

ARRUPE  
JESUIT  
HIGH SCHOOL



# The GENERAL MESSENGER

WINTER 2022



## Building Community

"To dream of a different future we need to choose [community] over individualism as our organizing principle. [Community], the sense of belonging to each other and to the whole of humanity, is the capacity to come together and work together against a shared horizon of possibility." — Pope Francis, Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future

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## SAVE THE DATE!

### Magis Night 2022:

#### A Season of New Growth

February 26, 2022

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel

### AJHS Golf Invitational

June 29, 2022

Sanctuary Golf Course

For the inside scoop on daily life  
at Arrupe Jesuit, join us on



# The PRESIDENT'S CORNER



This Fall, we spent a wonderful evening with a group of alumni who shared their experiences of Arrupe Jesuit with members of our leadership team.

Thirteen young professionals, early in their careers at companies such as Northrop Grumman, Liberty Oilfield, Kiewit, Booz Allen Hamilton, Turner Construction, and the United States Army, spoke eloquently about the lessons learned on Utica Street that positioned them for the success they are currently experiencing.

As I listened to the conversation unfold before me, I was moved by the way each graduate built upon another classmate's observations. Arrupe fostered a sense of community, they said. Students, they recalled, weren't allowed to fail at Arrupe. The school partnered with their families. Arrupe Jesuit, they all agreed, offered an opportunity they would not have found anywhere else.

When asked to sum up Arrupe's impact, one graduate replied that the school gave each student the opportunity to grow equally. Another alum said that Work Study opened her horizons to see there was a better future for herself. In closing, a recent college graduate said Arrupe will always be home for her because "Arrupe believes in you when you don't believe in yourself. Arrupe believes in you when the world doesn't."

In the following pages, as you read the stories of Arrupe Jesuit slowly returning to normal, I hope you see how the cumulative effect of these experiences forms our students as young women and men of competence, conscience, and compassion.

I pray, also, that you take great pride in the knowledge that you help to provide these opportunities; that you help to make the impossible possible; that each of you is a member of the community our students and alumni lovingly call home.

With prayers of gratitude,

Michael J. O'Hagan  
President  
AMDG

# CORPORATE WORK STUDY PROGRAM

As we return to “normal” this year, the Corporate Work Study department holds new and different energy than it did just one short year ago. The department restructured its roles and positions to allow for growth and new organization, a necessary change after the effects placed on the Work Study Program by the Pandemic. Among the new hires was Arrupe Jesuit alumna Cecilia Nuñez Robles, AJHS '16, who returned to the school as our new CWSP Program Associate. We are proud to have Cecilia on our team, as well as 10 other AJHS graduates on staff at Arrupe Jesuit. In the 2021-2022 school year, the CWSP department has big dreams and goals, including a revamp of support services for supervisors, systematizing and improving communication and data management processes, and will continue strategizing student training for next year and beyond.

CWSP has come a long way from 28% employment during the 2020-2021 school year. Currently, over 87% of students are employed at more than 100 companies across the Denver Metro Area. Students who are not yet placed are enrolled in “Skills Academy,” a course at Arrupe Jesuit focused on building the skills students will need to succeed in the workplace, such as communication, career exploration, and self-advocacy.

Working toward the goal of increasing student employment, CWSP has partnered with Arrupe Jesuit’s marketing team to create new materials to highlight the impact of the program. Updated print collateral, new professional photos, a new informational video, and a series of partner testimonial videos provide a deeper look into the CWSP experience.

Moving into 2022, the Corporate Work Study Program team will focus on improving the experience for both students and corporate partners. This includes a more thoughtful process surrounding the student placements, improving the onboarding training for new partners, and recruiting new businesses who are interested in providing Arrupe students with the best possible work experience.

If you are interested in learning more about the Corporate Work Study Program or know of a company that might be interested in partnering, please contact our Director of Corporate Work Study, Chad Cookinham, at [CCookinham@ArrupeJesuit.com](mailto:CCookinham@ArrupeJesuit.com).



## CWSP PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Staq Pharma, a pharmaceutical outsourcing facility in the Metro Area, is in its first year of partnership with CWSP (2021-22). Arrupe Jesuit students placed at Staq Pharma assist with product inspections and labeling medications for customers. During their workday, students are learning the importance of pharmaceutical production and experiencing the administrative side and microbiology in manufacturing.

*“I am truly grateful for the opportunity to work with Staq Pharma as a high school Freshman this year. It has been a very fun experience and I have learned all about what needs to happen before medications are sent out to hospitals. I want to thank each of my co-workers for the great conversations I get to have with them. They have taught me a lot about their experiences working and how I might be able to reach my future goals. Staq Pharma has also taught me a lot about time management and attention to detail. These skills have helped me at school to be more aware of my time and pay close attention when doing my work. Overall I am entirely happy with being able to work with Staq Pharma this year.”* — Caroline, Class of 2025

# AROUND ARRUPE JESUIT

## Families Together

The Families Together Program was formed to foster community and share information with parents and guardians of Arrupe Jesuit students. The program is based on the belief that family participation is an important factor in student success, both inside and outside the classroom. The program meets twice per month throughout the school year, averaging 15-25 families per meeting, a high percentage compared to other high school parent programs around the state. Each session focuses on a relevant topic such as college and scholarships, spirituality, immigration, counseling, and mental health. Families Together is facilitated by Spanish Teacher Estefany Hernandez, AJHS '11.

## La Posada

La Posada (or Las Posadas, Spanish for “The Inns”) is a religious festival celebrated in Mexico and some parts of the United States. La Posada commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus. When they were unable to find lodging in Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary were forced to seek shelter in a stable, where the Christ Child was born.



Celebrating La Posada is a beloved tradition at Arrupe Jesuit that connects our students and families in community with one another and with God. It is a culturally important and prayerful opportunity for our students and families, student government, peer ministry, and pastoral department to come together during the Christmas season. La Posada was celebrated at Arrupe Jesuit on December 2nd, beginning with a bilingual rosary service at Holy Family Parish, a candlelight vigil procession down Utica Street following Mary and Joseph (enacted by students in Peer Ministry) who were turned away at their first three stops before arriving at the AJHS cafeteria, where they were finally welcomed in. The evening concluded with a warm and familial community potluck in the cafeteria.



## Museo de Las Americas Field Trip

On November 15, students in Honors Spanish 3, a new class in the Arrupe schedule this year, visited Museo de las Americas on a class field trip. They spent the day learning about Latin American culture, identity, and history - such as the Chicano cultural movement and the suppression of speech and expression in Latin American countries. The museum enabled students to connect with everything they have learned in their Spanish classes at Arrupe Jesuit, bringing real-world experiences into their academic formation.

Students were asked to reflect on how this experience related to their learning at Arrupe Jesuit High School and their own cultural identity:

***“The murals and paintings that we saw today were an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments and struggles that our ancestors went through. The imagery in the murals reminded me about the things we have learned in Spanish class. Arrupe Jesuit understands that we are young adults who are simply trying to find our identity. This field trip was a beautiful experience that helped each of us to find and learn more about our identity and how to embrace it.”*** — Jacqueline '22

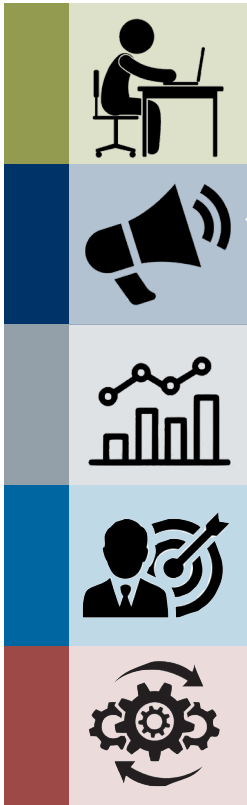
***“Our field trip to the Museo de Las Americas allowed me to connect the history of the Aztecs that we learned about in our Honors Spanish class to my own culture. The murals and art pieces we saw on the tour and in the museum encapsulate the struggles that Mexicans face here in the United States. It also reminded me of the immense beauty in the minds of our people and our culture. The field trip today reminded me that I should be proud of my culture and to wear it on my sleeve.”*** — Jose '22

## College Send-Off

On August 5th, our College Counseling Department held a College Send-Off event for the Class of 2021, and also invited back graduates from the Class of 2020 who weren't able to gather before heading off to the next chapters of their lives. College Send-Off is an annual celebration of our graduates where teachers, staff, and other Arrupe Alums gather to socialize and share words of encouragement and advice for those heading to college for the first time.



# Strategic Plan Update



Since 2003, Arrupe Jesuit has partnered with benefactors and the greater business community of Denver to prepare our students to meet the challenges that await them beyond Utica Street. As we approach our 20th anniversary, the school is prepared to build upon that legacy of success.

With a commitment to further enhance the formational opportunities we offer students, Arrupe Jesuit's leadership team, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees and key stakeholders, implemented a "Strategic Plan" that identifies the institutional goals we will pursue in the next five years. Our five areas of growth include:

- Deepening the student experience in academics, extracurricular activities and the Corporate Work Study Program
- Reimagining marketing and messaging to increase the Arrupe Jesuit name in the Denver community
- Diversifying and growing revenue streams to promote to sustainability over time
- Engagement of stakeholders, such as Arrupe Jesuit alumni, school networks, university partners and Work Study prospects
- Improvements to the organization and operations of the school to support the work

We know these initiatives will position Arrupe Jesuit to meet the demands of an educational landscape that is fast changing. To support this work, the school will soon launch a comprehensive fundraising campaign for programmatic costs, capital improvements, and endowment growth to ensure that we continue to fulfill the promise proclaimed in Arrupe's mission.

## Sponsor-A-Student Program Launch

This fall, we kicked off our first year of the Sponsor-A-Student Program at Arrupe Jesuit. The response from the community has been incredible with 23 sponsors supporting 32 students. Despite the dollars raised through the Corporate Work Study Program and each family's modest contribution, there is still a significant gap to cover the cost of tuition for each student and this program makes it attainable.

In November, sponsors and students gathered together to meet for the first time and learn more about each other. We are so excited to see this program develop and grow new connections within the Arrupe Jesuit community.

***"I support Arrupe Jesuit, and the Sponsor-A-Student Program specifically, because I feel that they are drawing from students the best of who they are and creating opportunities for service in a world with many challenges."***

— Sponsor-A-Student Donor (Anonymous)



***"My family and I are very grateful for this opportunity. In the future, I hope to impact another student the way I have been impacted."***

— Fernando, Class of 2022

To learn more about the Sponsor-A-Student Program or to become a sponsor, visit [www.AJSponsorAStudent.com](http://www.AJSponsorAStudent.com).

## 2021 Golf Invitational Recap

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2021 AJHS Golf Invitational. We enjoyed a beautiful day at the world-class Sanctuary Golf Course, known for its exclusivity, iconic views of the Rocky Mountains, and first-rate guest experience. This year, we welcomed alumnus Fred Herrera, AJHS '12, as our Emcee and Class of 2021 Valedictorian, Jimena Padilla Ortiz, as our student speaker.

We were grateful to host a post-round reception and program this year, after the mandatory cancellation in 2020. Fred was a lively Emcee, sharing stories of his own experiences as an Arrupe Jesuit Alum throughout the program. During the paddle raiser, we set a goal of \$120,000 to support Arrupe Jesuit's contribution toward the construction of new soccer fields for our Athletics program. We are pleased to share that we surpassed our fundraising goal with over \$170,000 raised during the paddle raiser, and a net total of over \$362,000 raised at the Invitational! Thank you to all of the sponsors, golfers, and supporters of this event.



*Arrupe Jesuit student volunteers: Anthony '21, Emmanuel '21, Kat '21, and Janeaya '21.*

## New Soccer Fields at Regis University

With a special thanks to Shea Homes, Regis University, and our generous Golf Invitational supporters, Arrupe Jesuit High School will finally have a dedicated field for our boys and girls soccer teams to utilize for practices and home games. This has been a long-time wish for our Athletic Department and we are so grateful to have this opportunity. We expect the fields to be ready in time for our girls soccer teams to utilize this spring.





*Senior Sponsors Dick and Robin Kelly with Patrick Kelly and Kayla Davis.*



*Golf Invitational Emcee Fred Herrera, AJHS '12.*

## 2021 AJHS Golf Invitational Sponsors

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the *amazing* parish

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**ARRUPE  
JESUIT**  
HIGH SCHOOL

4343 UTICA STREET • DENVER, CO 80212  
WWW.ARRUPEJESUIT.COM

*Return Service Requested*

**Michael J. O'Hagan, President**  
(720) 726-3424  
MOHagan@ArrupeJesuit.com

**Rev. John Nugent, SJ, Principal**  
(720) 726-3431  
JNugent@ArrupeJesuit.com

**Liz Cole, Director of Philanthropy**  
(720) 726-3440  
LCole@ArrupeJesuit.com

**Chad Cookinham, Director of CWSP**  
(720) 726-3420  
CCookinham@ArrupeJesuit.com

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*A Season of New Growth*

MAGIS NIGHT 2022

Arrupe Jesuit High School

Save *the* Date  
February 26

Register online at [www.MagisNight.com](http://www.MagisNight.com)