GARCES MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
Bakersfield, California

PRESIDENT
Start Date: Summer 2022
garces.org
Mission

Garces Memorial High School is a Catholic, co-educational, college preparatory high school. Our school educates youth to fulfill the mission of Christ by developing students spiritually, academically, and socially. Our mission calls to instill every member of the Garces Memorial community the courage to act with faith, knowledge, compassion and justice.

OVERVIEW

Garces Memorial High School is an academically challenging, college preparatory, co-educational Catholic high school in Bakersfield, California. Founded in 1947, by the Christian Brothers and Dominican Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas, Garces Memorial is a ministry of the Catholic Church administered by the Diocese of Fresno and supported by the Catholic parishes of Kern County. It is staffed by lay faculty and administration that are inspired by their Catholic faith to minister to the needs of the student body.

Garces seeks a dynamic leader as its next President.

THE SCHOOL

Garces Memorial High School is a Christ-centered community of faith that seeks to provide the best spiritual and academic formation for every student. The Christian focus offers an environment where students can develop spiritually, academically, and socially, enabling them to recognize their potential as people of God. At Garces, students can explore a rich world of academic and extracurricular possibilities while making real connections with a diverse student body. Garces staff and faculty are committed to the task of educating young people to live full, responsible, and meaningful lives strengthened through the curricula and experiences unique to a Catholic school.
The school believes being one’s best self also means being empowered to reach the full potential spiritually, academically, and socially. With more than 20 student clubs, three academic pathways, five academic teams, fine arts programs, and 38 athletic teams, there are numerous opportunities for challenge and growth. Garces is operated by the Diocese of Fresno and staffed by a lay faculty and administration who are inspired by their Catholic faith to minister to the needs of the student body. The school was recently voted Best Private High School and the Best Place to Work in The Bakersfield Californian 2021 Readers’ Choice Poll.

Garces Memorial High School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges: WASC Western Catholic Education Association: WCEA.

ACADEMICS

Garces Memorial High School offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum that prepares students to succeed in a higher academic setting. Through a core curriculum of classes that meet California State Standards and UC and CSU approval, the school focuses on maximizing learning for all students by offering various curricular programs. The school integrates technology into the teaching and learning process. Students have the opportunity to enroll in a range of rigorous STEM classes, including Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, and Civil Engineering and Architecture. The school offers 31 honors and AP classes taught by outstanding and responsive faculty members who are invested in their student’s success.
The Theology department at Garces Memorial High School has made great strides in moving toward a curriculum aligned with the framework developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The curriculum begins with students in grade 9 studying Faith and Revelation and Theology of the Body, while continuing in grade 10 with the study of the Old and New Testament. In grade 11, students study the History of the Church and in the fourth quarter, a study of the Sacraments. During student’s senior year, they will study in the college preparatory classes, Ethics/Catholic Morality and Catholic Social Teachings while the honors curriculum will include Ethics/Catholic Morality and Philosophy of Man. Garces Memorial has transitioned to using the Didache series with additional support materials for each class level.

College preparation begins as soon as students walk onto campus. Grade 9 students and parents can work 1:1 with a counselor designated solely to the freshman class. All students are counseled to take the curriculum that will provide them with the foundation for their college and career plans. During the spring of students’ junior year and fall of students’ senior year, counselors meet 1:1 with each student and their family to create and implement a personalized college plan. Through programs such as 10th Grade College Talks, Application Workshops, College Visitations, personalized guidance, Naviance, and more, the end result is a young adult who finds the college and career path that is right for them.

The graduating class of Garces Memorial High School consistently has a 100% college acceptance rate.

College Acceptances

Graduates from the class of 2020 were accepted to the following institutions, among others:

The University of Alabama
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Arizona State University-Tempe
The University of Arizona
Auburn University
Bakersfield College
Baylor University
Belmont University
Benedictine University at Mesa (AZ)
Bentley University
Biola University
Boise State University
Boston University
California Aeronautical University
California Baptist University
California Lutheran University
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
California State University - Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Dominguez Hills, Fresno, Sacramento, San Marcos
Colorado State University, Fort Collins
DePaul University
FIDM-Fashion Institute of Design
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Hope International University
Humboldt State University
Northern Arizona University
The University of Arizona
The University of Valencia
United States Air Force
University of California, San Diego, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Cruz
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Mississippi
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of San Diego
Westmont College

See the full list here.
THE ARTS

Garces Memorial believes the arts are a fundamental element of a college preparatory, high school experience. The art offerings at Garces Memorial High School nurture students’ spiritual, moral and psychological development, and foster an understanding of human experiences and advancing respect for others.

Fine arts course offerings provide a variety of classes that engage our students and inspire their desires to connect with the world as independent thinkers. Visual and fine arts course offerings include numerous levels of studio art, American Film, and Advanced Cinema Studies.

Performing Arts at Garces Memorial High School consists of dance, theater, and music course offerings. The Garces dance program engages students artistically through a wide variety of instructional techniques. The Garces Players is an educational theater community within the Garces Memorial High School performing arts department. The band program at Garces Memorial High School involves the Fall “Marching Rams Band”, Our Concert-Symphonic Band, The Garces Jazz Band and Percussion Ensembles. Along with participation in a large ensemble, music students have the opportunity to perform in various school liturgical activities, develop teaching skills by mentoring fellow students and participate in local county music festivals.
ATHLETICS

Participation by students, families, and all Rams fans is highly encouraged at Garces Memorial. The school stresses competition consistent with the California Interscholastic Federation standards of pursuing “Victory with Honor” and are guided by the greater Mission of the school, to develop students spiritually, academically, and socially. Sports teams including football, water polo, cross country, golf, tennis, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, soccer, softball, swimming, and track & field. In addition to these athletic opportunities, all grade 9 students are required to enroll in Physical Education 9 or Dance 1.

SCHOOL LIFE

With nearly 25 clubs, an extensive extra-curricular program, intramural sports, and a variety of Associated Student Body (ASB) led activities and events, there is ample opportunity to become involved in campus life at Garces Memorial. Students are on campus every day of the week supporting each other, working collaboratively, developing leadership skills, and building lifelong friendships. On an annual basis, 85% of the Garces student body participate in some type of extra-curricular activity. Garces Memorial offers a variety of opportunities for involvement including student government, robotics, Future Farmers of America, theater, dance, music, mock trial, academic decathlon, and service clubs.

Garces has a rich campus ministry program. In addition to a quiet chapel for students to spend time in during breaks or before and after school, the school offers weekly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mass, confessions, bible studies, class retreats and prayer groups. Garces believes that by having consistent encounters with God, through the Sacraments, through his Word, and through his people, they can truly develop faithful, compassionate, just, and knowledgeable leaders.
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Garces Memorial is located in Bakersfield, California, in the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley in Kern County. The City of Bakersfield is the ninth largest city in California with a population of 383,579. Bakersfield has a very diverse economy which is heavily linked to agriculture and petroleum. Bakersfield is home to an accredited university and community college, respectively, California State University Bakersfield and Bakersfield College.

Bakersfield is one of the most affordable housing markets in the state and offers a diversified healthcare system, including seven hospitals. With sunny weather almost year-round, Kern County is a premiere location for residents to get outside. There are more than 50 parks within city limits, and Bakersfield is home to more than 100 miles of bike lanes and paths. The city has plenty of recreation opportunities including golfing, hunting and fishing, auto racing, sky diving, rock climbing, biking, off-roading, skiing, kayaking, and river rafting.

Bakersfield is centrally located with easy accessibility to Los Angeles and San Francisco by way of Interstate 5 and the California Coast by way of Highway 46. With its own airport, travel to numerous destinations is convenient.
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Garces Memorial is a Catholic School with a 75-year history of success, tradition, and alumni support. The school is deeply loved by generations of citizens in this community. The next President will need to find ways to connect with these passionate Garces supporters and engage them in the work of honoring traditions but also innovating to keep the school the top choice in Bakersfield. There are a number of Garces connected clubs and foundations that provide different levels of support to the school.

The school seeks to find a dynamic Catholic leader who can bring the greater Garces community together. This leader would build a transparent and transformational leadership team at the school level, effectively market the value proposition of a Garces education, and complete campus improvements to ensure the facilities are on par with the other high schools.

The school is poised to embark on a major capital campaign. A feasibility study has been conducted and there has been a positive response within the Garces and Bakersfield community.
DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The next President will be a practicing Catholic who can embrace the mission and values of Garces Memorial and communicate those values effectively to the broader community.

Additional qualities and characteristics include:

• Transformational leader with vision
• Inspirational, faith filled Catholic with excellent communication skills
• Highly relational and motivated
• Approachable and collaborative leadership style
• Previous experience leading a Catholic institution in the President/Principal model is preferred
• Significant experience in fundraising and managing donors
• Knowledgeable about the “business of education” such as budgeting, enrollment management and marketing

TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

• A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
• A completed Candidate Questionnaire (supplied by the consultants)
• A statement of educational or leadership philosophy
• A current résumé;
• A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate’s permission) to:

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