



# Arrupe Partnerships for Community-based Learning

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## NATIVITY SCHOOLS OF SAN JOSE

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### Organizational Profile

The Sacred Heart Nativity Schools of San Jose are comprised of Sacred Heart Nativity School, which opened in August 2001, and Our Lady of Grace Nativity School, which opened in July 2006. The Nativity schools serve the needs of the Washington and Gardner Districts of San Jose. Co-sponsored by the Jesuits, Sacred Heart Parish and The Diocese of San Jose, the schools seek to educate boys and girls in grades 6-8 to reach their full potential and prepare them for college preparatory high school programs.

The school program incorporates:

1. Intimate Class Size: Math, writing, and literature classes will be taught in groups of 8-12 students.
2. Extended School Day: The schedule consists of seven class periods, athletics and other activities after school, plus a structured study hall from 4:30-6 pm.
3. Extended Week: Students participate in Saturday tutoring opportunities and field trips.
4. Extended Year / Summer Activities: Students attend a four week summer school, plus a two-week outdoor leadership camp.
5. College Prep Curriculum: Students pursue a demanding academic program with the anticipation of being accepted into private or public college-prep high school programs.

### SCU Student's Role

SCU students can choose to work at Sacred Heart Nativity or Our Lady of Grace. Morning placements involve working one-to-one with students outside the classroom. The later afternoon placements involve one-to-one or small group tutoring. SCU students are encouraged to bring their own talents and skills to share with the students.

Tutoring sessions are pre-dominantly academic focus. Through the academic lens, interaction with Nativity students is always an opportunity to develop relationships and an opportunity to establish oneself as a role model/mentor. SCU students should know that at every level of interaction with the students at Nativity School they will be looked upon as role models. At the same time, they will continue to act as undergraduate students, responsible for finding ways to learn about the perspectives, experiences and concerns of middle school students.

### To Do Before Orientation

- Provide Arrupe Partnerships with proof of a negative intradermal **TB test within the last year**. If your TB test is not current, please go to the Cowell Health Center immediately to get a TB test at no cost.
- Visit the website listed above to learn more about your placement or the umbrella organization with which it is affiliated.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.

### To Do After Orientation

- Check the school calendar for holidays/school closures that may fall on your placement day. Arrupe students are expected to make up these days and arrange this with the supervisor or classroom teacher.