

2021-2022 Annual Report

Building a firm foundation through Christ-centered education.



# MCS LEADERSHIP

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Clifton Chang Jim Harmon Ben Roberson

Chase Emery Aaron Hudy Eleanor Tang

Charlie Haggard Mark Nowlin Michelle Vail

#### **ADMINISTRATION TEAM**



Heather Harrison Head of School

Sam Joo Middle School Principal Angela Drevlow Elementary Principal

Jordan Brown Middle School Vice Principal **Sue Celek**Elementary
Vice Principal

# **CORE VALUES**

Mariners Christian School is a Christian school serving Christian families with an evident desire to partner with their church, their school, and their home to raise up the next generation for Christ.

Love For Christ

**Exemplary Academics** 



Whole Child Focus

**Connected Community** 

**Culture Of Innovation** 

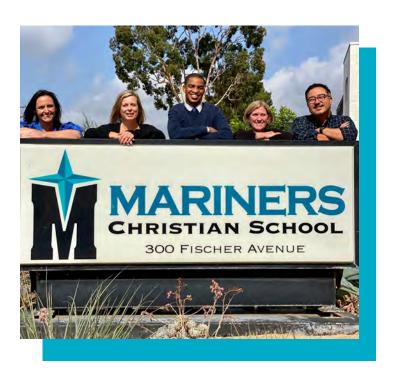




# A WORD FROM ADMINISTRATION

When we selected the theme verse for the 2021-2022 school year, we knew we were ready for God to do "A New Thing" at MCS and in every person that calls this community.

Isaiah 43:19," See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" became our prayer. We knew that God would do a new thing and that we wouldn't miss it.



We trusted He would make a way through whatever the year brought and He did! As we look back, we can celebrate all that God has done.

MCS traditions were kept alive and we welcomed some new ones, too! We excitedly share some of the year's successes with you and ask you to join us in humbly thanking God for his goodness and faithfulness.

**Heather Harrison**, *Head of School* 

#### A NEW THING!

2021-2022 PASSAGE FOR THE YEAR

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you

not perceive it? I am making
a way in the wilderness and
streams in the wasteland.

**ISAIAH 43:19** 



#### THE 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN



Our founding families built Mariners Christian School 35 years ago with a hope and vision for a covenant, Christian school in Orange County. MCS has grown tremendously over the past three decades and we remain committed to the vision and mission of "building a firm foundation through Christ-centered education." This mission and Christian education have never been more vital as we remain committed to partnering with parents to "train up a child in the way they should go" trusting that "when they are old, they will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Like our founders, we continue to prayerfully seek the Lord's vision and will for our school. We believe a well-developed vision is essential for continual growth and progress and for the constant pursuit of God's plan at MCS. A strategic plan provides this direction and serves as a public declaration of our priorities in providing the highest quality Christian education. It's a declaration of the principles on which we stand and the vision, mission, and values that guide us. Equally important, the plan is a statement of accountability to gauge progress in achieving the established goals and objectives.

A visionary five-year plan to guide the direction of MCS through 2027 was developed after a year-long community-wide planning endeavor. This visionary plan is a detailed, comprehensive, and ambitious strategic program that brings together the prayerful work of the Board of Trustees, Administration, staff, and parents. We believe that it provides a bold yet achievable vision for the future of MCS. Now that the plan is finalized, the real work begins!

#### MCS STUDENTS SUCCEED AND OVERCOME

As the world continued in restrictions and shutdowns, MCS remained committed to our mission of "building a firm foundation through Christ-centered education" for each of our students. We were one of the few schools that maintained in-person and online learning for the duration of the year and we were committed to ensuring that all learners benefitted from a supportive and exemplary educational program as well as enrichment opportunities. Despite the challenges, the year was full of accomplishments including:

#### **Literacy Program Gains**

To ensure our students continually progressed, elementary implemented **Achieve3000**, a research-based learning platform and literacy program to provide in-person and remote students access to non-fiction reading.

The year-end assessments indicated our students had a literacy growth rate of 146 lexile points over the course of the year. The average expected rate was 86 points, so our students made remarkable gains! Students were also provided **Epic**, a virtual library for our students to easily access 500+ fiction and non-fiction books and read-alouds from their very own MCS teachers. These resources were extremely effective and we're pleased, though not surprised, that our students continued their reading growth!



#### **Honor Roll**

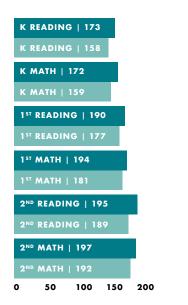
Final report cards revealed 68% of our middle schoolers achieved Honor Roll (3.5 GPA and above) and 40% had a 4.0 GPA!

## **National Testing**

Our students remained competitive with the national averages in both reading and math.

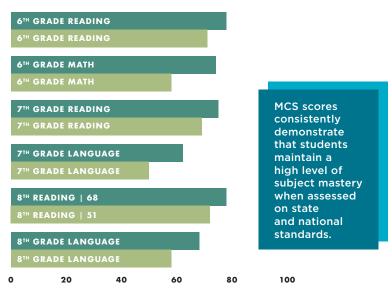
\*7TH AND 8TH GRADE MATH DID NOT TEST

# Elementary School 2021-2022 MAP Scores





# Middle School 2021-2022 Iowa Standardized Testing Scores



# STANDARD STUDENT SCORES MCS National & State Standard\* 'NWEA National Mean Score



National & State Standard\*

\*NP of Mean Christian School Program (CSP) Score



#### Washington, DC Trip

MCS 8th graders were some of the few in the U.S. who experienced their 8th grade class trip to Washington, DC! We saw God's hand of protection and provision over every aspect of the trip including safe travel, divine appointments, veteran encounters, and a clean bill of health for all 91 students and 13 chaperones who attended! Through this trip, our students deepened their love for each other, for God, and for their country, and they returned changed individuals. One highlight was the Capitol Hill visit where our students met Congressman Keven McCarthy, minority leader of the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Michelle Steel from our district (48th), and Congresswoman Young Kim (39th district). Our students even saw the presidential motorcade as the President was leaving Capitol Hill. Here are some student highlights about this once in a lifetime trip:

"God impacted each and every one of the students throughout the trip. If it was praying together before going off onto our daily business, or even our tour guide, Tracy, talking about the beautiful historical connections with God, He moved within the group. He spoke in ways He had never spoken to us all before. He opened our eyes to new and exciting possibilities!" - KALLIE MARTIN

"I was incredibly impacted by Arlington National Cemetery and learning there are 6,900 new burials there every year. It showed that our country is one worth fighting for." - ABRAHAM WOOD







## + Love of Christ

Service is a cornerstone for MCS students and families, an act that extends our love for Christ into our communities. Numerous student and parent-led outreach programs highlight this beautifully!

#### **Difference Maker**

23 MCS 5th-8th grade students participated in our **Difference Maker** program, which is centered around a heart for serving our surrounding community. These students developed 8 Difference Maker projects during the school year to support the OC Rescue Mission, Project Giving Light, Freedom Dogs, Modjeska Ranch Rescue, YMCA of Greater Long Beach, and Olive Crest. Through bake sales, canned food drives, toy drives and Share2Wear days, these students identified the needs of these local organizations and became the hands and feet of Jesus to provide needed support. The Difference Maker program is a valued tradition at MCS that continues to foster young leaders who have a heart for ministry.





**Spiritual Emphasis Week** was an especially meaningful time for our students. Across the school, students focused on the theme "New Creation" as they learned about who they are in Christ and how, through His sacrifice, we are all made new. The entire school focused on the week's verse, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

### **Parents In Prayer**

Parents in Prayer met in person weekly to walk and pray around our campus, ensuring that our school, students, and staff were covered in prayer. Their faithful dedication was appreciated and felt by all.

#### Middle School Students Support Honor Flight



After meeting an entire Honor Flight on our 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip, our students realized the importance for veterans to have an opportunity to see their War Memorials. Students learned that travel expenses often preclude many veterans from being able to take such trips.

In December '21. Mrs. Thurston reached out to Honor Flight Southland and we began exploring ways MCS students could help. Not surprisingly, our Middle School students answered the call by contributing generously! Then they planned a large-scale Honor Flight Chapel and were blessed to welcome speakers Craig Van Doren and Luci Miller from Honor Flight Southland as well as U.S. Army Lieutenant 1st Class, Howard Koch who served in Italy during World War II in the 10th Mountain Division as a weapons platoon leader and in Korea as the 86th Mountain Infantry Co-Commander. Our guests were blown away by the intentionality and generosity of our Middle School students.

Through tears of gratitude, Lieutenant Koch praised our students for their care and support and he challenged them to continue living out the Fruits of the Spirit. Our MCS families generously donated over \$6,500, which covered almost six Honor Flight trips!

#### **Blessing Bags & Encouragement Notes**

MCS students participated in supporting the homeless community in Costa Mesa by assembling 400 Blessing Bags, which included a bible verse card, water, tissue, toothbrush, toothpaste, and a granola bar. Students were encouraged to pass along the blessing to someone they encountered who was in need or without a home. To demonstrate gratitude for those on the front lines, students also wrote encouragement notes and prayers that were given to a fire station, police station, and to the elderly at a local nursing home.

#### **Share2Wear**



- 846 pairs of socks + \$1,083 towards socks
- 375+ wrapped toys for Christmas gifts
- 450+ School Supplies items
- 260 Gift Cards + \$658 to purchase more
- Share2Wear items were donated to Honor Flight in spring

In the fall, *Share2Wear* items were donated to **Project Giving Light**, an organization whose mission is to celebrate foster kids' birthdays. PPGL packages and distributes thousands of birthday boxes annually across California and New York to bless children, show them that they are loved by Jesus, and to proclaim they are worthy of being celebrated. MCS was honored to partner with PGL and we are so proud of the generosity of our students.



### **Exemplary Academics**

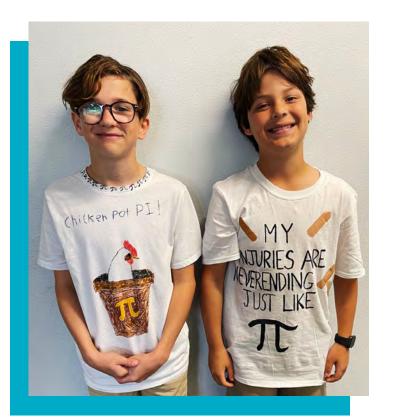
Our educators took advantage of professional development opportunities in order to teach and equip students through exemplary academics.

# Depth and Complexity Certification: 2nd-8th Grade Teachers

We're so proud that every core instructional teacher from 2nd - 8th grade received a year-long certification training for implementation of the depth and complexity framework. This intensive training focused on differentiated instructional practices to promote higher level thinking and learning for all students. Our teachers were trained to differentiate content, process, and product by implementing a variety of methodologies to enhance, extend and enrich the grade-level content standards that will challenge students and uncover God-given talent our programs.

# Depth and Complexity Training: TK-1st Grade Teachers and Specialists

Consistency within instructional practices are essential to our academic program at MCS. Our TK - 1st grade team, along with the Specialists, participated in targeted training within depth and complexity. Utilizing a developmentally appropriate instructional lens, teachers participated in targeted depth and complexity training. This is foundational in promoting the level of rigor students will receive as they advance into upper elementary and middle school.



# Instructional Facilitator for Middle School

Middle School started the school year with the addition of a new position on its team. The Middle School Instructional Facilitator's role is to support administration in achievement of the schoolwide strategic goals by providing coaching, training, and professional development to teachers in grades 6-8. This coaching role addition benefits the MCS community by allowing teachers to collaborate more closely to improve, grow, and develop the academic program and enhance student learning at an individualized level.



#### **Whole Child Focus**

#### **Sports**

MCS's middle school athletics program continues to grow, which delights our middle schoolers and provides plenty of opportunity to everyone. Over 65% of our middle school students participated in at least one team sport MCS ranging from football to golf. Many of our teams won the Christian Athletic League of Orange County Championships (CALOC) championship.

A big shoutout to these teams who brought home the CALOC trophy, and more importantly, for representing MCS well with their positive sportsmanlike conduct on and off the field of play:

6TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
Boys: Football,	Boys:	Boys:
Basketball,	Basketball	Basketball,
Volleyball	Girls:	Football
Girls:	Volleyball	Girls:
Volleyball,		Volleyball,
Football		Basketball



We also saw the return of MCS's treasured tradition, the Teal vs. Black competition for the 5th-8th graders, with Teal taking 1st place!









#### Mariners Institute of the Arts in the Limelight

In February '22, the MCS Middle School Symphony Orchestra (Band and Orchestra combined) won THIRD PLACE at the USA Large Performance Groups International Music Competition held bγ IYMC (International Youth Music Competition). This is an incredible honor and we're so proud of our students who competed against entries from France, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Taiwan, Uganda and the Ukraine. Also, big congratulations to Dr. Um and Christopher Lucas for their continued dedication to fostering the passion and skills in our music students.

#### **2022 Elementary Musical**

In March '22, 195 Kindergarten through 5th grade students participated in *Miss Nelson* is Missing. The first act of the show included K through 3rd grade musical numbers, and the second act showcased the show. Miss **Nelson is Missing,** featuring 4th and 5th grade students!



#### Middle School Musicals

In December '21 and May '22, 31 actors and four tech students participated in "A Seussified Christmas Carol" and "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Special cameos were spotted by our Head of School, Heather Harrison and 7th grade Math Teacher, Cindy Phan.

#### 5th Grade Choir

Big congratulations to Mrs. Knecht's 5th Grade Choir group that won second prize at the USA Broadway, Musical Theatre, and Disney International Music Competition held by the International Youth Music Competition (IYMC). This competition drew entries from Australia, China, Indonesia, Ireland, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States. We're so proud of these incredible students!

In June 2022, our Band, Orchestra, and Theater students participated in Disneyland workshops led and taught by professional musicians and actors. Each student got to experience what it's like to be a professional musician or Disney Broadway performer.



#### **A Standing Ovation**

Christian Lucas, General Music Teacher at Mariners Christian School, has been recognized as one of the 207 Grammy Music Educator Award finalists for 2023. A total of 1.500 nominations have been reviewed by the Grammy committee and our very own Mr. Lucas was chosen as a quarterfinalist! The Music Educator Award was established to recognize current educators—kindergarten through college, public and private schoolswho have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools. The recipient will be recognized during the 65th GRAMMY Awards Week 2023!



#### **Tech Team**

At MCS all of our chapels and productions have a tech team that runs lights, sound, backstage, and projections.



#### Lion's Pact

The Lion's Pact provides a guide for developing Godly character in personal choices. Throughout the year, we united the Lion's Pact across TK - 8th, further strengthening its foundation for our students. The Lion's Pact is regularly discussed in chapels, homeroom reflection times, and gratitude journals. Students are often challenged to identify and apply the principles from the Lion's Pact.





# **Connected Community**

## **Developing a strong connected community** has always been an important part of the MCS culture.

Returning to full-time, in-person learning allowed us to fully engage our students, faculty and families. We brought in our first day of school with the inaugural all-school chapel on the field! It was an incredible time of worship on our field where we also watched as Mrs. Rogers painted a beautiful tapestry to match our year's theme, A New Thing. Our MCS community also came together in December for our first ever Christmas Tree Lighting accompanied by beautiful festivities. On a perfectly brisk evening, we celebrated A New Thing





through Mariners Institue of the Arts' student and teacher performances, Christmas carols, and delicious hot chocolate! Our families had plenty of opportunities to build upon the strong culture of a connected community through Him from all-family Thanksgiving celebrations in the classroom, to bible studies, Dine-outs, Lunch on the Lawn, Open House, and schoolwide chapels.

#### MCS Annual Gala

On March 18, 2022, the MCS community gathered at the Balboa Bay Club to celebrate our 35th anniversary at the Annual Gala: An Evening of Community and Celebration. It was truly a memorable evening with off-the-chart fun and record breaking generosity! Together, our community witnessed His work from the multitude of gracious underwriters, to the pace at which the Gala sold out, to raising over \$1,150,000 for MCS and the new Flexible Learning Environments in every classroom at MCS!! These milestones are thanks to HIM and our amazing MCS community. Once again, A **NEW THING** was happening at MCS!

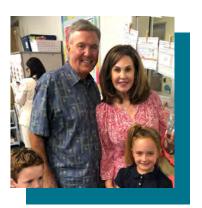






#### **Grandparents' Day**

After a two year hiatus, Grandparents' Day returned! For the first time in our 35 year history, elementary and middle school grandparents joined together in one all-school Grandparents' Day... A NEW THING! Our grandparents enjoyed time together with their grandkids and each other. This was the first time most of our grandparents had seen the new campus and the fruits of God's work at MCS!



#### **PTF Connecting Us All**

Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) worked diligently to continue building important community bonds. The year kicked off with a sold out return of The Golf Classic is Back tournament in October at the Newport Beach Country Club. Participants enjoyed a wonderful day of fellowship and great golf! PTF also hosted several dine outs, supported the staff through numerous lunches and a fantastic staff appreciation Farmers Market at which our amazing staff was able to shop...for FREE! We're so blessed by the PTF's incredible effort and love.

#### **PTF HIGHLIGHTS**



- Blessing Fund
- Dads & Donuts
- Family Dine-Outs and **Shopping Events**
- Father Daughter Dance
- Morning with Moms

- · Recess with Dads
- Room Parents Class **Parties and Events**
- Spirit Rock
- Spirit Wear
- Sports Snack Cart

- Staff Appreciation

- Week
- Staff Conference Week Snack Cart Delivery
  - Staff Sunshine Monday
  - Staff Thank You

- Lunches
- Student Spirit Day **Popsicles**
- The Classic is Back

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021-2022**

**Amy Williams** President

Krista Pulatian Treasurer

Kristi Eisenberg Staff and Parent Relations

**Shawne Leiato** Secretary

# Julie Dunbar Elementary Room

**BOARD MEMBERS 2021-2022** 

Mom Coordinator

Amanda Ebright Middle School Room Mom Coordinator

**Stephanie Barbour** *Volunteer* Coordinator

Jaime Hong & Krista Boone Spirit Wear Coordinators

Megan Pierson School Spirit Chair

Anna Tester & Donna Lehner Gala Chairs

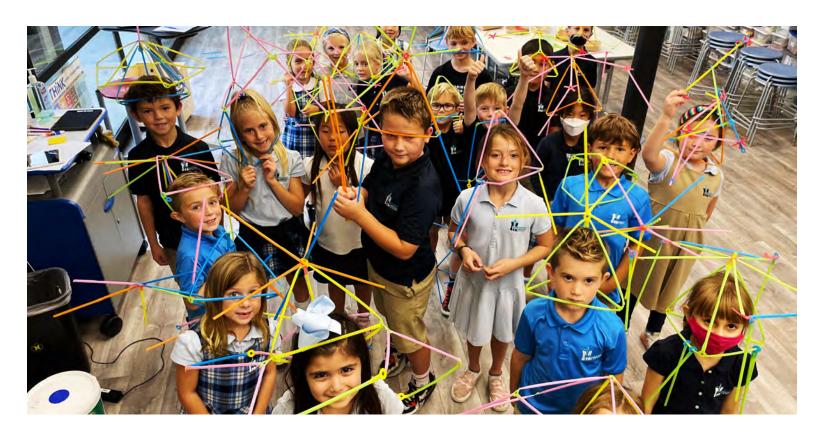
Jennifer Vaughan Golf Chair

Jennifer Awad Gala Chair Elect

# Culture of Innovation

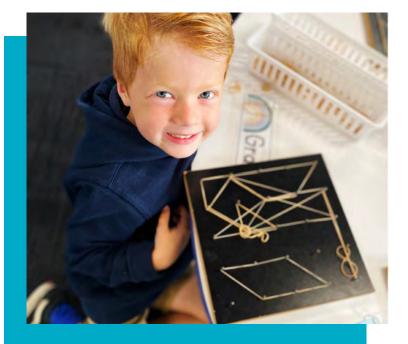
#### **Innovation at Work**

8th grader, James Brewster was the hands and feet behind creating the 2020-2021 Annual Fund video. James tapped into his God-given talents to create the script, execute the recording and editing and share his remarkable work with us all. Giving our own Lion Innovators the opportunity to showcase their interests and gifts is important at MCS.



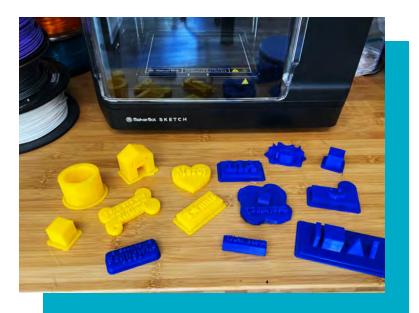
#### **Imaginology**

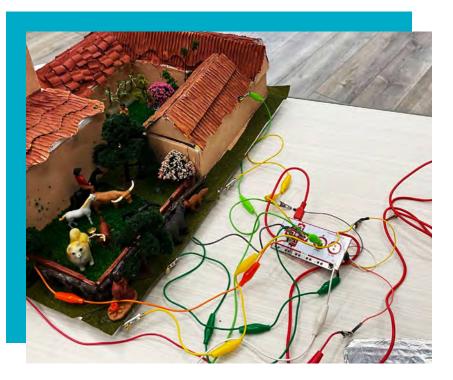
In the spring, 186 students in grades 3rd -8th submitted projects for the **Cardboard Creation Challenge** hosted by Imaginology at the Orange County Fair! Students were challenged to use cardboard in new and creative ways to create an amazing display. All projects were displayed during the two day STEAM-focused event in April. We're so proud of our students and look forward to their participation again in 2023!



#### **Design Squad**

Middle school students in the **Design Squad** elective used our Makerbot 3D printers to create their own designs on Tinkercad. They learned on how to think in 3D while designing on a 2D screen. Students were challenged to think of something that would serve a purpose, so designs ranged from a box with a lid to a custom pencil holder.





### **Makey Makey**

Third through eighth grade students extended their basic knowledge of circuitry by learning about the Makey Makey device that turns any conductive material into a keyboard. Our fourth graders were able to create an interactive California Missions model that highlighted the most important part of a mission. Through wires, tinfoil, and brass fasteners, families at Open House could listen to important facts by touching each section of the model.

#### **Invention Convention**

Using the Design Thinking process, students in grades 3-5 identified a need and created a unique solution to meet that need. Posters of all creations were on display at Open House for our second annual Invention Convention. Some of the clever inventions were a chair that fits around the leg of a table, a faster way to fold clothes, a foursquare grid that lets you know if a ball is truly out, and a belt that helps hold up a sweatshirt tied around your waist. Students learned that even a small problem can yield an innovative solution.

# **Graduating Class of 2022**



**Molly Alexis Griffin Andrews Robert Andrews** Mila Applebee Sophia Bagramian Kate Berkus **James Brewster Andrew Broussard Riley Card** Jared Cefalia **Evan Cha Zachary Cheung** Alexandra Cobb **Troy Cook Jagger Creamer** 

**Abigail Damron Dylon DeAngelo** Maxwell **DeFrancisco Hudson Dexter Cooper Dick Duke Ditteaux** Dane Duda **Amanda Eberhard Hagen Ebright** Aidan Eisenberg Isabella Ekedal **Connor Faggionato** Shea Gallagher **Eden Geiger** Samuel Gibbs

Kamryn Giunta Lila Glidewell Jacob Good **Nicole Gorgy** Karis Ha Mary Hahne Emma Hall Ella Headding **Donovan Hogan Astrid Hong Olive Hopkins Emily Houssels Kenzie Houston** Alexandra Hudy Ava Hudy

**Madison Jones Grace Kersenbrock** Joanne Kim **Kingston Lawrence** Olivia Leguina **Peyton Lehner** Manoah Leiato **Colton Lower** Kallie Martin Camden McDonald Leilani Meade **Kensington Miner** Caleb Nowlin Bella Pagnini Samantha Pearsall

Sophia Pearsall Aiden Pelligreen Elle Pierson **Trenton Plate Grace Porco** Caden Rasmussen **Benjamin Ricketts Addison Roberson** Miley Russell **Andrew Sanchez Taylor Sarkisian** Maxwell Scott Jacqueline Sender Carlyn Snyder **Abigail Sullivan** 

Vaughn Tase Jack Tester Riley Thomas Luke Thompson Josiah Trautman Sophia Valdez **Griffin Vaughan London Willhoit Brody Williams Everett Wilson** Joseph Winkelmann **Abraham Wood Finley Wooton** Mia Zublin

# **Alumni Heritage Scholarship Recipients!**



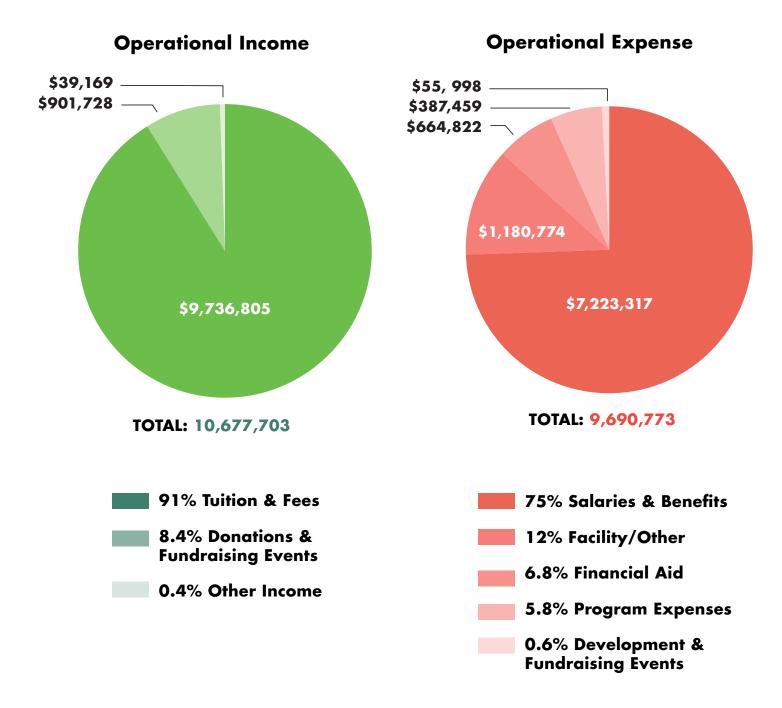
Abigail Tsai and Eszter Cowell both won the annual MCS Alumni Heritage Scholarships last year. With ongoing care and commitment to our students, the faculty and staff at MCS have established this Scholarship to support the further education of MCS graduates. This scholarship is awarded to alumnithat best exemplify faithful pursuit of Jesus, a heart for service, developing leadership, and a continual relationship with MCS.

Join us in celebrating these fine scholars who exemplify MCS's core values in their lives!

# **Financial Accountability**

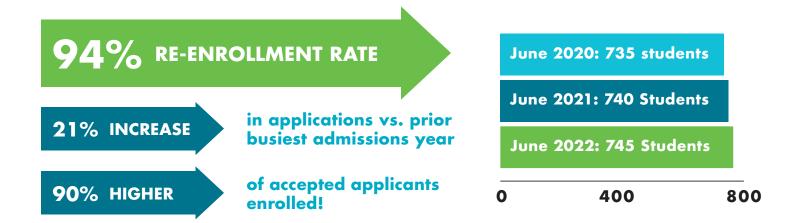
# MCS is committed to the highest levels of accountability in all aspects of financial stewardship.

In addition to an annual audit conducted by a professional accounting firm, we operate under the direction of a Board of Trustees Finance Committee to ensure thorough oversight of our operating funds and endowment. In addition, the endowment fund has daily oversight by a third party fund management company.



### **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! We had record enrollment for the 2021-2022 Academic Year, with waitlists in several grades!



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 Admission's committee.

8%

10%

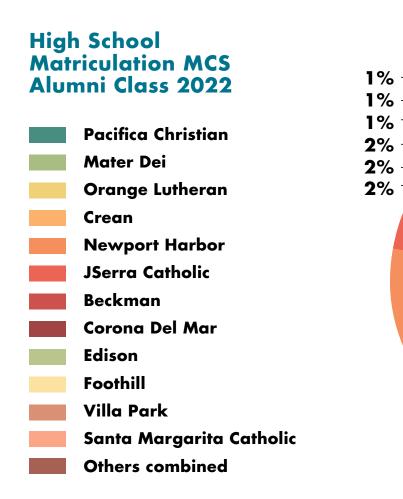
10%

5%

17%

23%

18%



# **GRATITUDE FOR MCS**

#### HAPPY PARENTS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

Parents continue to experience high levels of satisfaction at MCS. Based on the 2022 Parent Survey, here are just a few of all the **ALL-TIME BEST** highly rated categories.

MCS is effective at fulfilling its mission

MCS is effective at fulfilling its core values

P6%

MCS is effective at fulfilling its core values

P7%

My child progressed academically

My child is inspired with a love for learning

My child grew spiritually

P8%

P9%

0 20 40 60 80 100 0 20 40 60 80 100 0 20 40 60 80 100

#### MCS LEGACIES

Satisfaction with child's preparedness for high school

Mariners Christian School has been a big part of the Celek Family since 1992. Our daughters, Emily and Lauren, are alumni "MCS Dolphins" from 1999 and 2001. In 1994, I began as a second grade teacher, and then have held various positions throughout the last 29 years. We are now a third generation MCS "Black" family (Go Teal Vs. Black!) with our grandson Elijah Moore in Kindergarten as an "MCS Lion." The amazing faculty and staff over the years have deeply influenced our family with more than just a solid academic foundation. We are marked as a family spiritually, and as people of character, because of MCS. It will be exciting to watch Elijah grow during his years ahead at MCS.



Celek Family Summer 2022: (Front Row: Tim and Sue Celek, Back Row: Jeff Moore, Lauren Celek Moore, Elijah Moore, Lucas Jacks, Emily Celek Jacks, Taylor Jacks)

#### A GRATEFUL MCS FAMILY

We could not imagine a more ideal place for our three boys to begin their education than Mariners Christian School! This is our 10th year at MCS, and being at this school has been one of our greatest blessings since moving our family across the country to California. Our boys are not just receiving an excellent education, but more importantly, they are being taught daily to love and serve the Lord with all their hearts, minds and strength. Mariners Christian School's staff loves on our boys like our Holy Father calls us to love others and challenges them daily to draw closer to Him. Our boys have enjoyed many wonderful things MCS has to offer from sports teams, weekly chapel, and school performances. Every day they are excited to go to school which gives us as parents a peace that God has them exactly where they are supposed to be. We are so very grateful for the teachers, administrators and board members who tirelessly work to see these students be transformed by the grace of God. Thank you MCS!



John and Lauren Scott - 10th year at MCS; Maxwell MCS '22, Nolan 7th, Ford 4th