

Field Day, September 2020

# BENNETT SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## QUICK FACTS

**30 scholars receive full GMS scholarship** and wrap-around support each year

**145 scholars** have graduated from GMS

**9 in 10 scholars** will be the first in their family to graduate from college

GMS scholar alums have a **100% high school graduation rate**.

The Bennett Scholars Program selects girls from across the Bay Area to receive a world-class education and see a world of possibilities for themselves. With a comprehensive scholarship to The Girls' Middle School, a Bennett Scholar finds the skills and encouragement to be a curious learner and compassionate leader.

## A Deep Commitment to Equity

Many of our Bennett Scholars come from public elementary schools that are under-resourced and overpopulated making it difficult for them to reach their full potential. The global Covid-19 pandemic further highlighted the economic and racial disparity in these communities in ways that are impossible to ignore.

Deeply committed to providing an equitable experience for all students, GMS responded by providing Bennett Scholars with what they needed to succeed in every learning environment — on campus and remote.

After assessing families' needs, GMS:

- Launched the GMS Family Relief Fund and purchased bimonthly grocery cards
- Ensured scholars had access to high-speed internet
- Provided desks and learning materials at home



*"We have four girls remote learning. No one had a structured schedule like our GMS 6th grader. Thanks to GMS, our house became an efficient classroom as everyone followed their younger sister's GMS daily academic routine. We were and are grateful for the incredible support we received."*

— Scholar Parent, Class of 2022







### Facilitated Remote Learning

In early December, we determined that several of our scholars' best learning environment was in-person learning. After making significant changes to our facility, **we safely invited 20 girls to campus** under the direction of Valeria Nava Prado, a GMS alum and former Bennett Scholar.



### Adapting in Uncertain Times

When school went fully remote, after-school programs went virtual. Friday Homework Support Days, Math and Humanities Small Groups, Women in Science, and Computer Literacy summer camps were just a few of the programs that were offered online. To reduce screen time, in-person mentorship, and one-on-one tutoring were still safely facilitated by resident teachers.

When universities eliminated SAT/ACT requirements, we modified our College Admissions Support to focus on preparing students with their personal essays and scholarship applications. **Thanks to this shift, more 2017 GMS alums received scholarships to college than in previous years.**



### Spotting Talent

It was an unusual year: Admission testing was not required, Open Houses were virtual, and most campuses were entirely closed to visitors. However, thanks to our strong foundational partners, we recruited a robust group of elementary schools student from all over the Bay Area.

**A great match for GMS is a high-potential girl whose life trajectory could be forever changed from the full Bennett Scholarship experience.**

The incoming Class of 2024 Bennett Scholars are described as leaders, resilient, curious, engaged, hard-working, caring, and inclusive. Of our ten new scholars, three have been selected to be Sophie's Scholars which awards them a comprehensive scholarship at Sacred Heart Preparatory when they start high school.



*"GMS is an amazing place where I felt so comfortable being myself and was able to learn many things about myself without feeling judged or critiqued. I wish there were more places like GMS in the world."*

— Anne Friedman, Alum 2017

### Beyond GMS

Historically, GMS scholars have gone on to study at some of the best universities and colleges in the country. This year's seniors are heading to Chabot Community College, De Anza Community College, Merced Community College, San Francisco State, San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, and University of Southern California.



For more information about our Bennett Scholars, The Bennett Scholars Breakfast, and past speakers, please visit our updated website, or simply scan this QR Code.



**The Girls' Middle School**

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