

VERBUM DEI
JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

IMPACT REPORT

2023



VERBUM
CRISTO

VERBUM DEI JESUIT HIGH
SCHOOL NETWORK

Values

Verbum Dei Jesuit is committed to a Jesuit education that is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and inspired by the example of Jesus to promote the full, integral development of students – physical, moral, intellectual, spiritual – so that they embrace challenges, are intellectually motivated, religious, loving, and committed to justice.

COOPERATION as the hallmark of a community where each person receives the attention, encouragement and support to succeed academically, personally and professionally; and where the common good takes precedence over the interests of any individual or group.

EXCELLENCE of effort from students, faculty and staff in the classroom, on the job and in co-curricular activities.

GENEROSITY of spirit and self-sacrifice that reflects Jesus' teaching that "...anything you did for one of my brothers or sisters, however humble, you did for me."

Inclusive community of students, parents, faculty, staff, board, donors, alumni, and corporate sponsors that welcomes diverse persons, perspectives, and experiences and respects the God-given dignity of every human being.

INTEGRITY evidenced by truthfulness, decency and consideration for others consistently reflected in work, study, activities, and life decisions.

RESILIENCE in the face of adversity and challenges.



Verbum Dei Jesuit is a member of the Cristo Rey Network of schools whose mission is to "transform urban America, one student at a time." Through an education model that combines rigorous academic coursework with real-world corporate work experience, students from Cristo Rey Network school are prepared to successfully get to and through college.

VERBUM DEI JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

is a Catholic, Jesuit high school that offers young men from supportive families of limited resources a college preparatory curriculum, corporate work experience, and faith formation that prepares them to graduate from college as men with and for others who serve their communities and pursue a more just and humane world for all.



VERBUM DEI
JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

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of Advancement
Loyola High School,
Los Angeles

DEAR VERBUM DEI JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY,

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I present to you our annual report for the academic year 2022-23. As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the unwavering dedication and commitment of our students, faculty, staff, families, and supporters. Together, we have continued to uphold the values of excellence, service, and community that define Verbum Dei Jesuit High School.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At Verbum Dei, academic excellence remains at the forefront of our mission. This past year, our students have excelled in their studies, demonstrating exceptional growth and achievement across all disciplines. Through rigorous coursework, innovative teaching methods, and personalized support, we have empowered our students to reach their fullest potential. We are proud to report that students' average SAT score increased more than 100 points, 6th in the Cristo Rey Network, and college acceptance rate remains 100%, with a significant number of our graduates moving on to pursue higher education at esteemed colleges and universities.

SERVICE

Rooted in the Jesuit tradition of serving others, Verbum Dei continues to instill in our students a deep sense of social responsibility. Through our robust service-learning programs, students have engaged with various local organizations and initiatives, making meaningful contributions to the community. Whether it is through volunteering at local shelters, participating in advocacy campaigns, or organizing fundraising events, our students have demonstrated a profound commitment to making a positive difference in their community.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Central to the mission of Verbum Dei is the spiritual formation of our students. Throughout the year, we have provided numerous opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection, including retreats, liturgies, and service immersion experiences. These experiences have allowed our students to deepen their faith, develop a sense of purpose, and cultivate a strong moral compass. As a Jesuit institution, we remain dedicated to nurturing the spiritual development of our students and fostering a community grounded in Ignatian values.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

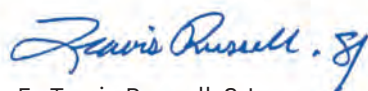
Verbum Dei is more than just a school; it is a vibrant and inclusive community where all are welcomed and valued. This past year, we have continued to strengthen our ties with our neighbors in Watts and beyond, building partnerships and collaborations that enrich the educational experience of our students. From hosting community events to participating in neighborhood clean-up efforts, we are committed to being active and engaged members of the community.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

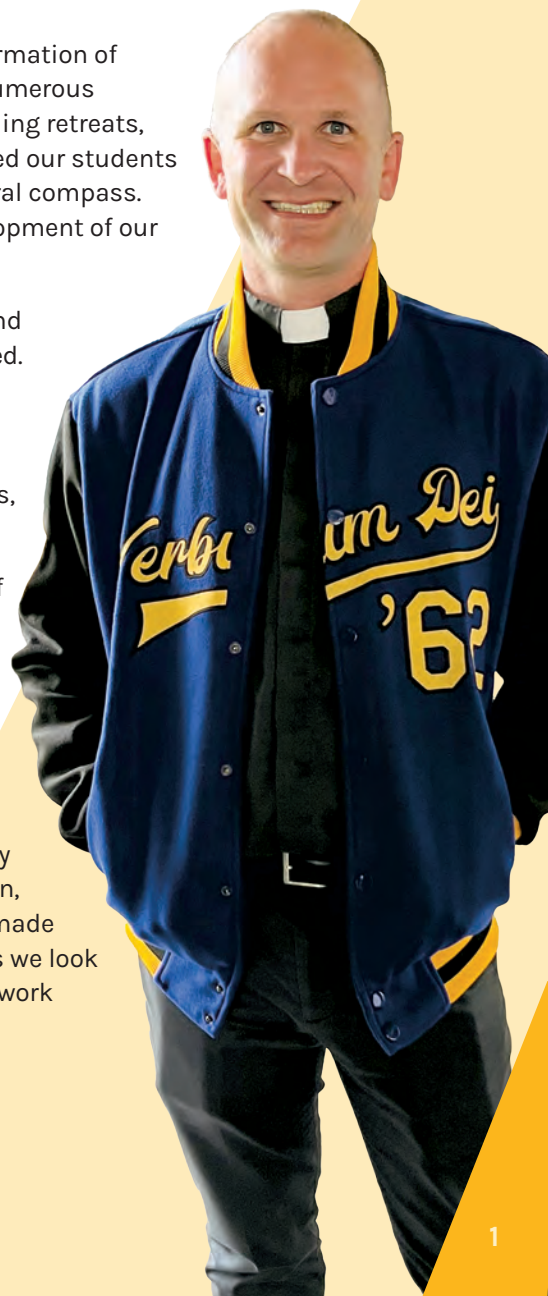
We are deeply grateful for the generosity and support of our donors, whose contributions make it possible for us to fulfill our mission and provide a transformative education to our students. Through prudent financial management and strategic planning, we have ensured the long-term sustainability of Verbum Dei and positioned ourselves for continued growth and success in the years to come.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to each and every member of the Verbum Dei Jesuit community for your unwavering dedication, passion, and support. Together, we have achieved remarkable success and made a lasting impact on the lives of our students and the broader community. As we look ahead to the future, let us continue to uphold the values of Verbum Dei and work together to create a more just, compassionate, and equitable world.

In gratitude,



Fr. Travis Russell, S.J.





313
STUDENTS

CLASS BREAKDOWN

2023 → 77

2024 → 66

2025 → 83

2026 → 87

13:1

FACULTY
RATIO



Stats

**RACIAL/ETHNIC
BREAKDOWN**

- 76%** Hispanic/Latino
- 20%** African American
- 1%** Asian American
- 3%** No response

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE RATE



100%

74%

FIRST GEN
STUDENTS

95%

COLLEGE
ENROLLMENT
RATE

82%

4-YEAR
INSTITUTION

13%

2-YEAR
INSTITUTION





ANNUAL COST OF EDUCATION

\$23,000

No student is turned away for inability to pay

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME PER CAPITA

\$15,423

AVG. FAMILY CONTRIBUTION

\$1,200

AID BREAKDOWN

\$23,000 Cost per student

- \$(8,500) Contributed by CWSP

= \$14,500

- \$(11,800) Guaranteed scholarship from VDJHS

= \$2,700 Maximum Tuition cost annually

- \$(1,500) Average additional aid provided by VDJHS

= \$1,200 Average family contribution (approx. \$120/month)



Student Highlight JOSIAH HANKERSON

Josiah Hankerson is a rising star at Verbum Dei Jesuit. The sophomore is the oldest of two and lives in the neighboring community of Compton. Despite being from the area, Josiah didn't know about Verbum Dei before attending and applied at the insistence of his great-grandmother.



Since his arrival on campus last year, Josiah has immersed himself in all the school offers and is thriving. He maintains a 3.8 grade point average, and in addition to serving as sophomore class president, Josiah is a member of the National Honors Society and Emerging Leaders Club and is a two-sport athlete, participating in cross country and track and field.

Josiah has his sights set on Georgetown University and then a career in law, where he wants to reform education policy. "The trip to Washington, D.C. with the Emerging Leaders Club my freshman year was transformational for me. Being on the Hill and getting to interact with senators and alumni who are working in Washington, like Chase Moore, really sparked my interest in law." Josiah is well on his way. Before returning to his job at Hogan Lovells law firm as part of the Corporate Work Study Program, Josiah spent eight weeks as a summer intern at Kubota & Basol LLP.

“Verb has taught me to be open to new things and people, especially after spending two years working at home due to the pandemic. One of my favorite things about Verb is the opportunities and experiences for students that align with our service and career goals. And it's not just teachers pushing us; it's everyone on campus. I would not be the student and person I am today without that.”

Alumni Highlight MICHAEL ROMERO



Michael Romero, a distinguished alum of Verbum Dei High School, stands as a testament to the transformative power of education and the enduring impact of Verbum Dei. Graduating in 2016, Romero continued his educational journey at Marist College and received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Michael's thirst for knowledge led him to pursue a Master's degree in Public Administration from Azusa Pacific University, a milestone he recently achieved in 2024. Yet, his educational voyage doesn't end there, as he eagerly looks forward to commencing a Ph.D. program, armed with a plethora of options.

Reflecting on his educational trajectory, Michael credits the Verbum Dei Corporate Work Study Program for instilling in him a robust work ethic that has served as a guiding light. As a first-generation college student, venturing away from his hometown of Los Angeles to pursue his studies in the Northeast, Michael found himself immersed in a world of new experiences and opportunities. He gained a broader perspective of the world, realizing that there is much more beyond the boundaries of his hometown. This newfound sense of exploration culminated in a memorable 2 ½ week journey across Southeast Asia, a testament to his adventurous spirit and eagerness to embrace new horizons.

Michael recently along with one of his classmates initiated a scholarship for students attending Marist College. When asked about his decision to give back, Michael's response is rooted in gratitude and a deep sense of purpose. Inspired by Verbum Dei's motto of being "men with and for others," Michael shares that he always harbored the intention of paying it forward.



70%

STUDENTS IN FUNDED JOBS

increase from 52% in 2021-22



98%

JOBS RETAINED FROM LAST SCHOOL YEAR

highest of all Cristo Rey Schools



LIST OF PARTNERS

EDUCATION

CA African American Museum
California Science Center
Charles Drew University
Loyola Law School
Loyola Marymount University
Mount St. Mary's University
USC ICT

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Aerospace Corporation
Harley Ellis Devereaux
Partner Engineering and Science
Raytheon Technologies

REAL ESTATE

Brookfield Properties
Macerich
Shea Properties

HEALTHCARE

California Hospital Medical Center
California Medical Pharmacy
St. Mary's Medical Center
Torrance Memorial Medical Center
Venice Family Clinic

ENTERTAINMENT & MEDIA

AEG
Sony Pictures
Entertainment
Underground Films

LEGAL

Bird & Marella, PC
Buchalter Nemer, PLC
Carroll, Kelly, Trotter, & Franzen
Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy LLP
Foley & Lardner, LLP
Fox Rothschild, LLP
Hogan Lovells
Kirkland & Ellis, LLP
Latham & Watkins
Law Office of Glenn N. Kawahara
Lewis Roca
Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell, LLP
O'Melveny & Myers
Panish, Shea & Boyle, LLP
Sheppard, Mullin, Ritcher, & Hampton
Sidley Austin, LLP
St. Claire Law

PROFESSIONAL & FINANCE

Allied Universal
Crisp Imaging
Express Employment Professionals
Operating Engineers Funds, Inc.
Payden & Rygel
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Capital Group
Companies, Inc.

City National Bank
Crescent Capital Group
First Republic Bank
Hotchkis & Wiley
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TCW

Western Asset
Management
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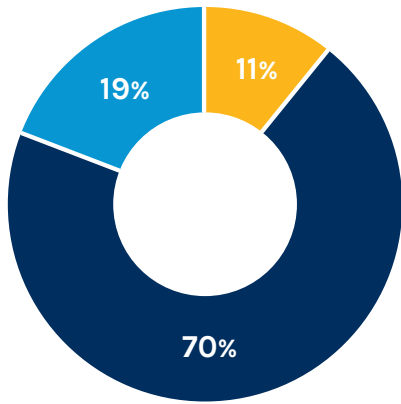
NON-PROFIT

American Martyrs Church
Archdiocesan Youth Employment
Catholic Charities of Los Angeles
LA Voice
Los Angeles Mission
Operation Progress
Specialty Family Foundation
St. Joseph Center
St. Lawrence Martyr
St. Paul the Apostle
Starview
Vista Del Mar Child & Family Services

OTHER BUSINESS

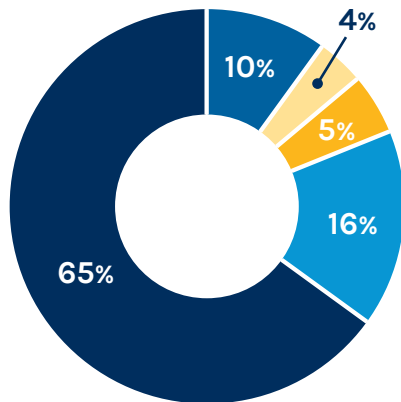
Bob Smith Toyota
Jonathan Club
Salsbury Industries
Wedgewood
Wood Expressions
Allen Lund Company, Inc.
LA County Metro

FY 2022-23 FINANCIALS



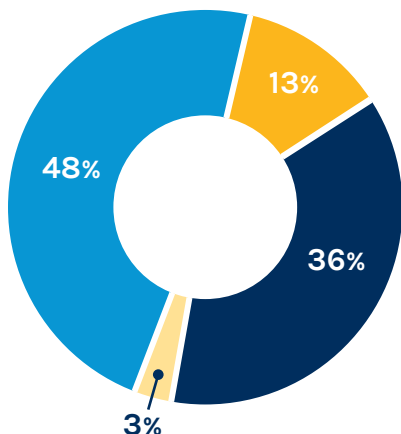
EXPENSES

Academics & Student Programs	\$ 5,545,703
General & Administration	\$ 1,465,694
Development	\$ 883,972
TOTAL	\$7,895,369



REVENUES

Tuition/fees	\$ 334,473
Catholic Education Foundation	\$ 469,750
Corporate Work Study	\$ 1,419,837
Contributions	\$ 5,358,601
Other income	\$ 998,859
TOTAL	\$8,581,520



CONTRIBUTIONS

Individual gifts	\$ 1,953,187
Corporate gifts	\$ 151,594
Foundation grants	\$ 2,552,918
Events	\$ 700,902
TOTAL	\$5,358,601



Verbum Dei BECOMES INDEPENDENT JESUIT SCHOOL

On July 1, Verbum Dei High School became Verbum Dei Jesuit High School, transitioning from a Los Angeles Archdiocesan school to a Jesuit institution after seven years of preparation. The change marks the culmination of over two decades of Jesuit support, initiated in 2000 at the request of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles due to declining enrollment and financial struggles. Embracing the ethos of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the Jesuits implemented a new academic model integrating work study to sustain the school financially and uphold its importance as a beacon of hope in the Watts community.

To mark the significance of this change, Father Travis Russell, S.J., president of the school, unveiled a new Verbum Dei Jesuit Credo, inspired by the writings of the founder of the Cristo Rey Network, Fr. John Foley, S.J.

“This year, Verbum Dei celebrates an exciting milestone – the 60th anniversary of its founding. And as the school enters its seventh decade, there is more good news: Verbum Dei adds ‘Jesuit’ to its name. I would like to thank the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and, in particular, Archbishop José Gomez, not only for partnering with the Jesuits, but for entrusting this special apostolate to our care. We are so proud of our outstanding Verb students, families, faculty and staff, and we look forward to many more years of collaboration with the Verbum Dei community.”

– Father Sean Carroll, S.J., provincial of the Jesuits West Province





SPONSOR- A-STUDENT

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is currently at 319 students, with one third of our student body having an Adopt-A-Student Sponsor. Through the Adopt-A-Student Program, you are directly helping us transform these young men into “men for others”. By serving as a sponsor, you are a role model of generosity and embody the Ignatian value of “giving without counting the cost.” Through your involvement, our students are witnessing Christ’s love in action. With confidence, we know that one day, after college graduation, they too will “pay it forward” by adopting a student of their own to sponsor.

If you would like more information on the Sponsor-A-Student Program, please contact the Vice President of Mission Advancement:

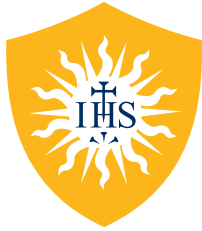
STEPHANIE ANDRADE
323-614-8491



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Want to make a difference
IN THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNG MEN?

Make a gift today and impact our young men and their families for generations.

Scan to make a secure, tax-deductible cash gift.

