

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

Qualifying

This journal
belongs to:

Regional Middle School *& YOU!*

Subject: *Creating Opportunities, Transforming Lives*

Sponsored by: Congregation of Christian Brothers, Marist Brothers of
the Schools, Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament



TRAVELING
PHOTO BOOTH
COMPANY



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Lesson:
Ten Years &
Counting

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Mr. Michael Motyl, President
 Mrs. Kathy Stapleton,
 Principal

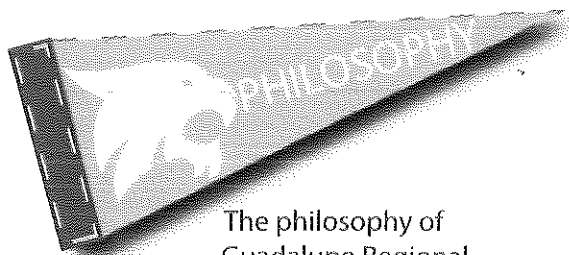
Faculty | Staff:

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 Mrs. Yolanda Arizmendi
 Miss Laura Cassel
 Br. David Concannon, CFC
 Mrs. Patricia Flota
 Mr. Juan Lopez
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The mission of Guadalupe Regional Middle School is to offer a tuition-free, quality Catholic education to boys and girls in grades six, seven and eight whose families desire but cannot afford a Catholic education.

This academically challenging school teaches its students how to live the gospel values of love, justice, self-discipline and respect for others with the goal that they will become the future leaders of the Brownsville civic and church communities.



The philosophy of Guadalupe Regional Middle School draws upon the traditions of the three religious congregations that sponsor the school - the Congregation of Christian Brothers, the Marist Brothers of the Schools, and Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament - our educational philosophy is embodied by the following four pillars:

Religious formation
 College preparatory instruction
 Educating the whole person
 The Christian learning community

Dear Friends,

We are persistent. All of us. We must be. A decade ago, Guadalupe Regional Middle School (GRMS) was just an idea to provide Catholic education to students who normally would not be able to afford it. A decade ago, GRMS was still just a dream of offering an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty with education. A decade ago, GRMS opened its doors, not knowing if we'd be able to keep them open. But the GRMS community is persistent, and as a result, it's been ten years and counting!

In ten short years much around us has changed. Sadly, as of June 30, 2012 the NatividadMiguel Network, for which GRMS and other schools across the nation are modeled and were member, ceased operations. The Network was a wonderful resource for schools like ours serving the underserved and will certainly be missed. However, individual NatividadMiguel model schools, each funded independently, continue to push forward, creating opportunities where there were few.

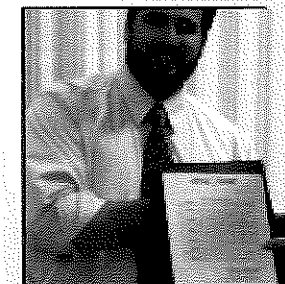
The persistence of NatividadMiguel model schools, like GRMS, have already deepened an important dimension to the face of Catholic education. The support GRMS has received each year by like-minded individuals and organizations like you have helped secure our place in the conversation.

GRMS does not take that place for granted. In this annual report, we reflect on what your support has accomplished and how we plan to continue to put every dollar to work. We thank God and you for ten years of outstanding accomplishments. We ask you and God to be with us for the next ten years (and beyond).

Saint Marcellin Champagnat... pray for us;
 Blessed Edmund Rice... pray for us;
 Venerable Jeanne Chézard de Matel...
 pray for us; Live Jesus in our hearts forever,

A handwritten signature of Michael Motyl.

Michael Motyl, President



GRMS receives 10th Anniv. Senate Resolution from Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.

Dear Friends,

TEN years and counting. Congratulations! It seems like only yesterday that Brother Leo Shea was discussing with me the great idea of establishing a tuition free Catholic school in our community. It is with great pride that we can now look on the vast accomplishments and excellence this school has achieved. Our small school is making a big impact on our community. We are thankful to those who have played a vital role in getting us to where we are today.

Guadalupe Regional Middle School has succeeded in its mission to provide a free Catholic education for those who otherwise would not be able to afford it. We are a proud community where our students learn, grow and are able to thrive.

Having benefited from my own Catholic school education, I know first-hand the values that were instilled in me at an early age. My love for reading, discipline and structure, the simple importance of keeping my shoes shined, all have stayed with me to this day.

I know that our success would not have been possible without the hard work, generosity and dedication of our volunteers, donors and board members. All have invested themselves in the success of our school. The faculty and staff of GRMS deserve high praise as well. Perhaps the most important thank you is to the dedicated students of GRMS who have given it their all and to their parents who have trusted us with their children.

We look forward to many more years of continued success.

We look forward to greater accomplishments at our school. We look forward to continuing to serve our community and cement ourselves as a staple within it. I trust that we will continue to have the support of the many people who have a passion for this great school.

Many Thanks,
Apolonio Borrego
Chair of the Board of Directors



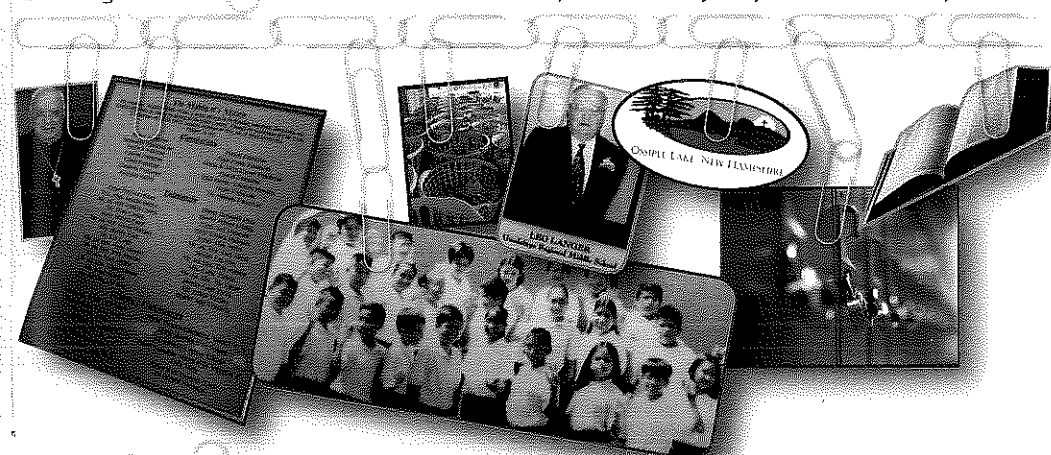
GRMS Board of Directors
Chair

ConTENTS of ten years

The truth is there is no way to fully recap the last ten wonderful years of the making of Guadalupe Regional Middle School and all the amazing people it has taken to become the thriving institution we are today. But that doesn't mean we can't take a quick stroll down memory lane



Bishop Peña grants the use of a building	GRMS opens in August with 30 students	Food Baskets provided weekly by Food Bank	Leo Langer & Br. Larry Heathwood, CFC receive Spirit Award	Camp Marist awards 10 spots yearly	Amy & Jim Tipton help install 90 lockers	Library created by Christian Brothers' Ryall Fund
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A new class is added for a 6th & 7th grade	Cameron Foundation & Burkitt Foundation grants allow for GRMS to offer band curriculum	Art class is added to the GRMS	Local priests volunteer to perform Masses	Barbara G. Koch & Jim Tipton receive the Spirit Award	Knights of Columbus C1553 fund emergency rewiring
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Finally, a full school! 6th, 7th, & 8th grade

A Bobby Pulido concert fundraiser is held for the school with help from Mrs. Hortencia Tijerina

GRMS establishes first Student Council

Choir is added to the school's activities

Martha Garcia receives the Spirit Award

First ever class graduates to high school

Michael Motyl takes over as principal

2004
2005

Airconditioners installed in student restrooms

Faculty begins accreditation self-study

GRMS hosts first gala / Spring fundraiser

Student accepted to Phillips Exeter Academy

Br. Arthur Williams, CFC: Spirit Award

100% of first GRMS class graduates high school



GRMS partners w/ Notre Dame's ACE program

A cover is built over the courtyard to create an outdoor gym thanks to Brownsville Foundation for Health & Education + Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation

Diane Garza & Board begin Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe, dedicated to GRMS financially & spiritually

Br. Brian Walsh, CFC receives the Spirit Award

GRMS receives full accreditation from TCCED

2005
2006

Kenedy Memorial grant funds tech lab updates

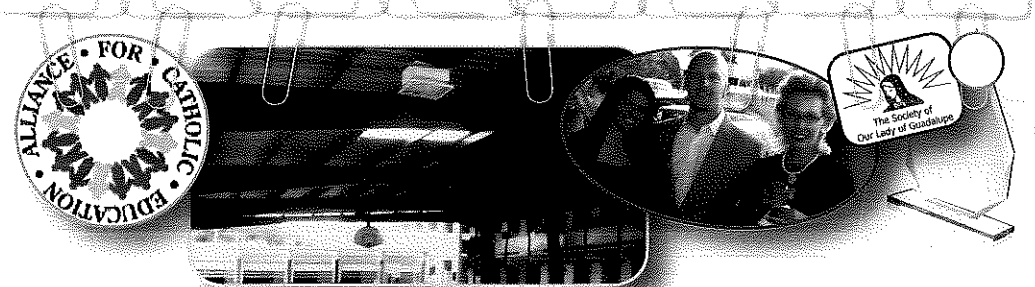
Br. David Concanon, CFC: Spirit Award

School unveils mural at Spring fundraiser

Bishop blesses Juan Diego Retablo

New Bishop, Daniel Flores, says grad. Mass

Br. Leo Shea, FMS Founding President retires



Patricia Flota receives the Spirit Award

Dr. Cathy Thomas, GRMS's first principal



2006
2007

Tony Martinez, first Board Chair



Diane Garza receives the Spirit Award

Complete Collegial Visit by Nativity-Miguel

2007
2008

Students create for Catholic Schools Week

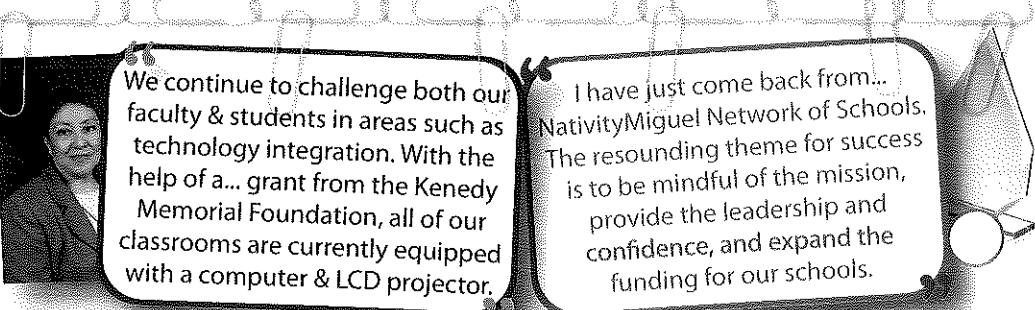
GRMS hosts Christian Brothers Conf.

Students win nat'l C-SPAN video contest

Br. Leo Shea: Spirit Award + Lita Ortiz (SJA's Spirit Award)

Spring Fundraiser celebrates Mardi Gras

GRMS grad becomes St. Joseph Saluatorian



We continue to challenge both our faculty & students in areas such as technology integration. With the help of a... grant from the Kenedy Memorial Foundation, all of our classrooms are currently equipped with a computer & LCD projector.

I have just come back from... NativityMiguel Network of Schools. The resounding theme for success is to be mindful of the mission, provide the leadership and confidence, and expand the funding for our schools.



Daniela Sanchez (L.) 7th

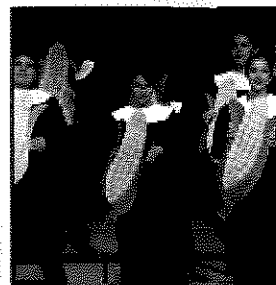
Jaime Fonseca (C) 8th
Class Valedictorian

Jackie Martinez (R) 6th

“It was wonderful to see all that hard work and creativity pay off with a truly excellent performance,” said Mrs. Kathy Stapleton, Principal. “It was a valuable experience for all of us.”

○ In Attendance

If showing up truly is half the battle, you’re going to want to be on OUR side! The families of our students have heard about our school, sought it out, completed the process, welcomed our principal for a home visit, bought or borrowed uniforms, and made arrangements for a daily extended school day. There is no honor like partnering with a family on a child’s journey, no honor like helping a child begin their future now.



GRMS in Technicolor.

In an unprecedented cross-activities effort, the GRMS Choir, Band, General Art, and Mural Making classes came together over the course of four months of grueling practices and meetings to create two spectacular performance workshops of the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

The vision of creating a musical with a live orchestra was the dream of GRMS’s music director Dr. Jose Arizmendi, Jr. who believed the school had talent, but needed something big to work towards that would teach the power of commitment and hard-work. After school and Saturday practices were extensive, making participation a commitment not only for the student but their families as well. [Thanks to Camille Playhouse, Representative Rene Oliveira, Mrs.

Joan McNeil, Mr. Jim Rose, Saint Joseph Academy, GRMS families, faculty, & alumni]



Meet TENacity

We are **TENacious**. There is nothing easy about being a tuition-free Catholic school, but ten years of hard work and commitment have paid off. We believe that very example has and will continue to influence our students and graduates, instilling in them the same drive, the same ambition to affect positive change in their lives and the world. Community support, faith, heart and grit, that's what fuels GRMSers.



New York Bound.

Iliana Banda '08 has been a presence on the GRMS campus every year since she entered the sixth grade in 2005. After being promoted from GRMS, Iliana was accepted to Saint Joseph Academy in Brownsville under the Montagne Project. Teachers described her as reserved but bright. When her younger

brother was accepted to GRMS, Iliana began volunteering with us regularly after school. Once her brother was promoted, we expected to see less of both them, but to our delight, both siblings returned to campus frequently, even serving on the school's Alumni Council. Now, GRMS is blessed to announce that she is keeping it in the family, attending Iona College in beautiful New Rochelle, New York.



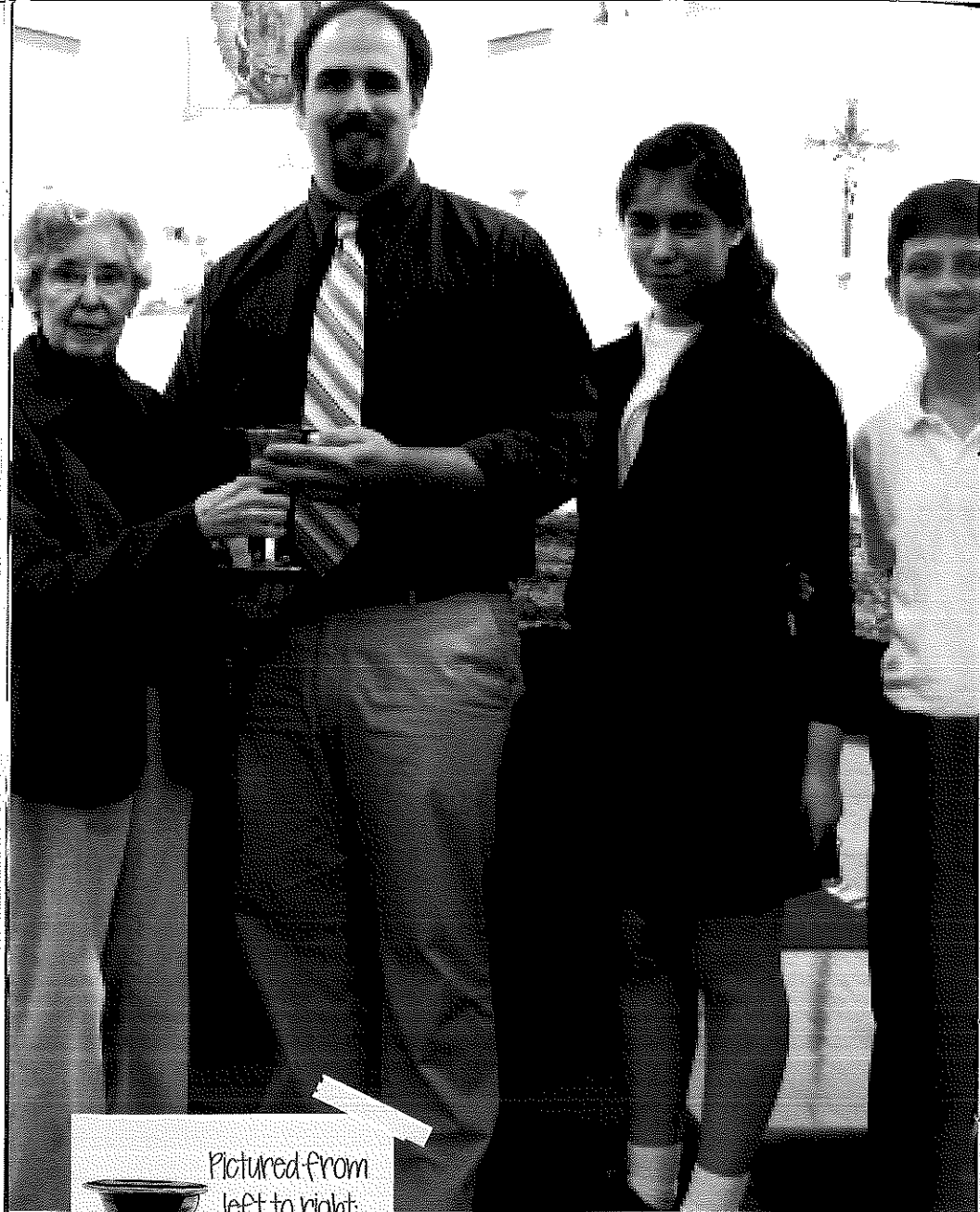
Iona College was opened in 1940 by the Congregation of Christian Brothers who are among GRMS's sponsoring congregations. Iona College is a caring academic community, inspired by the legacy of Blessed Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers, which embodies opportunity, justice, and the liberating power of education. Iona College's purpose is to foster intellectual inquiry, community engagement, and an appreciation for diversity.

In a deepening of the congregation's commitment to the mission and students of GRMS, once accepted on her own merits, Iliana was awarded a President's scholarship to attend this fall.

GRMS grads kicked off the year with a 10th Anniversary Alumni Reunion.

Pictured: Jackie '07 (L), Cesar '06 (C), Gabii '06 (R)

“To me, being a teacher at this school is a blessing. Usually, you teach a student, and that's it. You hope for the best. Here, we teach, and then we're able to watch them grow. We get to see how they do and where they go once they move on. It's wonderful.”
-Patricia Flota, Religion Teacher & Graduate Support Director



Pictured from
left to right:
Mary Ann
Schissel,
Michael Motyl,
Marla '12, Eli '13

“It has found a home... I am sure he would be pleased because of his strong interest in seeing young people educated. When you see it at Mass, I hope you think about it and say a prayer for Father Jim Brown.”

-Mary Ann Schissel, Sister of Fr. Brown

HeartENing Support

For an entire decade, we have looked to our supporters for strength and hope as we seek to carry out GRMS's unique mission, and the response has been truly heartening. Each year we ask our supporters to stand with us by renewing their commitment to GRMS and its students. Every gift reflects the values and passion of the giver, and every giver has a place in the legacy of Guadalupe Regional Middle School.

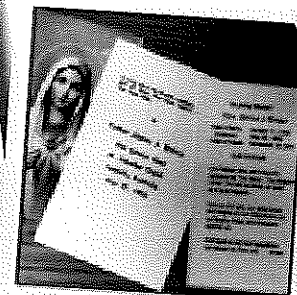


Beautiful Gifts.

During the school's weekly Mass celebrated on Wed., November 16, 2011, Mrs. Mary Ann (Brown) Schissel joined us from Washington, DC to present GRMS with the chalice and paten of her brother, the late Rev. James J. Brown.

"It is a precious gift," said Michael Motyl, President of GRMS. "A priest's chalice is a sacred vessel. Each one is a very personal choice or design made on behalf of the priest."

Rev. Jim Brown was born in 1936, ordained in Louisville, KY in May of 1962, and first arrived in the Diocese of Brownsville in 1970. Brown served in Mission, Pharr and Weslaco, TX before his death in December 2001. Brown's family was introduced to GRMS in 2001 by Bishop Raymundo Peña.



Get Extras Here:

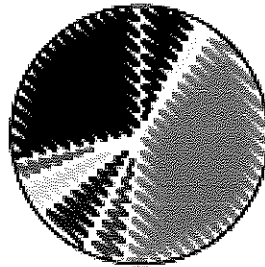


Financial Summary

Fiscal Year 2011-2012

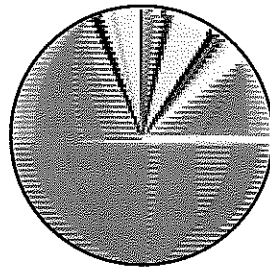
Sources of Revenue

Annual Appeal	\$47,170
*Br. Leo Shea, FMS Scholarship Fund	\$6,405
Contributions from Parents	\$13,203
Grants	\$263,668
Interest Income	\$31,898
Other Income	\$918
Tilma Leadership Circle/Society of OLG	\$45,908
Special Events	\$27,211
Sponsor-A-Student Program	\$18,125
Sponsoring Congregations	\$175,000
Total Revenue	\$623,101



Expenditures

Academic	\$16,360
*An added \$31,980 spent in non-income federal title funds	
Activities/Sports	\$8,408
Administrative Expenses	\$30,471
Development	\$5,379
Faculty Development	\$1,742
Food Bank	\$7,099
Insurance	\$4,962
Maintenance	\$14,886
Salaries/Benefits	\$488,085
Technology	\$9,638
Transportation	\$5,294
Uniforms/Furniture/Other	\$5,167
Utilities	\$19,470
Yearbooks	\$480
Total Expenditures	\$617,441



GRMS Report Card

Academic Year 2011-2012

Enrollment

6th Grade	31
7th Grade	32
8th Grade	16



Returning

95% of GRMS Students Returned for the New School Year



Daily Record

85:1 Student to Teacher Ratio

97% Daily Attendance Rate

3,187 Lbs. of Food Distributed to Families Through Snack & Weekly Food Baskets

250+ More Hours in School (Per Year) Compared to Peers in Public Schools

76.9% of Students Participate in at Least One Sport



Standardized Testing (Grade Level Equivalency)

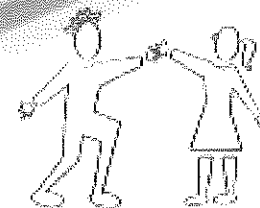
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	
Current	5.9	6.8	8.1	Core Total (Math, Reading, Language)
8th Grade	6.1	6.6	8.1	Composite (All Content Tests)
Current		6.5	8.7	Core Total (Math, Reading, Language)
7th Grade		6.4	8.7	Composite (All Content Tests)
Current			7.1	Core Total (Math, Reading, Language)
6th Grade			7.3	Composite (All Content Tests)

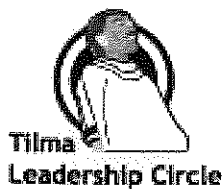


Beyond the Middle School Years

100% of GRMS Grads Completed High School on Time

95% of GRMS Grads Attend College (Compared to 41% of Low Income Students in Public Schools)

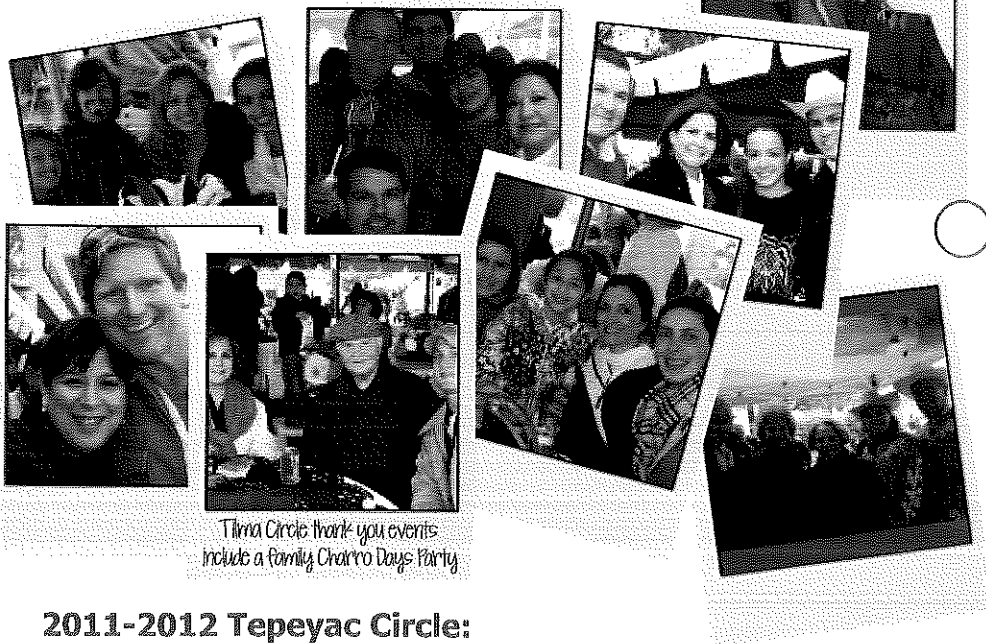




Tilma Leadership Circle

The Tilma Leadership Circle is comprised of those individuals and organizations who make an annual, unrestricted financial pledge of \$1,000 or more to Guadalupe Regional Middle School:

- ✦ The Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe: \$1,000+
- ✦ Tepeyac Circle: \$2,500+
- ✦ Miracle of the Roses Circle: \$5,000+
- ✦ St. Juan Diego Circle \$10,000+



Tilma Circle thank you events include a family Charro Days Party

2011-2012 Tepeyac Circle:



Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe



The Society is a giving circle dedicated to financially and spiritually supporting the mission of Guadalupe Regional Middle School. It is comprised of couples who pledge a contribution each year of \$1,000+, \$500+ as an individual, or at the Young Professionals level. We sincerely thank each of our Society contributors for their dedication. Special thanks to our event hosts Carla & Tony Martinez, Kathy & Ed Stapleton, and IBC.

Supporters 2011-2012:

Elvia Beaman
Liz & Antonio Bernus
Mina Besteiro
Martha & Taylor Blanton
Olga & Polo Borrego
Shirley & Daniel Butler
Mary & John Calkins
Nena & Johnny Cavazos
Margaret Clint
Gladys & Bob Cummins
Alma & Francisco De La Garza
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Ellen & Dennis Franke
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Pat & Kip Johnson Hodge
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Marcela & Marion Lawler III
Carla & Tony Martinez
Marcia & Trey Martinez
Rev. TJ Martinez

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Joan & Jim McNeil
Michael Motyl - YP
Lita Ortiz
Lita Pashos
Dandy Pilon - YP
Drs. Angela & Homer Richer
Dr. Carmen Rocco
Al Roser
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Amanda & Patricio Sampayo -YP
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Norma & Emilio Sanchez
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Marti & Ken Schaefer
Kathy & Ed Stapleton
Alexander Stillman
Rosalinda & Tom Sullivan
Carlota Tyner
Dr. Eric Valle
Nancy & Al Villarreal
Cassandra & Brad Wolfe
Kris White
Sandra & Fausto Yturria
Holly & Matt Zebrowski

Major Benefactors: Cumulative Giving

\$750,000+

Kenedy Memorial Foundation

\$275,000-\$749,999

Koch Family Foundation

The Brownsville Foundation for
Health & Education

\$200,000-\$274,999

Cassin Foundation

\$100,000-\$199,999

The Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation

Our Sunday Visitor Institute

\$50,000-\$99,999

Anonymous

Mary & George Kremer Foundation
The Raskob Foundation for Catholic
Activities

The Extension Society

Koch Foundation, Inc.

Viveca & Nick Serafy/Serafy
Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

Gloria L. Cantu

Marist Fathers

Hortencia Tijerina

Amaturo Foundation

Marist Brothers-Third World Fund

Carla & Tony Martinez

Wells Fargo

El Paso Community Foundation

\$20,000-\$24,999

Teens Helping Kids, Inc.

Russell Dorn

Frank J. Lewis Foundation, Inc.

In-Kind

Carlos Barrera - PaySmart

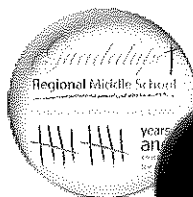
Camp Marist, NH

St. Joseph Academy

*Guadalupe Regional Middle School proudly
recognizes these major contributors
whose generous spirit over the past
decade demonstrates their commitment
to Guadalupe Regional Middle School.*

*Thanks to our sponsoring congregations:
Sisters of the Incarnate Word & Blessed
Sacrament, Marist Brothers of the Schools,
& Congregation of Christian Brothers.*

*A special thank you to our faculty members
who have been here since the beginning:
Br. David Concannon, CFC, Mrs. Patricia
Flota, Br. Arthur Williams, CFC.*



Our Donors

*Guadalupe Regional Middle School publishes this report to acknowledge the
generosity of our supporters. It is possible that we have unintentionally omitted
or incorrectly listed the name of a donor. We would appreciate notification of
errors: 956.504.5568 or supportguadalupe@gmail.com*

Sponsoring Congregations

Sisters of the Incarnate Word & Blessed
Sacrament
Marist Brothers of the Schools
Congregation of Christian Brothers

Our Lady of Guadalupe (\$75,000+)

Kenedy Memorial Foundation

Cerro De Tepeyac (\$50,000-\$74,999)

Anonymous

The Juan Diego Circle (\$25,000-\$49,999)

The Raul Tijerina Jr. Foundation

Saint Marcellin Champagnat (\$10,000-\$24,999)

Brownsville Foundation for Health
and Education
Koch Foundation, Inc.
Our Sunday Visitor Institute
(for 2012-2013)

Venerable Jean Chézard de Matel (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Amaturo Foundation
The Brown Foundation
Brownsville Communities Foundation
Catholic Human Services Foundation
Diocese of Brownsville - Catholic
Schools Office
FMSI Onlus
George & Mary Kremer Foundation
LCWR Region XII - Border Project
Marist Brothers - Third World Fund

P Twenty-One Foundation

Public Welfare Foundation
Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities
Serafy Foundation
Teens Helping Kids, Inc.
Br. Michael Williams, FMS+

Blessed Edmund Rice (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Marist Brothers - Champagnat
Community
Mary & Patrick O. Regan
Mary Ann Schissel†
St. Thomas More Collegiate &
Vancouver College

President's Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Alliance for Catholic Education -
Panzica Grant
Alliance for Catholic Education -
Ernesto Martinez Scholarship
Alliance for Catholic Education -
Chris Lary Award
Elvia Beaman
Central Catholic High School, Lawrence
Christopher Columbus High School,
Miami, FL
Bishop Daniel Flores
Edmundian Society, Inc.
Iona Preparatory School, New Rochelle
Knights of Columbus-Council 1553
Knights of Columbus - State Council
Marist Brothers - St. Mary's Community*
Marist Brothers - Solidarity Scholarship
Marist College - Campus Ministry
O'Neil Foundation

Petit Family Foundation
 Claudia and Jordan Pirtle
 Karla Postma - Estate of Maria
 Josephina Zanders
 Rio Grande Valley Music Festival
 Br. Henry Sammon, FMS†
 Br. Leo Shea, FMS
 St. Mary's High School,
 Manhasset
 Tipton Motors, Inc
 Dr. Kris White

Platinum Medal (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous†
 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
 Matching Program
 Bishop Kearney High School, Rochester
 Br. Rice High School, Bloomfield Hills
 Laura Cassel - ACE Marathon☼
 Christian Brothers - Trinity Community
 Mr. Russell Dorn†
 Danielle Gonzalez
 Olivia & Jorge Green
 Graciela Gutierrez
 Marist Brothers - Leavitt St.
 Community*
 Marist High School, Chicago
 Representative Rene Oliveira
 Susan & Drew Reynolds
 John Scileppi & Lynn Ruggiero
 Br. Richard Shea, FMS†
 Tampa Catholic High School, Tampa
 Target Foundation
 Trinity Catholic High School, Ocala

Gold Medal (\$250-\$499)

C-SPAN Education Foundation☼
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 G. Patrick Gallagher
 Dennis J. Hartnett
 Marist Brothers - Jamaica
 Community*
 Marist Brothers - Los Fresnos
 Community*
 Marist Brothers - Roselle Community*
 Marist Brothers - Sheridan St.
 Community*
 Mike Ortiz
 Starr & Michael Putegn†
 Br. Luke Reddington, FMS*

Indicators:
 * = Br. Leo Shea, FMS
 Scholarship Fund
 ☼ = Honor Gift
 † = Memorial Gift
 ‡ = Deceased

Paula & Eduardo Rodriguez
 Sandra Rojas
 St. Laurence High School, Burbank
 Mary & Mark Wilsey

Silver Medal (\$100-\$249)

Anonymous
 Meghan & Jay Alexander
 Lynn Eads Black†
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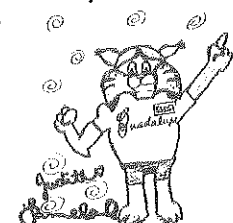
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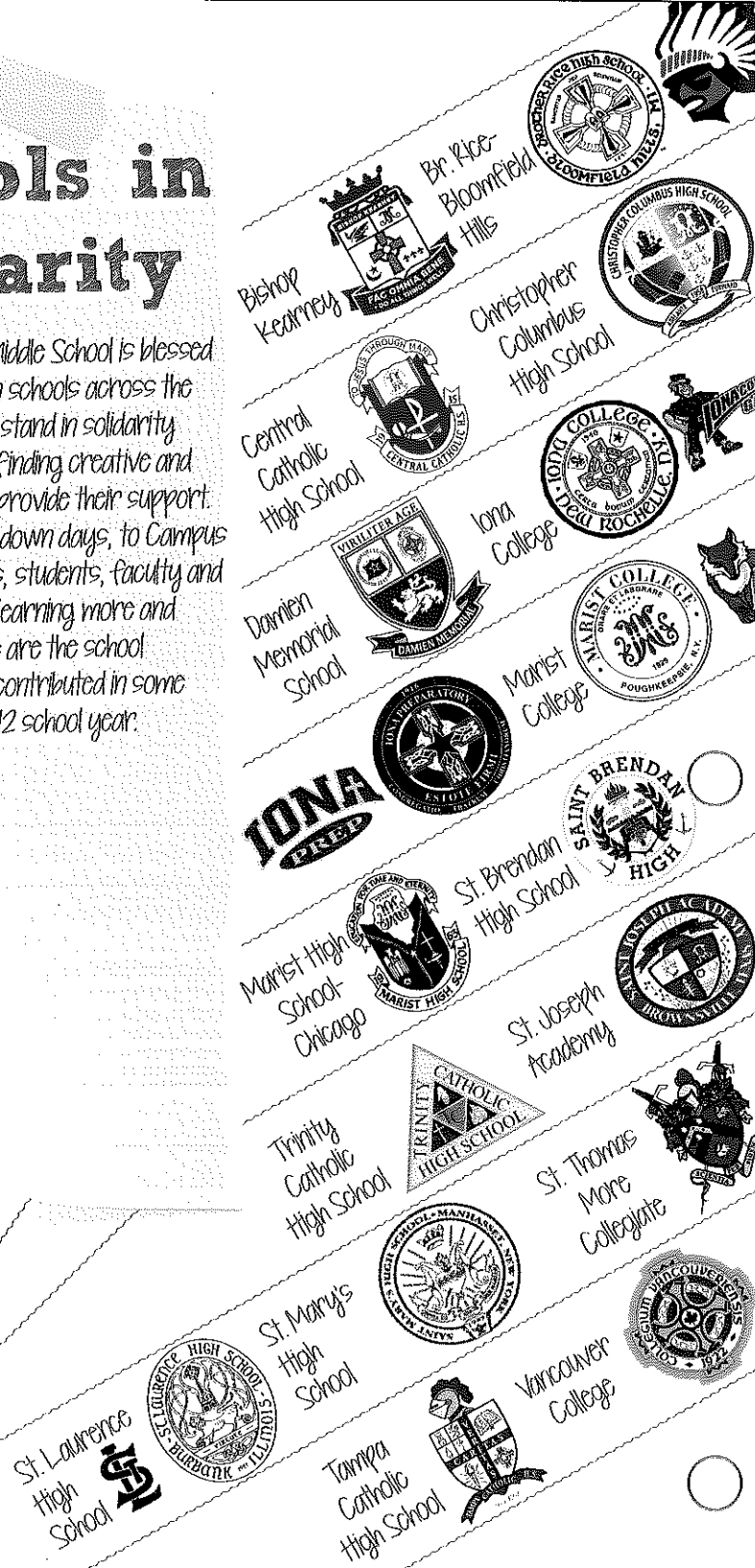
Major in-Kind Donations

Camp Marist, NH
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Schools in Solidarity

Guadalupe Regional Middle School is blessed to have congregation schools across the country & in Canada stand in solidarity with our mission by finding creative and meaningful ways to provide their support. From student dress down days, to Campus Ministry fundraisers, students, faculty and administrators are learning more and taking action. Here are the school communities who contributed in some way in the 2011-2012 school year:



Schools Cont...

Congregation schools got creative! Two of our favorite stories: St. Thomas More



delivered in the form of dollar bill turkeys, fans, bow ties, and elaborate five point stars.

Collegiate & Vancouver College held dress down days where students were encouraged to wear GRMS's school colors, light blue and white. Tampa Catholic High took up a collection for GRMS during Thanksgiving season and took the added step of creating geometry

lessons out of the project. The result, over \$800 donated, \$300 of which were

Honor Gifts:

Christian Brothers - Brownsville
by Christian Brothers of Catholic Memorial

Maria Marlene Garza '11

Polet Martinez '11

Mary & Mark Wilsey

by Matt Wilsey

JoAnn & Paul Motyl

by Jane Stevens

Agnes & Tom Murphy

by Helen & Nick Thiemann

Sandra Sweeney Wilson

by Mary Versaggi Davis

Gifts in Memory:

All Souls Day

by the many friends of GRMS

Fr. James J. Brown (Fr. Jim)

by Mary Ann Schissel

Mary Devino

by Fr. Terry Devino, SJ

Dorn Family

by Russ Dorn

Mr. & Mrs. William Doughty

by Br. Vincent Jerome

Deceased Flores Family

by Lamar G. Flores & Siblings

Ricky Gomez

by Marisa Garcia

Elsa Hofmokel-Roth

by Elvia Beaman, Margaret Clint,

†Lilia Esteve, Norma Ferguson, Joanne

Gilmore, Larry Herrera, Lita Pashos

Eileen O'Shea

by Br. Richard Shea

Mary & Matthew Sammon

by Henry Sammon

Honey & Edward Williams

by Br. Michael Williams

Sr. Adrian Clare Wolfe

by Lynn Black

Maria Josefina Zanders

by Karla Postma

Committees

Thanks to the following who donated their time, talent, and treasure to the mission of GRMS: Cassandra Wolfe (Chair), Liliana De la Garza, Paquita Chavez, Muñeca De la Garza, Felicia Fruia Edge, Letty Fernandez, Claudia Kauachi, Peggy Klinger, Marcela Lawler, Carla Martinez, Carole Montemayor, Dandy Pilon, Jennifer Sampayo, Marti Schaefer, Jennifer Rose, Rosalinda Sullivan

Pictured from left to right:

Liliana, Felicia, Michael, Paquita, Cassandra, Peggy, Rosalinda, Dandy



Mardi

Gras

Our second annual Mardi Gras spring fundraiser was a festive event that raised vital funds for GRMS. Special thanks to our event chair Cassandra Wolfe.
Save the Date: Sat., Feb. 09, 2013

Parade Marshal Sponsors:

Magda & Sergio Arguelles
Brownsville Public Utilities Board
Besteiro/Tijerina Families
Liliana & Jorge De la Garza
Falcon International Bank
The Green Law Firm, P.C.
Los Fresnos Dental Clinic
The Raul Tijerina Jr. Foundation
Sisters of the Incarnate Word
Cassandra & Brad Wolfe

King/Queen's Court Sponsors:

Amigo Pawn & Jewelry
John G. & Marie Stella Kenedy Foundation
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Stapleton & Stapleton

Carnival Sponsors:

Brownsville Kiddie Health Center
Judge Arturo Cisneros Nelson
Cristina & Jim Rose
Filemon Vela

Masquerade Sponsors:

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Martha & Taylor Blanton
Joanna & Dr. Andrew Burgess
Cascadas Counseling
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Cecilia & Luis De la Garza
Maria Elena & Julio Garcia
Diane & David Garza
Dr. Rose & Jeffery Gowen
Gaby & Miguel Guerra
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Law Office of Thomas Sullivan
Ignacio Martinez, P.C.
Jorge Mazzini, MD
Notre Dame Club of San Antonio
Mike Ortiz
Rose Mary & Carlos Sancho
Marti & Ken Schaefer
George Ramirez



Sister Teresita Rodriguez, IWBS,
Teacher/Library



Marti Schaefer
Board of Directors

Spirit Award Honorees:

Every year, the schools of the Diocese of Brownsville each honor someone in their school community who has demonstrated exceptional commitment and support w/ a Spirit Award. In 2012, the Diocesan award went to our own Sr. Teresita Rodriguez, IWBS, who joined the Sisters in 1954 and has since served in various schools, including GRMS. GRMS presented Marti Schaefer w/ its Spirit Award. Since 2003 she has served on the Board of Directors and has been instrumental in its fundraising efforts.

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What's Next?

For ten years, we've talked a lot about dreams. At GRMS, we believe that every child should have a dream, and every dream should have a chance. The state of the economy has taken its toll, and non-profits across the nation have been hard hit over the last years. We've heard it even amongst our fellow NativityMiguel schools in other states, some of whom have had to close their doors. And we've felt it in the form of foundation and donor cutbacks. And though some of our supporters have had

to take caution and cut back, others have stepped forward. And at GRMS, we are thankful for each and every gift, no matter the size.

This past school year, we have seen more than ever our alumni and their families making that same investment with a \$5, \$10, or \$20 gift. Still others donate time and skills. We believe this to be a true compliment to the vision and work of GRMS, the



Maria Mariene Garza '11 donates mosaic mantel to GRMS

dream you have made possible for a decade.

What we have learned in our ten years, is that every gift is attached to a dream of its own. Each person and organization who learns about our school and decides to invest is interested in being part of something larger than themselves. As dreamers, we understand this and take the responsibility of it to heart.

As Guadalupe Regional Middle School moves forward into the next chapter of our school's history, we share with you some of the areas we hope to focus on:

- ✧ Intentional Recruitment
- ✧ Spiritual Sustenance
- ✧ Brightened Futures
- ✧ Attention to Detail
- ✧ Extending Invitations

Homework: InTENTional Recruitment

We understand that who we serve at Guadalupe Regional Middle School is as important to you as it is to us. GRMS accepts applications from students of all races and religions who provide:

- ✧ Proof of eligibility for federal assistance under the free and reduced lunch guidelines
- ✧ Federal income tax return or current Medicaid letter
- ✧ Copy of most recent report cards
- ✧ School & parish recommendations, full application, and entrance exam

GRMS is working to be increasingly intentional about how we recruit students each year by:

Identifying parishes in low-income areas: Many successful recruits have joined us on the recommendations of their priests who are in a unique position to get know families well. GRMS is working to increase presence in these parishes to recruit families in need who truly desire a Catholic education for their children.

Block walking in the school's surrounding neighborhoods: One of the biggest barriers for potential students is transportation. Though securing transportation is one part of our long-term goals at GRMS, we think it's important to start in our own backyard, a traditionally needy area of Brownsville close to old downtown. We're hitting the streets with current parents to spread the word to those in walking distance.



Home visits now required: As part of this new effort, acceptance to GRMS includes a mandatory home visit by the school principal and/or other school representatives. "We need to know our students," said Kathy Stapleton, Principal. "The home visit really helps us understand where a student and their family is at."



Annual financial review: GRMS requires a Student Service Fee from families using a sliding scale based on income, usually anywhere from \$5-\$25+ a month to help cover costs of student activities. No GRMS family is turned away from the school if their financial situation improves. Instead, an annual review determines a new fee so there is no disruption in a child's education.

Homework: Spiritual Sustenance

The primary goal of every Catholic school is to evangelize. GRMS is blessed to have three sponsoring congregations, rare for any school. A representative from each serves on our Board of Trustees, and two Christian Brothers and one Sister of the Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament are on campus daily serving in various roles. **GRMS is refocusing on the Founders of each congregation and on evangelization with:**

Weekly Mass & Daily Prayer: Priests from across Brownsville volunteer their time to perform Mass on Wednesdays, exposing students to a variety of lessons and styles and often providing an interactive experience where students answer questions and participate in readings. Students continue their spiritual formation with daily prayer in the classrooms and daily Religion classes.

Spiritual Retreats & Celebrations: We continue to create opportunities for spiritual formation, including two spiritual retreats led by faculty and staff. GRMS also invites families to celebrate with us for an All Souls Day Mass and Easter Family Picnic that includes a prayer service.

House System: Completely new to GRMS is the House System in which students are separated by grade into Houses each named for a founder of our Sponsoring Congregations. Each House has two faculty leaders responsible for infusing the charism of each congregation into a year's worth of group academic, spiritual, social, and school spirit activities. Houses run on a point system designed to affirm academic achievement, service to God and community, and school participation. House challenges occasionally involve the students' families, too. By graduation, each student will have learned and lived the charism of each founder, providing them with positive Christian models and experiences for their lives.

Founders' Week: In a culmination of a year's worth of learning about the founders of our Sponsoring Congregations (Blessed Edmund Rice, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, and Venerable Jeanne Chezard de Matel), GRMS sets aside one week to honor the founders by processing what students have learned and how they can apply the founders' teachings along with those of Christ in their daily lives.



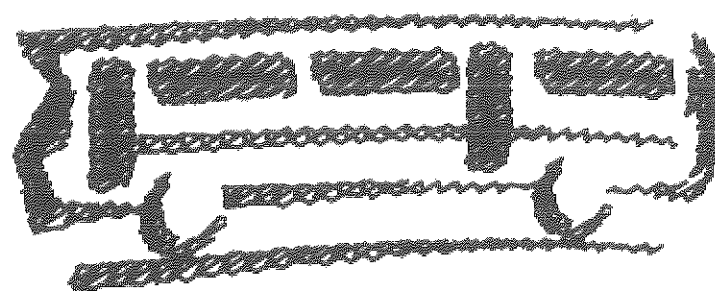
Homework: Brightened Futures

One of the features of Natividad Miguel model schools that continues to set us apart is our commitment to students beyond the middle school years. We have two major goals for our students: College & Heaven, and we know their time here is just the beginning. **GRMS is striving to create more opportunities for its graduates:**

Junior Graduate Support Coordinator: This new part-time position is reserved for a graduate of GRMS who is currently enrolled in college. It is their goal to update the contact information for all our graduates, keep grads updated, help organize alumni events and opportunities, and mobilize alumni for service projects.

Coming Together: GRMS continues its tradition of providing alumni socials, now twice a year. At these socials, grads visit the campus after hours to reconnect with old friends, visit faculty members, have fun, and hear about what is happening at GRMS and how they can get involved. Socials also feature prayer or spiritual celebrations.


Developing Leadership: As stated in our mission statement, GRMS seeks to develop future church and community leaders. In that effort, we are preparing more opportunities for alumni that include SAT prep, college financial aid workshops, study halls, and a leadership retreat.





Catholic College Visits: Through a generous grant from the Our Sunday Visitor Institute, GRMS will be able to take students and high school alumni to visit the campuses of Catholic colleges and universities around the state of Texas. With several visits to the San Antonio, Austin, and Houston areas, it is our hope that GRMSers will consider extending their Catholic education into their college years.


Homework: AtTENTION to Detail

No one who works at GRMS has just one role. The President also teaches 8th grade math, the Religion teacher is also the Graduate Support Director, the Director of Development teaches cheerleading and dance once a week, and so on. Doing more with what we have is the deep-rooted culture on our campus and just one of the ways we put your gifts to work (hard work) so that the greatest possible impact can be made with your investment. **GRMS wants to be in better contact with you by:**

 **Providing a Faster Donation Process:** It's a small office and a big task, but when you make a donation to GRMS, we want to thank you right away by sending your tax letter within just 2-3 weeks. Misplaced your copy? Give us a call, and we'll mail out a fresh one within the week. Want to make a monthly donation? Soon, we'll be emailing alerts everytime we run your card.

 **Sending e-newsletters:** We want you to know all about the great work your gift is accomplishing at GRMS. We eliminated our printed newsletters to save money and trees, but e-newsletters allow us to share much more. Send your name and e-mail address to supportguadalupe@gmail.com with "Newsletter" in the subject line or visit our home page at <http://guadalupe.schoolfusion.us> to sign up.

 **Showing you the numbers:** Our Annual Report is the best way to learn about our financials, but we've added the annual GRMS Report Card to show you where we are at with students and our alumni.

 **Highlighting our students and sharing our stories:** You don't just have to take it from us, we want you to hear right from the students whose lives you've had an impact on. GRMS is inviting students to present reports at Board of Directors meetings, guide tours when donors visit our campus (whenever possible), greet guests at special events, and participate in video greetings for our e-news. And it doesn't stop there; we encourage students to write reflective thank you letters direct to our supporters during Catholic Schools Week, and it is a newer and inspiring tradition that an alumni share a testimonial at our spring fundraiser, that we then share through e-news. We often hear from grads and their families about the impact on their lives, and there is no greater return. We hope to share those moments with you as often as we can.

Homework: ExTENDED Invitation


Everyone is invited to join the mission of GRMS. Please let us know how we can make you feel welcome. **GRMS wants to give you options for making your gift:**



Tilma Leadership Circle: The Tilma Leadership Circle is comprised of those individuals and organizations who make an annual, unrestricted financial pledge of \$1,000 or more to GRMS. Gifts are usually made in November and as a thank you, we hold several appreciation events: The Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe: \$1,000+, Tepeyac Circle: \$2,500+, Miracle of the Roses Circle: \$5,000+, St. Juan Diego Circle \$10,000+




Spring fundraiser: GRMS's Mardi Gras spring fundraiser is a true delight for fans of GRMS. We host a party atmosphere that has become a special showcase for our school. Sponsorships & ticket sales begin in Dec. for Feb.


 **Donor Open House:** New for GRMS, we hope to celebrate ALL of our donors with an open house dessert and cocktail event in late Spring. You won't want to miss it!



Annual Appeal & online donations: Our Annual Mail Appeal is the cornerstone of our fundraising efforts, providing the opportunity for our supporters to make a gift of any size to support the mission of GRMS. Online donations through NetworkForGood are now being accepted at <http://guadalupe.schoolfusion.us>.

Wishlist: GRMS has an online wishlist that we update every few months with various items from Kleenex to band instruments. Got a birthday coming up? Consider donating your birthday to GRMS! E-mail us the price range you are comfortable with, and we'll create a list of items GRMS could use to pass on to your guests in place of gifts. Email us at supportguadalupe@gmail.com or visit www.wishlistr.com/guadalupeRMS. 



 **Campus Visits:** As soon as you drive up to our cozy campus, see our light blue exterior, meet our friendly faculty, and watch us in action, you'll know why so many support Guadalupe Regional Middle School. Whether you're thinking about a contribution, writing an article, or just looking for a special cause, scheduling a visit to GRMS is a great way to learn more. (956.504.5568)

College
Bound



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Guadalupe +
Regional Middle School
Guadalupe Regional Middle School is a public school located in the Guadalupe Independent School District, serving students in grades 6-8.

Annual Report
Designed
In-House

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