

# BOYS HOPE GIRLS HOPE'S NEW HOME AT RIORDAN

When Boys Hope Girls Hope was looking for a new space for the organization's flagship program, Hope Academy, Executive Director Suzanne Palmer looked to an existing partner. "Archbishop Riordan High School is a long-standing academic partner of BHGH, so it was a natural transition to move our program to Riordan's campus," said Palmer.

Boys Hope Girls Hope serves middle, high school and college students from many local San Francisco schools. The program helps academically capable and motivated children-in-need reach their full potential by providing value-centered enrichment opportunities and education through college. These offerings are extensive: service learning and career exploration, college application assistance, workforce development, tuition assistance, financial support, opportunities for community engagement, extracurricular activities and much more. BHGH scholars, as students in the program are called, are also matched with tutors and mentors who share academic support and personal guidance.

A major component of Hope Academy is an out of school program that provides daily academic tutoring, recreational activities, and support from BHGH's extensive network of mentors. Because this program is now housed on Riordan's campus, scholars also share dinner time with Riordan's residential students in Chaminade Hall.

"Our campus had the capacity to support this program during non-school hours," said Riordan President Joseph Conti. "Welcoming Hope Academy is another way to model to our current students what it means to be a community partner." Several Riordan alumni and current students are part of this program.

Perry Im '10 has dreams of becoming a social worker and with college graduation slated for 2016, his goals are just on the horizon. Unfortunately for Im, his as-

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**-Perry Im '10**



Hope Academy scholars pose in Riordan's courtyard.

pirations didn't always seem so attainable. Living in poverty, in a dangerous neighborhood, his options for the future seemed bleak. Looking back, however, Im attributes his success to two things: Boys Hope Girls Hope and Archbishop Riordan High School. "Before BHGH I was lost and confused as to what I would do in the future," said Im, a current staff member at BHGH. "They have helped me so much that I decided that I wanted to pursue a career in social work to give back to others in need and spread the word about programs like BHGH, so others don't give up hope."

Im believes attending BHGH and Riordan was a privilege and an advantage. "I know I am better for attending Riordan and BHGH," he said. "I am very satisfied with where I am today."

**For more information about BHGH, including how to apply to be a scholar or a BHGH mentor, visit [www.bhghsf.org](http://www.bhghsf.org).**