PRESENTATION HIGH SCHOOL

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

PRESIDENT

START DATE: JULY 2019

WWW.PRESENTATIONHS.ORG
OVERVIEW

Founded in 1962, Presentation High School is a highly regarded Catholic independent school for young women in Silicon Valley sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation. The school works in partnership with families to promote spiritual and intellectual development of students, and graduates are expected to be women of faith who live by the motto “Not Words, But Deeds,” capturing its commitment to service to others. “Pres,” as it is affectionately called, believes that the all-female experience allows for increased leadership opportunities, greater empowerment, and a stronger perception of self-efficacy. With a student population of 832, the school is intentional about making every student belong, and there is a deep sense of family and community among the faculty and students. The school is fortunate to have a beautiful campus and facilities and is proud of its robust academics, competitive athletics, and amazing fine arts.

The school is able to provide small class sizes while offering a wide variety of courses, programs, and activities that would normally only be seen in much larger schools. Students exude joy and sisterhood, and enthusiastic school spirit fills the halls. Enrollment is strong, and a formidable campus master plan has been created which visualizes an extraordinary campus expansion/renovation project.

The school operates in the President/Principal model and now seeks a dynamic, visionary, and faith-filled practicing Catholic to serve as President effective July 2019. The new President will work closely with a dedicated Board of Directors and Board of Trustees to lead the school community in its pursuit of a new chapter of excellence. Due to the recent change in leadership and negative publicity that the school has endured, the new President will not only need to strengthen the sense of community and stability, but will also need to heal the brokenness of the feeling of family within all constituency groups.
**School History**

Built on a cherry orchard in San Jose’s Willow Glen neighborhood, Presentation High School was founded in 1962 by the Sisters of Presentation as a single-sex Catholic school for young women. After beginning the school year next door in the St. Christopher School gym, 73 ninth-graders and three faculty members moved into Presentation’s new building, marking the start of more than five decades of growth and innovation in girls’ education. Presentation celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012.

The Sisters of Presentation were established in the 1700s by Nano Nagle, an Irish woman who secretly rented rooms in the city of Cork to provide an education for Catholic children, who were barred from attending school under the laws of the time. Known as the Lady of the Lantern for the guiding light by which she moved through the city streets, Nano Nagle is remembered now as a dedicated and devout educator. In 1854, five Sisters of the Presentation sailed into the bay of San Francisco and went on to found three high schools for young women in the Bay Area. San Jose’s Presentation High School is one of these three schools.

**The School**

Today, Presentation High School is a college preparatory school for girls whose purpose and direction flow from the teaching mission of the Catholic Church and the educational ministry of the Sisters of the Presentation. For more than 50 years, Presentation High School has empowered intellectually competent, creative, and confident young women, allowing them to find and develop their own unique voices that will allow them to assume their full stature as citizens of the world.

**Mission and Philosophy**

Presentation High School is a secondary school for young women whose purpose and direction flow from the teaching mission of the Catholic Church and the educational ministry of the Sisters of the Presentation. This school strives to infuse the entire educational experience with the vision of life found in the Gospels. Each student is challenged to become a woman of faith, dedicated to working with others, intellectually competent, and committed to her personal growth. Presentation works in partnership with the family, which is the primary educator. Presentation assumes responsibility for using its unique resources to bring about its stated purposes. Presentation recognizes the following principles as the foundation upon which all the school’s goals, outcomes, programs, and procedures are developed and evaluated:

- Rooted in the belief that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God, Presentation High School commits itself to developing the whole person – her spiritual, intellectual, emotional, aesthetic, psychological, and physical powers.
- Faith is a gift from God which must be nurtured.
- Gospel values are best taught and lived in a community of faith.
- The role of education is to empower young women to make responsible decisions, embrace their responsibility to work for peace and justice, and to assume their full stature in today’s society.
- The school must be an active institution in the greater community whose students and faculty embody the motto “Not Words But Deeds.”
With a student population of 832 girls in grades 9-12, Presentation welcomes students from 100 area feeder schools, of which 60% are Catholic, 19% private, and the remaining 21% public. Fifty-six percent of the Presentation community is non-Caucasian, with large Latina and Indian populations, and 39% of students are non-Catholic. Like larger high schools, Presentation offers a wide variety of classes, clubs, and organizations, a competitive athletic program, and a beautiful campus with state-of-the-art facilities. At the same time, Presentation retains a small school feel, as teachers, counselors, and administrators know students by name and classes are enriched by individualized instruction.

Working in partnership with families, Pres is a nurturing environment that encourages the development of the whole person: spiritually, academically, and personally. Students and faculty work to embody the motto “Not Words, But Deeds,” positioning the school as active institution for peace and justice in the greater community.

**ACADEMICS**

At Pres, each student is encouraged to think critically, speak and write clearly, and apply her knowledge to 21st century problem solving. Presentation students are taught how to think, not what to think—giving them the knowledge and confidence to discover their own unique voices and points of view. That confidence, combined with a multi-faceted academic program, instills students with the skills they need for success in college and a career.

The Presentation curriculum is designed to prepare the students for college while helping each individual find the path that best aligns with her strengths and interests. In core subjects such as
English and social studies, girls read extensively; learn to express themselves clearly and articulately; and develop an understanding of contemporary global issues, psychology, sociology, and economics. In keeping with the school’s location in the heart of Silicon Valley, Pres students also excel in STEM, with the vast majority of girls taking four years of math and science. The modern language program offers students a chance to study Spanish and French and practice their skills in real time through a dynamic and engaging slate of activities. Finally, the school’s Catholic identity means that every student completes seven semesters of religious studies, including Moral Theology and Social Justice courses. Across disciplines, student growth is cultivated by a dedicated, expert faculty; 71% of Pres teachers hold advanced degrees.

With 33 designated honors and Advanced Placement courses, Presentation offers rigorous learning experiences for students of all strengths and interests, boasting a 92% pass rate for AP exams. Academic support is designed to help students succeed within the school's challenging college preparatory curriculum, and includes peer tutoring, mentoring, a dedicated study center, and academic monitoring for students in need of extra support.

Presentation uses a block schedule, allowing for more productivity and participation in the classroom. Classes are 85 minutes long and include lectures, activities for large and small groups, student-led learning opportunities, and discussion. State-of-the-art classrooms and technology support this dynamic approach: learning spaces are light, bright, tech-centered, and collaborative, and each classroom is outfitted with the latest educational technology, from Apple TVs to overhead digital projectors. In concert with best instructional practices, all students at Presentation are issued an iPad loaded with the latest educational tools, including the Canvas Learning Management System and the Google for Education platform.
The academic program at Pres is complemented by the efforts of the College Counseling program and Career Exploration Office, which guide students in identifying potential careers, college majors, and college choices through a multi-faceted program of advising, career days, job shadowing and internships. One-hundred percent of Pres students attend college, with 93% going on to four-year colleges and universities.

ARTS AND ATHLETICS

Visual and performing arts are a core facet of the Pres experience, with the school’s program regularly receiving national recognition in the form of national championship titles for the dance team, Unanimous Superior rankings for the Bella Voce choir, and awards for student thespians and speakers. Students have the choice of 36 courses in the arts, from graphic design and photography to dance, voice, ceramics, and film appreciation. Ample opportunities for performance allow young artists to showcase their skills and build confidence on stage: each year, Presentation produces three theatrical productions, two choral concerts, and two dance shows.

Presentation’s students excel in athletics, too, representing the Panthers as part of the competitive West Catholic Athletic League. Nearly half of all Presentation students participate in the athletics program, which has produced Olympians, college stars, and top-notch professional coaches. Fielding 25 teams in 11 sports, the athletic department plays a key role in teaching young women about leadership, initiative, self-discipline, and teamwork. Physical education opportunities include yoga, weight training, instructional swimming, and recreational sports, allowing Pres to offer something for athletes of all levels and interests.
**SCHOOL LIFE**

With 30 extracurricular activities to choose from, Pres students explore new hobbies and hone existing skills outside the classroom. In groups such as the Cultural Student Union, the Speech and Debate Program, and the Cooking Club, students build community, develop leadership skills, and enjoy themselves. Organizations including the Leadership Academy, Women in Computer Science, and the Presentation Animal Wellness Squad (PAWS) facilitate growth and advocacy, while an active student council enriches student life through the planning of events, conferences, dances, and mixers throughout the year.

Wellness is another important part of life at Pres, with the SWell program offering workshops, tools, and advice to students as they find their authentic selves and strengthen their social-emotional skills. Covering topics such as time management, decision making, goal setting, stress, drugs and alcohol, healthy relationships, and digital wellness, SWell ensures that girls maintain balance during these important formative years.

**College Matriculation**

Matriculations for the class of 2018 included the following schools, among others:

- American University
- Anna Maria College
- Arizona State University
- Auburn University
- Bard College
- Bates College
- Boston College
- California State University San Diego
- California State University San Jose
- Chapman University
- Creighton University
- Dominican University
- Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
- Fairfield University
- Gonzaga University
- Loyola Marymount University
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Pomona College
- Providence College
- Purdue University
- Santa Barbara City College
- Santa Clara University
- Texas Christian University
- UC Berkeley
- UC Davis
- UC Los Angeles
- UC San Diego
- UC Santa Barbara
- UC Santa Cruz
- University of Arizona
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Oregon
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of San Diego
- University of San Francisco
- University of the Pacific
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Whittier College
FAITH AND SERVICE

Students of all traditions explore and grow in their faith through Presentation’s campus ministry program, which guides girls as they become self-confident leaders who use their gifts to serve the world around them. Class-level retreats, school liturgies, and lunchtime prayer services create a community of faith in which the Christian message is integrated with the experience of togetherness, worship, and social concern, and each year a liturgical theme provides an area of emphasis for the school community. This year’s theme is “We Are One,” and celebrates Presentation’s diverse community, its close sisterhood, and the knowledge that we are one in God’s love, a community of hope, and a community that supports one another.

Consistent with the school motto of “Not Words, But Deeds,” students at all grade levels participate in local and global communities through service commitments, fundraisers, and advocacy projects that help students engage thoughtfully with complex social justice issues. PHS is recognized for its commitment to Sacred Heart Community Services, charity drives for the local community and the Sisters, and immersion service trips to Appalachia and Nicaragua. Service hours are not dictated; rather, service is inculcated into the Presentation experience.
CAMPUS

Located in the family-oriented neighborhood of Willow Glen, Presentation High School features updated classrooms that facilitate dynamic student learning. State-of-the-art athletic facilities include an energy-efficient aquatic center and synthetic turf fields. The Miller Athletic Complex, with a gymnasium, weight room, dance studio, and athletic training center, provides the ideal home base for student athletes.

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Known at the “Capital of Silicon Valley,” San Jose’s 1,035,317 residents make it the most populated city in the San Francisco Bay Area and the third-most populous city in California as a whole. Home to the headquarters for many major global tech companies, the area is known for innovation. Featuring several neighborhoods with a rich Latino and Asian influence, San Jose is a diverse city with a growing economy.

Within easy access of the city of San Francisco as well as several major airports, San Jose is served by a light rail, Amtrak, and the commuter Caltrain. Less than an hour from the beaches of Santa Cruz and a few hours’ drive from Yosemite National Park and Lake Tahoe, the area offers plentiful opportunities for outdoor activities. Within the city itself, downtown San Jose offers shopping, professional sports, and culture—from the Museum of Tech Innovation to the San Pedro Square Farmers’ Market. The area’s Mediterranean climate means residents expect hot, dry summers and mild winters.
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

• This is an important time for new leadership at the President level. There are many who are looking forward to having the President/Principal model fully operational, so they can look to the President to lead the school into its next phase.
• The diversity of the school’s student body is celebrated, and the needs-blind admission policy complements the school’s commitment to social justice. The new President will need to promote creative strategies that will embrace and sustain these commitments.
• The alumnae shared that they feel a sense of sisterhood, having developed relationships that will last a lifetime. They want to ensure that the sense of community and family that exists at Pres will continue to be supported.
• Alumnae, faculty, and parent communities are looking for a President who will be able to bring the school community together around a common vision.
• The school has developed a new and ambitious Campus Master Plan that will require the next President to be skilled in fundraising.
• Enrollment historically has not been a challenge for Pres. It is important that the President evaluates enrollment trends in Catholic Schools and at Pres to ensure that if numbers drop, there is a plan in place designed to draw more students to the outstanding academic and extracurricular program that is the trademark of Pres.
DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

• A practicing Catholic who will embrace and promote Catholic values while exemplifying those values in his/her daily leadership;
• A strategic and visionary thinker and “friendraiser” who can execute Presentation’s Campus Master Plan;
• Excellent communication skills;
• Experience in Catholic and/or independent high school;
• A passion for social justice and community service;
• Experience in advocacy for single-sex education;
• Proven experience leading at an organization that has had turmoil and has brought them out of it successfully;
• A charismatic leader with strong business sense capable of serving as a high-profile leader in the Silicon Valley community and within the school;
• A collaborative yet decisive management approach with a willingness to make the hard choices;
• Interested in making a long-term commitment to be a fully engaged member of Pres and the greater community.

TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates should submit electronically in one email and as separate documents (preferably PDFs) the following materials:

• A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
• A current résumé;
• A one-page statement of educational philosophy and practice;
• A list of five professional references with name, phone number, and email address of each to:

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