

# PALMA SCHOOL TODAY

MAGAZINE

2024-2025



---

A PUBLICATION FOR THE ALUMNI,  
FAMILY & FRIENDS OF PALMA SCHOOL

# RECURRING GIFTS MAKE A BIG IMPACT

Cross & Shield is a recurring monthly gift program that makes supporting Palma School easy and convenient. You choose the amount. You choose the date. And, you can cancel it at any time. What could be easier?

Join Cross & Shield today.



Cross  
& Shield

**JOIN CROSS & SHIELD**

Visit [palmaschool.org/gifts](http://palmaschool.org/gifts) to learn about incentives available to new members



# Inside

Letter from the President	2
Letter from the Principal	3
Young Women: Chieftains Again	4
The Houses Are Established	6
From Renderings to Reality	8
Re-Branding for the Future	11
Around Campus	12
Chieftain Athletics	19
Invited to Play at the Next Level	25
Junior High School Graduation	26
High School Graduation	28
Palma Ath-lumni	30
Palma Ath-lumni Sports Shorts	32
Palma School Hall of Fame Inductees	33
Chieftain Senior Legacies	34
Alumni Update	36
In Memoriam	41



## PALMA

919 Iverson Street, Salinas, CA 93901  
831-422-6391 | [palmaschool.org](http://palmaschool.org)

*Palma School Today* is produced by Palma School's Office of Marketing and Communications.  
Roger Rybkowski, *Director*

*Writing & Editing:* Roger Rybkowski

*Photography:* George Garibay, Jason Cook '90, Cassie Jimenez, MagOne, Palma parents and students

Palma School is a 501c(3) tax exempt organization for both federal and state tax purposes.

Copyright © 2025 All rights reserved.

### Editor's Note

This is my last issue of *Palma School Today* magazine as I am moving to Connecticut this summer to be closer to family. Thank you all for your kind comments and support throughout these past 10 years.



A message from the

# President

Chris Dalman '88



As we wrap up the historic 2024-2025 school year, I find myself reflecting on the amazing experiences we've had. This year marked a significant return to our co-ed roots, which began with the founding of Palma in 1951 and continued until 1964. We welcomed more than 125 new students and introduced an exciting new House system that serves as the heart of student life on our campus. It has been inspiring to see our students challenge themselves every day, striving to make both themselves and our school exceptional.

Throughout the year, Palma completed renovations on the front foyer of the Edward M. Dowd Gymnasium, along with new locker rooms for all students and upgraded restrooms throughout the school. By the time you read this, we will be breaking ground on brand-new athletic facilities on our historic fields. A new baseball and softball complex will be finished by winter, along with artificial turf to maximize the use of our property for our entire student body. We also plan to start construction in the summer of 2026 on a 9,500-square-foot athletic performance building, which will be located at the intersection of Palma Drive and Iverson Street. Palma never slows down, and this summer is no exception.

Our senior class has moved on with much to be proud of: academic awards, an impressive list of college acceptances, league championships, and a group of young men and women who have left a lasting impact on our hallways. I am incredibly proud of how this class came together during their senior year. For next year, our admission numbers have reached capacity, with freshman class totals at their highest in over a decade. Exciting developments are taking place at our school, and I am eager to see where we can go in the coming years.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our families for their ongoing commitment to our school. Understanding that a Palma education is the best choice for their children, I recognize the financial investment involved. We strive to keep tuition as low as possible, and I assure you that a Palma education remains the most affordable private high school option within an 80-mile radius.

I also wish to thank our alumni and local business supporters for their selfless contributions, which continue to enhance the Palma experience for our young men and women in the community. I look forward to seeing and collaborating with you in the upcoming school year.

All my best,

Chris Dalman '88

*President*

A message from the

# Principal

David J. Sullivan

What an historic year for Palma School! The dawn of a new era with a return to a coed community has been a multi-faceted blessing in so many ways. I try not to exaggerate when I describe a palpable renaissance of enthusiasm, collective school spirit, and ever-growing pathways to success for students and staff alike.

Palma has undergone new branding, logos, and marketing with a nod to our history — a return to Palma Red and Victory Gold, complemented by Palm Branch green, and Dark Ash. These colors have characterized our inaugural House System, where high school students can experience a relatively novel organization of student leadership, infusion of school spirit, and a sense of belonging among students and staff alike.

In gratitude to President Dalman and the Edward M. Dowd Foundation, our gymnasium has been renovated to showcase a history of achievement in athletics. And this largest of any single gift in Palma's history has provided Palma with a renovation of facilities to accommodate women and men in our historic gym.

As the reality of the close of another successful school year approaches I cannot help but to reflect on the gift of education. The greatest challenge of teaching (and parenting) is to love unconditionally. It is a love that is balanced by the need for forgiveness and sincerity. It is a love that ensures consequences for our children that result from choices, both good and bad, both for our benefit in growth and development to being better people for a world that needs us so. It is my genuine hope that our young men and women learn to love and be loved during their time here at Palma. Teaching with love requires the ultimate gift of self to students every day. Teachers who are committed to that higher standard of their vocations know that their students will never be able to show enough gratitude for their gifts of self, but they love our students anyway.

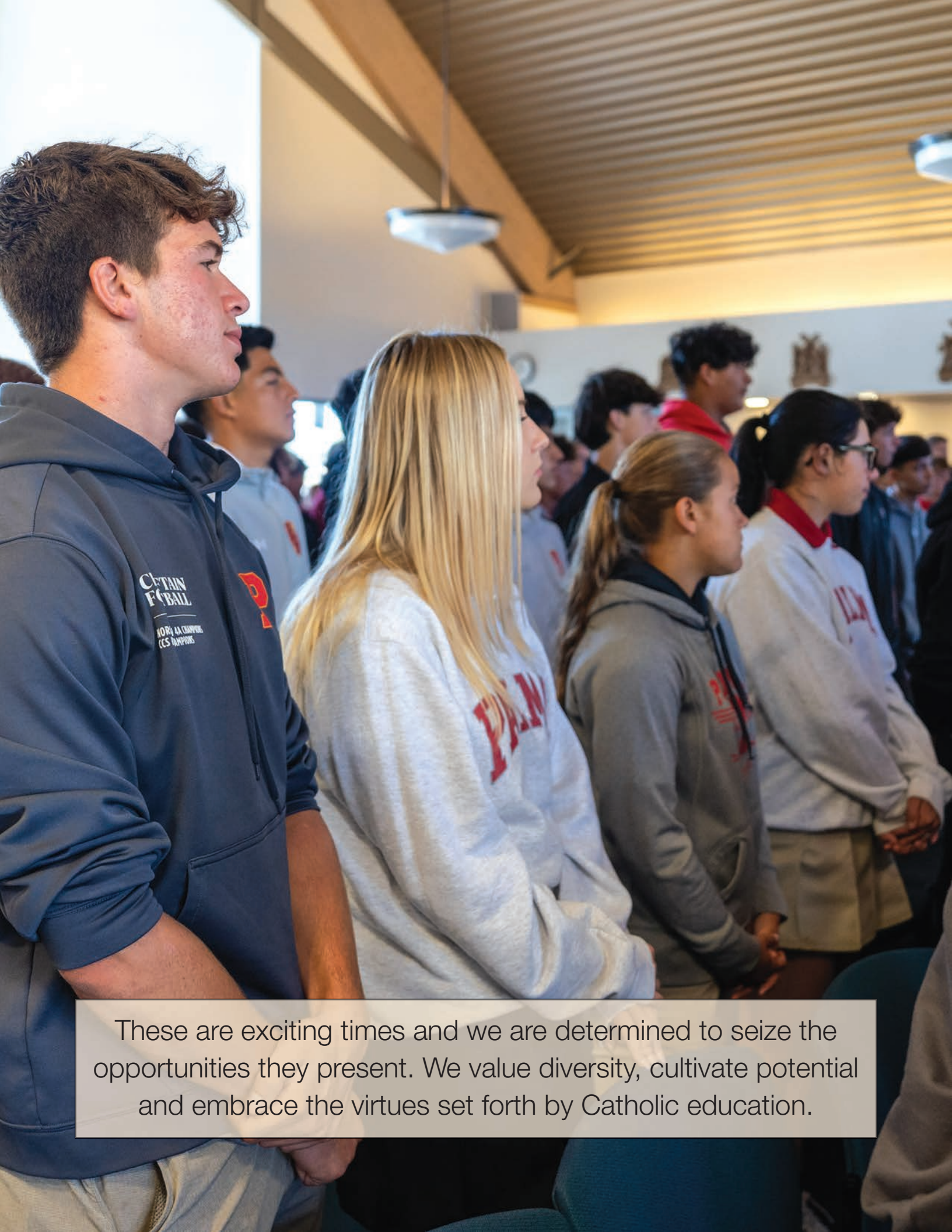
With sincere humility, I am honored to be serving the Palma Family.

*Go Chieftains!*



David J. Sullivan  
*Principal*





These are exciting times and we are determined to seize the opportunities they present. We value diversity, cultivate potential and embrace the virtues set forth by Catholic education.

# Young Women: Chieftains Again

**Palma's shift to coeducation is an intentional transformation, driven by a desire to make a Palma education accessible to more students.**



*Samantha Salter, Dean of Students*



*Ms. Langmann, Mrs. DeSantis and Mrs. Murray*



*Holly Andrus-Harris, Director, Student Activities*

Construction on campus moved at a frantic pace as the eagerly anticipated August 9, 2024 beginning of school grew near. Locker rooms were updated and designated boys and girls, and restrooms in the B and C wings, now to become girls' restrooms, were gutted and remodeled (A and D wings were remodeled the previous year).

Samantha Salter was hired as a new Dean of Students to work alongside Nick Noroian '02. In addition, the exhaustive search for a cheerleading coach and a number of coaches for girls' athletics was yielding exciting results. A new talented staff was in place that would enable all of our student-athletes to rise to Chieftain standards.

The stage was now set and anticipation hung in the air.

To improve the chances for success, Palma made sure females were well represented in leadership roles on campus. This included more female teachers and new positions of a co-dean of students and new student activities director.

On day one of the 2024-2025 school year, Palma welcomed 97 female students in grades nine through 12. Each class had a share of young women with the frosh class garnering the most, making the frosh ranks swell to 123 — the largest frosh class in recent years.

Just like that, girls seamlessly integrated into the classrooms. And, just like that, the feeling on campus was as if Palma was always co-ed. The excellence for which Palma has been known continued — in the classrooms and in the arenas of athletics. In fact, in sports, the girls tore it up all year.

After a full year of co-ed high school, a pattern emerged when asking students about their experiences. The boys said it was different for them, but in a good way. Overall, they liked having the girls on campus and few had a negative opinion (or were willing to share it). The girls, on the other hand, were overwhelmingly enthusiastic about their first year. They said they “loved it here at Palma,” and found the experience “so much better than at my last school.” They commented that the teachers here are friendly and approachable.

Another opinion many of the girls expressed was about services on campus. They appreciated the professionalism of the college counselors and felt they now had a better handle on their future after high school.

Just like when the sixth grade was opened 2021, the change to Palma was seamless, successful, and well-received by students, parents and the community. ●

# The Houses Are Established

**One of the tasks of each house during this inaugural year of the House System was to name their house and create their crest. Students formed committees in their respective houses to determine the characteristics of their house and develop how best to represent them.**

## ARDEN HOUSE

Arden, meaning “high valley” or “great forest” draws deep inspiration from nature, faith, and resilience. Rooted in the lush symbolism of the Central Coast, Arden’s identity blends a reverence for the natural world with a strong foundation of Catholic faith and heritage. The palm leaves represent victory, triumph, peace, and eternal life. The falcon symbolizes achievement, ability, and divine guidance. The knight represents honor, bravery, and chivalry. The Celtic cross and St. Patrick’s staff reflect Catholic faith and Irish heritage. The sword across the crest signifies protection and courage.

## AURUM HOUSE

Aurum, meaning “gold” in Latin, centers its identity around strength, leadership, and resilience. Inspired by the power and symbolism of their Chieftain mascot, Aurum House created a crest that embodies courage, perseverance, and faith. The barbells represent strength, empowerment, resilience, and progress. The knight/crusader/Chieftain symbolizes bravery, spiritual mission, and triumph through adversity. The strength symbol represents physical and inner strength. The cross and palm leaves, specifically the Celtic cross, symbolize faith and heritage. The lion head represents courage, nobility, leadership, and royalty.

## MERENTI HOUSE

Merenti honors tradition while forging a new legacy — blending historic symbols with a fresh identity. Original elements of Palma’s Merenti were merged with new inspirations, creating a crest that reflects both heritage and future traditions. The crown of thorns represents sacrifice and ultimate triumph. The book symbolizes scholarship and academic excellence. The hands represent service and generosity. The clover honors Irish heritage and the trophy celebrates athletic achievement.

## OPULENTA HOUSE

Vallis Opulenta, meaning “rich valley” in Latin, proudly honors the deep agricultural, historical, and cultural roots of the Salinas Valley. Opulenta created a crest that reflects the richness of the land, the spirit of renewal, and the enduring stories of the valley’s past and present. Two mountain ranges represent the surrounding Salinas Valley. The rising sun symbolizes new beginnings, hope, and rebirth. Fields represent the valley’s fertile and abundant soil. The river represents the Salinas River, symbolizing creation, fertility, and purification. The grain signifies sustenance, life, death, resurrection, and spiritual growth. The cattle brand (Mission Soledad) honors the valley’s ranching heritage and family stories. The pitchfork represents mischief, defiance, and darkness. ●





Headed by Holly Andrus-Harris, Student Activities Director, Palma's House System engages Chieftains through competitions in academics, performance, games and service. Points are recorded all school year until the final tally reveals the House that will hold the Chieftain Cup for a year. The winner of the first Chieftain Cup is Opolenta.

# Edward M. Dowd Gymnasium



# From Renderings to Reality

**The vision of a vestibule as impressive as the accolades it holds was realized through a generous grant from the Edward M. Dowd Foundation.**



When you peel the skin back on a 74-year-old building, you expect a few unforeseen issues with which to deal. The Palma School gym did not disappoint. Phase one involved gutting the locker rooms — home team and visitors for 60 years — modernizing them and converting them to boys’ and girls’ locker rooms and team rooms. The restrooms at ground level were also torn out and overhauled.

Updating facilities also means ensuring compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This goal is necessary to increase the gym’s accessibility. However, it does involve creating structure that previously did not exist and retrofitting a building not originally designed for such accommodations.

Phase two removed the foyer to create a new, welcoming vestibule that holds decades of trophies and memorabilia, large screens that boast of Palma’s past and present, and a fitting tribute to the 1963 alum who funded the renovation and whose name it bears.



The Edward M. Dowd Gymnasium was dedicated and opened to the public on May 1st. A crowd that included local dignitaries, Palma board members, friends, alumni, faculty, and students gathered to hear speeches and witness the blessing of the refurbished gym by Fr. Ron Shirley, then the ribbon cutting by Jim Dowd '68 to open the newly renovated facility. The shiny vestibule is now home to Palma bragging rights that were earned decade after decade, which include four NorCal and two State championships. The project was funded by a generous \$2.5 million gift from the Edward M. Dowd Foundation. ●



# Brother Dunne Endowed Scholarship Fund



*“Palma is a school where young men and women receive the education they need: an academic education, a spiritual education, a physical education, and a moral education.”*



Br. Dunne believed no one should be denied a Palma education because of finances. The Br. Dunne Endowed Scholarship Fund ensures his legacy, and this commitment, will continue.

Please give to the Br. Dunne Endowed Scholarship Fund

831.422.2309 | [palmaschool.org/gifts](https://palmaschool.org/gifts)

**DONATE**

## Our Mission

Palma is dedicated to providing an excellent college-preparatory education in a Roman Catholic environment that embraces *The Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education* and challenges each individual to develop spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, and socially.

## Sponsor Council

Br. Lawrence T. Murphy, C.F.C.  
Mr. Trey Busch  
Mr. Don Chapin

## Campus Leadership

Chris Dalman '88, *President*  
David Sullivan, *Principal*

## Provincial Leadership

Br. Peter Zawot, C.F.C., *Provincial Leader*  
Br. Peter O'Loughlin  
Br. Patrick Moffett  
Br. Michael Segvich  
Br. Ed Bergeron



## Board of Directors

Mr. Robert Alberts  
Ms. Michelle Beach  
Mr. Chip Champion '68  
Mrs. Molly Heacox  
Mr. Joseph Melo '03  
Mr. Eric Mueller '01, *Chair*  
Br. Dominic Murray, C.F.C.  
Mr. Philip Speciale  
Ms. Kelly Sutherland  
Mr. Ted Taylor '04  
Mr. Joseph Walsh '85  
Mr. Michael Zanger '82

Big changes:

# Re-Branding for the Future

**With girls returning to campus, it was the perfect opportunity to re-brand — making a return to Palma’s original colors and introducing forward-looking designs.**



Re-branding was not intended to change our identity, but to acknowledge the school’s evolution and poise our image toward the future. The rapid rate of growth in recent years has meant Palma continues on an upward trajectory. With more campus improvements in the works, the new branding signifies what an exciting time this is to be a Chieftain and a gratifying time to be a friend and Palma supporter.

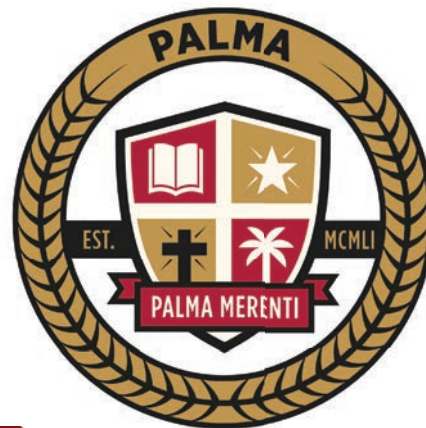


## PALMA

School administration solicited the help of an outside agency to navigate the uncharted waters of becoming co-ed. The team spent more than a year of design trials and student focus groups to produce the new look, using colors that are historically accurate to Palma’s first days.

A dress code was developed to provide continuity on campus for both girls and boys. It’s a comfortable, yet college-prep look that pushes the Palma brand when students are not on campus and when potential families are visiting during school hours.

The dark red and gold led Palma to victory starting in the 1950s and continue to do so today. ●



# Around Campus

## What I Did on My Summer Vacation

Ethan Cameron '26, Shaune Mercado '27, Christian Ramirez '25, Jeremy Ramirez '26, and Tristan Thoeni '26 earned volunteer hours by cleaning up the grounds around the Marina Library.



## Dawn of a New Day

Some seniors gathered on the field for “Senior Sunrise” to celebrate the first co-ed class of the new era. Back row: Paizlee Mitzner, Allison Guerra, Stellan Cagle, Sheccid Salas. Middle row: Gianna Gastello, Laine Campion, Valentina Santos Corral, Elizabeth Fuqua. Front row: Molly Nino, Maya Giannini, Francesca Rossi.

## Dress for Success

Palma moms Ingrid Stoffel and Mendy Amaral have the new logo-polos, along with other approved apparel for school, available to purchase on the first day.





## Leadership Workshop

Before the school year began, Chieftains responded to the call to attend a leadership workshop to launch Palma's new House System. The House System is designed for camaraderie and leadership opportunities.





## **Frosh Orientation**

Those new to Palma High School got to meet fellow students and current leaders to engage in team-building exercises and have a little fun to begin the new school year. Frosh orientation sets the tone for a successful four years at Palma.



## Ancient Artifacts

Sixth grade students present homemade Stone Age artifacts. They learn to use the resources available to them to make tools and weapons.



## Atomic Structures That Are Sweet!

Students build atomic structures using candy in their biology class. The malleability and texture of the treats make it ideal to form into shapes. And, you can eat your creations after receiving your grade.



## National Philanthropy Day

Palma recognized the Edward M. Dowd Foundation as a distinguished honoree on Friday, November 15th at the annual National Philanthropy Day Luncheon at Spanish Bay. Pictured here are (l to r): Chris Dalman '88, Martha Botelho '63, Mark Botelho '63, Vickie Pomo and Andy Pomo '63.



## Let's Ride

JHS teacher Joey Silva leads Chieftains on bike rides through local wilderness parks as part of the Ecology and Nature Club.



## Chieftain Awarded Eagle Scout

Raymond C. Luna '27 completed his Eagle Scout rank this past Fall. For his Eagle Scout project, he painted 40 fire hydrants in the Maple Park area here in Salinas. Cal-Water, and Salinas Mayor Kimbley Craig awarded him a certificate of appreciation from the city for his service to our community. Raymond has been a scout since 2015 and continues his scouting journey with Troop 93 out of the Corral de Tierra area.



## Mayor's Breakfast

Our student leaders were invited, through Steve McShane, to the annual Mayor's Breakfast at Compass Church. Mr. Beesley '86 invited five students to the early morning event (two more Palma students were in attendance with their families). Senior Liam Hamilton led the Pledge of Allegiance in his full suit looking very professional. Students are Jackson Harris '27, Job Barroso '26, Liam Hamilton '25, Audrey Delucchi '26 and Rachele Andrade '26. Caleb Gersonde '27 and Warner Lyons '31 were there as well.



## Hanging With Friends in a Gallery

These seniors displayed their art at the Carmel Art Association. They had the opportunity to sell their art at a reception and awards ceremony held on February 8th at the gallery in Carmel. (l-r): Isaac Torres-Diaz '25, Jose Montes '25, Johnny Carnazzo '25, James Hinkle '25, and Skyler Reyes-Espinola '25.



## Junior High Spelling Bee

Competing in the 2025 Palma Junior High Spelling Bee were Brenton Amaral '31, Aidan Delucchi '29, Moises Lozano-Gonzales '31, Tobias Lopez III '30, Simon Magana '29, Adi Maharaj '30, Lucas Merritt '29, Ocean Neville '30, Noel Rodriguez, '30, and Samuel Zuniga '31. The competition quickly whittled down to Lucas Merritt '29 and Samuel Zuniga '31 and after several rounds Samuel Zuniga '31 spelled "larboard" correctly to emerge the winner of this year's contest. Congratulations Sam!

## Big Sur Marathon

Palma students helping at the Big Sur Marathon. These students helped break down the perimeter fencing, signage, tables and chairs. They did a great job!





### **Tatum's Treehouse**

In the November rain, Chieftains volunteered on their day off to help with the Tatum's Treehouse build in Carmel Valley. Students were able to meet Palma alumni who also showed up to volunteer. This new all-access park was spearheaded by Amanda Bakker.



# Chieftain Athletics



## Cross Country

The Cross Country team produced four CCS qualifiers this season: Emmanuel Delfino '26, Kathryn Dill '28, Wells Lilly '25 (left), Izabella Tejada '25. The boys team placed second in their division. Wells Lilly '25 was the Santa Lucia Champion and qualified for the CIF State Cross Country Meet. Izabella Tejada '25 placed second in Cypress division. Wells Lilly '25, Izabella Tejada '25, and Kathryn Dill '28 all earned 1st Team All League while Emanuel Delfino '26, Cuauhtemoc "Temito" Leon-Ramirez '27 and Henry Uhl '26 were named to the 2nd Team All League. The girls team was CCS Scholastic Championship team with the best GPA out of the five girls' cross country teams in CCS. They had a 3.909 GPA.



Kathryn Dill '28 and  
Izabella Tejada '25



## Flag Football

Our inaugural Flag Football Team finished in third place in the Mission Division this year and lost in the playoffs to the eventual league champions King City. Allison Guerra '25 and Adalyn Jefferson '28 (offense), Kylee Parker '25 and Elsie Sargenti '26 (defense) made the 1st Team All League. Natalia Aguon '28 (offense) and Carolina Lorca '28 (defense) were named on the 2nd Team All League. Individual accolades include Allison Guerra '25 earning Offensive Player of the Year, and Emma Munoz '28 made the Sportsmanship Team. Palma's girls' squad was the Elgi Belizo Sportsmanship team.

## Varsity Football

The Chieftains had a tough season overall but still managed to make a playoff appearance — their 41st in a row. The red & gold entered CCS as the seventh seed in Division II, taking their first game on the road at Sacred Heart Cathedral with a dominating second half performance. Their next contest at Menlo added another win (24-23) before losing to Wilcox in the championship game. Eli Dukes '27 RB (Offensive MVP), Job Barroso '26 OL, Eric McKay '25 OL made the 1st Team Offense and Lucas Milburn '25 WR/TE was named on the 2nd Team Offense. Caden Scherer '25 LB earned 1st Team Defense honors while Xavier Reinhardt '25 DL and Dominic Chaidez '25 DB made 2nd Team Defense. Sportsmanship went to Gibson Stoffel '25.



## Girls Golf

The girls golf team had only four members in their inaugural season so while they could not score points as a team these four did very well in every match individually. The team of Audrey Delucchi '26, Alexa Llanas '26 Paige Settrini '26, and Natalie Stevens '26 was coached by Carly Jo Brigantino and alumni Luke Brigantino '20.



## Girls Tennis

The Girls Tennis team were Cypress Division Champions, going 12-0 on the season before losing a CCS play in match to Catalina. 1st Team All League: Ellie Fuqua '25 (Singles) and Maya Martinez '26 & Colette Paden '28 (Doubles). 2nd Team All League: Laine Campion '25 (Singles). Ellie Fuqua '25 was the Cypress Division League Singles Champion.

Ellie Fuqua '25



## Girls Volleyball

After the mandatory sit-out period ended for transfer players, the girls volleyball team won 10 in a row winding up the season with a 14-6 record



which placed them second in their division. They fell in their second round CCS playoff game to Crystal Springs. Maya Giannini '25 and Frankie Rossi '25 made 1st Team All League. Reese Amaral '28 and Rachelle Andrade '26 were named 2nd Team All League and Rachelle Andrade '26 made the Sportsmanship Team. Frankie Rossi '25 was honored with Defensive Player of the Year and Maya Giannini '25 earned League MVP.



## Water Polo

Palma's Water Polo team finished the season in a three-way tie for fourth place in the conference. However, the season ended with a coin flip to determine playoff participation that did not go their way. Henry Vetter '26 made 1st Team All League and was also named to the USA Water Polo Academic All-American Team. Liam Hamilton '25 earned a spot on the Sportsmanship Team.

## Girls Basketball

Girls Basketball had a tremendously successful first outing in the new era finishing 21-3 overall and second place in the Cypress Division with a 10-2 record which was enough for a fifth seed in Division 5. Their season ended with a loss to Castalleja. Francesca Rossi '25 was named 1st Team All League and Natalia Aguon '28 made 2nd Team All League. Miyah Nickerson '28 was named to the Sportsmanship Team.



## Boys Basketball

The Boys Basketball team finished the season 19-6 overall with a 10-4 league record that garnered a third place finish giving them a second seed in the Division 5 playoffs. They lost in the CCS final game to Woodside Priory. In NorCals, the Chieftains went 1-1 when fourth seeded San Mateo ended their season. Soren Roberts '25 and Tai Suich '27 were named to 1st Team All League. JJ Saucedo '26 made the Sportsmanship Team.



## Girls Soccer

The Girls Soccer team completed their inaugural season in fourth place with a 6-6-2 league record. Izabella Tejada '25 was awarded League Offensive Player of the Year and earned a place on the 1st Team All League. Allison Guerra '25 made 2nd Team All League and Ellie Fuqua '25 was named to the Sportsmanship Team.



## Boys Soccer

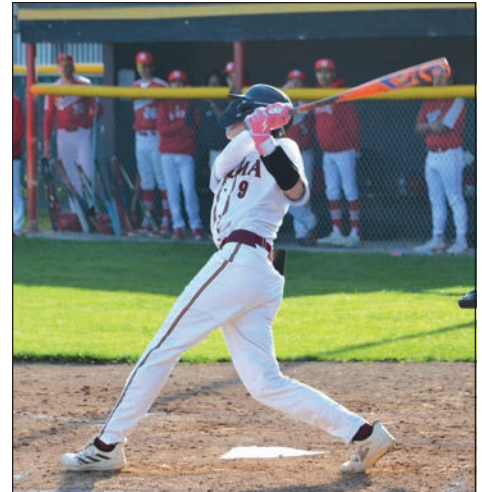
The Boys Soccer team finished the season as Mission Division Champions with a 13-5-2 overall and 9-2-1 league record. This was the Chieftain's first league soccer title since 1988. After earning the #1 seed in CCS Division 4, they lost a tough home game in a penalty kick shootout. Isidro Hernandez '25, Sebastian Sanchez '25, Giovanni Gutierrez '25 and Skyler Reyes-Espinoza '25 earned 1st Team All League. Eli Dukes '27, Eduardo Calderon '28, Luis Chavez '25 and David Garcia '26 made 2nd Team All League and Brady Amaral '25 made the Sportsmanship Team.



## Baseball



Varsity Baseball had a Gabilan Division Champion season with a 14-4 conference record — 21-6 overall and 13-1 road record. They lost in the CCS Division I quarterfinals to #1 seed Junipero Serra. Alan Gonzalez '25 was named League MVP and named to the 1st Team All League along with Johnny Carnazzo '25, Manny Dorantes '25 and Rocco Razzoeca '26. Wyatt Bakker '26, Gabe Serrano '26 and Aiden Veliz '26 made 2nd Team All League and Damian Ybarra '25 was named to the Sportsmanship Team.



## Boys Golf

Boys Golf finished in third place — a two-spot improvement over the previous year. They narrowly missed the CCS tournament, but the core of the varsity team will return for a likely CCS run next season. The team was made up of Shane Aguilar '27, Peter Davi '25, Jacob Diaz '27, Steven Fink '28, Daniel Gutierrez '25, Dominic Pellegrino '27, Ryan Russo '25 and Christopher Ushakoff '27.



## Lacrosse

Palma Lacrosse finished in fourth place this year. The future looks bright as the team will lose only one senior, Nicholas Pezzini '25, and return a number of players who made meaningful contributions this season. Eli Dukes '27 made 1st Team All League, Chase Amaral '27 was named 2nd Team All League and Joe DeFonso '26 earned a place on the Sportsmanship Team.

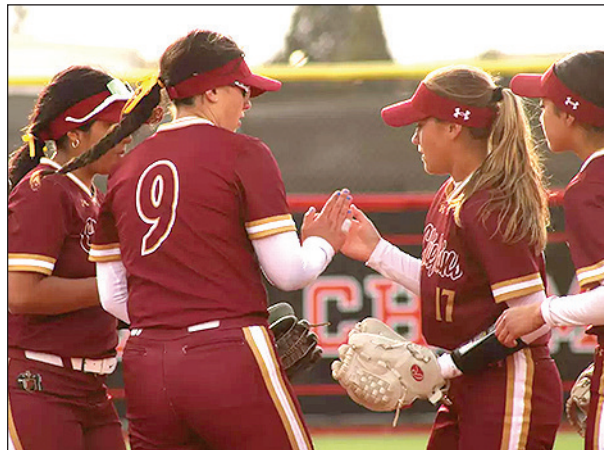
## Swimming

Both Girls and Boys teams placed fourth this season with the Boys going 4-2 and Girls 2-5. Because of the mandatory sit-out period the Girls were only able to compete with a full team the last three meets in which they had a 2-1 record. Twenty-one personal records were set at PCALs.

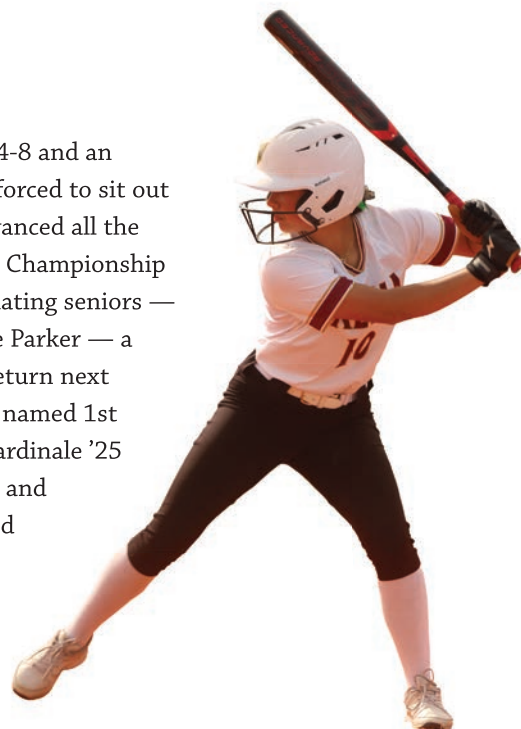


## Softball

Chieftain Softball finished fifth in the Gabilan Division with a conference record of 4-8 and an overall record of 8-14-1. Frosh girls anchored the team as many of the players were forced to sit out the first half of the season due to CCS transfer rules. Despite the handicap, they advanced all the



way to the CCS Division IV Championship game. With only two graduating seniors — Sophia Cardinale and Kylee Parker — a majority of the team will return next season. Ana Rocha '28 was named 1st Team All League. Sophia Cardinale '25 made 2nd Team All League and Ashlyn Urmanita '28 earned Sportsmanship Team.



## Boys Tennis

The Tennis team finished fourth in the Mission Division losing 3-4 in best of seven matches three times. Benjamin Alcantara '25 is the only graduating senior on the team. All of the returning players made it to the second round of the Mission Division championships so the team, led by Luke Secondo '26 and Shane Saunders '27, is poised to make some noise next season.

## Track & Field

Both Boys and Girls Varsity Track and Field teams were small in number which makes it difficult to score enough points to win meets. However, the teams did record a number of highlights including these student-athlete accolades. Ozzy Godoy '26 advanced to compete at the CIF State Championships in Clovis, CA in hurdles. Boys — 1st Team All League: Liam Henderson '26, Eli Dukes '27, Jaden Paul '26 and Weldon Chisum '25 in the 4x100; Weldon Chisum '25 in the 100 and 200; Ozzy Godoy '26 in the 110H, 300H and Pole Vault. 2nd Team All League: Cameron Castillo '28 in the Pole Vault; Sebastiann Ponce '26 in the 110H, 300H; Jayden Paul '26 in the Long Jump; Dominic Silva '27 in the 300H. Girls — 1st Team All League: Adalyn Jefferson '28, Brooke Iverson '25, Allison Guerra '25 and Elsie Sargenti '26 in the 4x100. 2nd Team All League: Adalyn Jefferson '28 in the 100; Elsie Sargenti '26 in the 100H; Isabella Sando '28 in the Pole Vault. (all CCS qualifiers); Caroline Lorca '28 in the Shot Put and Disc.

Ozzy Godoy '26





## Wrestling

The Boys Wrestling team placed second in league and seventh in CCS. Five Chieftains were PCAL Champions: Aiden Garcia '27, Danny Witting '26, Isaiah Rangel '25, Eliart Manzur '27 and Jacob Martinez '28. Eastin Sanford '28, Rocco Fanucchi '27, Rocco Orłowski '27 and Damien Lopez-Regalado '26 were named 2nd Team All

League. Eleven Palma grapplers went to CCS with three medalists: Aiden Garcia '27 was CCS Champion, Isaiah Rangel '25 placed second and Eliart Manzur '27 placed sixth. Both Aiden Garcia and Isaiah Rangel advanced to the CIF State Championships where Garcia finished third in the state and Rangel finished eighth in the state.

Palma sent two girl wrestlers to CCS finals. Emma Munoz '28 and Bella Sando '28 were named 2nd Team All PCAL.



## Boys Volleyball

The Boys Volleyball team was Mission Division Champions with an undefeated record in conference: 14-0. They lost a five-set thriller at Carmel in the first round of CCS. 1st Team All League honors went to Aaron Pacheco '25 who was also Defensive MVP and Isaac Torres-Diaz '25. JT Harreld '26 and Xavier Reinhardt '25 made the 2nd Team All League. Garrett Schoeder '25 was named to the Sportsmanship Team.

### Final Thoughts from the Athletic Director

This year, Palma athletes earned league titles, academic honors, individual accolades, and more importantly, continued to embody the values of sportsmanship, discipline, and commitment. We congratulate every student-athlete, coach, and supporter for making this a year to remember. We are proud of our Chieftains and we look forward to even greater accomplishments in the years ahead.

## Cheer

We're incredibly proud of our new Palma Cheer Team and the tremendous progress they've made throughout the season. From their first practice to their final performance this group has grown in confidence, coordination, and school spirit. Week after week, they brought energy and enthusiasm to our games, helping to elevate the atmosphere and rally our community. Their dedication, teamwork, and positive attitude have laid a strong foundation for the future of Palma Cheer, and we're excited to see this program grow from six cheerleaders this year to a JV team of 13 and varsity team of 12 each next year.



## Invited to Play at the Next Level

Congratulations to these seniors who have earned athletic scholarships and will compete at the collegiate level.



**Sophia Cardinale**  
Santa Clara University  
Softball



**Johnny Carnazzo**  
Westmont College  
Baseball



**Weldon Chisum**  
Boise State University  
Track



**Manny Dorantes**  
San Jacinto College  
Baseball



**Maya Giannini**  
CSU Monterey Bay  
Volleyball



**Alan Gonzalez**  
University of San Francisco  
Baseball



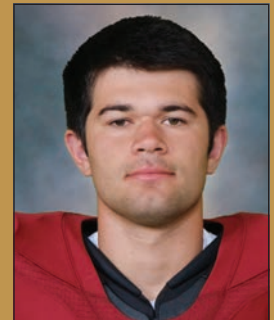
**Isidro Hernandez**  
CSU Monterey Bay  
Soccer



**Wells Lilly**  
Westmont College  
Cross Country



**Izabella Tejada**  
University of Oregon  
Soccer



**Aidan Williams**  
Montana Tech  
Football

# Junior High Class of 2025



## Junior High School Awards

The Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. Earley Award for

Religious Studies .....	Jack Alioto
Language Arts Award .....	Trey Nunes
Mathematics Award .....	Stephen Souza
Physical Education Award .....	Michael Richert
Social Studies Award .....	Jack Alioto
Science Award .....	Vincent McGirr
Foreign Language Award .....	Stephen Souza
Brother Charles McManus Award for Scholarship, Leadership, Fellowship and Sportsmanship .....	Michael Richert
Father Vic Farrell Scholarship .....	Nemiah Cruz
Palma Investor Club Award .....	Kaleb Inobaya
Palma Investor Club Award .....	Jayson Reyes-Espinola
Gerald D. Flowers Gold Chieftain Scholarship Award for Service .....	Trey Nunes
Blessed Edmund Rice Scholarship .....	Simon Magana
Blessed Edmund Rice Scholarship .....	Liam McGee
Blessed Edmund Rice Scholarship .....	Trey Nunes
Blessed Edmund Rice Scholarship .....	Michael Richert
Blessed Edmund Rice Scholarship .....	Stephen Souza





# High School Graduation 2025



## High School Awards

Monsignor Thomas J. Earley Gold Medal for Scholastic Proficiency:

Valedictorian .....	Jeremy Regalado
Salutatorian .....	Lukas Hell
Salutatorian .....	Brooke Iverson
Palma Gold Medal in Theology.....	Gianna Gastello
Palma Gold Medal in English .....	Gianna Gastello
Palma Gold Medal in Social Studies .....	Jeremy Regalado
Palma Gold Medal in Mathematics .....	Brooke Iverson
Palma Gold Medal in Foreign Language.....	Sebastian Sanchez
Palma Gold Medal in Science .....	Jeremy Regalado
Palma Gold Medal in Fine Arts .....	Johnny Carnazzo
Palma Loyalty Award .....	Brady Amaral
Palma Leadership Award .....	Liam Hamilton
Principal's Leadership Award .....	Laine Campion
Monroe Award for Proficiency in Mathematics .....	Enrique Saavedra
Br. Martin D. Cunningham Award for Excellence in English....	Nicholas Pezzini
Br. Charles J. Avendano Award for Excellence in Social Studies and Service.....	Brooke Iverson
Christopher Hitchcock Inspirational Science Award.....	Jeremy Regalado
W.H. "Hank" Muller Outstanding Scholar Athlete Award .....	Elizabeth Fuqua
W.H. "Hank" Muller Outstanding Scholar Athlete Award .....	Isaiah Rangel
Br. M.L. Crumlish Athlete of the Year Award .....	Allison Guerra
Br. M.L. Crumlish Athlete of the Year Award .....	Weldon Chisum
Golden Rule Leadership Award .....	Brady Amaral
Golden Rule Leadership Award .....	Brooke Iverson

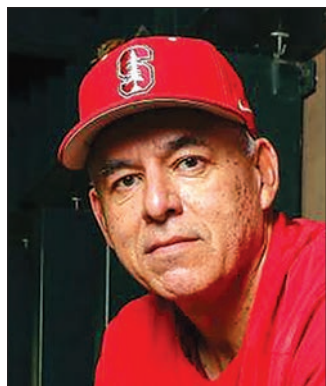




Competing on another level:

# Palma Ath-lumni

## Professional-Level Chieftains



**David Esquer '83\***  
**Stanford University**  
Head Baseball Coach



**Joe Walsh '85**  
**Arizona Diamondbacks**  
Senior Vice President



**Kevin Clune '90**  
**Cal Poly San Luis Obispo**  
Inside Linebackers Coach



**Tony Hill '98**  
**University of Florida**  
Assoc. Dir., Sports Health, Football



**Jonathan Bomarito '00**  
**WeatherTech Sports**  
Professional Race Car Driver



**EJ Rowland '01**  
**St. Mary's College**  
Coach



**Brian Reader '07**  
**University of Louisville**  
Offense Quality Control



**Noah Allen '13**  
**Caballeros, Mexico**  
Guard / Forward



**Jamaree Bouyea '17**  
**Wilwaukee Bucks**  
Guard



**Drew Dalman '17**  
**Chicago Bears**  
Inside Offensive Line

### Chieftains in the Pros

- Chris Dalman '88,\*** San Francisco 49ers
- Michael Gasperson '00,** Philadelphia Eagles
- Elliot Vallejo '02,** Arizona Cardinals, Oakland Raiders
- Orlando Johnson '07,\*** Indiana Pacers, Sacramento Kings
- David Fales '09,\*** Chicago Bears, Miami Dolphins
- Austin Wahl '13,** Oakland Athletics
- Michael Carrizosa '13** XFL Las Vegas Vipers
- Mitch Kidd '14,** Fan Controlled Football

\*SV Sports Hall of Fame and/or Palma School Hall of Fame



JT Amaral '21  
University of San Francisco  
**BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP**



Noah Puleaai '21  
UCLA  
**FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP**



Zach Thompson '21  
Campbell University  
**WRESTLING SCHOLARSHIP**



JoJo Cardinale '22  
Pepperdine  
**BASEBALL**



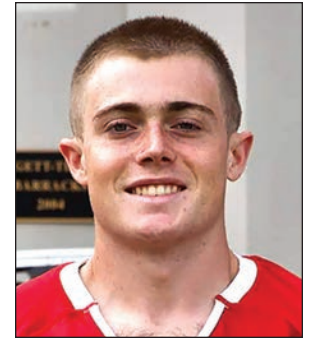
Gavin Ducker '22  
William & Mary University  
**BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP**



Joe Finley '22  
Stephen F. Austin State Univ.  
**FOOTBALL**



Misha Lomboy '22  
Michigan State University  
**WRESTLING SCHOLARSHIP**



Christian Theroux '22  
The Citadel  
**RUGBY**



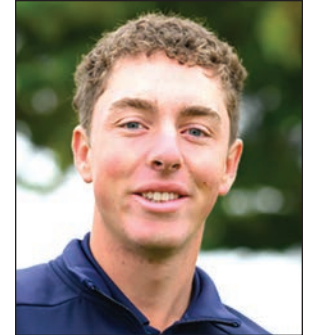
JoJo Andrade '23  
Simpson University  
**WRESTLING SCHOLARSHIP**



Kevin Chen '23  
Menlo College  
**GOLF SCHOLARSHIP**



JC Escutia '23  
Menlo College  
**WRESTLING SCHOLARSHIP**



Evan Russo '23  
Menlo College  
**GOLF SCHOLARSHIP**



Tommy Ducker '24  
Cornell University  
**FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP**



Andre Medina '24  
North Central College  
**BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP**



Tommy Nunes '24  
University of San Diego  
**FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP**



Logan Saldate '23  
University of Notre Dame  
**FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP**

Making their mark:

# Ath-lumni Sports Shorts



**EJ Rowland '01** joined Saint Mary's of California's basketball coaching staff for the 2024-25 season. Rowland was a stand-out player at Palma, graduated from, and played for, St. Mary's, then enjoyed a 20-year professional career, playing on four different continents (North America, Australia, Europe and Asia).

Rowland brings a wealth of basketball knowledge to the SMC bench. In his two seasons as a Gaels, Rowland appeared in 63 games, starting 57. He averaged 12.1 points, 3.8 rebounds and 4.1 assists per contest, while shooting 41.8% from the field.

In February, members of Palma's boys basketball teams (junior high & high school) went to support alumnus **Jamaree Bouyea '17** (below), who was playing for the Austin Spurs and facing off against the Santa Cruz Warriors. Bouyea has since signed a two-way contract with the Milwaukee Bucks.



**Drew Dalman '17** became a free agent after finishing his rookie contract with the Atlanta Falcons. He was picked up by the Bears as part of Chicago's re-vamping of their offensive line. The Bears' front office believes Dalman has reached the pinnacle of his sport due to a combination of talent, size, work ethic and other

intangibles and will be the anchor the new o-line needs to elevate Caleb Williams and the Bears offense.



**Moises Benito '22** (above) committed to running for the Concordia Eagles next year. Moises is one of the greatest distance runners in Palma history, and capped his community college career with a 2nd place finish at the CCCAA State Championships in the 1500. Pictured is Moises with Palma cross country coach and instructor Victor Plata. ●



Continuing the tradition:

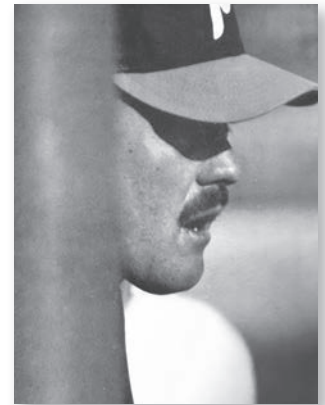
# Palma Hall of Fame '25



Shirley and Sam Lavorato '55



Bill Salmina '58



Paul MacDonald '70



Rob Smets '77



John Sup '77



Dirk Giannini '91



EJ Rowland '01

Congratulations  
to the 2025  
inductees into  
the Palma Hall  
of Fame on  
February 15th.

Click for the full story  
at [palmaalumni.org](http://palmaalumni.org)

**Shirley & Sam Lavorato '55** Sam was the first ASB President, an athlete, and part of the inaugural class to graduate from Palma. He was married for 59 years to his beloved wife, Shirley whose contributions are too many to chronicle.

**Bill Salmina '58** Bill was a three-sport athlete: football, basketball, and baseball.

**Paul MacDonald '70** Paul played baseball all four years then returned to coach.

**Rob Smets '77** Rob finished in the top six 17 times on the bullfighting tour.

**John Sup '77** By the end of his senior year, John was Palma's greatest distance runner. He set numerous school records, two of which still stand today.

**Dirk Giannini '91** Dirk was a three-year starter in football and a tough athlete.

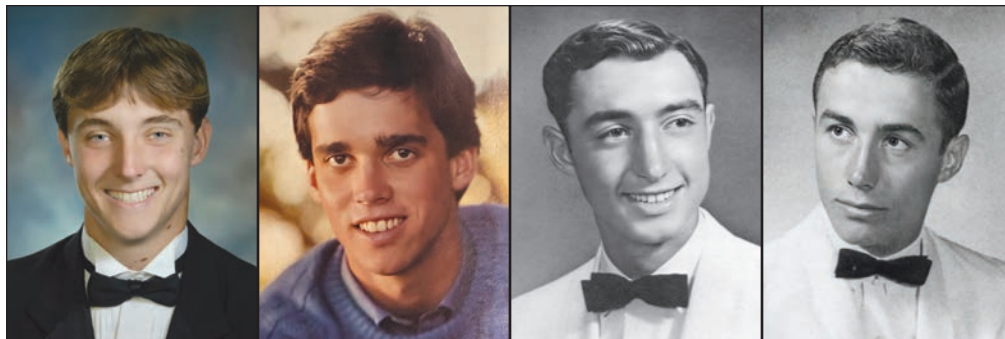
**EJ Rowland '01** EJ launched his basketball career at Palma and went on to St. Mary's College of California, then 20 years as a professional.

Tradition reaches across the decades

# Chieftain Senior Legacies

## Honoring Legacy Families: Building a Stronger Palma Together!

One of the most impactful ways our alumni contribute to Palma is by encouraging their children and grandchildren to become Chieftains. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our legacy families for their steadfast support throughout the years and their belief in the significance of a Palma education. ●



Brady Amaral

John Amaral Jr. '87

Tom Nunes Jr. '69

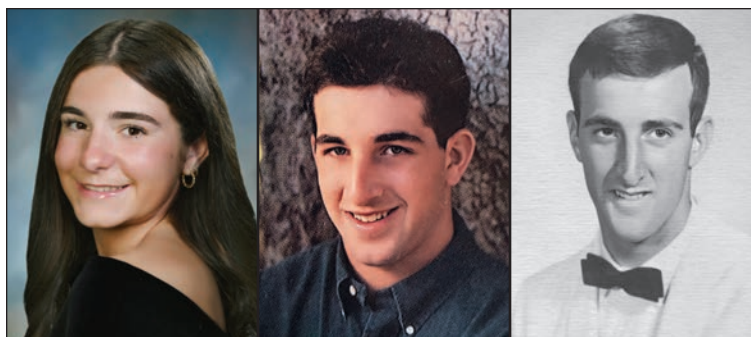
John Amaral '67



Laine Champion

Mark Champion '94

Chip Champion '68



Francesca Rossi

Dominic Rossi '96

Vic Rossi '68



Sophia Cardinale Sal Cardinale '00



Elizabeth Fuqua Aaron Fuqua '94



Johnny Carnazzo Danny Carnazzo '87



Maya Giannini Dirk Giannini '91



Lucas Milburn Neil Milburn '73



Nicholas Pezzini John Pezzini '78



Allison Guerra Jeff Guerra '92



Gibson Stoffel Griffin Stoffel Jerrett Stoffel '94

Red and gold, young and...younger:

# Alumni Update

palmaalumni.org



## 1961

In September, several members of the class of 1961 came together for a joyful reunion over lunch, celebrating their enduring connections and shared memories.

*Left to right:* **Marietta Tosto Federico, Gini Wilson Luttrell, Barbara Borchert Pybas, Kathy Garlinger Paolino, Maureen Bruce Lawrence, Mary Alice Doner Rothstein, Nancy Reif Johnson, Kathy Sheehy Ferrasci, Patsy Shellooe Fanoë, Karen Fanoë Archer, and Joan Botelho Scattini.**

## 1966

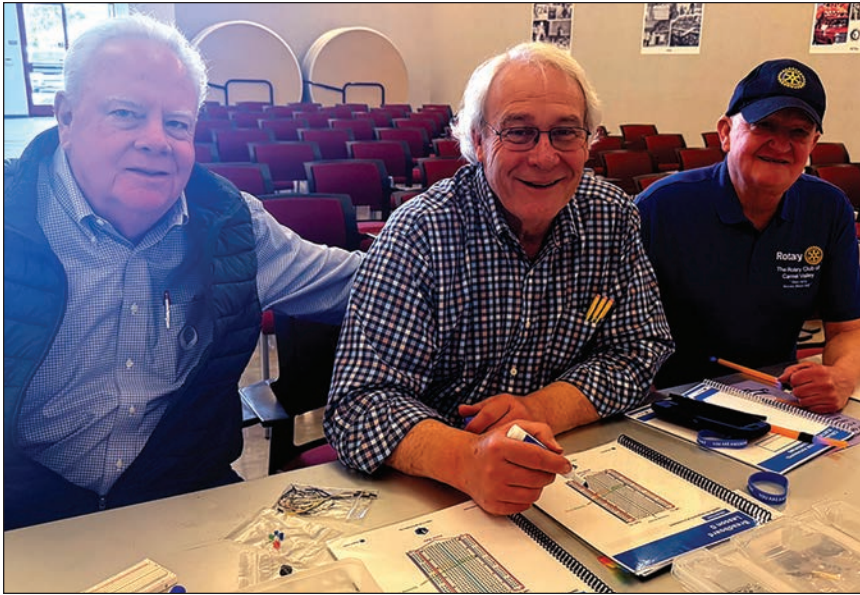
**Manuel Martinez** and his wife, Marian, stay active by coaching and attending their six grandchildren's school and sports events! Manuel's legacy is that three generations of Martinezes have graduated from Palma.



**Palma alumni are invited  
to stay in touch —**

we'd love to hear from you. Email  
[alumni@palmaschool.org](mailto:alumni@palmaschool.org).  
And, find current news about fellow  
Chieftains and reunions at  
[palmaalumni.org](http://palmaalumni.org)





**1972**

Chieftains attended a STEM presentation in February headed by Dr. Carmel Cruz, founder of 1ST-Gen Scholars. Students got a taste of electrical engineering with breadboards by closing a circuit and creating lightsabers. Three alumni, **Emmitt Linder '77, Dennis Donohue '72, and Kevin Kenoyer '74** were in attendance. Emmitt and Kevin's Rotary Club sponsored the event.

**1975**

Members of the class of 1975 assembled for their annual get-together.



**1976**

**Dr. David Ebert** — a shark biologist known as “Lost Shark Guy” — appeared on Discovery Channel’s Shark Week. Dr. Ebert has written 30 books and has named more than 50 sharks. He just named a new Ghost Shark back in March and recently released his newest book, *Field Guide to the Sharks, Rays, and Chimaeras of North America*. A popular television guest, Dr. Ebert has appeared on various programs for the BBC, National Geographic, Discovery Channel, ABC’s *Good Morning America*, NBC’s *Today Show* and NBC News. As a regular on Shark Week, he has led expeditions in search of the rarest, most elusive sharks in the world.



## Alumni Update *(continued)*



### 1987

**Dave Martinez** (above) and his wife Susie stay busy with their children's sports and school activities. **Luke '19** is in Paramedic Training after becoming a firefighter. Hannah is in Nursing School. **Gavin '24** is a freshman at Fresno State playing ice hockey, and **Jacob '28**, their youngest, is a freshman wrestler at Palma.

### 1989

**Tim Martinez** is Chair of the Math Department at Palma. He and his wife Jessica stay busy with their two girls' activities. Bella is a Sophomore at Cal Poly and is doing research at Morro Bay for the school this summer. **Maya '26** is a Junior at Palma and is currently the catcher for the varsity softball team.



### 1987

**Class of 1987 Unites to Honor Brian Atwell's Legacy** On January 18, 2025, members of the class of 1987 celebrated the life of their classmate, **Brian Atwell**. *Left to right: CC Salmina, Alan DeVilliers, Phil Giammanco, Mrs. Atwell, Scott McCologan, Mandy (Rodriguez) Lebow, Mike Maestri, Lon de Asis, Lon Lanini, Greg Beardsley, Kevin Christiansen, Markus Lewtschuk, Jason Smith, and Matt Riddell.*





### 1993

Palma School announced that licensed Family Therapist **Josh Short '93** will join the school's staff to provide a qualified resource for students facing the challenges of today. Josh possesses a degree in Psychology from UC Berkeley and a Master's degree from the Family Institute at Northwestern University. He has been providing mental health services to youth and families for more than 25 years with experience working with young people ranging from inner city Chicago and San Francisco to rural Monterey County.

"As an alum, I am happy to return and be partnering with Palma to provide additional support to students," Short declared.

### 1994

Marking 30 years since graduation, the Class of 1994 comes together once again.



### 2001

Both the University of Maryland's men's and women's basketball teams played in the Sweet 16. A key figure in their success is **Kyle Tarp**, a 2001 graduate and the university's Director of Basketball Performance. In this role, Kyle oversees all aspects of training and nutrition for the men's basketball team. Currently, in his 15th season at Maryland, Kyle's expertise plays a vital role in helping the team reach this exciting milestone.



## Alumni Update *(continued)*

### 2013

Following college, **Richardo “Ricky” Castro** (below) served in our military for four years and returned home to pursue a master’s degree from Arizona State University which he received in 2023. He has recently completed his training to join the Monterey County Sheriff’s Department and is excited to “serve the great people of Monterey County.”



### 2014

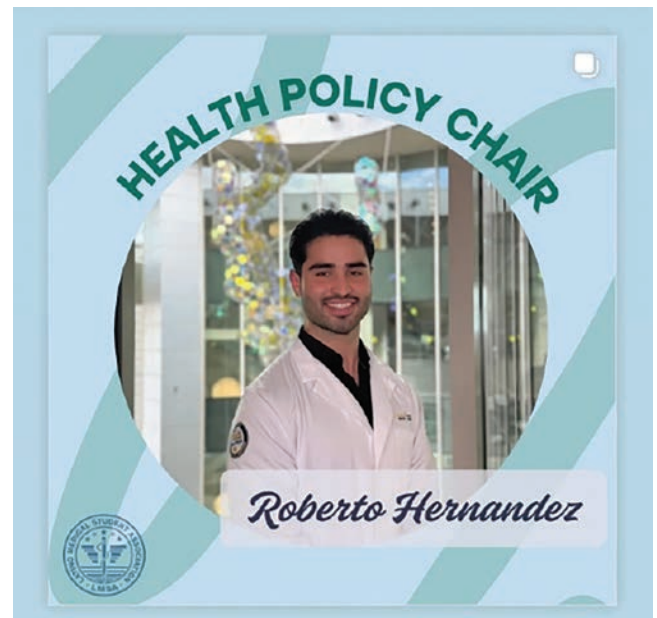
We are grateful when alumni attend and support their *alma mater*. **Ben Laycock** and varsity football coach, **Jeff Carnazzo '85** after the Palma victory against Menlo on Saturday, November 23, 2024.



### 2017

**Pedro Gomez** (above) was honored by the Los Angeles Rams during Latino Heritage Month. Pedro is a Digital Coordinator with the NFL franchise, which entails working alongside fellow members of the digital team to keep the Rams website, mobile app and YouTube channel updated. He specifically is responsible for building most of the custom pages with the Rams’ app (also known as app experiences).

Congratulations to **Robert Hernandez** (below) on his appointment as the Health Policy Chair for the Latino Medical Student Association at the University of California, Davis.



**2019**

First Lieutenant **Samuel Lavorato** proudly graduated from the Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, on May 6, 2025. He was accompanied by his brother Louis, Louis' wife Sophia, and their twin daughters, Ella and Lila.



**Tommy Padilla** returned to Palma for a visit. He explored the campus alongside Director of Admissions Raul Rico '03. Tommy serves as a First Lieutenant in the Army, working as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officer at Fort Riley, Kansas.



**2020**

Sibling Legacy: **JonJon Berring** has handed the torch to his sister **Joy '29**, who will be entering Palma as a freshman for the 2025-26 school year.



**Changing of the Guard** This year's head lacrosse coach is **Luke Brigantino '20**, who has reassembled former coaches **Vince Brigantino '82**, **Jeff Rianda '83**, and Greg Beach to support him. Joining the coaching staff for the first time is **Sam Koster '18**.

**IN MEMORIAM**

1957	<b>Diane (Hayes) Gil</b>	April 2, 2025
1958	<b>Patricia "Patti" Ann (Vierra) Nunes</b>	March 19, 2025
1961	<b>Diane Agnew</b>	August 2023
1962	<b>Patricia Mattox</b>	May 15, 2025
1962	<b>Doris Sosa</b>	April 7, 2025
1963	<b>Richard Johnson</b>	January 10, 2025
1964	<b>Tom Fano</b>	June 5, 2025
1964	<b>Pamela (Stolich) Souza</b>	November 29, 2024
1970	<b>Shawn Cassidy</b>	April 3, 2025
1978	<b>Alejandro Jose "Alex" Hernandez</b>	February 28, 2025
1994	<b>Britton Owen</b>	2024
2000	<b>Alfredo Arrizon, Jr.</b>	April 8, 2025



**PALMA** 919 Iverson Street  
Salinas, CA 93901

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Salinas, CA  
Permit No. 180

If this issue of Palma School Today is addressed to someone who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please help us update our records by calling the Alumni Relations office (831) 422-2309 or email the correct address to alumni@palmaschool.org. Thank you.



Despite maintaining one of the lowest tuitions in our area, a Palma education is still out of reach for some families. Palma provides so much more than academics. It's where students connect with God, their teachers and with each other. It's where camaraderie makes peer pressure a good thing. And, it's where leadership, character and confidence are modeled every day. Your donation ensures Palma is attainable for every deserving student.

**YOUR THOUGHTFUL GIFT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

**The impact of your gift:**

- ▶ **Tuition Assistance** – turns aspirations into possibilities
- ▶ **Innovative Curriculum** – inspires unique academic, service and leadership opportunities
- ▶ **Christ-Centered Education** – prepares young people to live fulfilling lives with character

**Make your gift to  
The Palma Fund**

**ONLINE GIVING IS  
CONVENIENT AND SECURE**

**DONATE**