



# GIVING IMPACT



**MARINERS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

# MCS CORE VALUES:

Love For  
Christ



Culture Of  
Innovation



Connected  
Community



Exemplary  
Academics



Whole Child  
Focus



Reflect the Son, "And the Lord, who is the spirit, makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into his glorious image."

2 Corinthians 3:18b

## MCS LEADERSHIP

Thank you for your dedication and influence!

### MCS BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019-20

Lewis Brewster, *Chair*  
Harry Bagramian  
Clifton Chang  
Melinda Choi  
Brian Darrow  
David Giunta  
Charlie Haggard  
Mike McMillen  
Mark Nowlin  
Meesh Pierce  
Jason Tester

### PTF BOARD 2019-20

Robyn Gundlach, *President*  
Adam and Jane Ah You, *Treasurers*  
Molly Defrancisco, *Secretary*  
Anna Jeffers and Jill Bangert,  
*Community Events*  
William Morris, *MCS Dads*  
Dana Fiori, *Elementary Room Mom*  
*Coordinator*  
Sue Celek, *PTF Liaison*

### BRIGHT FUTURE CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE 2019-20

Chase Emery, *Co-Chair*  
Jason Kliewer, *Co-Chair*  
Chris Childs  
Greg Horvath  
Jim Jeffers  
Tim Mustard  
Mike McMillen,  
*Board Representative*  
Meesh Pierce,  
*Board Representative*  
Keven Kroehler, *COO*



## MESSAGE FROM HEATHER HARRISON HEAD OF SCHOOL

Thank you to the entire MCS community that has made MCS what it is today! We are well into our 34<sup>th</sup> year and have created such incredible opportunities for our students to become Difference Makers in His Kingdom for generations to come!

Last year was an exciting and full year where we saw God move in miraculous ways. As we prayerfully heeded His calling, we were led to stay the course—always prioritizing what we

believed to be best for our students. Our staff remained steadfast in their dedication to and love for our students. We anchored ourselves and our school in the calling to Reflect the Son, growing to be more like Him everyday. As we reflect upon last year and share some of the highlights in this report, it is evident we have much to be grateful for and much to celebrate!

- Mariners Christian School nominated as a 2020 recipient of the **National Blue Ribbon Schools** award (confirmed in Fall of 2020)
- Continual enhancements to our **academic programs through staff professional development**
- Parent and staff sentiment, as well as **admissions at an all-time high!**
- Strong community connections
- Bright Future Phase II neared completion

He has made this all possible, so please join us in prayerful gratitude as you read this Annual Report.

In Him,

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## MILESTONES TO CELEBRATE!

- Alumni kids! We welcome three children of MCS alumni and more have joined in 2020-21!
- The **Annual Ladies Luncheon** hit a record attendance with 170 women
- MCS completed the rigorous application for **National Blue Ribbon School** and has been officially named a National Blue Ribbon School for the second time!
- **Heather Harrison** named as new Head of School!
- Beautiful and powerful drive-in **8th grade graduation** hosted at Mariners Church!
- Historic end to the school year with the **Great Drive Bye!**





## Being the Hands and Feet of Jesus: Loving Others through Service

The **Difference Maker** program gives students opportunities to actively meet the needs of those in our community.

- Middle school students collaborated with **Think Together** on monthly missional after school programs. They offered Bible studies, crafts, enrichment fun, and relationship building to underserved students.
- **Scrunchies of Joy** :: Two 8th graders made and sold scrunchies to buy 100+ bus passes for the homeless
- **HOPEful Art** :: Three 7th graders collected and donated middle school artwork to local hospitals
- **Encouraging Vets**, active military and the homeless :: Four 6th graders led the charge to get 170 encouragement cards written and sent in care packages through Operation Interdependence. Their school-wide Thanksgiving Food Drive supported OC Food Bank that set a record for the largest food drop off ever received from a school!
- Elementary students collected sports equipment that was donated to **Olive Crest** for at-risk youth, stuffed animals for children in crisis in conjunction with the **Irvine Police Department**, and Christmas toy drive for **Project Giving Light**.
- **Lighthouse Homeless Shelter** Sock Drive



## Instilling the Spiritual Discipline of Reflection and Prayer

Last year, all students grew in a valuable spiritual discipline of reflection and prayer. After each chapel, students reflected on what they learned, discovered how the lessons applied in their lives, and spent time praying and learning to tune their hearts and minds to what the Holy Spirit was teaching. Powerful moments were experienced across classes all year!



## Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

PLCs aligned instruction to our strategic goals, California Standards for the Teaching Profession, and data-driven decision making. All teachers used guided, weekly PLCs to focus more deeply on collaboration, professional learning, and reflective practice through data analysis, effective instructional practices review, and optimizing teaching strategies. This cross grade-level and cross-curricular work significantly impacted student achievement and continual staff professional growth.

## Targeted Academic Support

- To meet individual student needs more effectively, we continued developing the **Student Support Program** framework to quickly identify and meet all students' needs. Their performance and progress drive the proper intervention and/or extended learning and enrichment opportunities for greater success. This approach was designed to ensure all students are appropriately supported and challenged for the highest level of engagement and content mastery.
- An **Elementary Instructional Facilitator** was added to provide dialogical coaching and support teachers' professional growth. A Middle school Instructional Facilitator will be added in the 2021-22 school year.
- **Envision Math** is a new elementary math curriculum that aligns TK-8, after middle school adoption in 2018-19.





## WHOLE CHILD FOCUS

**Deep commitment to providing a balance of academics, character development, and student empowerment opportunities.**

**MCS students learn 21st century skills that enable them to become engaged global citizens with the power to impact their communities and beyond.**



### Mariners Institute of the Arts

- Elementary musical, *Jungle Book*
- Middle school performances of *The Audition* and *Shrek!*
- Christmas concerts
- Art Shows
- New Sewing elective
- Theatre Production and Design elective students designed and created all sets and costumes for both middle school and elementary productions

### Godly Character Development

- Elementary **LIONS Pact** was more deeply integrated, teaching students to Listen, Include, exhibit Ownership, Notice, and Support
- Middle School dove into its **REACH program**, focusing on Respect, Accountability, Community, and Honoring God and Others
- Monthly spirit rallies celebrated elementary and middle school students who demonstrated the fruits of the spirit, Godly character, and great choices



## PTF-sponsored Community Events

Our PTF hosted beautiful ways for parents and students to connect and have FUN! Last year, we enjoyed the following: Welcome Back Bash on Meet the Teacher Day, Parents in Prayer, Mother-Son Bowling event, Dad's Recess, Under the Tree Christmas Boutique, Family Dine Out Night, Daddy-Daughter Dance, Middle School Grandparents Day, Staff Appreciation Week (even from a distance staff were loved on and appreciated!), launch of online Spirit Wear Pop Up Shops, Annual Staff Blessing Fund.

## Parent Engagement

MCS offered many ways for parents to stay connected with each other and as parents. We hosted fall and winter women's bible studies, and speaker Tom Kersting on "**Digitally Distracted: Parenting in the Age of Technology.**"

## 2020 Gala

- March 6 at The Fashion Island Hotel
- Record attendance with 450+ guests, including staff and faculty
- Record gross receipts of \$460,000, including the Classroom Technology Fund-a-Need
- Organized, planned and flawlessly executed by 11 incredibly talented MCS moms

## Salute to Veterans

This MCS tradition carried on as we welcomed special guest and MCS Alumnus, Lieutenant Austin Fleming, United States Navy. Additionally, the annual middle school ASB pancake breakfast raised \$2500 to benefit **Operation Interdependence**, providing care packages to overseas military.

## COVID Relief Fund

- Established by MCS to support families impacted by COVID-19
- Families contributed \$110,000 for COVID-19 relief



## Faculty Survey Results

**I've been treated with a high level of respect and regard from the parent community**

**90%**

**MCS inspires me to do my best work**

**94%**

**The spiritual climate of our school has reflected the mission and core values of MCS the past year**

**94%**

**MCS is highly regarded by the parent community**

**99%**





## CULTURE OF INNOVATION



### An innovative culture is another key MCS core value. Through our Maker program, students across all grades:

- Integrate Design Thinking Process :: students think about problem solving from an end-user perspective, asking “How should we empathize with the person using this product/solution?”
- Engage in robotics, coding, engineering, game programming, 3D printing, and product design challenges, all which are woven tightly into each grade’s academic focus.
- Learn modern product development practices :: students conceptualize, develop rapid prototypes, challenge hypotheses, communicate in real time about what works and what doesn’t, and iterate.
- Try new ideas, learn from mistakes, and get comfortable not getting it “right” the first time.



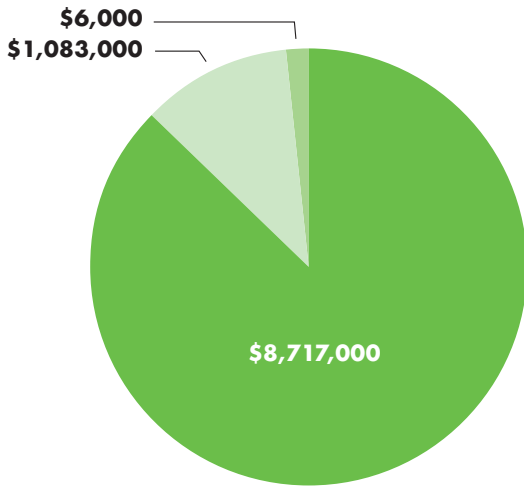


# OUR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

\* BASED ON FISCAL YEAR  
ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

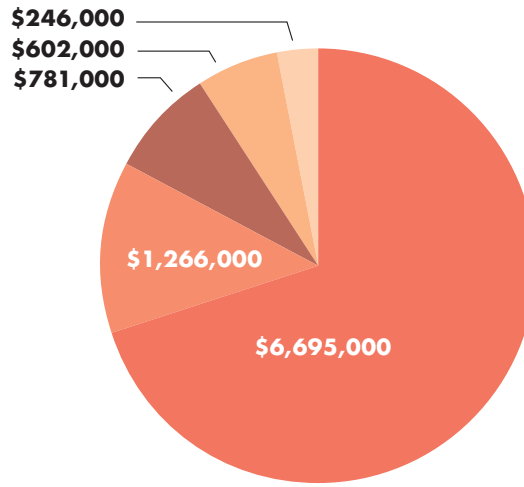
MCS is committed to a high level of accountability in all aspects of financial stewardship. In addition to an annual audit conducted by a professional accounting firm, we operate under the direction of two board committees (finance and endowment) to ensure thorough oversight.

## Operational Income



**TOTAL: \$9,806,000**

## Operational Expense



**TOTAL: \$9,590,000**

- 89% Tuition & Fees
- 11% Donations\* & Fundraising Events
- 0% Other Income

\*Not including Bright Future Donations

- 70% Salaries & Benefits
- 13% Facility/Other
- 8% Financial Aid
- 6% Program Expenses
- 3% Development & Fundraising Events

## Bright Future Phase II

Bright Future Phase II is nearing total completion and we're coming in within our **\$10.775 M** budget! Praise God for his provision and protection during this 5 month construction sprint!

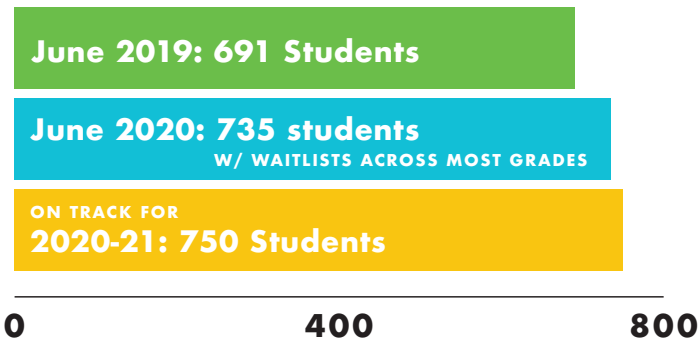
We're particularly grateful for our donors, supporters, Mariners Church, construction committee, construction partners, and Costa Mesa Planning teams who got us over the finish line despite some unexpected COVID-19 related delays.



# YOUR IMPACT AT MCS

## Admissions Highlights

Through word-of-mouth family testimonials, we continue to attract a remarkable student body and our thriving enrollment affirms our position as the #1 leader in innovative, private Christian education in Orange County!



**94%**  
RE-ENROLLMENT

**27%**  
INCREASE

in applications vs. prior busiest admissions year

**67%**  
HIGHER

application rate vs. avg. admissions year

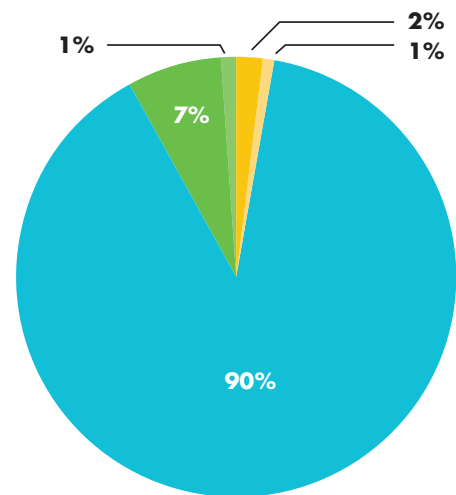
As a distinctively Christian school for Christian families, MCS's application process focuses on the family's spiritual life and daily faith, and requires unanimous approval by the Admissions committee.

## 2019-20 Annual Fund Highlights

MCS's tuition, similar to other independent schools, covers a portion (95%) of student education costs. MCS families effectively receive a tuition discount. Each year, we rely on your generosity to the Annual Fund to cover the remaining 5% of our operating budget. Last year, the one week MCS Annual Fund was deemed highly successful!

- 100% participation from staff and Board
- 94% family participation—an all-time record
- \$243,000 raised for unrestricted use, 52% above target

## Annual Fund Gift Source\*

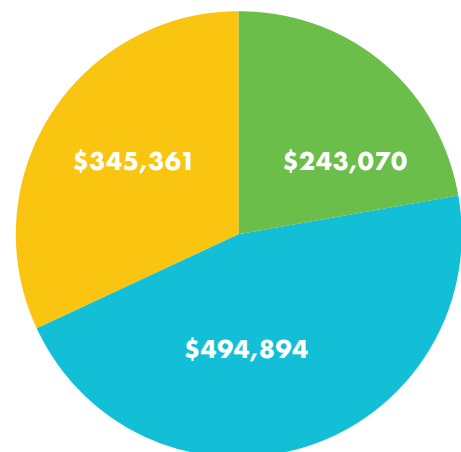


Total: \$1,083,325

- Alumni
- Friends
- Parents
- Grandparents
- Staff

\*Based on number of gifts

## Your Generous Giving To MCS Mission\*



Total: \$1,083,325

- 22% Annual Fund Unrestricted
- 46% Annual Fund Restricted
- 32% MCS Spring Auction & Parent Events

\*Excluding Bright Future campaign gifts and pledges

# 2020 MCS PARENT SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Level of interest and care my child receives as a person

89%

Level of communication from my child's teacher

91%

Way in which my child's teacher engages and inspires

88%

Degree to which my child's teacher models Christian values

92%

Academic standards upheld by my child's teacher

92%

Way in which my child's teacher balances academics and spiritual development

93%

Level of excitement for the vision of MCS after Bright Future Phase I

88%

Instruction provided during Remote Learning

92%

Academic preparation for high school placement exams (8th grade parents)

91%

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## Shift to Remote Learning

- Staff trained weeks ahead of shutdown and quickly transitioned to Remote Learning
- Daily Devotions led by the Administration team
- Daily live instruction through secure, password-protected Zoom sessions
- Small group instruction and individualized support
- Robust Enrichment Board provided lessons and activities in Music, Art, Maker Education, Cooking, Leadership, Theater, Technology, and more!
- 92% parents were highly satisfied/satisfied with Remote Learning Instruction and Communications

## Alumni

**We love our alumni!**  
**Once a Lion, always a Lion!**

We're so thankful that our alumni remain connected and committed to MCS!

Last year, our alumni raised \$15,000 through the **Teal and Black Fund**, all which will fund new shade sails on the Middle School patio!





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## KEY UPCOMING DATES:

**FRIDAYS 8:15 AM** Parents in Prayer

**MON, NOV. 2, 2020** 2021-2022 Applications Begin

**NOV. 16-20** MCS Annual Fund Parent Giving Week

**DEC 11 & 12** Middle School Fall Production :: **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**

**DEC** Spirit Wear

**FEB** Spirit Wear

**JUNE 12** Graduation

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