

STERNE

ANNUAL REPORT
& MAGAZINE

2024

2025



make a splash!

Sterne's mission is to
build on the foundation
of individual strengths
to discover and nurture
each student's version
of greatness.

A NOTE ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT

Sterne School is deeply grateful to the individuals, families, businesses, foundations, and corporations for their gifts received between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. Through your generous support, Sterne provided our comprehensive program of academics, experiential learning, arts, athletics, enrichment, college prep, counseling, SEL, learning support, community-building activities and more to nearly 200 students throughout the academic year.

We have made every effort to ensure that our donor list is complete and accurate. Please notify our Advancement Director, Chris Myers, of any inaccuracies or omissions: cmyers@sterneschool.org.

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FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Sterne Community,

This annual report is an acknowledgement of the generous financial support from Sterne School's families and friends throughout the 2024–2025 academic year. Our theme last year was, “Make a Splash,” and this magazine illustrates the transformative impact the Sterne community makes when we all jump in together!

Sterne students have so many strengths and abilities, and it is our greatest joy to bring folks together to honor and celebrate—from the Fall Full Circle to Athletic Awards Night. Last year, we focused on bringing Sterne into the spotlight through more outreach including social, digital, and print media. Our Instagram and Facebook accounts provide insight into student and family engagement at Sterne; our *Currents* blog highlights unique and outstanding stories from “the field” where teachers and administrators have shared some of their thoughts about teaching, SEL, dyslexia intervention, and AI.

Last year, we also achieved full accreditation through the California Association of Independent Schools. This year-long self-reflective study brought voice to every member of the Sterne community, from students to parents, teachers, alumni, and our Board. Receiving this recognition solidifies our future as an outstanding San Francisco Independent school.

The future is bright because our community truly comes together to support Sterne's mission, vision, and values. You “Make a Splash” at Sterne. Thank you. We are so grateful.



Melissa Myers



STERNE'S VALUES

Start with strengths

Bring joy to learning

Learn from everyone's
uniqueness

Honor the educator

Never give up



FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Sterne Community,

At Sterne, we strive to build and foster a Culture of Giving—a culture in which all stakeholders in the community support our school through gifts of time, talent, and philanthropy. The joy comes in witnessing how that support transforms opportunities for our students.

So it is with deep gratitude and extreme joy that I share this year's Annual Report & Magazine on behalf of the Board of Directors. It gives us the opportunity to look back at the past year and acknowledge the significant impact the Sterne community has made in all aspects of our school's program:

- We strengthened our academic programs, expanded experiential learning opportunities, and deepened our investment in student well-being.
- Our faculty and staff, whose dedication and expertise is the heart of our school, continue to inspire excellence.
- Our students shined creatively in the arts and competitively in athletics.
- And our largest-ever graduating class—with acceptance to more than 70 colleges and universities—is testament to the mission and values upon which Sterne was founded fifty years ago.

Throughout the past five decades, the generosity of the Sterne community made it possible to grow from Val Anthony's lone classroom in 1976, to the thriving campus of almost 200 students we have today. And as we celebrate Sterne's golden anniversary milestone throughout the year, we are already dreaming about the possibilities ahead.

Last year my predecessor, former Board President John Kunze, closed his Annual Report letter with the line, "Let's keep dreaming big." Your support allows us to do that, boldly and confidently. Thank you for the joy you bring to our students, families, and community, and for all that your generosity makes possible.

Andrew Owen, Parent of Mimi, '28

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FROM THE ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

Dear Sterne Community,

Thank you! It is with sincere gratitude that we share our 2024–2025 Annual Report on giving. As I wrote in a blog post earlier this year, giving takes many forms. Our community gives back to Sterne in so many different ways—volunteering their time; sharing their talents; participating in service learning; being chaperones or ambassadors; supporting our arts festivals and athletics events; even making homemade goodies for school events. Every gift is meaningful, makes a difference for our students and families, and contributes to the Sterne community. So this report is more than simply a roll call recognition of donors; it is an acknowledgement and celebration of the impact your support has made in so many important ways.

To evoke our schoolwide theme from last year, the Sterne community “Made a Splash.” Once again, donors collectively raised more than \$360,000 for our Annual Fund—the first time we’ve ever had back-to-back years at that level. We added more community-connecting events like Sterne Salons, Parent Coffees, and Step Up!, while continuing to improve upon traditions like the Art & Maker Fair, Athletics Night, the Back to School Picnic, and more. And despite going overboard with ship puns, our cruise-themed gala helped keep our experiential education program sailing along, thanks to more than 100 generous sponsors and donors who rocked the boat at our annual fundraiser (okay, okay...I promise I’m done).

Really, though, all of you rock. Through gifts of your time, treasure, and talents, you’ve made so much possible for our students. As you’ll see in this report, every day, in so many different ways, our students are making a splash. Thanks for making yours.



Chris Myers

Director of Advancement, Marketing, and Communications



2024–2025 FINANCIALS

Total Operating Budget
\$8,065,318

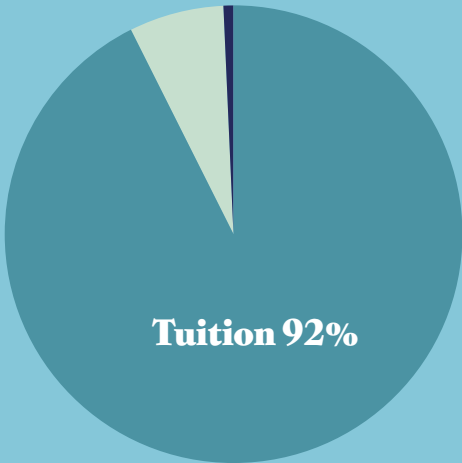
Total Annual Giving
\$529,033

- Annual Fund: \$362,480
- Annual Gala: \$166,559

More financials on next page

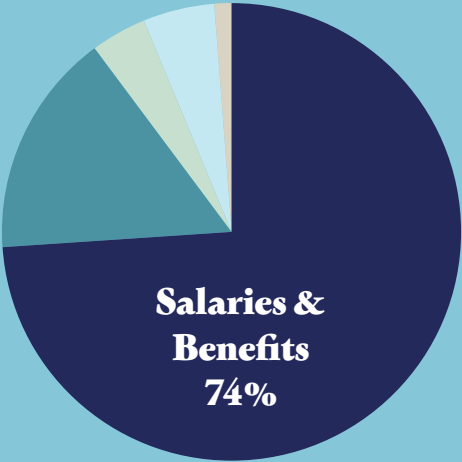
FISCAL
YEAR END
JUNE 30, 2024

Total Revenue
By Source



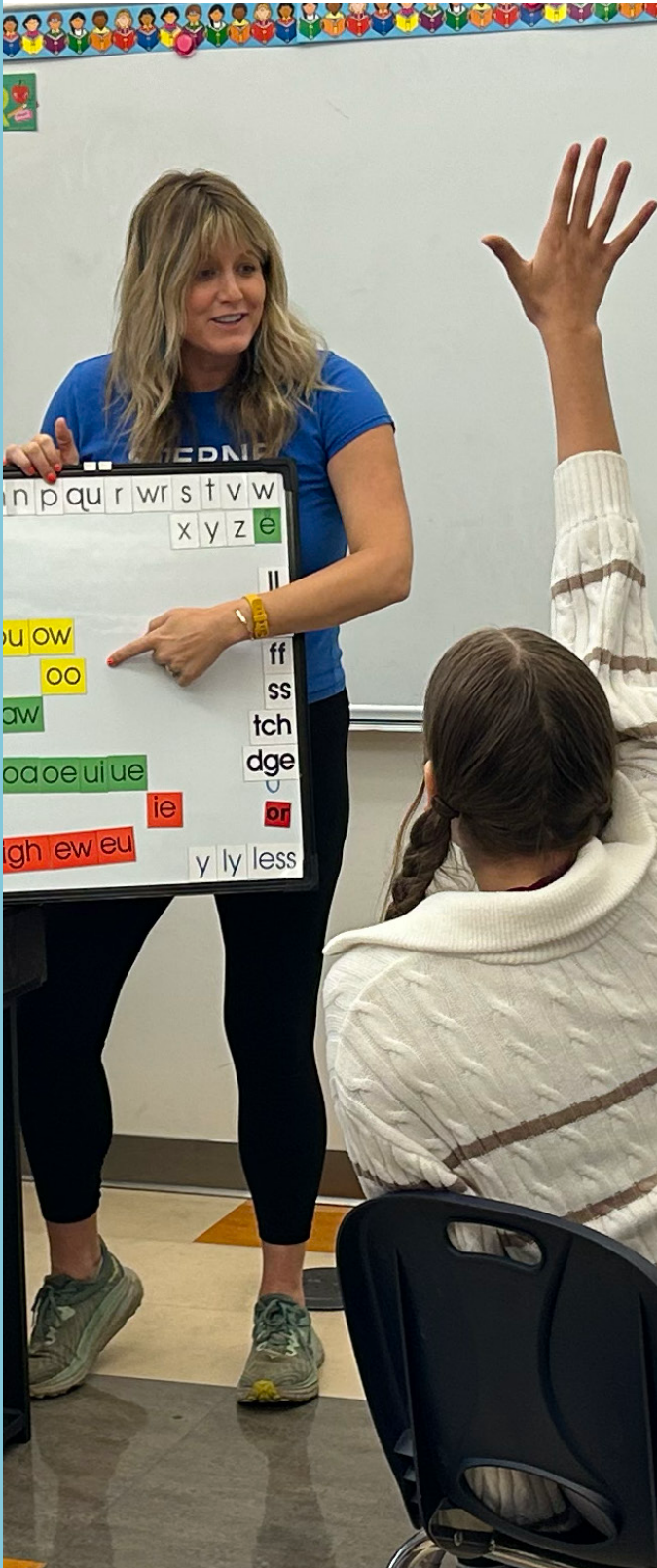
Individual Gifts: 7%
Corporation/Foundation Gifts: 1%

Operating Expenses



Operations & Facilities: 16%
General Administrative: 4%
Instructional & Programs: 5%
Debt Service: 1%

academics



AN IMPACTFUL CURRICULAR INNOVATION

By Sarah Ridenour, Director of Learning

At Sterne School, our 2024–2025 Annual Fund theme, “Make a Splash,” inspired a transformative leap in our educational approach. Thanks to the generous support of our community, we relaunched and rebranded our science-backed literacy intervention program that blends Structured Literacy with creative, inclusive learning.

The Sterne READS Era

Our revamped program, Sterne READS (Reading Education And Dyslexia Support), integrates the Orton-Gillingham approach into our English Language Arts curriculum. This multisensory, structured method is designed to support students with dyslexia and other language-based learning challenges. Unlike traditional pull-out models, Sterne READS is embedded within the classroom, allowing students to receive targeted instruction while remaining connected to their peers and grade-level curriculum. The impact of this program is evident in our students’

Continued on next page

ACADEMICS, *continued*

engagement and progress. Typically, after a semester of Sterne READS, students increase their word fluency by 50% and jump at least one grade level in reading.

A Ripple Effect of Positive Change

The success of Sterne READS is creating a ripple effect throughout our school community. Students are not only improving their literacy skills, but are also gaining confidence, independence, and a genuine sense of belonging in the classroom. Teachers have observed students eagerly participating in discussions and volunteering to read aloud. At a recent Author's Party, a group of fourth and fifth graders proudly stood before their classmates to read their personal narratives. For many, it was the first time they felt confident enough to read aloud in front of others. Through Sterne READS, these students had built not only stronger literacy skills but also the self-assurance to share their voices. Teachers noted how students who once

hesitated to participate were now eager to take the microphone, reading with their best expression and pride.

Families, too, have noticed a difference at home, reporting that students are approaching reading and writing with enthusiasm rather than frustration. By making literacy instruction accessible, engaging, and personalized, Sterne READS demonstrates that targeted interventions, when thoughtfully integrated into the classroom, do more than teach skills—they empower students to become confident learners and resilient thinkers. The program fosters academic growth and a school culture where every student feels capable, supported, and ready to take on new challenges.

Looking Ahead

As we continue to “Make a Splash” in educational innovation, we remain committed to providing our students with the tools and support they need to thrive. The success of Sterne READS is just the beginning, and we look forward to expanding and enhancing our programs to meet the diverse needs of our future learners.

2024-2025 STERNE DONOR ROLL

Anonymous (2)

Anonymous (10)

Robin Allan and John Gordan

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2024-2025 STERNE DONOR ROLL

Continued

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Continued on next page
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student life



STUDENT CLUBS HIT RECORD GROWTH LAST YEAR

By Matt Poynter, Head of Lower/Middle School and Diana García, High School Student Life Director

Clubs have always been an important part of school culture at Sterne and have a high impact on student morale and participation. They are a literal way for students to embody our school values of “Start With Strengths” and “Learn From Everyone’s Uniqueness.” Clubs unify students, make them feel connected, and help them find their people. It’s a place to express their strengths. Last year saw an explosion of club activity across all divisions.

Lower/Middle School

In the Lower and Middle School divisions, we reengineered our approach last year and created Friday Clubs. Rather than scheduling clubs at different times and days, we scheduled all clubs to meet on Friday during homeroom so every single student could participate. Old favorites like Star Wars, Fashion, and Basketball remained popular choices, while

Continued on next page

STUDENT LIFE, continued

new opportunities in Chess, Dungeons and Dragons, Singing, Sci-Fi, and Fright Club rounded out our selection. One club I'll call out in particular is Student Council. Last year was the first time Student Council was a Friday Club, and anyone who wanted to sign on for the additional responsibilities that this club entailed was welcome to join. Student Council members gave up their Friday lunch to run the pizza sale, plan and run our Spirit Point contests, and "Honor the Educator" at our Monday Division Meetings by featuring the good work of one of our teachers. Student Council members are leaders in our school and their hard work continues to have an incredible impact on our division.

High School

Sterne High School students really "Made a Splash" with their interest in student leadership last year. The High School had a record number of student-led clubs; there were 13, a number which can only be beaten by this year, which has 14 and counting! This new level of involvement led to our first-ever delegation of students attending the Student Leadership Conference in the Spring of 2025.

High School clubs have been created and led by students for over a decade, and while participation is elective, almost every student belongs to at least one club, and an annual Club Fair promotes new club offerings and gets students excited about becoming active members of the community. This popular event gets more elaborate every year.



2024-2025 STERNE DONOR ROLL Continued

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Myriam Easton

Nadyne Epstein

Arlene Borick and Urbano Ezquerro

Aaron Fonseca and Anna Maria Vaccaro

Franklin Templeton Charitable

Foundation

Sharon Frenzel

CLASS OF '25 ACCEPTANCES

Adelphi University
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Belmont University
Cal Poly Humboldt
Cal Poly Maritime Academy
Cal Poly Pomona
California Baptist University
California College of the Arts
Cal State Channel Islands
Cal State Chico
Cal State Dominguez Hills
Cal State East Bay
Cal State Fresno
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Cal State Monterey Bay
Cal State Northridge
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Cal State San Marcos
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Curry College
Dean College
DePaul University
Dominican University of California
Drew University
Drexel University
Elon University
Emerson College
Gonzaga University
Hofstra University
Lesley University
Lewis & Clark College
Loyola Marymount University
Maine College of Art & Design
Marist University

More on next page

college prep



THE LARGEST GRADUATING CLASS IN STERNE'S HISTORY

One of the main ways Sterne differentiates itself from other independent schools is the individualized attention we give to each and every student. This differentiation is never more apparent than in our college planning process. Both our College Advisor, Laura Corleto, and our High School Counselor, Louann Katz-Curtis, are fully involved in the process. They spend many advising hours with each student, beginning freshman year. The goal is to find the absolute best college fit for each student and to involve parents or guardians to ensure everyone feels seen and heard in this important process.

Last year, we graduated the largest class in Sterne's history, and it was a diverse group of students in terms of each student's goals and what was going to be the right fit for them. We spoke with Laura and Louann about the class of '25 and our planning process in general.

Laura:

"Last year's class was so big. We were committed to maintaining the same level of individualized support we've always provided,

Continued on next page

COLLEGE PREP, continued

and while it was a big undertaking, it was absolutely worth it. The list of colleges was outstanding, and it demonstrated that when our students follow our guidance, they can achieve success. There were several students in last year's graduating class who had no plans to go to college at first, and we worked closely with them and their families to explore options that matched their needs and goals. One thing that was gratifying last year was to see the parents really see the students for who they are, in the best possible way. We saw kids taking the lead to get what they needed. One parent shared how their child who chose the SEED program at UC Davis, which is a nontraditional college pathway, is flourishing. It's a great example of what can happen when parents, students, and the college advising office work together to find the right

fit. The class of 2025 had very diverse pathways, and we feel fantastic about every single student's choices. Each one felt like the right fit."

Louann:

"Sterne seniors get more individualized attention than any school I've ever worked at. Most independent schools offer seniors a fifteen-minute session with an English teacher to go over their essays before submitting applications. Laura Corleto is in the applications with our seniors every day during Senior Seminar class. Laura and I also give them a full-hour one-on-one session to work on their essays, in addition to the planning meetings with parents. We are always available to support students and families. Laura and I work as a team so we can address whatever comes up during the process, whether it's social emotional issues that arise or an academic challenge. We were so thrilled with last year's outcomes."

CLASS OF '25 ACCEPTANCES, continued

Minneapolis College of Art and Design
Mitchell College
Montana State University
Morehouse College
Mount Saint Mary's University
Oregon State University
Otis College of Art and Design
Saint Mary's College of California
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Santa Clara University
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Seattle University
Sonoma State University
Southern Methodist University
Syracuse University
University of British Columbia
UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC Merced
UC Riverside
UC Santa Cruz
University of Colorado Boulder
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University of Oregon
University of the Pacific
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
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University of Victoria
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Washington State University
Whitman College
Whittier College
Willamette University



2024-2025 STERNE DONOR ROLL

Continued from page 8

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Brenda Henderson

Carol and Seth Herring

Kerry Hogin

Jim and Mary Holden

Melissa Holden and Sarah Holley

athletics

HARD WORK PAYS OFF

The 2024-2025 High School boys basketball team truly embodied the Sterne value “Never Give Up.” Last year’s season was the most successful in the school’s history, according to Athletic Director Sean McManis. We were just a single win away from making the playoffs, and our record was 11 wins, 5 losses. As the season progressed and the wins kept coming, our fan base grew, and more and more people started coming to games to cheer. There were some dramatic moments: one game ended with a buzzer-beater shot, and we won! Sterne senior Rico Haring-Duenas was named to First Team All City, which includes the five best players from the entire California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division 2 league. This was another first for the Dolphins.

To say that a season like this had an impact on our athletes is a huge understatement. These young men started carrying themselves with so much pride, and the correlation between hard work and positive results just kept reinforcing itself for them. Coach McManis reflected back on the team’s first season in the CIF league, which was 2023-2024. McManis commented, “Our record was 2 wins, 14 losses. It’s a significant achievement to have



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ATHLETICS, continued

that big of a turnaround in just one year. I chalk it up to a combination of experience and buy-in from the athletes. Before the jump to CIF, we would be scrambling for six to eight games to fill out our season. The CIF schedule had 16 games, often three times a week and sometimes on back-to-back nights.” With a year of experience under their belt, this team knew what to expect and what to prepare for. That value “Never Give Up” really started to resonate and grow within them, as did their belief in each other.

The results speak for themselves and continue to echo in the Sterne athletics community. We can’t wait for the 25-26 season to start.



2024-2025 STERNE DONOR ROLL Continued

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2024-2025 STERNE DONOR ROLL

Continued

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Deborah and Kenneth Novack

Continued on next page

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the arts



HELPING EACH OTHER, TAKING RISKS, AND TRYING NEW THINGS

These are all skills our students master in the visual and performing arts at Sterne. We spoke with our Arts teachers about an impactful experience from last year's classes, and you'll see these themes throughout.

Elise Cumberland, Drama

"Last year during the Spring Plays, my Drama students learned the invisible work that happens behind the scenes on our production crew. The production crew is made up of students in the class, and over the course of the semester, they learned the ins and outs of the production booth: light and sound, cues, and listening for cue prompts. It's important work that makes the show go seamlessly. If everything backstage goes right, you never know they're there. During last year's Spring Plays, a production crew member had to miss a performance, and the ensemble stepped up to fill the gap. Learning all those skills really gave them an appreciation for each other. The experience demonstrated that it takes the entire ensemble to make a great show. The booth and comms headsets are fun, but they're only the beginning of the work of the backstage crew. The Spring Plays went off without a hitch."

Continued on next page

THE ARTS, continued

Rowan Cutler, Film

“One of my film classes last year was really excited to do a project related to “Squid Game,” which was a very popular show that had just come out. I loved their enthusiasm, but how could we make this really violent show into something that was school-appropriate? We came up with a plan where, “Nobody died. They just got pied.” We did research on how movies do pie-in-face scenes, and it was extremely tactile, fun, and sensory. This project grew and gained traction as we worked on it. We ended up involving so many other people: the 4th graders played the “red light, green light” scene, and their teacher was the Robot Girl. The Maker Lab played in the cookie scene, and Sophie and her mom, Anne, made the cookies for that scene. Race’s dad contributed equipment, and Erik’s dad created a giant

promotional movie poster. Sterne High School student Dylan helped with the tug of war scene where they fell into a gigantic pie; he perfected the green screen filming and did a lot of fancy editing, teaching the kids more advanced techniques as he worked. The students tied the final scene to Larry Milburn, one of our most beloved staff members. The “Lunch With Larry” scene was a fun surprise and homage to Larry’s 50-year tenure at school.

“The combination of a fun pop-culture theme and massive community involvement made this the most popular project and the best-attended film festival in my long history with Sterne. Stay tuned this year for another pop culture movie transformation just for Sterne! [Click here to watch Sterne Games.](#)”

Continued on next page



2024-2025 STERNE DONOR ROLL Continued

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- Sabrina Schumann
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- Peter and Susannah Searson

Continued on next page
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2024-2025 STERNE DONOR ROLL Continued

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Jane Underwood



THE ARTS, continued

Matt Robidoux, Music

“I had a high school music class last year that played a gig at Bimbo’s 365 Club for the Sterne Gala last Spring. I had a lot of time to work with these students throughout the year, and I feel like they learned more about music in the weeks leading up to that gig than during the entire year. That was a real professional gig, playing at a club where legends performed, like Diana Ross and Andre 3000. Our musicians experienced working with a professional front-of-house person and a sound tech. They sat in the Green Room. We rehearsed all this; we practiced the sound check and walking on stage, but experiencing it in real time and learning the hard way all the executive functioning expectations that come from playing at a professional venue—it had a profound impact on these kids. And they slayed it. They played a four-song set that highlighted what they could do as a group, with each member playing supporting and solo roles.

“Continually gigging is part of my practice as a musician, and those early experiences playing real concerts really stick with me. Music becomes real when it’s being performed in front of other people. The sense of time shifts completely, and you’re in this moment. That’s when the music is living. I feel like these kids are going to remember this experience forever.”

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Boldface: Leadership Circle Donors

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THE ARTS, continued

Kerry Hogin, High School Visual Art

“Last year in High School Studio Art, we did a project called, “Art as Activism.” The assignment was for each student to do research and find a cause that was important to them and then make a protest poster or art piece about that cause. I was impressed with the range of issues that came up, from Black Lives Matter and female empowerment to keeping the price of a Costco hotdog at \$2. The students really engaged with this assignment; it was personal, and they felt like they grew in their beliefs in the process. They also learned more about the causes that others researched and the importance of honoring everyone’s beliefs, even if they didn’t agree.”

Lidia Cortina, Lower/Middle School Visual Art

“Every Halloween, we study the art of Tim Burton. The students really engage with this project because most know the movies, and nearly all know the characters such as Beetlejuice, Jack Skellington, Edward Scissorhands, and the Corpse Bride. We review all the animated characters and learn the different styles. They are always excited to learn that Tim Burton is a contemporary artist; he’s still alive. They are fascinated, and so am I because every year, it’s the same: total enchantment and extra-deep effort on their part. They are totally engaged and try to do their best to recreate this character they like. They want it to be perfect. And they get it. It’s magic.”



2024-2025 STERNE DONOR ROLL Continued

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We have made every effort to ensure that our donor list is complete and accurate. Please notify our Advancement Director, Chris Myers, of any inaccuracies or omissions: cm Myers@sterneschool.org.

experiential ed



EXPERIENTIAL ADVENTURES HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Students in all divisions had many opportunities throughout last year for experiential education. Per tradition, the adventures differed between the Lower/Middle and High School divisions.

High School students participated in service learning all year long, and their experiential learning culminated as usual in the week-long Experiential Week, with choices for local exploration in arts, computer science and AI, Bay Area hiking, “Nourish and Serve,” disc sports, LARPing, Pathways to Medicine, and an international trip to Thailand.

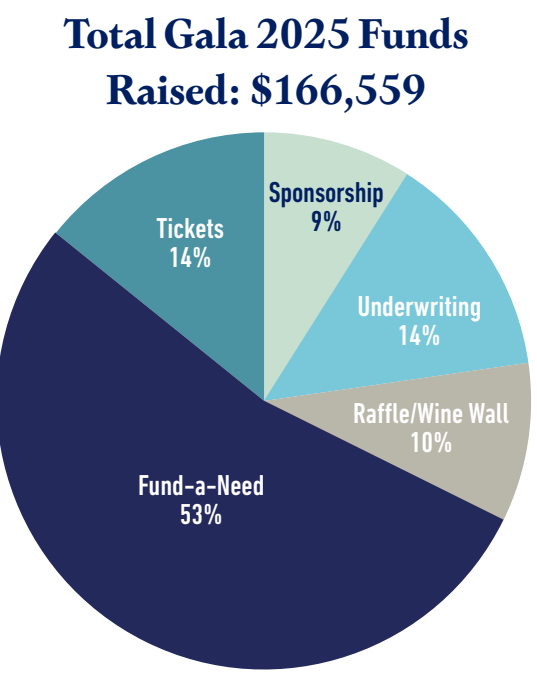
Lower and Middle School students had multiple Expedition Days throughout the year, going to places like the Immigration Station at Angel Island, the Marine Mammal Center, Sanchez Ranch, the Randall Museum, Golden Gate Park, and more. Their experiential journey also culminated in Experiential Week with activities focusing on the arts, science, history, ecology, fitness, and even swordplay!



More on next page

LAST YEAR'S GALA WAS DEDICATED TO EXPERIENTIAL ED

In order to expand our experiential education offerings, we dedicated last year's gala fund-a-need to growing our program. Parents, staff, and friends assembled at Bimbo's 365 Club in North Beach for a "Set Sail" theme evening in support of this important endeavor. We viewed a short video documentary featuring Sterne students reflecting on how these experiential education trips have changed their lives.



140
guests
attended
the Gala

27
teacher
sponsorship
tickets sold

More on next page



**Gala Chair and Sterne
Board Member Anne Fung
kicked off the evening.**

2025 GALA DONOR ROLL

- Molly Agarwal and
Vid Prabhakaran
- Roxana Aguilar
- Kim and Robert Anderson
- Anonymous**
- Anonymous (4)
- Andrea Bacigalupo-Lee
and Robert Lee
- Cassie and Jim Bahan**
- Tina Bantay Jones and Michael Jones
- McLain Bennett and David Chocron
- Christine Bensen
- Danielle Bonequi
- Brooke and Jeffrey Bray**
- David Buckner and Dennis Coffman
- Lucas Buxman and Arie Singer
- Samantha Cairo-Toby and Jim Toby
- Louk Stephens**
and **Victoria Carradero**
- Lydia Castro and Michael Dale
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- Susan and Thomas Commins
- Mark Crane and Nieves Zimmerman
- Christina Czap and Felipe Saint-Jean
- Cecilia de Leon and Leo Lam
- Heather Doherty and Michael Rogers
- David Driver and Emelia Rallapalli
- Caroline and Thomas Dunning

Continued on next page
Boldface: Leadership Circle Donors

2025 GALA DONOR ROLL continued

Hendrik Fuhrmeister and Tracy Tanner

Anne Fung and Jeffrey Sternberg

Glenn and Johnny Galang

Eileen Gallagher

Kirsten Gamb

Gilead Sciences

Dale and Debora Gish

Jennie and Rob Goldstein

The Gonzalez Family

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and Katherine Karriker-Jaffe

Rajesh and Rashmin Joshi

Mark Kamiya and Ramona Pedersen

Ann and Daniel Kim

Josh Kirschenbaum and Sarah Treuhaft

The Kremen Family

The Kunze Family

Azim Lateef

The Lauterbach Family

The Valentine-Leed Family

Javier and Jennifer Lemus



EXPERIENTIAL ED, FROM THE EYES OF A STUDENT

We asked several students to talk about how their experiential education adventures impacted them last year:

LARPing (Live-Action Role Playing) in the Park Judah, Middle School

“I loved being able to learn and experience history while dressing up and sword fighting.”

Thailand Experiential Trip Juliana, High School

“The High School Thailand trip was a great way to bond with other students across different grades while immersing myself in other cultures and stepping outside my comfort zone. It was a great experience, and the food was amazing.”

Science Trip to the Randall Museum Sage, Middle School

“It was nice getting out of the classroom and learning in a new environment. I enjoyed learning about the rocks and getting to imagine what they once looked like.”

Continued on next page

Boldface: Leadership Circle Donors

Continued on next page

FROM THE EYES OF A STUDENT, continued

“Beautiful Bay Area” Experiential Adventure Nico, High School

“It was amazing discovering and rediscovering new parts of San Francisco by walking with my peers.”

8th Grade Retreat to Westminster Woods Avi, Middle School

“Being able to hang out with my friends while in nature was nice. The night hike was a highlight of the trip; it was really cool. I went crawdadding, and I learned how to play volleyball from one of my classmates. It was great to share new experiences with friends.”

Expedition to the Botanical Gardens

Jaidin, Lower School

“I liked that there were flowers everywhere, and I got to read the signs and learn about them. My favorite flower was the forget-me-not, because they stick on to you and are hard to lose.”



2025 GALA DONOR ROLL continued

Abe and Esther Lo

Kenneth and Emily Matthews

Breda McBride

Amy Naber

Andrew Owen and Kobi Conaway

Tianna Paschel

Edward Pertcheck

and Joel Rubinstein

Alex Pfllepsen and Julia Terhaar

Auran Piatigorsky

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Ludo and Lindsay Thomasson

The Timrott Family

The Torre Family

The Titterton/Trimble Family

Joan Vallarino

Christopher and Karen Welsh

Bernhard Wildner and Linda Yen

Kristin Windley

Craig Zodikoff and Jay Grant

community

COMMUNITY, COMMITMENT, AND COMPASSION

By Chris Myers, Director of Advancement, Marketing, and Communications

For some families new to a school like Sterne—and even for those who are familiar with independent schools—there is often the question, “What exactly does the Advancement Office do?” It’s a legitimate inquiry, especially since some people immediately equate “advancement” with “fundraising,” and really, there is so much more. Enough for an extended PowerPoint slideshow, daylong TED Talk, or multi-episode podcast...all of which I’ve been asked not to share at this time. More succinctly though, our work is perfectly summarized in this year’s schoolwide theme: Community, Commitment, and Compassion.

Sterne is a community comprised of students, parents, guardians, teachers, alumni, extended family members, and—if our Back to School Picnic is any indication—a lot of dogs, too. One of the highlights in working in the Advancement Office is being part of building that community, and finding ways for everyone to connect. From summer onboarding for our incoming new families, to events like coffee socials, Back to School traditions, Sterne Salons, and alumni meetups, we thrive on connecting our community in meaningful ways that showcase the best in our school.

And that’s where commitment comes in. The Advancement Office works collaboratively to ensure Sterne is always striving to be our best. Over the course of Sterne’s fifty year history, the Advancement Office has been instrumental in working with the school’s Board of Directors, administration, and the broader community to accomplish big picture projects and strategic plan goals. Among the highlights:

Sterne has grown from a one-room schoolhouse in 1976, to our current “forever home” downtown campus with nearly 200 students annually.



COMMUNITY, COMMITMENT, AND COMPASSION, continued

Three out of every five of our students receive dyslexia support, and we've developed Sterne READS to address their academic needs, while maintaining connection with their classmates and curriculum.

Our graduates have been accepted to more than 300 international colleges and universities, and we have a 100% acceptance rate for seniors who apply to four-year programs.

From marketing and admissions, to financial and strategic planning, the Advancement Office plays a role to ensure our school initiatives align with Sterne's mission, values, and vision.

All that means nothing, however, without compassion. We would not have reached this point in our history if our community did not believe in our mission, vision, and values as well. We build our community through connection, and we strengthen it by developing a "culture of giving." And here is where the advancement-equals-fundraising notion is simply wrong.

Giving takes many forms. Our students and families give back to Sterne in so many different ways—through volunteering their time; sharing their talents; participating in service learning; being chaperones or student ambassadors; supporting our arts festivals and athletics events; cooking food for staff lunches (including turkey for Thanksgiving potluck—who does that?!); the list goes on. It takes a village and everyone plays a part. We always say that a gift that is meaningful to you is meaningful to Sterne, and it is inspiring to be part of a truly compassionate community that goes above and beyond in giving so much back.

Yes, fundraising is a key part of the Advancement Office job, and that's the reality for virtually all independent schools. But advancing Sterne—connecting our community, committing to our values, and building a compassionate culture of giving, all so that our school can continue to grow—that is what we do in the Advancement Office every day. And I couldn't be more honored to be a part of it.





**STAY
CONNECTED!**



Update your contact
information with Sterne:
sterneschool.org/update

Brochure design and layout by Sarah Wentker,
Marketing & Communications Manager

STERNE SCHOOL

838 Kearny Street
San Francisco, CA 94108
sterneschool.org

Sterne School admits students of any race, color, and national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, or sex in the administration of its educational and employment policies, admissions policies, financial aid programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

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