

BAY SCHOLARS

ANNUAL REPORT



2021

Dear Bay Scholars Community

For our students, ordinary traditions have become extraordinary—talking to a teacher after class, eating with friends in the cafeteria, performing in the school play.

Losing these moments has been challenging. Yet we must keep moving forward.

Over the past year I have turned to a source where I know resilience lives—in the minds and hearts of our Scholars. In the following pages, you will read their reflections on loss, hope, and inspiration.

Witnessing the resilience of our Scholars is finding light in the darkness. It is undeniable the commitment to keep going can come from within. But so too can there be beacons of support along the way lighting your path. And for me, those beacons are our Scholars and the joys and triumphs they experience in the sacred communities they are a part of.

The mission of Bay Scholars to connect promising students with transformative educational opportunities at Bay Area college prep high schools remains firm. Through our shared vision, we support the leaders of tomorrow—today.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

We will move forward together.

Caithlin C. Kavanagh





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Nataly P.

Class of 2022

About me: I am passionate about giving back to my community by donating time, money or any physical resources. I enjoy hearing individual's stories and applying the lesson in my own life; I am also a native Spanish speaker.

Favorite course: My favorite course is Ethics because I am able to seek answers to my faith and apply the answers with the material we are learning in class.

Distance learning challenges: I find a good source of communication between my teachers and peers challenging through distance learning because email is not the most reliable source to use. However, something useful I found was more flexible hours to do homework and classwork.

Future vision: I see myself continuing my studies and going off to college to find a career that will financially keep my family and I stable. I would love to major in Health Science and have a minor in Education.

Role models: My role models are my parents because they have shown me what it means to be myself, express my cultural roots, and be able to pursue anything I enjoy. I hope to demonstrate the traits they have passed down and displayed to me such as: love, passion, perseverance, and honesty.

Future Self Title: Motivational Student and Daughter

Welcome to our new team

W

e are thrilled to welcome two new members to our growing Bay Scholars team: Lloyd Schine and Jonathan Speed, both of whom will be focused on growing our fundraising efforts.

As Director of Institutional Advancement and Donor Development, Lloyd will work on our day-to-day fundraising, including our Annual Thanksgiving luncheon, Giving Thanks by Giving Back.

As Managing Director of Philanthropic Giving, Jonathan will work on establishing and growing an endowment for Bay Scholars ensuring our continued growth for decades to come.

This school year, Bay Scholars supports 500 Scholars with \$1.5 million in scholarships at 13 Partner Schools across the Bay Area. Our goal is to continue to expand the number of schools we work with and the number of students receiving the 4-year scholarship. Lloyd and Jonathan bring the experience and dedication that will be foundational to Bay Scholars' growth. It's an honor to welcome them to the team.



Lloyd Schine
Director of Institutional
Advancement

"The mission of Bay Scholars fits totally and completely within my educational philosophy. I believe that education is the key to becoming financially and professionally successful in our world today. By providing

education and resources to Bay Area families in need, we are helping them acquire and maintain generational education. I am most looking forward to creating positive educational change and providing the opportunity for our students to thrive. The best part of the job will be to support the wonderful students and to see how they complete their educational and professional aspirations, knowing that Bay Scholars helped them to achieve their goals.

I look forward to seeing how our students will go on to make a positive difference in their own communities and eventually pay it forward in supporting other students and families who will participate in the Bay Scholars program after them."

Jonathan Speed
Managing Director of
Philanthropic Giving

"In a world where access to top educational institutions often reflects one's social-economic status, the Bay Scholars program offers overlooked but incredibly talented students an opportunity to thrive

intellectually and personally at top college preparatory high schools in the Bay Area. The ability to support and grow the Bay Scholars ecosystem—consisting of program alumni/ae, educators, families, and funders—allows me an unparalleled opportunity to be one of the building blocks in creating the next generation of creators, doers, and thinkers.

My mother, an educator, impressed upon me the value of education—but also the importance of helping others see and achieve their academic goals. I look forward to working with members of the Bay Scholars ecosystem to build a stronger and larger program for the betterment of society."





Bay Scholars are thoughtful, engaged, motivated and talented students in search of a transformational education.

OUR MISSION

Bay Scholars promotes a life-altering experience connecting promising youth with transformative educational opportunities at Bay Area college prep high schools.



Our Vision

In 2008 Janet & Clint Reilly founded a scholarship fund that has grown into Bay Scholars. Now, with its own community of generous donors, Bay Scholars supports hundreds of students each year.

The program focuses on reaching inner-city and minority students, who often face extreme economic and life challenges, and connecting them with a great college prep education. Without economic help, the best high schools are often out of reach, effectively closing the door to college and the future for these students.

The Reilly Family Foundation has a continuing \$500,000 annual pledge which, in addition to providing for scholarships, also covers all operating expenses for the organization.



Bay Scholars students pose with Janet and Clint Reilly.

The Bay Scholars Method

- ★ **Recruit promising students from under-resourced communities.**
- ★ **Award incoming students a four-year \$14,000 merit scholarship for high school**
- ★ **Partner with 13 Bay Area Catholic college prep high schools**
- ★ **Connect Scholars with unique enrichment experiences**
- ★ **Provide a gateway to college and beyond.**

Every dollar raised for Bay Scholars goes directly to scholarships.

GIVING THANKS BY GIVING BACK

With a primary goal of raising financial support for our Scholars, the Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon, Giving Thanks by Giving Back, serves as a forum addressing the critical value of education equity. The event provides a warm and uplifting afternoon focused on the importance of a college-prep education, the successes of our Scholars, and the innovative work our Partner Schools engage in every day. On these pages, Bay Scholars share stories of their personal journeys.

GOD GIVES HIS BATTLES TO HIS STRONGEST WARRIORS

By Rejai Palmore

I lost my father at a young age, and it is a battle I face every day. Sometimes I want to pretend he is alive. Sometimes I am angry. Plenty of times in my life I have felt like I needed a father figure to discipline me, love me, and teach me different aspects of life. All the times I had basketball games and I saw other people's fathers cheering on the team, I wondered what that felt like. Yes, I had my coaches and everyone else to cheer me on, but it was not the same. I have many strong and influential men in my life but there are just some things that are said and done by a father that cannot come from anyone else. I think the absence of a father gave me some character traits like being quiet and observant rather than an extrovert and talkative.

Being the man of the household became my job. At first, it was extremely difficult to understand what needed to be done around the house not just physically but mentally and spiritually. I have to set a good example for my little brother and cousins. I help them with their homework for however long they need me. I'm like a father—their needs come before mine.



If they are hungry, I cook for them. I lecture them about making good decisions. I am not able to do as much as I really want, but I do as much as I can to show them that I care.

Patience was the best virtue I could learn throughout this. Being a father figure who is not technically a father brings stress. I still have to be a big brother and cousin. These combined roles of father, brother, and cousin fill my head with constant questions, sometimes so many I feel like my mind is erupting like a volcano.

I have also found another father that is not earthly but in Heaven. He guides me and helps me every day. There are times where I go against Him and each time he prevails. He gives me situations that I am unable to get out of unless it's through Him. I am not sure why He gives me these obstacles, but I know God does not make mistakes and he does every-

“Help like this can be passed on... Just like a family heirloom, the more it is passed down throughout generations the more precious it becomes.”

thing for a reason. I learned to always put my faith in God and not people.

And I have other roles too, like student, and basketball player. I was on the honor roll as a kid, and I played aggressive ball with older, taller people. But high school was a whole new ball game. My grades the first two years were okay, not my best, but my junior year was a whole different story. It was the lowest my grades had ever been. Basketball was also bringing in anxiety and stress as I knew this was a year for me to get noticed by coaches. It came at me like a tornado—things I have never dealt with before. It even reached



a point where it was possible I could be removed from the basketball team and kicked out.

Yet that was not God's plan for me.

My coach, my teachers, my family and I decided I was going to bring my GPA up before the semester ended. I had to wake up every day for two weeks at 6 am and get to school to get tutoring. I left school around eight pm because I stayed to get more tutoring and go to basketball practice. This was my routine every day until finals week. I was extremely stressed out which led to me becoming ill. During school I almost fainted in the bathroom. I had to leave school early to go to the doctor. This did not stop me from completing my goal. I was able to raise most of my grades. Although I did not pass every class, I did my best and came out with the best result for me

In this, I learned to never be afraid

to ask questions. If I am ever stuck on a subject do not pretend like I know what I am doing. Seek help. I realized that needing help does not make me less smart. I realized that even the smartest kids ask questions. They are in the tutoring center getting help on things they are already good at, and more. It is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength. I did not have a father to teach me to put pride aside and get help. Help like this can be passed on from father to son and brother to brother. Just like a family heirloom, the more it is passed down throughout generations the more precious it becomes. Education is precious and needed for everyday life. Any and everyone can benefit from it.

I am now going into my senior year and still struggling a little bit with my faith in God and faith in myself, but I am trying my best to make it through, for my family and myself.

ON RESILIENCE

By Carolina Gutierrez Rodriguez



Resilience is the ability to fight through a battle for the means of obtaining what you desire. Something I am still learning to develop today.

It is a trait that means nothing to you until it comes down to the most important moments; then, it means everything. It is all you have to keep you going. It's a decision you need to learn to make for the rest of your life, the decision to get up and keep fighting.

Every struggle and hardship I have faced, I focused on what my "why" is in life.

Why is that I am in this position in the first place?

Why am I still fighting?

Why don't I give up already?

My "why" is my future and everything I want to accomplish in my life.

Being able to afford Mercy is one of the biggest challenges I have yet to face. Being raised by a single mother was not easy. Being able to go to Mercy was never guaranteed. It has been one of the hardest battles I have faced because I had to find every single scholarship I could. I depended heavily on these scholarships because they were my only access to receiving a Mercy education.

Discovering Bay Scholars, has helped me accomplish and get closer my goals and allow me to go to Mercy. I will forever be grateful for this organization that has offered me endless opportunities and help me grow as a person.

Receiving a good education in a great community was my "why" on why I never gave up. Sacrifices were made, my goals were accomplished, and battles were won. I have learned to never surrender, the key to success is to fight. Find your "why" and fight for that and never give up.

I am grateful for all of those who believed in me and never gave up on me.

“It's a decision you need to learn to make for the rest of your life, the decision to get up and keep fighting.”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Amir D.

Class of 2022

About me: I am athletic, having played 6 years of football, 6 years of basketball, and two years of baseball. My hobbies are cooking and gardening, and when I grow up I want to be an astronaut.

Favorite courses: My favorite courses are Chemistry and History of Christian Art. I really like chem because it is very engaging and Ms. Chun makes our class fun. I like History of Christian Art because I am able to express who I am and the message I am trying to portray through my art.

Distance learning challenges: I have learned to be more independent during this online schooling. My grades have gone up because I have taken the time to mature and be able to just do the work when it is assigned and not to procrastinate.

Future vision: It would mean a lot to go to college. Ever since I was little I wanted to become an astronaut, so going to college and pursuing my dream job would mean a lot.

Role model: I look up to my mom because she does so much for not only me but my 3 other siblings. She is a very hard worker and will do anything it takes to put us first.

Future Self Title: Astronaut



KEY FIGURES

More than
\$8.5 million
 Awarded in scholarships to date

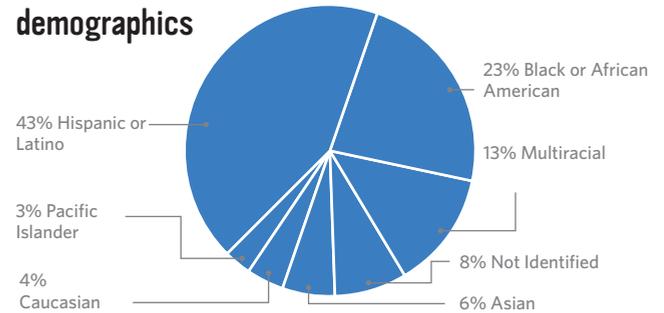
2,880
 scholarships
 awarded

502
 current
 Scholars
 2020-21

1,037
 scholars welcomed
 into the program
 since its founding

455
 graduates
 as of Spring
 2021

Scholar demographics



\$19,865

The average tuition per year at a college prep school in the Bay Area—and costs continue to rise

\$3,500

Annual scholarship award given by Bay Scholars (18% of tuition)

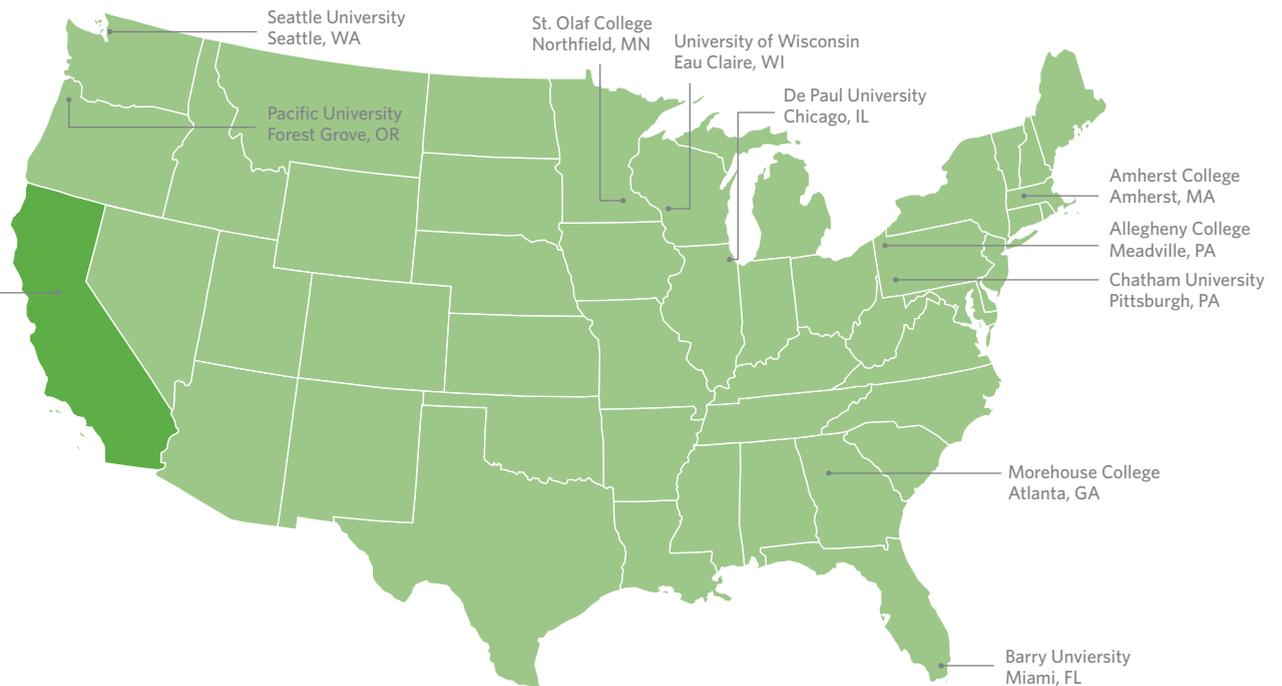
PROVIDES ACCESS TO:

College prep education; College counseling; Personal and academic support; Sports teams; Electives; Leadership development opportunities e.g. Student Government, captain of sports teams; Annual retreats; travel opportunities; Holistic support

Matriculation destinations Colleges that Bay Scholars graduates in the class of 2021 plan to attend

CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS

- City College of San Francisco
- California State Chico
- California State Fullerton
- California State Monterey Bay
- California State Sacramento
- California State San Jose
- California State Sonoma
- Diablo Valley College
- Diablo Valley College
- Dominican University of California
- Laney College
- Merritt College
- SFSU
- Skyline College
- St. Mary's College of California
- USC
- UC Berkeley
- UC Davis
- UC Irvine
- UC Merced
- UC Riverside
- UC Santa Cruz
- University of La Verne



Q&A

TONY THURMOND

The California State Superintendent of Public Instruction in conversation with Janet Reilly at the 2020 Giving Thanks by Giving Back Luncheon. Find out more about the event at bayscholars.org/giving-back

Tony Thurmond has a big job. Elected California's state superintendent of public instruction in 2018, Thurmond is responsible for one of the largest public school systems in the country, with more than 6 million students and 10,000 schools. And he is serving in the middle of a pandemic in which teaching and learning have been turned upside down. If anyone is up for the challenge it's Thurmond, who makes a habit of beating the odds. His mother — an immigrant from Panama — died when he was 6 years old. He didn't meet his father until he was an adult. He graduated from Temple University (where he was student body president), then earned dual master's degrees from Bryn Mawr College. Before being elected superintendent, Thurmond served in local government in the East Bay and four years in the State Assembly. I caught up with the superintendent at our annual Bay Scholars luncheon in November. His optimism, candid assessment of the challenges our kids face and passion for the transformative power of education is infectious. Meet Tony Thurmond.

Q: You've had some real challenges in your childhood. What kept you motivated? Did you have mentors along the way

Oh, I've had plenty and I still do. Education has been everything in my life. That's really the narrative that I try to share with other young people. A lot of them come from similar neighborhoods and backgrounds as me. I grew up on the free lunch program, food stamps and government cheese. I lost my mom at an early age — she had cancer and passed when I was 6 — and my dad was still trying to get back from being in Vietnam. We struggled, but one of the constants in my life was mentors — education and faith leaders — people who told me that my life would be better than it started, and they were absolutely right.

Q: You've held a number of public offices and you've been successful at all of them. What appealed to you about the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction?

The truth is I didn't know anything about it. I was enjoying my service in the State Assembly. If you look at my service record, though, most of what I did in the legislature was focused on young people. When I learned that there might be an opportunity to serve on education issues and youth issues all the time, I thought, "That's for me." I started out really early and the journey took me two years. I'm grateful to the 5 million people who voted me into this office to give me a chance to serve 6 million students in the state. It's an honor. It's truly an honor.



Q: Let's talk about learning in the pandemic. The majority of our students are still studying remotely. How does the state ensure that each child in California gets a quality education while we're in this stay-at-home and remote-learning mode

It's really tough, but we have to do what's necessary to keep our students safe. ... Now, that starts with having the tools, right? The pandemic has taught us a million students in our state don't have access to high-speed internet. So I've started a task force on closing the digital divide, and we've been able to secure donations and new investments to help bring high-speed internet to the state. At the end of the day, we need more and new infrastructure to create more broad-band, and that's going to allow

“The pandemic has taught us a million students in our state don't have access to high-speed internet... we need infrastructure to create more broadband to allow students from all backgrounds and all schools to be able to fully engage. That's just the start.”

Tony Thurmond
California State Superintendent of Public Instruction



PHOTO: TONYTHURMOND.COM

students from all backgrounds and all schools to be able to fully engage. That's just the start. We've got to do more around teacher training. We have to do more to support every single family. We have to make equity a priority for all of our students, and make sure we're supporting the educators and families of our students.

Q: You talk a lot about the digital divide. Has the pandemic exacerbated that divide, or actually reduced it because districts and schools were forced to ensure that kids had the tools to learn remotely?

Probably a little bit of both, right? I mean, you said it, we went into distance learning overnight without a playbook for how to do that. This is not how education was built, but out of necessity for safety, we've done this. I think it put a spotlight on an embarrassing secret that's been covered up, that some folks have access to great resources, and many don't have access to what they need. We're in this situation and we're going to use the momentum

to close the digital divide once and for all. In that respect, I think it gives us a sense of urgency to push forward and to finally make sure that every student has a computer, that people get training on how to use them and that everyone has access to high-speed internet.

Q: How long is something like that going to take and how much is it going to cost? Is it coming from state dollars, federal dollars, philanthropy?

You're going to get sticker shock when I tell you this is really something that's in the billions, but when we make the investment, it will pay dividends for a long time. If you look at the infrastructure that's needed in rural parts of the state that don't have access to broadband, some estimate that's about a \$4 billion equation to make that happen. Now we're working with internet service providers to make sure that students anywhere can get access to low-cost internet. ... But we're going to need help from the federal government.

Q: If you had a magic wand and you could reimagine California's public school system, what would it look like and how do we get there?

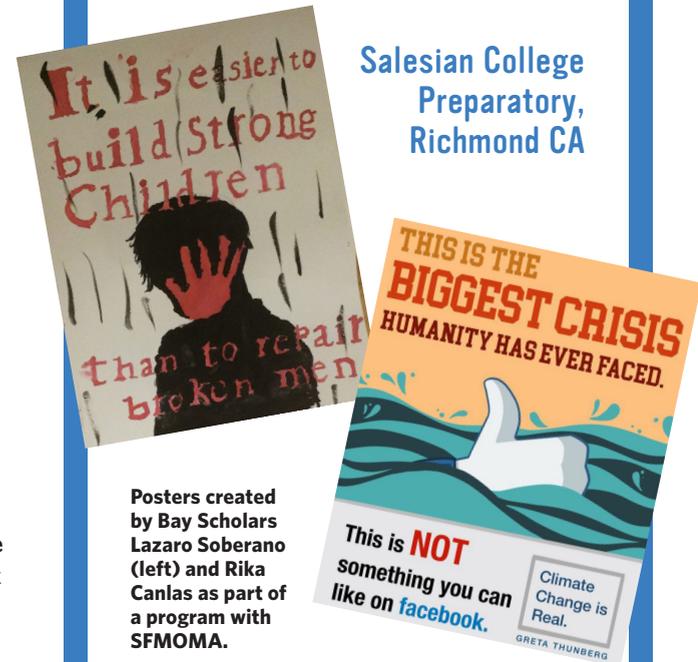
Obviously, I would make sure everyone had a computer and high-speed internet. No questions asked; everyone would get one. I'd put a focus on teacher recruitment and retention and figure out away to pay teachers better. I would make sure that there's more money for students to be able to afford to go to college. Right now, our students probably take out more loans than at any time in history. We have students who are in college who are homeless, who experience food insecurity... I would use that magic wand to make sure we could support all our students and their families.

Q: What message do you have for students, especially students who may be struggling right now?

I would just start by telling [them] how proud I am of them, especially those who are first generation or who come from low-income backgrounds and are overcoming barriers. My experience is an example that you can come from humble beginnings and an education can really change your life. Get that education, a home, a car, the ability to support your family, and to be fulfilled in what you do. Stay focused and be around positive mentors and caring adults who will always support you no matter what.

PARTNER SCHOOL AT WORK

Salesian College
Preparatory,
Richmond CA



Posters created by Bay Scholars Lazaro Soberano (left) and Rika Canlas as part of a program with SFMOMA.

"Salesian's Art and World Language departments have been partnering with SFMOMA and our students have been creating some truly amazing works of art! Recently, they studied the art form of creating a political poster to explore their thoughts and ideas about what makes a compelling poster. The results were powerful and timely works of art that speak to local and global issues."

—Christina Karabinis, Director of Admissions, Salesian College Preparatory

To read more about the project, read this article on the SFMOMA website:
sfmoma.org/read/timely-lessons-students-find-inspiration-in-political-posters/

PULL UP A SEAT FOR OUR FIRESIDE CHATS

We are incredibly proud of our Bay Scholars students, and want you to get to know them and hear of their remarkable high school accomplishments as well as their goals and dreams for college and career. Follow the links to our web site to see video recordings of Fireside Chats with some of the extraordinary young people in the Bay Scholars Program. You'll see firsthand the impact of your support on their lives, and how they are "paying it forward" even now.



Hear interviews with these extraordinary Bay Scholars
at bayscholars.org/fireside-chats/



FOCUS: Fireside Chat with Isaiah Catubig

In a series of interviews, Isaiah talks about his experience as a Bay Scholar; how being half-Asian and half-Latino has inspired his passion for politics; and how he's already taking steps in student government to meet his post-collegiate goals of serving as Mayor of San Francisco and a member of the Legislature. Isaiah also talks about his role models and what he believes defines true leaders.

And he has a special message he'd like to share with future Bay Scholars. Hear inspiring interviews with Isaiah and other Bay Scholars at bayscholars.org/fireside-chats/

Here's what Isaiah's English teacher says:

"Isaiah Catubig is one of those rare individuals whose talent, empathy, inquisitiveness, and leadership come naturally...The sheer scope of Isaiah's creativity allows him to not only connect intellectually and emotionally with an audience, it inspires the hearts and minds of those fortunate enough to share his company or experience his work. Isaiah is someone who pursues and pushes the limits of possibility each and every time he engages with the world. And frankly, that insatiable curiosity, that unexpected humility, and that astounding work ethic? It's contagious."

—Dr. Stewart Grace, English teacher,
Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Achella R.

Class of 2024

About me: Went to two different schools, developing the skill to overcome hardships and adjust quickly to a new environment. Somewhat Fluent in Spanish and currently studying Japanese. Good listener, skilled at interacting with adults and little children, enjoys communicating with people and likes to help people when they ask for help.

Favorite class: I am currently enjoying Algebra class because there is so much to learn and the problems are difficult which make it exciting. I like having challenges because they keep me motivated and it allows my brain to work harder.

Distance learning challenges: I find it harder to bond and get to know people through a screen because it's not the same as meeting them in person.

Future vision: I see myself in a college in Japan studying astronomy getting closer to achieving my dream of becoming an astronomer. Going to college means being responsible and living life in a way you won't regret it. It is another step closer to my dream and it also means receiving higher education and more knowledge.

Future Self Title: Star explorer Achella

OUR DONORS

Bay Scholars would like to recognize the following who have committed to making a difference in the lives of our Scholars.

▪ *Individuals generously gifting \$2,500 or more*

▪ **Corporations, foundations or institutions generously gifting \$10,000 or more**

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 - San Francisco Foundation
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 - Kristine Venturini
 - Simone Vianna
 - Gwynned Vitello
 - Walkup, Melodia & Kelly Schoenberger
 - **Steve Wilcox**
 - **Diane B. Wilsey**
-

Dear Bay Scholars Supporters and Investors

A note from Lloyd Schine

I believe that education is the key to becoming financially and professionally successful in our world today. By providing financial and programmatic access, support and resources to Bay Area students and families in need, Bay Scholars is helping them acquire and maintain generational education.

Bay Scholars creates positive educational change and provides the opportunity for our students to thrive. Bay Scholars provides opportunities for our students to complete their educational and professional aspirations and goals. We look forward to seeing how our students will go on to make a positive difference in their own communities and eventually pay it forward in supporting other students and families, who will participate in the Bay Scholars' programs after them.

As a proud member of De La Salle High School, one of our distinguished partner schools, I vividly recall the wonderful relationships with faculty, staff, administrators, coaches and fellow classmates during my time as a student. Those relationships have helped to develop me as a person and have helped me to live the motto "Enter to Learn and Leave to Serve." Through my educational career, I have also benefited from the generous support of donors and investors like yourselves. These are just a few of the reasons that I choose to give back through my own time, talent, and treasure.

Bay Scholars is excited about the opportunity to engage and connect with you, our fellow donors and investors, as we work together, toward continuing the legacy of not only Bay Scholars, but each of our incredible college prep high schools, from which our students attend. Our graduates already have, and will continue to go on to distinguish themselves in education, business, medicine, politics, athletics, clergy, and many other fields, and are already taking up leadership roles in their respective schools and neighborhoods.

Thank you again and I know together we will work hard to raise awareness and professional and financial resources to support our incredible bright young students, who are and will continue to be the change makers, who continue to make a positive difference in all of their communities.

Sincerely,

Lloyd V. Schine III '98, M.A., M.Ed
Director of Institutional Advancement, Bay Scholars



**Lloyd Schine
with students
from the Bay
Scholars
program.**



Bay Scholars

465 California Street, 16th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 591-1810
info@bayscholars.org



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