

# The Road To Rise



Annual Report

# 2024



# The Road to Rise

2024 was a milestone year for Rise Prep, and we are thrilled to celebrate. Since Rise's inception in 2017, the north star vision was to get all scholars offers to four year universities, so they have the option to attend should they choose so. **We are overjoyed to report that this year that vision was accomplished with all 18 members of the Class of 2024 receiving offers from at least one 4 year university!** This year's report will not only celebrate this result, but also share what happened along the road.

Acceptance was offered to Rise scholars from the following 4-year universities:

Arizona State University  
Brandeis University  
Cal Maritime  
Cal Poly Pomona  
Cal Poly SLO  
Cal State East Bay  
Cal State Fullerton  
Cal State Humboldt  
Cal State LA  
Cal State Long Beach  
Chapman University  
Chico State  
CSU Bakersfield  
CSU Dominguez Hills

CSU Monterey Bay  
Fresno State  
Hampton University  
Indiana Wesleyan University  
Iowa State University  
Lehigh University  
Lewis & Clark  
Loyola Marymount  
Moravian University  
Morgan State  
Morris Brown College  
Pacific Union College  
Purdue University

Sacramento State  
Saint Louis University  
Saint Mary's College of California  
San Diego State  
San Jose State  
SF State  
Sonoma State  
UC Davis  
UC Merced  
UC Riverside  
UC Santa Barbara  
UC Santa Cruz  
University of Nevada: Reno

University of Puget Sound  
University of San Francisco  
Vanguard University  
Woodbury University  
Xavier University  
Alabama A&M  
Alabama State  
Virginia State



100%



Percentage of graduates  
receiving offers to 4 year  
universities

**“This is one of the first classes  
that I’ve seen graduate where  
all the kids are going to college.  
I’ve never seen that before.  
That’s so amazing.”**



- Antoinette, Parent Class of 2024



### **\$60,000 College Scholarship**

Nominated by College Track, Silvia (Class of 2024) received a \$60,000 scholarship from the Heffernan Foundation to support her education at the University of San Francisco.

Total number of  
college offers

113

Full Tuition Financial Aid/  
Scholarships Received

10

10 of 18 received full tuition scholarship



# Reflection



**Juliette Chien**  
Head of School

Many years ago, we had faith in things hoped for and not yet seen. Faith and hope that proper attention to a small group of diverse scholars could dramatically exceed academic growth expectations. Faith and hope that through the tough work of love and labor, scholars would taste the goodness of God and blossom more into their imago dei. These dreams are being realized!

We are so proud of our class of 2024, 100% of whom received college offers—113 college offers in total and 10 full tuition scholarships. Our hearts are bursting with pride for all our scholars of every year who amaze us with good, hard work, growth in academic skills, and strength of character!

These phenomenal results seen today have been made by what is unseen. It is God's grace alive in our scholars, families, teachers, partners and advocates. Thank you for being part of the great cloud of witnesses, part of the large company of faithful who wait on the Lord and invest in these futures.

Please pray with me that our young people will continue to grow strong like trees with deep roots to weather storms. Pray that our young people will learn how deeply loved they are and therefore learn to love deeply.

Gratefully,

Juliette

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juliette Chien'.





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# Our History

**"Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."**

— Jer. 29:7 (ESV)

In 2015, after more than a decade in the Bayview, several members of Redeemer Community Church felt called to unify our extensive experience in education in both public and private schools to help form an excellent neighborhood-based middle and high school. Like many of our neighbors, we had long lamented over the inequalities in our city, and we were excited about working together with God's love and strength towards His vision for this place.

**June 2016**

Pilot summer program



2016

2017

**August 2017**

Inaugural 6th grade class starts



**May 2018**

First Sponsor/  
Advocate Week

**April 2018**

First choir concert, 19 performances since inception



**August 2019**

Move to Galvez as we start a full middle school

**February 2020**

2 basketball championships won



2019

2020

**March 2020**

Pandemic hits; Mr. Boyd rides his scooter to deliver chromebooks and hotspots to students at their homes

**June 2020**

Synchronous remote learning





**January 2021**

Rise moves back to Fairfax to reopen in-person learning (the only middle or high school in District 10 to reopen to in-person learning)

**May 2021**

Middle School graduates exceed pre-pandemic growth measures in math and reading standardized testing

**2021****November 2021**

First Rise Faculty vs. Student Soccer Game (Teachers' win!)

**September 2022**

First student internship with Dayspring Partners

**2022****September 2022**

Faculty course descriptions approved for our first full set of UCOP A-G approved high school courses

Earned WASC/ACSI Accreditation for the full program

**2023****October 2023**

First time students win Faculty vs. Student Soccer Game

**August 2023**

First Bless the School BBQ; first new 9th grade class; we are a full high school

**2024****May 2024**

Seniors defend senior theses

**June 2024**

Arriving at the destination: first high school graduation

# The Road to Rise - Step 1

## Establishing Academic Rigor with Support

There are no shortcuts to the work of getting scholars who are behind to grade level and beyond.

At Rise, we push our students to compete nationally and hit high standards, as seen in their involvement and success in Advanced Placement classes. However, success in these and other classes does not come automatically, but requires teachers spending hours of support at lunch and holding mandatory office hours for students who slip behind. See the effort and results below:

**The Road Map -  
How did we get here?**  
Follow us along the road to  
this hard fought success,  
and see what key steps  
were required to get there.

Rise Prep AP pass rates (3+) compared to Global pass rates.

	Rise	Global
Lit+Comp	78.3	72.4
EnviSci	69.2	54.1
Calculus	50	64.5

**“We’ve really tried to pair your traditional college prep, strong academic expectations and rigor, and provide an environment that’s very supportive where the students are known, supported in their academics, and character.”**

- Tim Cahill, Vice Principal

Office tutoring hours

144

8 hours a week x 18 weeks  
(2nd semester)

Lunch time tutoring hours

210

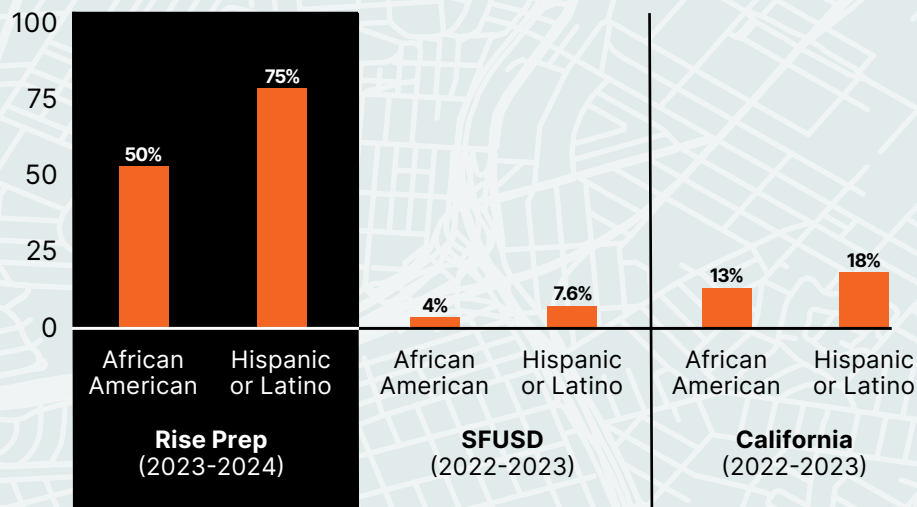
provided by 3 teachers each lunch period



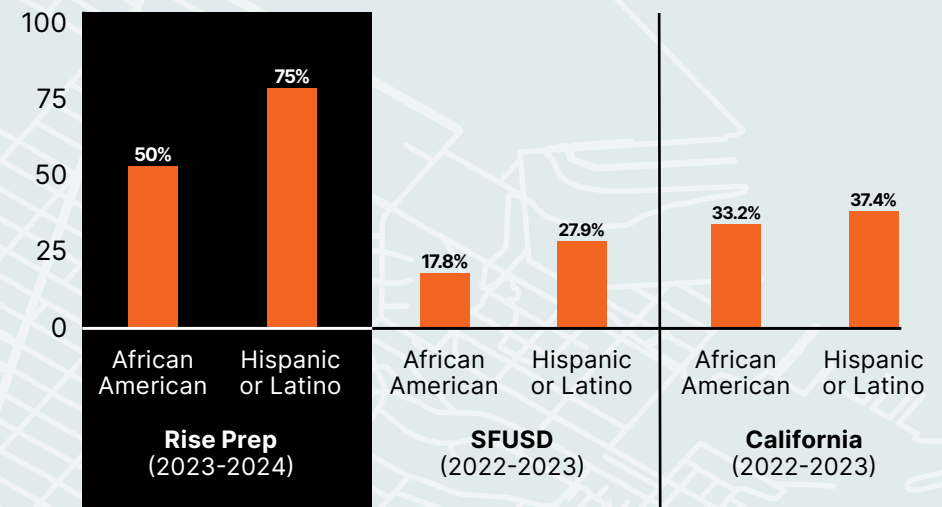
**Rise Black and Latinx students are significantly better prepared than their SFUSD or statewide peers for college rigor.** Higher percentages receive honors diplomas and are UC eligible.

### Honors Diploma

(as equivalent to the CA gold seal diploma)



### Graduates Eligible for UC Enrollment



**"Rise has made me and this entire class much more prepared for college than we would be at any other school. At the end of it all, I feel excited and ready to continue working hard at achieving my dreams. I'd like to thank all my teachers for this incredible experience and for always believing in me to do great things."**

- David Carter, Class of 2024



## The Road to Rise - Step 2

# Relational Partners and Community

Another key to Rise's road map to great college offer rates is the community that surrounds the school and students.

Community partners include College Track, Ultimate Impact, Zaccho Dance Theatre, 100% College Prep and the YMCA who provide neighborhood experiences that enhance a student's connection to the school. Our relational philosophy also includes adult advocates who regularly check in with scholars and serve as another cheerleader in the face of challenges. Lastly, involving an outside community of supporters to help provide financial access for our families is a blessing to our students, families and supporters. It is a picture of God's shalom and reapportionment that we see in the biblical call of Jubilee. We are grateful to our consistent and generous supporters!

**"One of our key foundational values is our partnerships. We couldn't do this work without the many partners - churches, local organizations, and all kinds of foundations that work with us to serve the students as whole beings and their families as well. That's what it means for us to bear witness and to be part of a beloved community for our students."**

- Juliette Chien, Head of School



Dance class at Zaccho Dance Theatre



We have a goal that every student feels known and advocated for by 5+ people in the Rise community: teachers, tutors, financial supporters, and community members.



**Dr. Carolyn Ransom Scott**  
Rise Friend & Advisor



**Kim Tucker**  
Scholar Advocate



**Zachariah Perry**  
Class of 2025



**Matt Tejuco**  
Development Manager



**Tim Cahill**  
Vice Principal /  
Admissions Director



**Pastor Tyrone Hillman**  
Rise Parent & Coach

"Getting connected to Damariyah has been such a great experience. At first I was a little apprehensive and did not know what to fully expect, but as with any relationship over time we both got to learn more about each other, and I very much looked forward to the in-person meetups & letters. We shared stories of our families, goals, faith & prayed for each other. I have been blessed to learn and see the world through her teenage lens, be inspired by how hard she worked on learning & projects, and to be a small part of her Rise Prep journey. I am super excited as she takes the next step to college, and will continue to cheer her on!"

- Keji Ojigbo, Scholar Advocate



## The Road to Rise - Step 2

# Relational Partners and Community, continued

**“When I think about the serious problems in society as far down to their foundations as I can, education seems to pop up every single time-not as the cause but as the solution that tackles those problems at the deepest levels. It’s slow and costly, but I think that’s what it takes to change the trajectory of human lives in ways that last generations. In a time of memes, soundbytes, and same-day shipping, when we are all used to fast, convenient, and easy solutions that seem to create more problems for every one they try to solve, supporting the profoundly transformational, character-focused work at Rise is a no-brainer.”**

- James Kye, Rise supporter



### Rise Prep Financial Support

	This Year 2023-2024	Last Year 2022-2023
<b>Expenses</b>		
Personnel Costs	1,210,307.28	948,143.09
Student and Instructional Services	288,957.24	318,872.73
Administrative Costs	323,353.76	207,674.12
Occupancy Costs	401,314.92	242,560.72
	2,223,933.20	1,717,250.66
<b>Income</b>		
Donated Professional Services	193,418.45	257,562.24
Churches	84,200.00	97,705.10
Government Grants	109,928.66	-
Tuition-Family Contribution	121,344.35	94,749.53
Foundations	12,011.65	21,612.42
Non-Cash Contribution	41,349.88	1,315,444.30
Corporations	32,036.00	38,125.00
Other Income	4,370.90	4,318.08
Other Fundraised Donations	270,523.64	459,504.97
Individual Donors	981,666.45	407,102.55
	1,850,849.98	2,696,124.19
Net Income	(373,083.22)	978,873.53



# Rise Prep Donor Levels

## Isaiah Vision Circle

\$100,000+

2 Donors

## Living Hope Circle

\$50,000-\$99,999

4 Donors

## Abundant Life Circle

\$10,000-\$49,999

26 Donors

## Faithful Stewards

\$2,000-\$9,999

80 Donors

## Rise Partners

\$1-\$1,999

306 Donors





## The Road to Rise - Step 3

# Whole Student and Family Flourishing

The third key step to success at Rise is seeing each student as uniquely created in the image of God—calling them to reason, create, serve and lead. This whole-student approach helps us graduate well-rounded community members.

### The whole student and celebrating growth



Semester Awards that highlight academic growth in our scholars

**“The Panther award recognizes the deep formation we expect over a student’s years at Rise Prep. Luis Solano embodies our most fundamental desire: that graduates grow into their full inheritance as human beings, created in the image of God, loved by him, to enjoy and generously care for this beautiful world, the good people in it, and what is true.”**

- Jeff Boyd, Vice Principal



Luis Solano, first ever Panther Award winner



## Family flourishing

**"We've been part of Rise since the inception. It's been super exciting to see how things have grown. My daughter came from a difficult, challenging time in her previous school and the change in her was almost immediate, academically and socially. It was incredible to see how a kid who was struggling in school ended up graduating with highest honors. It's amazing to see how the transition to Rise transformed her and we're very grateful."**

- Ammy, Parent Class of 2024



## Mental health support and wellness

Through an in-depth survey, Rise leadership identified anxiety as one of the leading causes of absenteeism. To address this, we implemented monthly mentoring groups led by staff and hired **Maria Martinez**, our new wellness counselor. Maria meets with students at lunch and during elective periods to talk through home and friend issues and provides concrete strategies to deal with anxiety.



**Maria Martinez**, Wellness Counselor

## College readiness & the psychology of well-being

Students think philosophically, theologically, and practically about the purpose of life. We study the book of Ecclesiastes, the creation story in Genesis, and theories from the field of psychology to better understand how we function, what motivates us, and how to live a fulfilled life so that students better understand who they are and who they want to be as they make informed decisions.



**Janelle Bailey**, College Counselor

## The Road to Rise - Step 4

# Hope in God

Hope in God sustained our graduates. With the help of God they will continue to thrive in college and beyond.

The real good news, the Gospel, is not some feeble recipe for "success." Students at Rise Prep eagerly study and sing the story the Lord tells them though His people: Christ is King and they are his blessed children, called to good work!



Prayer during graduation

**Classes offered at Rise**  
Pentateuch & Histories  
(History & Thought of the  
Ancient Levant) / Psalms  
& Song / Gospels & Acts /  
Epistles & Apocalypse

**"I came into Rise kind of not knowing where I stood with God. And over the years I have definitely felt like I want to grow my relationship with God more. I wouldn't have gotten there without school because church has always been intimidating to me. So to be able to learn about God in an academic environment has inspired me to learn more of what religion means to me and what I want my relationship with God to be."**

- Keiara, Class of 2024





**Psalm 62 Remixed for Songs and Psalms Class**

In quiet, I find my peace,  
In God, my worries cease.  
He's my strength, my solid ground,  
In him, true rest is found.

My soul finds calmness in God alone,  
My rock, my refuge, my home.  
No fear can shake this trust I've known,  
In Him, I stand, never alone.

Enemies plot, but I won't fear,  
God's love, my shield, always near.  
His strength upholds me, day by day,  
In His embrace, I'll always stay.

With trust in Him, my worries fade,  
In His love, my soul is swayed.  
In every trial, He's my guide,  
In God alone, I'll safely abide.

The greatest power belongs to the Lord  
When he speaks, it is the final say  
Unfailing love has been poured onto the world  
God rewards actions depending on who you portray.

- Titus, Elmer, Rajko, & Jacob, Class of 2026

**Helping the students talk to God**

"David used his gift of art and music to communicate with God. I encouraged them to do the same by exposing them to the life of David and the Psalms. After choosing a psalm that they can resonate with, students were tasked with re-writing (remixing) the psalm and making it their own work of art directed to God.

My hopes and prayers were that the students could grow in an understanding that God loves to hear from His children, no matter what they are going through and that they can cry out to Him through music, poetry or art!"

- Marcus Bailey, Student Counselor / Teacher, Service and Leadership



# The Road Continues

## New teachers

Patricia Fong (English / Art) and Margarita Guevara (History)



## Road checkpoints for the next 3-5 years



Restart the middle school as soon as is viable



Increase financial sustainability through Advocate Program



Continue to hire, support, and retain great teachers

## Alumni

Luis and Alejandro visit campus before heading off to UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis respectively.





## Rise Prep welcomes its new 9th grade class—the **Class of 2028!**

18 bright, energetic scholars have started the road to Rise. We continue to hit our target demographics of 80% first to college, low-income, or Bayview resident scholar.

**Our new 9th grade scholars need advocates.**  
If you are interested in supporting a scholar, please email Hanna at [hleonard@riseprep.org](mailto:hleonard@riseprep.org).





## The Road Continues

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# Our Team



**Juliette Chien**  
Head of School



**Jeff Boyd**  
Vice Principal /  
Academic Dean



**Tim Cahill**  
Vice Principal /  
Admissions Director



**Danny Kim**  
Director of Development



**Janelle Bailey**  
College Counselor



**Marcus Bailey**  
Student Counselor / Teacher  
Service and Leadership



**Joanna Boyd**  
Teacher  
Social Studies / Choir



**Jonny Chin**  
Teacher  
Science



**Patricia Fong**  
Teacher  
English / Art



**Luis Garcia**  
Teacher  
Spanish



**Margarita Guevara**  
Teacher  
History



**Jennifer Jeong**  
Administrative Assistant



**Hanna Leonard**  
Development Manager



**Maria Martinez**  
Wellness Counselor



**Kristin Ray**  
Teacher / Counselor  
Athletic Director



**Matthew Tejuco**  
Development Manager



**Dan Yamamoto**  
Teacher  
Math / Computer Science



You are invited to the 7th annual Rise Gala

# Road To Rise

## GALA 2024

**Are you ready to celebrate our inaugural graduating class achieving 100% college admissions?** We can't wait to see you at the Road to Rise Gala! Join us for our seventh annual Rise Prep Gala, as we come together to champion our students, faculty, and community. We are excited to host you at the San Francisco Design Center for an evening of celebration, auction fun, performances, and community.

Saturday  
October 26, 2024  
6PM

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Francisco 94103





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