER ACADEMY
summeracademy@bishopodowd.org

FINE & PERFORMING ARTS
Briana Loewinsohn x314
Chair
Ashkon Davaran x501
Co-Director Theater Arts
Trina Oliver x502
Co-Director Theater Arts
Fred Randolph x257
Director of Instrumental Music

RECORDS & TRANSCRIPTS
Chris Abdenour x605
Registrar

SECURITY
Mike Dixon x705
Campus Security Coordinator

STUDENT ACTIVITIES
Starr Gray ‘98 x111
Director

TECHNOLOGY
techsupport@bishopodowd.org

TUITION PAYMENTS
Nancy MacKinnon x171

Administration

PRESIDENT’S OFFICE
J. D. Childs, President

Elizabeth Herp,
Assistant to the President x335

Kim Walsh, President Emeritus and
Project Executive, O’Dowd Center
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ADMISSIONS
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General Admissions Questions:
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CLASS OF 2025 WEB PAGE
https://www.bishopodowd.org/
class-of-2025/