

Rallying the Really Human Things

THE VISION FOR PACIFICA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL



ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: JULY 2025

*As image-bearers of
God, created for His
glory, we rally the
really human things,
seeking to cultivate
human potential and
creativity in young
people who think and
live well amid a time
of rapid technological
opportunity and
disruption.*



INTRODUCTION

RALLYING THE REALLY HUMAN THINGS

The future of a society is shaped in its schools. As G.K. Chesterton put it, “*Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.*” From day one, this reality has shaped Pacifica. We were never meant to be just a place where information is passed along—we exist to form people. We walk alongside families, helping to raise faithful sons and daughters who are ready to make things new and good in our society.

And right now our society is spinning, and education is chasing its tail. But we’re not here for the next new trend—we’re here for what lasts. Seeking to be a school that sees human potential as sacred and human flourishing as essential. So in our second decade, we take up the charge of our old friend Chesterton to “*Rally the Really Human Things.*” We’re doubling down on what endures: reason and imagination, courage and action, virtue and vocation, wonder and worship, wisdom and tradition, *grace and truth*. This rallying cry drives our vision to equip students to *think and live well* in a rapidly changing world.

That world is filled with extraordinary possibilities and opportunities—powerful digital tools, unprecedented access to information, and endless connectivity. But beneath the surface, something vital is at stake. Young people are being formed—quietly and constantly—by algorithms and technologies that erode attention and autonomy, flatten relationships, disorient identity, and stunt human potential. These new goods require guidance. If we truly desire to free a generation to *think and live well*, we must be intentional. Their formation must be deliberate. These new opportunities and challenges will reward those who think clearly and collaborate widely—and leave behind those who settle for shortcuts and mere pragmatism.

Our response is not to retreat, compromise, or bury our heads in the sand. The way forward is clear: we *rally the really human things*. This Strategic Vision is our roadmap—shaped by the gospel of Jesus Christ, rooted in the richness of the liberal arts, and ignited with joyful purpose. It calls us to the courageous, hope-filled work of cultivating what is most human, most enduring, and most needed in our time. This is sacred work—the kind we were created to do. May it bear lasting fruit in our students, in our cities, and for the glory of God.

For Christ and His Kingdom,

David O’Neil, Head of School



OUR MISSION

At Pacifica, everything begins with our mission.

Pacifica Christian is a liberal arts high school devoted to teaching young men and women to think critically and wisely, instilling heartfelt joy and interest in learning, while encouraging lives of faith, character, and service to the glory of God.

Pacifica is known for its Christ-centered mission, academic distinction, and deeply relational community—but also for forging a distinct path in the landscape of high school education. This identity was not formed by accident. It is the fruit of bold vision, steadfast leadership, and the generosity of those who have believed in something greater for the next generation. United by this shared commitment, we've built more than a school—we've formed a place where young people learn to *think and live well* to the glory of God.

TO BRING THIS VISION TO LIFE, WE WILL PRIORITIZE SIX STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS:

STRATEGIC FOCUS #1

OUR FOUNDATION: FOR CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM

STRATEGIC FOCUS #2

A CULTURE OF CURIOSITY: PURSUING TRUTH WITH COURAGE

STRATEGIC FOCUS #3

SACRED WORK: TEACHING AND FORMATION

STRATEGIC FOCUS #4

BEYOND THE BELL: A LIFE FULLY LIVED

STRATEGIC FOCUS #5

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: ETERNAL IMPACT

STRATEGIC FOCUS #6

CHRONOS AND KAIROS: REDEEMING TIME TOGETHER

1

STRATEGIC FOCUS #1

OUR FOUNDATION:

For Christ and His Kingdom

*Together with the home, the Church, and our community,
we're freeing a generation for Christ and His Kingdom.*

We exist to free young people to *think and live well*—rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shaped by Scripture, and guided by the Church down the ages.

In our second decade, we recommit to the deep formation of students, families, and staff in the fullness of *grace and truth*. Our vision is to be a community where belief becomes practice—where students are academically prepared for college and adulthood and invited to live for Christ and His Kingdom in all spheres of life.

TO THAT END, WE ARE ACTIVELY EXPLORING WAYS TO:

- A. ***Live out our mission by increasingly embodying the Gospel*** in the way we think, live, lead, and grow together as a non-anxious, faithful community—modeling lives rooted in Christ for our students and their families. In doing so, we aim to encourage young people to *think and live well*—grounded in Scripture and objective truth—so that they may choose to live with purpose, courage, and joy in alignment with God's design for creation.
- B. ***Solidify Pacifica as a trusted resource for Christian thought and formation in Orange County***—a place where students and adults alike engage the deep questions of life awakening human potential and inspiring the pursuit of human flourishing, wisdom, and courage in every sphere of life and work.
- C. ***Envision a sacred place on campus***—set apart for worship, prayer, reflection, and formation—where the natural beauty of Banning Ranch (now Randall Preserve) and the Pacific Ocean draws us closer to the Creator. This place will also be home to Pacifica's growing music program and a setting for many of the year's most meaningful moments.



2

STRATEGIC FOCUS #2

A CULTURE OF CURIOSITY:

Pursuing Truth with Courage

Thinking well is not merely for personal gain—it is a means of blessing the world. In a culture increasingly shaped by pragmatism and secularism, we seek to equip students with the courage to pursue truth, awaken human potential, and promote human flourishing—even when the path is marked by resistance, not ease. In an age of volatility and fragmentation, we encourage students to cultivate renewed minds to see with wisdom, act with justice, and love with the generosity of Christ—in the hope that they might become adults prepared to serve faithfully in every sphere of life.

TO FURTHER THIS VISION, WE SEEK TO:

- A. ***Invest boldly in the heart of our academic program*** by prioritizing exceptional faculty, a robust core curriculum, and immersive experiential learning and problem-solving in math and science. Grounded in the conviction that every person bears God's image and is called to steward His creation, we invite students to courageously cultivate and employ knowledge, creativity, and technology toward the joyful renewal of all things.
- B. ***Rally the really human things***. In an age of volatility, distraction, fragmentation, and fading moral imagination, we seek to *rally the really human things*—forming students who are whole: rooted in truth, alive to beauty, and ordered toward the good. Alongside this we desire to be second to none in teaching students how to learn, apply knowledge across disciplines, seek new understanding when needed, and develop intellectual agility, human resilience, and the courage to navigate uncertainty.
- C. ***Thoughtfully engage emerging technologies***, integrating them into the curriculum where missional, equipping students and families to navigate and employ these tools with wisdom and purpose—for their good, the good of others, and the glory of God.
- D. ***Elevate thoughtful storytelling*** showcasing the depth and strength of Pacifica's program—positioning the school as a premier high school for intellectual and spiritual formation in Orange County.

This side of Glory, every good innovation and opportunity for human flourishing begins with curiosity, moral clarity, and the courage to act.



3

STRATEGIC FOCUS #3

SACRED WORK:

Teaching and Formation

We see the education of young people as a sacred calling and invitation to be more fully human. We strive to build and sustain a culture where educators are equipped and honored, students are formed in heart and mind and invited into adulthood, and our unique mission animates every dimension of the school's life—shaping a community that gives young people something to hold on to, push off from, and a place and people to come back to.

Pacifica is defined by extraordinary educators whose lives and work seek to embody the mind and heart of Christ—a hallmark we are committed to making second to none.

TO REALIZE THIS VISION, PACIFICA IS COMMITTED TO:

- A. ***Prioritizing investment in our faculty*** by actively pursuing the elimination of debt service payments and reallocating those resources directly into staff salaries and professional development.
- B. ***Enhance professional development*** through a twofold approach: investing deeply in the formation and ongoing learning of Pacifica staff and fostering collaboration with other educators and schools—advancing a shared vision for educating Christianly. This includes providing the training, tools, and reflective space necessary to carry out the priorities of our Strategic Vision with distinction, clarity, and faithfulness.
- C. ***Strengthen athletic coach development*** to lead teams shaped by mission, grounded in character, and committed to the student experience at every level. As mentors, Triton coaches shape the hearts, minds, and habits of the next generation—forming student-athletes for life and leadership.

All work is sacred, yet few callings shape the future more than forming children for lives of purpose and faithful contribution.



4

STRATEGIC FOCUS #4

BEYOND THE BELL:

A Life Fully Lived

We believe *living well* means nurturing the whole person—mind, body, and spirit—for God’s glory and the good of others. In partnership with the classroom, co-curricular life—through athletics, the arts, clubs, leadership, and shared experiences—shapes students in character, resilience, joy, and community.

We are building a campus culture where participation is cultivated and celebrated—where every Triton is encouraged to take good risks, try new things, and form lasting friendships.

TO REALIZE THIS VISION, PACIFICA IS COMMITTED TO:

- A. ***Pursue the advancement and distinction of Pacifica’s co-curricular programs***—setting bold, mission-aligned goals that ensure each offering is student-centered, deeply formative, and maturing in excellence. We are especially excited to mature our athletics and arts programs as embodied experiences for human development.
- B. ***Provide opportunities for good risks and real adventure***—this is where confidence is forged, resilience is built, and personal responsibility takes root. We may not yet know where this desire will lead, but we are committed to taking bold steps to weave more risk, challenge, and wonder into the lives of our students.
- C. ***Culture matters—making high school fun***. We aim to ignite an unforgettable student experience by creating a vibrant, retreat-like atmosphere at marquee athletic events, House experiences, and cherished school traditions. Through bold school spirit and shared experiences, we will build a lasting culture of Triton Nation.
- D. ***Strengthen and expand Pacifica’s House System*** as a core driver of student formation—deepening community, mentorship, and personal growth. We will invest in mentor groups, enhance cross-grade connection, and build meaningful traditions that unite Tritons year-round.
- E. ***Re-envision the Triton Event Center*** into the premier small-school venue in Southern California—a dynamic hub for competition, celebration, worship, and community that embodies the boldness, spirit, and mission of Pacifica.

*In a culture of comfort and self-curation, we choose courage, grit, and good risk taking
to unlock human potential. We seek to be that rising tide that lifts us all.*

RISE TIDE!



5

STRATEGIC FOCUS #5

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP:

Eternal Impact

We view financial stewardship as a sacred trust—an act of worship and a tangible expression of our commitment to mission, transparency, and long-term sustainability. We seek to manage every dollar in a way that honors God, strengthens the school, and supports the flourishing of our students and community.

Financial responsibility is not merely about balance sheets—it is about mission. When we plan wisely, communicate clearly, and steward faithfully, we lay the foundation for Pacifica to dream boldly, act courageously, and advance the work entrusted to us.

TO DEEPEN THIS SACRED WORK, PACIFICA IS COMMITTED TO:

- A. ***Publish an Annual Impact Report*** that celebrates the impact of philanthropy and clearly communicates Pacifica's financial position—offering transparency, strengthening trust, and inviting our community into the shared stewardship of the school's mission.
- B. ***Foster a working knowledge of Pacifica's finances among executive administrators***—cultivating shared leadership, informed decision-making, and strategic alignment across all areas of the school. While also refining a budgeting process that is collaborative and strategic—supporting clarity, long-range planning, and a culture of wise financial stewardship.
- C. ***Develop a capital priorities roadmap aligned with Pacifica's facilities and programming needs***—charting a bold path for possible short-term and long-term investment opportunities in transformational campus projects, immersive learning environments, strategic endowment growth, and the faithful pursuit of long-term opportunities such as land acquisition. A particular focus will be the future Arts & Letters Loft, a vital next step in our vision. This is more than a critically necessary campus expansion; it is a declaration of the value of imagination, dialogue, and creativity in forming students who *think and live well* and are alive to beauty.

*Sometimes it's hard to see—the details, the planning,
the prudence, the generosity—yet all of it is faithful stewardship,
freeing a generation to think and live well.*



6

STRATEGIC FOCUS #6

CHRONOS AND KAIROS: *Redeeming Time Together*

Time is one of God's most sacred gifts—and one of our most limited resources. At Pacifica Christian High School, we believe that the way we spend our time is a reflection of what we love and who we are becoming. In a world driven by speed, noise, and distraction, we are committed to cultivating a community marked by intentionality, presence, and eternal perspective.

We want our days and years to tell a better story—a story of formation, relationship, and joy. From the cadence of our daily schedule to the shape of our annual calendar, we strive to make time for what matters most: learning that forms the mind, relationships that shape the heart, and experiences that lead students to *live well*.

TO STEWARD TIME MORE FAITHFULLY, PACIFICA IS COMMITTED TO:

- A. ***Reflect deeply on how our community spends its time***—recognizing that unhurried, meaningful moments are essential to both human flourishing and Christian formation. Thoughtfully evaluate and shape our daily rhythms and annual calendar to reflect our mission, creating space for learning, rest, celebration, and growth—freeing students to think deeply, live wisely, and grow in purpose.
- B. ***Nurture Christian Imagination***—inviting students to rediscover wonder by seeing the world anew through the lens of story, myth, liturgy, and the rhythms of the Christian calendar.
- C. ***Strengthen our partnership with parents***—fostering greater unity and collaboration in the shared calling to form students academically, spiritually, and relationally.
- D. ***Cultivate deeper, more consistent engagement with alumni and their families***—honoring their stories and inviting them into the ongoing life and mission of the school.

*Here, time isn't just spent—it's stewarded, in the rhythm of each day,
in the stories we get lost in, and in the way we worship,
work, and walk together to rally the really human things.*



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front cover

Schooner

Joe Duncan Gleason

1930s



page 2

Newport Pier

Milford Zornes

1956



page 5

The Canyon

Milford Zornes

1935



page 7

Untitled

Rex Brandt

1960s



page 9
Grocery Interior
 Millard Owen Sheets
 1935



page 11
After Class—Campo
 Rex Brandt
 1969



page 13
Grape Harvest
 Phil Dike
 1930



page 15
Symphony Under the Stars
 Millard Owen Sheets
 1956

We are deeply grateful to our longtime friends, the Hilbert family, for sharing selections from their extraordinary collection of more than 5,000 works, including oils, watercolors, and drawings that beautifully capture the spirit of California life, which can be enjoyed at the Hilbert Museum at Chapman University.



PACIFICA CHRISTIAN
GRATIA ET VERITAS