

STUDENT LIFE



Thanks to the focused efforts of several alumni faculty and staff and others, Riordan experienced an infusion and revitalization of Crusader Spirit throughout the school and during our athletic games.

The Spirit Club - led by Brian Kosewic '16, and other educators - has organized students into Spirit Captains and Ambassadors who organize rallies, gatherings, and school spirit events. Student-leaders also launched The Gauntlet which now serves as the student section at Riordan sports games - bringing the energy and hype to support their fellow Crusaders.

The House System - led by Benny Willers '08, Director of Student Life - continues to be integrated into the daily lives of students as Riordan strives to build community across grades and between students and adults. Created in 2017, the House System further enhances our Marianist mission by developing student leaders, providing mentorship, and strengthening relationships between students and faculty. In addition, the House System encourages interpersonal relationships and increases school spirit through the annual accumulation of House points, which are awarded through academics, competitions, service, citizenship, leadership, and community attendance at various events.

"Four Houses, One Roof" is the motto of the House System, and students have friendly competitions between Houses during the year to accumulate points and ultimately secure bragging rights by capturing the Chaminade Cup - the annual trophy given to the winning House.

The Crusader Spirit is strong across campus!



BOARDING



Riordan welcomed 64 young men and women to “R Home” for the 2022-23 school year. These students come from all over the world including Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, China, Spain, Portugal, Serbia, Cameroon, Italy, Montenegro, New Zealand, Germany, Hungary, France, Armenia, United States, Czech Republic, and Ukraine.

While enjoying a regular high school life at Riordan, students are exposed to life in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Throughout the year, students visited universities such as UC Berkeley and Stanford, attended Giants games, and community-building activities like miniature golf, bowling, and regional hikes.

Our Director of Boarding, David Lin '99, and his team of six Resident Advisors bring a wealth of experiences, interests, and talents to the only boarding program in San Francisco. The co-ed community focuses on each student's growth and development, through support in academics, athletics, and a structured student life experience.

During summer 2022, the dorms and living space—which is the former residence of the Marianists on the upper floors of the school building—underwent upgrades including a renovated kitchen and recreation space.

While it can be tough being far from home, our students grow to become independent and overcome many obstacles through this experience. Our Resident Advisors build a culture of learning focused on collective capacity building and accountability by fostering responsibility in our shared beliefs and systems for continuous improvement to drive growth.



THE ARTS

The 2022-23 school year was the first time in three years that the Riordan Band, Choir, and the student-actors of the Drama Department could take center stage with a full season of shows and performances.

In his first year as Drama Director, Greg Callaghan produced two marquee events - the Fall Play: *The Book of Will* and the Spring Musical: *Fiddler on the Roof*. Thanks to our Riordan community, *Fiddler on the Roof* was the best attended show since *West Side Story* in 2010.

The Crusader Choir had a full performance schedule this year that included two successful outings at corporate business parties. Student singers received outstanding compliments from the VIP clientele as well as the employees at these events. The group also performed at an event for Archbishop Corlieone as well as during school-wide masses, the winter and spring concerts, and other assemblies.

Our band program continues to create and shape student-musicians. This year, dozens of students were recognized for their outstanding efforts throughout the year during the spring concert: "Portraits of the West." This year, students presented music that evokes the themes of the Western United States. The concert was the culmination of work that Instrumental Music Ensemble (Beginning Band), Concert Band, and Intermediate band have done this semester.

Awards were also presented to senior and student band members. Pebble Ekhaus '23, Ethan Hunter '25, Tommy Galvin '24, Moon Lin '25, Santiago Moreno '23, Andreas Flores Fok '24, Chris Enriquez '23, and Jameson Datoc '23. Additionally, Datoc received national band awards, including the John Phillip Sousa Award, the highest award for high school band students nationwide.

Our Marching Band continues to radiate Crusader Spirit across the Bay Area and the world! Members of the band and color guard marched in several parades including the Italian Heritage Parade, St. Patrick's Day Parade, and the Pacifica Fog Festival. Later this year in December, the group will have the distinct honor of marching in the New Year's Parade in Rome, Italy.



FAITH FORMATION

The Family Spirit at Riordan is strong as Campus Ministry continues to be at the core of the Crusader Experience. This year, students were immersed in numerous opportunities to live the Marianist values of faith, community, inclusivity, service, and justice through collections, blood drives, retreats, Kairos, and much more.

Our incredible Campus Ministry team, led by Alex Datoc '87, Leo Magnaye '05, and Deacon Chris Mariano, is flourishing as more students than ever are becoming student-leaders, including the first-ever all-female team of retreat leaders during Kairos #110 in March 2023.

The LIFE Team (Living In Faith Experience) members planned dozens of community gatherings throughout the year, and led monthly Marianist Life Communities (MLCs).

Our Liturgy Team—responsible for all school-wide liturgies—is a team of sophomores and juniors who managed 5 schoolwide Masses, several prayer services, including special concelebrant Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone during the Lenten Mass. Fr. Martin Solma, chaplain of Chaminade University, Honolulu, HI., also joined as special concelebrant for mass on Blessed Chaminade's Feast Day in January 2023.

Helping individuals and families both locally and across the globe, the CORE Team is a group of juniors and seniors responsible for all Riordan service drives and brings awareness about local, national, and international causes and needs through monthly service drives. These Crusaders held two blood drives, an AIDS Penny Drive, a Food Drive in November, a Toy Drive in December, assembled hygiene kits for the homeless, and held a spring fundraising drive for Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School in Nairobi, Kenya.

The presence of Christ and love for our Blessed Mother are radiated throughout the school day and across campus thanks to the tireless efforts of our Campus Ministry team and student leaders!



ATHLETICS

This year, Riordan offered 12 sports with 40 teams - with robotics and sailing becoming teams next year. With an upgraded weight room and state-of-the-art athletic track and field facility, student-athletes have excellent opportunities to perfect their craft and advance their personal growth.

Our dedicated athletic department staff and coaches - led by ADs Jay'Sen Morris '08 and Bob Greene - have elevated our student-athletes to several individual and team accolades and achievements this year.

Varsity Boys Basketball captured the West Catholic Athletic League Champions with a 23-7 record - the third-straight year with at least 20 wins for Coach Joey Curtin '01 and his program. Our Varsity Girls Basketball team finished the season ranked 2nd in Central Coast Section Division IV by MaxPreps and both Girls Basketball and Girls Volleyball will be joining the West Catholic Athletic League Championship in the 2023-24 season.

In Track & Field, Zachary Jones '23 claimed the West Catholic Athletic League championships in the Long Jump and 100 Meters. Jones, and Hannah Bitonio '23, qualified for the Central Coast Section Championships. Mason McKee '23 set a school record in the 1600 Meters following another standout Cross Country season last fall.

Alden Thai '23 qualified for the Central Coast Section Championships in Boys Golf. On the court, Varsity Girls Tennis won six of its final eight matches, including a victory over Sacred Heart Cathedral, while Varsity Boys Tennis swept the season series against Sacred Heart Cathedral and won the Freedom Invitational Tournament.

In a special ceremony on February 1, surrounded by friends and family, three football players signed letters of intent with D1 schools:

- Isiah Chala - Fresno State University
- Zachary Jones - UC Davis
- Zion Wells - Davidson University

This is the first time a Crusader has signed with a D1 university since 2009 when Ryan Jones '09, current strength and conditioning coach, signed with San Jose State University.

During the ceremony, Coach Adhir Ravipati said, "As a head football coach here at Riordan, thank you guys for setting a course for this program moving forward. There are a lot of players who are going to be signing with colleges after you, but you really are trailblazers in setting a new standard with how you conduct yourself at school, on the field, and in the classroom."

