



De La Salle High School The Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program

2018-2019 Case Statement

"Commitment to the education of the poor works hand-in-hand with a commitment to the Gospel itself, and for Lasallians it is a great legacy and a great challenge." – Signs of Faith (Fall 2000)

Our Lasallian Commitment to Financial Aid

When Saint John Baptist de La Salle founded the Christian Brothers' schools in 17th-century France, he set out to create a Christian educational system devoted to providing accessible and comprehensive education, with a focused commitment to the children of the poor. Today this mission is carried out by more than 100,000 Lasallian educators in almost 1,000 educational institutions throughout the world.

At De La Salle High School, one of the ways we accomplish our Lasallian mission to serve the poor is through a strong commitment to our extensive financial aid program. For the 2017-2018 school year, over \$2.9 million was awarded to families with varied levels of financial need, with aid going to 30% percent of our students.

Our commitment to financial aid is indeed a great commitment to have, but it is also an ongoing challenge, as the cost of educating students continues to rise. Our financial aid recipients have traditionally come from a wide variety of families who demonstrate financial need. In addition to serving these families, De La Salle has created a scholarship program for students from the very poorest families in our community and has made it a top priority. This is the Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program.

The following is a description of the Program and its impact on students, families, and the entire De La Salle community. We hope our story inspires your support of the Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program and the deserving young men who have responded to its challenge.

The Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program

All Lasallian schools in the District of San Francisco- New Orleans are responding to a mandate from De La Salle Institute, their parent organization, that at least 5 percent of their student bodies be from families whose income does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level--the income level that would qualify a student for the Federal Reduced Lunch Program. In 2018, this would mean a family of four making \$46,435 or less.

To serve such families, De La Salle High School has established the Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program. It is a comprehensive effort to ensure that students with severely limited financial means can experience the educational excellence offered at De La Salle.

Access

The Bishop Cummins Program targets students from families who demonstrate academic potential and have expressed a strong desire to attend De La Salle but whose families have very limited financial resources. In partnership with local Catholic schools, parishes, and community organizations, De La Salle is working with more pastors, principals, and families to help inform and attract students who may qualify for this program.

Financial Support

The Bishop Cummins Program addresses the inequities in our society that often prevent low-income students from fully participating and excelling in high school. De La Salle is committed to providing the financial resources necessary to all those who qualify for admission through this program. In addition to the possibility of full tuition assistance, additional financial support is available, to ensure that students and their families can engage in all of the curricular and co-curricular opportunities De La Salle has to offer.

Tools to Succeed

De La Salle is committed to making a difference in each student's life by providing a learning environment that emphasizes moral values and academic excellence. With a committed faculty, challenging academic program, comprehensive co-curricular offerings, and a dedicated Bishop Cummins Student Support Coordinator, Bishop Cummins Scholars will be provided the opportunity and tools to succeed at De La Salle High School and beyond.

As a tribute to the Bishop Emeritus of Oakland, who actively promoted and supported Catholic education for the poor and marginalized, the Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program will keep the dream of a Lasallian education within reach for more families. Bishop Cummins, who is an affiliated member of the Christian Brothers, shares fully in the mission and traditions of Lasallian education, and we honor him with this program.

Evidence of Need

With tuition and fees at De La Salle totaling \$19,380 in the 2018-19 school year, education costs are an obstacle for many families. De La Salle awarded over \$3.2 million in financial aid this year from our endowment income, tuition revenue, and private support, but requests from families for financial aid far exceed our ability to help all those who ask.

For the 2018-19 school year, 60 students (or 5.7% of our student body) qualify under the Bishop Cummins Program guidelines. As enrollment in this program increases, the school will be challenged to cover the full tuition and additional costs of enrolling Bishop Cummins Scholars, while simultaneously maintaining aid to families from the many other family backgrounds—especially the middle class—who also need financial support.

For the 2018-19 school year, the budgeted cost of the Bishop Cummins Program totals \$1,182,914. Of this amount, \$1,008,335 is reserved for tuition assistance for these qualified students, \$101,612 is reserved to cover additional expenses incurred throughout the year by individual students, and \$72,967 goes to operational expenses.

By working with our generous community of donors and benefactors, we hope to ensure proportionate accessibility for a diverse student body by growing funds for our Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program. The Bishop Cummins Program is reserved for families living at the poverty level, but our fundraising efforts for this program also increase our ability to answer the growing need for financial aid from families in the increasingly squeezed middle class. Every dollar that we raise for the Bishop Cummins Program will free up other dollars that can be made available to families with lesser levels of need.

Population Served

The median household income in Contra Costa County is nearly \$80,000, but the families we serve through the Bishop Cummins Program have a maximum income of about half that amount. The Bishop Cummins Program specifically targets students of these deserving families who reside within Contra Costa County including Concord, specifically the Monument Corridor and North Concord, Pittsburg, Bay Point, Antioch and areas west of the Caldecott Tunnel including Oakland and Richmond.

The chart below shows the population of the Bishop Cummins Program for the current school year as well as the past four years:

	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Bishop Cummins Scholars					
Freshman	15	21	16	13	14
Sophomore	20	15	13	12	11
Junior	14	12	11	9	14
Senior	11	11	8	13	11
Total Bishop Cummins Scholars	60	59	48	47	50
Ethnicity					
African-American	9	8	9	10	10
Asian/Pacific Islander	8	8	8	6	4
Caucasian	1	1	3	5	6
Hispanic	34	35	22	21	21
Multi-Racial	6	4	4	5	9
American Indian	2	3	2		
Demographic Information					
Residing in					
Alameda County	3	5	6	7	5
Contra Costa County	54	52	40	37	42
Other	3	2	2	3	3
Reside in Concord	28	28	20	19	19
Reside in Single Family Homes	28	27	23	24	26
Catholic	41	40	31	29	32
English as a Second Language	22	17	9	9	6
First Generation to College	50	45	39	30	26

Student Accomplishments

The Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program has demonstrated great success and continues to have great potential. Here are some highlights regarding the program:

Student Accomplishments

<u>Academic Achievements</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Cumulative Grade Point Average	3.07	3.00	2.92
Co-curricular Participation BC Scholars	71%	71%	70%
College Acceptance	100%	87.5%	100%
Colleges Accepted to	Laney College California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo California State University, Sacramento University of Washington University of Missouri Columbia University of California, Merced University of Portland California State University, Sacramento Seattle University Saint Mary's College of California	San Francisco State University Santa Clara University Diablo Valley College California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Los Medanos College University of Colorado Colorado Springs The University of Arizona University of Utah San Francisco State University	Cal Baptist California State University, Chico American University Sonoma State University Montana State University, Bozeman Eastern Washington University University of California, Berkeley University of California, Santa Barbara University of California, Los Angeles San Francisco State University Diablo Valley College Texas A & M University
		<u>2016-2017</u> 3.00 71%	

Conclusion

In giving these students an opportunity for a great education, De La Salle High School not only carries out its commitment to serve the poor but also benefits from their presence, as the entire De La Salle community is enhanced by the socio-economic and ethnic diversity achieved through improved accessibility to a broader range of students. De La Salle students develop a greater sense of social responsibility for the needs of the poor through awareness and an established service-learning curriculum in the classroom.

In summary, the Bishop Cummins Program's success is based on mutual commitment. When these students commit themselves to achieving a college-preparatory education at De La Salle, we commit ourselves to providing the structures and the mentors that can both challenge them and support them. As the table above shows, their success has been remarkable.

One of the Bishop Cummins Scholars who is now in college recently returned to campus and told us, *"I realize now that everything you said was right. It was hard work in high school, but it really prepared me. College is hard – but I'm prepared."*

De La Salle High School is deeply grateful to all those who continue to make the Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program a vibrant reality, and we hope you will consider joining this effort to benefit future Bishop Cummins Scholars.