



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HIGH SCHOOL

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Community members,

You will be glad to know that, after the serious challenges of COVID-19, St. Vincent de Paul High School is once again showing its great residual strength. Enrollment is up and set to really take off, coursework enrichment is at an all-time high, and our faculty and staff have taken their work and leadership to the next level. The safety, well-being and success of our student body has and always will be our top priority, which our staff continues to reflect on a daily basis.

While the COVID-19 pandemic dealt a serious and lasting blow to many schools, St. Vincent de Paul High School never faltered instructionally. Enrollment has rebounded post-COVID and is increasing. So far this fall semester, the largest number of interested students (100) has already “shadowed” on campus; typically a large percentage of those who shadow decide to enroll. Our annual open house, showing what we have to offer, was well-publicized and exceptionally well-attended, including many families making their first contact with SVHS that day. In total, **131 students** have expressed interest in being a part of St. Vincent de Paul High School’s next freshman class, and it is only November. (To give you an idea of the likely size of increase, we graduated 38 seniors last spring.)

So much has changed for the better at St. Vincent de Paul High School, from facility upgrades to new academic programs. Some of those highlights include:

- The renovation of the DeCarli Gymnasium floor, the dedication of the Linda Gonzalez Art Building and the addition of a jumbotron-style scoreboard at Yarbrough Field have been incredible upgrades for our facilities on campus. All these projects were made possible by the generosity of parents, alumni and benefactors.
- Our new AP Capstone program, launching in August 2023, is a special diploma program, through the College Board, that is based on 2 year-long courses. Rather than teaching subject-specific content, these courses develop students’ skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. Students who complete the two-year program can earn one of two different Advanced Placement Capstone awards, which are valued by colleges across the United States and around the world.
- During the 2022-2023 school year, we will expand our athletic program with the addition of women’s soccer, men’s and women’s wrestling and women’s lacrosse. With more athletic opportunities for our students, it makes St. Vincent de Paul High School a premier place to be a true student-athlete.
- Our new internship program is providing students with real-life professional work experience and transferable leadership skills in a potential career in academics, athletics, business operations and so much more. This outward-facing leadership experience is designed for the most serious, opportunity-minded students and gives them frequent one-on-one mentorship with St. Vincent de Paul High School faculty and staff.

Along with all of this, we are forming a committee to investigate, explore and put together a five-year strategic plan for our school. This committee will study our academics, facilities, business operations, student support, strengths and needs of our school. We have identified the renovation of our biology lab to university standards to fully prepare our students for collegiate-level courses as a central project to enhance our school. The hiring of Mrs. Dunne as our biology teacher, who comes to us from St. Ignatius College Prep in San Francisco, and her experience and proven leadership in education, raise the bar for our students.

Over the past five years, and partly because of the pandemic, every aspect of SVHS life has been re-thought, overhauled or completely re-invented to respond to the needs of today's students and families. I am immensely proud of our faculty, staff, administration, athletic achievement and parent community. All of them, in their own way, have contributed to a renewed school spirit, a culture of striving for success, and unity of purpose.

We turn to you, our alumni and community members to join our effort to help us continue our mission to put our students and their success first. The value of a private, Catholic education has never been greater, due to the serious issues all of us face, including growing challenges to proven, long-standing values which have survived the test of time. We hope you will consider a tax deductible donation to the St. Vincent de Paul High School Annual Fund to help make a difference in the lives of current and future Mustangs.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William P. Donahue". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "W".

Rev. William Donahue (Class of 1976)
Pastor & President