



SOFIA '20

**I LEARN.**



ALDEN '19

**I CONNECT.**



SETH '18

**I GROW.**

**I GIVE.**



TARIQ '19



**Bishop O'Dowd  
High School**



## DEAR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES

Welcome to O'Dowd! Uniquely located at a crossroads in the East Bay, O'Dowd educates its students towards creating a just, sustainable, and economically prosperous civilization. As a Catholic college prep community, O'Dowd lives the words of Pope Francis, "We can only build the future by everyone standing together ... everything is connected, and we need to restore our connections to a healthy state."

With 1,200 students and a community rich in diversity, we are just the right size to provide both new friends and extraordinary programs that challenge and support intellectual, personal, and moral excellence. As you explore O'Dowd, you will find:

- Broad and deep academic and co-curricular programs that promote intellectual excellence, strength of character, resiliency, spiritual wisdom, and joy.
- An authentically diverse community that broadens perspectives, social intelligence, creativity, and the self-confidence needed to excel in a world of accelerating change.
- An unmatched focus on sustainability and social justice that nurtures kinship with creation and social cohesion.
- Excellence in athletics, campus ministry, debate, and performing and visual arts that cultivates teamwork, creativity, courage, and joy.
- Unmatched student support and aspirational counseling that encourages independence and self-confidence for thoughtful college and career choices.
- A joyful, loving, and inclusive community that finds God in all persons and all things.

There are a number of excellent schools in the Bay Area that share such characteristics, however few can offer the entire constellation of elements. We encourage you to talk with members of our community about their experiences and invite conversations with you about your children.



James Childs, M.A., M.Ed.  
President







Selecting your college preparatory high school is one of the most important decisions you'll ever make. These next four years will solidify the foundation for the person you will become and for successful life outcomes.


With 1,200 students and a supportive, gifted, and diverse community, O'Dowd is just the right size to provide new friends and extraordinary programs that challenge and promote your intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth.

**FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS  
CALLS US TO**

- **COMMUNITY IN DIVERSITY**
- **STRENGTH OF CHARACTER**
- **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**
- **KINSHIP WITH CREATION**
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE**
- **JOY**

Guided by our transformative charism or core values, O'Dowd equips students to create positive change - within themselves, in their communities and in the world at large - building a more just, joyful and sustainable world.





**HERE ARE 25 WAYS  
O'DOWD WILL SUPPORT  
YOUR TRANSFORMATIVE  
EXPERIENCE**

**1**

## **AN O'DOWD EDUCATION**

Delivered experientially and through classroom learning, deep and broad curriculum emphasizes academic excellence, critical thinking, and personal and spiritual growth. Exceptional experiences in arts, athletics and service to community round out the experience.







# 2

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WITH JUST THE RIGHT DEGREE OF CHALLENGE

All students are expected to grow and excel at O'Dowd. If it's academic challenge you are seeking, with more than 25 honors and AP classes and a large cohort of advanced students, you'll find your edge.

# 3

## AUTHENTIC DIVERSITY FOR TODAY'S WORLD

Our diverse school community fosters the social and academic intelligence and self-confidence you need to thrive in today's world.



# 4

## THINK CRITICALLY, COMMUNICATE WELL AND EXPAND YOUR WORLDVIEW

With deep immersion in English writing and literature, World Languages and a culturally resonant Social Studies program, our graduates often say they are "over-prepared" for college. You'll develop a world perspective and learn to communicate effectively. Put your skills to the test by going out for the acclaimed O'Dowd Debate or Mock Trial Team.







# 5

## BIG FISH, JUST THE RIGHT-SIZED POND

With big school programs and choice, you'll find plenty to explore while still being seen. The mean class size is 25 and with abundant opportunities to join a club, participate in a sport, debate, perform in a play and much more, you'll find your place at O'Dowd.

# 6

## WE VALUE SUSTAINABILITY

Anchored by the Center for Environmental Studies (CES) and the adjacent 4-acre Living Lab, the sustainability program is integrated throughout the 4Cs-Campus, Curriculum, Culture and Community.



# 7

## HOW YOU LEARN

We leverage the best of tradition and state-of-the-art technology with interactive classroom activities, seminars, college-style lectures and online courses.





## **YOU LEAD THE WAY**

With our student-centered approach, leadership opportunities abound through student body and class officer positions, athletic leadership on our 57 teams, and National Honor Society and Campus Ministry roles. Apply to be a Dragon Ambassador or Senior Philanthropy Officer, or help lead a retreat.



# 9

## FROM FRESHMAN TEAMS TO VARSITY SPORTS

With 57 teams at the freshman, JV and varsity level in 16 sports, over 700 student-athletes participate each year. In fact, 70% of freshmen take a turn on the field, court, track or in the pool. And each year between 25 and 30 O'Dowd seniors are awarded college athletic scholarships.



# 10

## DEVELOP A FLUENT STEM PRACTICE

Whether through Math classes that challenge you to be a confident, independent problem solver or Robotics and Electronics class where you can think and work like an engineer, our STEM programs help you explore, discover and apply math and science principles in real-world situations.





# 11

## YOU ARE SUPPORTED

Counseling, Student Health & Wellness and Parent Education programs help you and your family manage the demands of a college preparatory environment. College counseling and career exploration help you choose wisely for your future.



# 12

## MIGHTY STUDENT-ATHLETE DRAGONS

O'Dowd has been consistently ranked in the top five of nearly 200 North Coast Section independent and public schools for academic and athletic excellence. In 2016, O'Dowd achieved the #1 ranking and was awarded the Elmer Brown Award.

- BASEBALL
- BASKETBALL
- CHEERLEADING
- CROSS COUNTRY
- FOOTBALL
- GOLF
- LACROSSE
- RUGBY
- SOCCER
- SOFTBALL
- SWIMMING
- TENNIS
- TRACK & FIELD
- VOLLEYBALL
- WATER POLO





# 13

## EXPLORE AND DEEPEN YOUR ARTS FOCUS

Hundreds of O'Dowd students take different levels of painting, drawing, sculpting, and computer art. Upper division AP art students produce a portfolio of art. Award-winning musicals, an orchestra, jazz bands, and a community art show provide showcase opportunities for your work.





## JUNIOR YEAR KAIROS

Retreats take place for each class and are invitations to transformative experiences - the junior year Kairos experience is considered the defining experience and the sign up opportunity goes fast.

# 14



# 15

## WHERE CAN I GET FOOD?

We've got you covered. The Dragon's Bar, Dragon's Lair and the main cafe serve a wide array of choices, with fresh, seasonal, organic and local ingredients.

## CLASSIC HIGH SCHOOL TRADITIONS

Classic O'Dowd experiences include: Spirit Week, homecoming, Friday night football, proms, elections, talent shows, school-wide assemblies, and prayer opportunities. These events complement the most sought after elements of Catholic education with the best of high school traditions.

# 16







# 17

## DRESS CODE? YES!

Figuring out what to wear in the morning is easy at O'Dowd! Our simple dress code includes logo polos and outerwear with guidelines for other attire.

# 18

## JOY & DIVERSITY IN COMMUNITY

This is what you'll feel at O'Dowd. These are two of our charism values and a way of being that we cultivate at O'Dowd.





## LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Participate in one of our seminal, small-group educational travel study trips with a focus on science, the Holocaust, or Washington, D.C., or engage in entrepreneurial events and much more.

# 19





# 20



## IN SERVICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Catholic tenant of “action in service of social justice” means you’ll commit 100 hours or more of service with vital organizations that bring you in touch with humanity. Many graduates say this was one of the defining aspects of their O’Dowd education.



## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Inclusive and professional, student support services include drop-in tutoring, SMART sessions, study hall advisory, support for student athletes, peer tutoring and much more.

# 21



## "BEST-IN-CLASS" TEACHERS AND MENTORS

O'Dowd's faculty are chosen both for their credentials and for their passion and commitment to teaching, giving students room to think for themselves.

# 22



# 23

## ROOM TO GROW

Like a small college, our 20-acre campus includes expansive San Francisco Bay views and facilities.

**STATE-OF-THE-ART CENTER  
FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

**4-ACRE LIVING LAB**

**TWO GYMS**

**FIELDS**

**TRACK**

**TRAINING AND WEIGHT ROOMS**

**THEATER**

**ART AND MUSIC FACILITIES**

**EIGHT SCIENCE LABS**

**CHAPEL**

**TECH AND ACADEMIC  
SUPPORT CENTERS**

**FULLY RESOURCED LIBRARY**

**AND MUCH MORE**





## THE O'DOWD NETWORK

Our 14,000+ alumni do well and do good in their professional and personal lives. Upon graduation, you become a part of an alumni network that fosters an ethos of excellence, innovation and service.

# 24

# 25

## GET INTO THE COLLEGE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

98% of our students who apply to 4-year colleges are accepted with 40% attending private colleges and universities and 25% choosing a UC school.







**EXPAND YOUR WORLDVIEW,  
HONE YOUR MORAL COMPASS  
AND ACADEMIC PROWESS,  
DEVELOP YOUR ATHLETIC ABILITIES,  
DELVE MORE DEEPLY INTO YOUR  
INTERESTS, AND ESTABLISH  
LIFELONG COMMUNITY.**

Discover for yourself how an O'Dowd education supports creating positive change - helping you achieve your academic, personal and spiritual development goals.

Tour, visit a classroom and speak to our students, teachers and administrators at O'Dowd.

- Attend Open House
- Ask questions
- Participate in an information session and tour
- Peruse our website
- Meet our students
- Schedule a student visit day







**SOFIA '20**

“I really love music and I also enjoy math and programming. I’ve challenged myself in all of these areas and I’ve opened myself up to new friendships.”

**ALDEN '19**

“You are supported in challenging yourself academically at O’Dowd. I did really, really well on my AP Physics exam because of the support of my teacher who would come in on Saturdays to give practice exams and review material.”

**SETH '18**

“Four years ago, when I walked into O’Dowd, I was pretty scared and I didn’t know too much about how to work a system like this on such a grand scale. Now, I really feel like I can take on the world.”

**TARIH '19**

“My favorite teachers at O’Dowd really helped me develop as a student and as an athlete by exposing me to all the different leadership roles at O’Dowd.”

**BROOHE '19**

“I have expanded my passion for art while at O’Dowd through painting and poetry. Within the Black Student Union, we created an art group and we actually got our art in one of our assemblies. That was really cool!”

**COLM '19**

“Being a Dragon is about trying as hard as you can to be the best student, person, and citizen of O’Dowd. So, in addition to my classes and varsity swimming, I’m going to serve as the Associated Student Body President.”

**ABIGAIL '20**

“Some of my goals at O’Dowd are to remain happy, focused on school and to deepen my relationship with God. I feel I’ve been very successful while also playing varsity basketball and developing my connections with teachers and friends.”

**Bishop O’Dowd High School**

A Catholic College Preparatory School  
9500 Stearns Ave., Oakland, CA 94605

**Finding God in All Things**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Visit [www.bishopodowd.org](http://www.bishopodowd.org)  
Email [admissions@bishopodowd.org](mailto:admissions@bishopodowd.org)  
Call (510) 553-8631

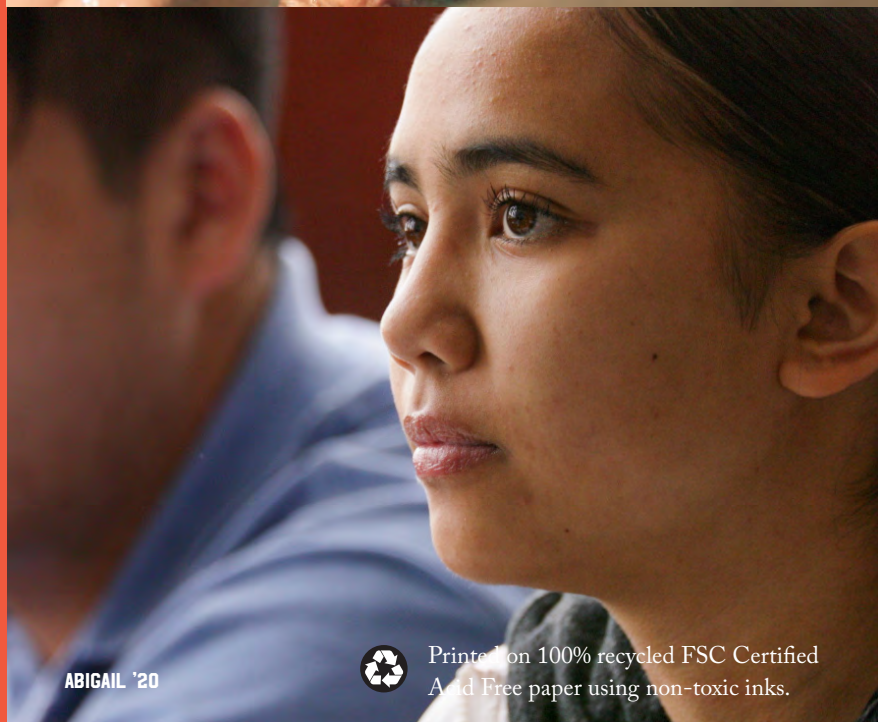
Accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges



BROOHE '19



COLM '19



ABIGAIL '20



Printed on 100% recycled FSC Certified  
Acid Free paper using non-toxic inks.