School Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

School and District’s Certifications
The signatures of the school principal and district superintendent (or equivalents) on the next page certify that each of the statements below concerning the school’s eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. In no case is a private school required to make any certification with regard to the public school district in which it is located.

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades early learning to 12.
2. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools within the Nominating Authority’s jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. Neither the nominated public school nor its public school district is refusing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is not subject to the jurisdiction of OCR. The nominated DoDEA schools, however, are subject to and in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements to comply with Federal civil rights laws.
4. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
5. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution’s equal protection clause.
6. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the public school or public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
7. The school meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.
8. The school or its district has in place and is willing to provide a link to or a copy of a non-discrimination policy, upon request. The U.S. Department of Education reserves the right to disqualify a nomination and/or rescind an award if unlawful discrimination is later discovered.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

Name of Principal: Dr. Sonya Arriola
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official School Name: Bellarmine College Preparatory
(As it should appear on an award)

*Private Schools: If the information requested is not applicable, write N/A in the space

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

sarriola
(Principal’s Signature) Digitally signed by sarriola
Date: 2022.12.06 11:42:08 -08'00' Date: 12/6/2022

Name of Superintendent: N/A
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in official records)
District Name: N/A

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

(Superintendent’s Signature)       Date: N/A

Nominating Authority’s Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the school’s eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority’s knowledge.

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades Pre-K-12.
2. The school is one of those overseen by the Nominating Authority which is highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. The school meets all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: California Department of Education

Name of Nominating Authority: State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond  
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

(Nominating Authority’s Signature)       Date: 1/20/2023

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509
Expiration Date: December 31, 2023

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.
Bellarmine College Preparatory
California Private School Nominee to
U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

Prepared By:
California Department of Education
School Facilities and Transportation Services Division
Green Ribbon Schools Award Program
February 2023
PART II – SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Bellarmine College Preparatory School, San Jose, Calif.
New Ecologically-focused Construction and Sustainability Mission Lead to an Overall Culture Change

Bellarmine College Preparatory (Bellarmine) is a private Jesuit school in San Jose, California. Since 2010, Bellarmine's new construction and renovation projects have met the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification standards for including innovative and environmentally sustainable approaches. The school generates energy on-site using 466 photovoltaic panels and uses a natural gas cogeneration system to heat the pool and showers while generating electricity from the heat of combustion. In 2017, Bellarmine adopted its Sustainability Mission to guide the school's curricular, programmatic, and student service options. As a result, initiatives like waste diversion by composting and recycling, offering students healthier food options, and building an organic garden to donate its harvest to local food pantries are high priorities for the school. The school builds student capacity for eco-literacy within its sustainable engineering projects in its Maker Lab and Advanced Placement Environmental Science courses. Between the two courses, almost every student participates in some form of environmental literacy education. In addition, students engage in several community engagement activities that bring the learning to life, including building water capture and solar generation devices for developing countries.

PART III – DOCUMENTATION OF STATE EVALUATION OF DISTRICT NOMINEE

Pillar I: Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs

Element IA: Energy

- In the 2015 – 2016 school year, Bellarmine developed a long-term Energy Action Plan to make strategic goals for energy conservation. The school monitors energy with the Trane Energy Dashboard and the Also Energy (A.E.) Energy Tracking system. In addition, Bellarmine is part of the Green Schools Alliance and the Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGYSTAR program.
- Bellarmine obtains 20% of its electricity through a natural gas cogeneration system that heats the swimming pools and hot water tanks while generating electricity from the additional heat of combustion. The school also generates approximately 15% of its electricity using 466 photovoltaic panels.
- In 2018, Bellarmine had a total carbon dioxide emission of 2,385 metric tons. By 2022, it had fallen to 1,675 metric tons. That is a reduction of approximately 30%.
- Since 2010, Bellarmine's new construction and renovation projects have met LEED Gold certification standards. For example, the Sobrato Center for Humanities and the Arts, the Lokey Academic Center, the Campus Life Center, and the Carney Science Center include many innovative and environmentally sustainable approaches, including high-efficiency Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting, recycled quartz countertops in the labs, double-pained glass with reflective coatings on all the windows, bamboo cabinetry in classrooms, low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) paints and finishes on all surfaces, and building materials that use recycled materials such as “smart concrete” that is lighter, stronger and uses recycled cement.
Bellarmine installed Cool Roof technology before installing solar panels on roofs. The Cool Roof technology increases the roof insulation with additional reflective white epoxy coating reflecting heat and ultraviolet radiation. In addition, all parking lots have ample shade trees built into the parking areas to reduce heat and provide shade, animal habitats, and water drainage.

Beginning in 2015, Bellarmine started a multi-phase retrofit of its facilities to reduce costs, waste, and dependence on fossil fuels while also increasing the campus's health, beauty, and sustainability.

- The first phase of the lighting retrofit involved re-lamping all of their classrooms, replacing all fixtures with LED lighting, and self-dimming/automatic turn-off switches.
- In phase two, Bellarmine replaced all the High-Pressure Sodium Vapor (HPSV) lighting in the parking areas with LED lighting.
- In the final phase, the school replaced all the outdoor lighting in the Aquatics Center, track, football, soccer, and baseball fields with LED fixtures. In addition, the school included the installation of an advanced Energy Management System into the retrofit program to control the solar array's energy production and maximize the cogeneration plant's efficiency.

**Element IB: Water and Grounds**

- Bellarmine meters for indoor and outdoor water use separately with a submeter for outdoor water use. From 2018 to 2022, the school reduced indoor water use by 7% and outdoor water use by 22%.
- The school has focused its water-reduction projects on identifying water waste and loss due to leaks, inefficiencies, and evaporation. Beginning in 2011, Bellarmine conducted an overhaul of the water systems with the construction and remodeling of buildings on campus. All new construction and remodeling met LEED certification and efficiency standards. All plantings and grounds around the new buildings use xeriscape and pollinator-friendly landscape designs. In addition, all campus plantings are surrounded with wood chips that suppress weed growth, reduce evaporative loss, and slowly break down to improve soil quality.
- Between 2018-2020, the school conducted a modernization project, including replacing 67 toilets and over 400 faucet heads on campus with low-flow equipment.
- Bellarmine has installed cisterns and water tanks in the school's organic garden that collect over 5,000 gallons of rainwater annually for use in the dry season. In addition, stormwater is directed from buildings and parking areas to bioswales and French drains.
- Between 2015 and 2019, the school converted all athletic fields to artificial turf. This action reduces the school's need to keep the football, soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and track facilities perpetually green, translating into significant water savings, particularly during drought.
- Working with the non-profit, Our City Forest, Bellarmine has increased the number of trees on campus while reducing the watering needed by choosing drought-resistant plantings.

**Element IC: Waste**

- Bellarmine documents a 22.8% diversion rate from recycling and composting.
• The school has a comprehensive composting program. The program takes the following three forms.
  o The first is a Direct Onsite Composting Program (DOCP) in which waste from the food preparation process in the school’s kitchens is picked up in buckets from the kitchen by students and taken to the school garden. Then it is mixed with garden trimmings, grass clippings, and the bedding and waste from the school's goats, rabbits, and chickens. Each year, the school's DOCP diverts over 12,000 pounds of waste from its kitchens, gardens, grounds, and animals that would otherwise end up in the landfill and directs it back into the soil in the school garden.
  o Bellarmine also produces compost indirectly through a partnership with its local waste-hauling company, Republic Green Waste. The waste hauler composts useful plant, paper, and construction waste on an industrial scale. Then the school purchases back for use on its lawns and planters.
  o Finally, Bellarmine purchases postproduction compost from a local organic mushroom producer, Monterey Mushrooms, in Morgan Hill. By buying this compost used to grow mushrooms, Bellarmine is diverting material from the landfill and using it for their landscaping needs.

• The school diverts waste on campus to one of three waste retrieval sites.
  o White dumpsters collect wastepaper and shredded documents that go directly to paper recycling.
  o Green dumpsters take mixed materials to an offsite sorting station run by the non-profit organization Eco Box and Republic Green Waste. The sorting station sorts materials for reclamation, and non-recyclable materials go to landfill. The school uses trash compactors to reduce the volume of the waste that goes to the black dumpsters taken to the landfill.
  o Bellarmine bundles and sells cardboard on campus separately to a recycler. The school's bundler and the equipment to separate and compress the cardboard for recycling have been in place for five years and have already paid for themselves.

• Since 2010, Bellarmine has contracted with (Advanced Chemical Transport) ACTenviro to safely remove and dispose of all hazardous waste materials from its campus. School personnel identifies, properly stores, and safely dispose of materials from the school’s science labs, makerspace, robotics program, or Buildings and Grounds Department during twice-annual inspections with ACTenviro and the Santa Clara County Department of Hazardous Materials.
• Bellarmine no longer purchases or uses hazardous or toxic materials on campus, such as Roundup (glyphosate). In addition, ACTenviro safely removed and destroyed all the remaining backlog of these materials.
• Bellarmine makes a concerted effort to find bio-safe alternatives to hazardous materials and promptly replace and remove dangerous materials. In addition, the school has adopted the Healthy Schools Act system for identifying safer cleaning products for use on campus.

Element ID: Alternative Transportation

• Through a combination of student surveying, bike counting, and tallying of bus users, the school reports: 3% of their students use the school bus, 5% walk, 13% use human-powered modes of transportation (i.e., bike, scooter, skateboard), and 7% use public transit as alternative modes of transportation to get to school.
• For the 2022 – 2023 schoolyear, Bellarmine has launched a Transportation Plan for its community that will provide more school bussing options for students. Thus, reducing the amount of traffic and pollution. In addition, over the past five years, Bellarmine has installed 12 electric vehicle charging stations on campus. The parking structure currently under construction includes plans for at least 20 additional electric car charging stations.

• The school has transitioned to an all-electric fleet of custodial and security vehicles. In addition, Bellarmine contracts with a fleet of more efficient buses, thus reducing maintenance, storage, drivers, and insurance costs.

• The school’s addition of one-way drop-off and pick-up areas has reduced congestion, waiting time, fuel waste, and gas emissions.

Pillar II: Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Element IIA: Environmental Health

• Bellarmine has a written Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan with an assigned IPM Coordinator. They keep records of pesticide applications for at least four years and report pesticide use to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation as required.

• Bellarmine contracts with a local pest control company, Planet Orange, to provide low-toxicity and high-efficiency pest reduction programs that use natural products to control pests. Annual and as-needed inspections ensure proper safety certifications for the school’s kitchens and food storage areas. In addition, ACTenviro properly disposes of all other pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides according to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines. Only non-toxic and environmentally safe products are allowed on campus.

• The Bellarmine Buildings and Grounds team ensures that no hazardous contaminants are on the school property. The school chooses safer and more sustainable pesticide and herbicide alternatives as listed under The Healthy Schools Act. In addition, only low VOC and environmentally safe cleaning and maintenance materials are being purchased and used on campus.

• Bellarmine inspects all potentially hazardous chemicals registered and contained under the supervision of the Fire Marshall and the Santa Clara County Hazardous Waste Department. Chemicals used in science labs on campus are certified for safe storage and monitored by the school’s Chemical Safety Coordinator. In addition, the school works closely with ACTenviro to safely identify, store, and remove any hazardous materials on campus.

• Bellarmine has a task force developing a plan to remove all products that may cause health problems from its custodial and landscaping supplies. All roundup and other non-organic herbicides have been removed. In addition, all leaf blowers, lawn-cutting machines, trimmers, and in-campus carts are electric-powered.

• Bellarmine prioritizes keeping the air clean and well-circulated to reduce asthma triggers. The school has High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) and Minimum Efficiency Reporting Values (MERV) 13-rated filters in all of its buildings. Additionally, all classrooms have portable air filtration systems.

• Most of Bellarmine's classrooms face the campus quad and the green spaces surrounding the center of campus. Classrooms and lab spaces have natural lighting and self-dimming LED lighting. In addition, Bellarmine has over 200 registered trees on campus that increase the school's environmental benefits for the community and the local ecosystem.
• Bellarmine inspects filters and tests Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) equipment monthly, with a complete inspection of each building at least once a year. Bellarmine employees report problems in a classroom or building to the chief financial officer or the head of buildings and grounds.

• The school obtains all its drinking and washing water from a municipal source through the San Jose Department of Water and Power. The City of San Jose Municipal Water District monitors water quality. Additionally, the school uses one uncapped well on campus for irrigation.

• Bellarmine provides seven hydration stations where students, teachers, and staff can refill their reusable water bottles with safe and clean water. The filters at the hydration stations are inspected, maintained, and replaced by the custodial staff regularly.

Element IIB: Nutrition and Fitness

• In 2015, Bellarmine started offering healthy eating alternatives. The school removed all products containing high fructose corn syrup, especially sodas, from campus. Fruits, nuts, and other healthier choices replace candy and other high-sugar snacks. Working with food providers, Bellarmine has also encouraged more farm-to-table alternatives and increased the number of locally sourced and organically grown ingredients on the daily menu.

• Beginning in 2008, Bellarmine developed an organic garden on approximately one acre of unused land. The project was initiated by students and developed over time to become a source of outdoor recreation and education for the Bellarmine community. Today, the garden includes an outdoor classroom, a greenhouse, a 5,000-gallon rainwater storage cistern, an orchard, and housing for goats, rabbits, chickens, and honeybees.

• The school garden supports programs school-wide. Examples include the following:
  o The Bellarmine Cooking Club uses produce from the garden in their club activities, and the Biology and Advanced Placement Environmental Science classes regularly visit the garden as part of their curriculum.
  o California History students learn how the landscape of California has changed over the years and the importance of various crops to native California peoples.
  o Theology of Nature course students reflect on the importance of nature to many world religions.
  o Bellarmine's botany classes, Garden Club, and Green Initiatives program work together to provide organic fruits and vegetables to local food banks and soup kitchens.

• Bellarmine supports 13 sanctioned varsity and six club sports outside its formal physical education program to encourage outdoor physical activity. The school also hosts clubs focused on physical activities like the Mountain Biking Club, Garden Club, and Fishing Club.

• Bellarmine’s Human Resources Department leads an annual Staff Wellness Day. All staff and faculty are invited to participate in a personal health screening that includes the following: blood pressure, blood glucose, Body Mass Index (BMI), diet screening, flu shots, and booster shots. Any staff or faculty member that participates is given an option of several gift cards or other prizes.

• Bellarmine supports their school community’s health and wellness with the following:
- Access to a full-time registered nurse, three athletic trainers, two strength and fitness trainers, and eight academic and personal counselors. All students can meet with their counselor any school day and after hours by appointment.
- Bellarmine partners with the Common Ground Speaker Series to provide guest speakers for students and parents on many topics, including mental health, parenting, safety, and college planning.
- The Campus Ministry Department provides students with personal spiritual guidance and support. Bellarmine also leads an extensive retreat program that offers students peer counseling and guidance opportunities.
- Partnering with healthcare providers, Kaiser Permanente and Sutter Health, the Bellarmine Human Resources Department has increased staff health screening, expanded the blood donation drive, and added exciting incentives to get staff members to be more active and make healthy choices.

**Pillar III: Provide Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education**

*Element IIIA: Interdisciplinary Learning*

- In 2017, Bellarmine adopted its Sustainability Mission to guide all areas of its program. In education, they have committed to bringing environmental education into all areas of the curriculum. In addition, the school commits to making service for the environment an integral part of its commitment to the local and global community through direct action.
- Bellarmine offers between eight to ten sections of its Advanced Placement Environmental Science (APES) program serving over 300 students annually. Since the class’s inception 20 years ago, it has become the most popular elective on campus with as many as three-fourths of all graduating seniors completing the course. Students in this class work on a long-term project where they need to design a sustainable city. They must identify and describe a house, transportation, and energy/water plan for their city that incorporates sustainable design principles.
- Bellarmine’s APES, Economics, and Social Justice teachers have formed a group that meets quarterly to discuss how they can enhance projects and assignments across these three courses. In the short term, this group has provided expertise in each area to the other teachers to increase the depth of the existing projects and assignments. For example, students in Social Justice classes research an environmental problem in the local community. The environmental science teachers have helped to provide more scientific context by meeting with students working on their projects to answer their questions. The long-term goal is to develop a joint project for students taking all three courses.
- Junior students complete a social justice action project in the school’s Social Justice class. In this project, students research an environmental issue and then find an expert to interview. Finally, they take their research and interview responses, write a report, and present it to their class.
- Bellarmine’s Botany course, taught in the Bellarmine Garden, leads students through the process of organic gardening and its ecological benefits. The garden is also used by Biology, APES, and several religious studies classes that use the garden as a classroom to investigate ecological phenomena.
Since 2012, students from the school’s Marine Biology program have visited, volunteered, and worked with the Monterey Bay Aquarium on programs to reduce plastic waste, protect ocean wildlife and preserve the beauty of the local coastline.

Botany and Garden Club students partnered with Our City Forest to plant dozens of trees on campus and in the surrounding community, creating shade, sequestering carbon, protecting watersheds, and beautifying their neighborhoods.

Twice in the past seven years, Bellarmine has identified sustainability as its school-wide justice theme for the year. Each time, the justice summit leaders, consisting of students and staff, have provided a widespread professional development event on sustainability for the faculty to prepare them to help students understand the goals of the theme. In 2021, all faculty were led through a professional development session with instruction on climate change and what local actions students could take to help prevent climate change.

**Element IIIB: STEM Content, Knowledge, and Skills**

All Bellarmine freshmen take a Physics course where they investigate conventional energy generation versus renewable energy. In the student’s final projects, they optimize electrical energy from a wind turbine, experimenting with blade design. Students also optimize fan-powered cars to investigate newton’s laws.

In the school’s Maker Lab, students work on a number of ecologically-based STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Math) projects including the following:

- e-Motion- Students created a way to harvest electrical energy from bicycles as an alternative to solar energy. The system can provide up to 120 watts of power at any time of day to directly charge solar generators, and this battery storage has been used to help the local homeless community (Safepark Program) power devices overnight.
- Bio-Fuel Cell- Students manufactured a biofuel cell based on the latest literature and experimented with different proton exchange membranes and soil conditions.
- Aerospace – A large team of students is working on a cube satellite that will be initially tested on a high-altitude balloon flight. The intermediate goal is to collect atmospheric data as a function of altitude, focusing on particle count data with other standard test data such as temp, humidity, light, and pressure. Future sub-orbital and orbital cube satellite missions will focus on data gathering for climate change.

Bellarmine’s STEM program, Maker Lab, Robotics Team, and Theater Tech programs focus on creating a more sustainable environment on campus. The STEM program and Maker Lab combine state-of-the-art technologies with design principles emphasizing efficiency and the three R’s (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) as core engineering goals. Examples include the following:

- The Robotics Team takes these design principles to the next level by repurposing components and materials from their robots each season.
- The Theater Tech program emphasizes using repurposed, recycled, and reused materials in designing and constructing the sets and costumes for each of the three dramatic presentations each year. Emphasis is placed on reusing as much of each set as possible, even loaning out entire sets to other schools for their
productions, dramatically reducing the number of materials being sent to the landfill.

**Element IIIC: Civic Knowledge and Skills**

- Bellarmine has two committees that work together to give all stakeholders a voice in creating a greener and more sustainable environment. The faculty/staff Green Team has members from all the academic departments and the school staff, including Campus Ministry, Building and Grounds, Associated Student Body, and Kitchen departments. Bellarmine’s Student Green Team meets monthly with members of each class. The two committees meet each semester to discuss joint projects and schoolwide outcomes. In their first year, the Green Teams looked and reducing energy use and increasing sustainable and organic options in the school cafeteria.

- All Bellarmine students participate in ecologically-based community service activities through the school’s Christian Service Program (CSP). Students attend community service projects and then write a reflection about their experience. Examples include the following:
  - Tree Nursery – Students help tend, weed, and mulch trees at a local nursery.
  - Lawn Busting – Students prepare a lawn to be re-planted with drought-tolerant plants. This is primarily done in communities with low access to trees and shade.
  - Bare Roots – Students transplant baby trees into pots, which restocks the nursery for Our City Forest.
  - Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful – Students participate in creek and trail clean-up.
  - Bellarmine Marine Biology class – Students participate in beach cleanups on one of the beaches in Santa Cruz, and river cleanups in the Guadalupe River.
  - Heritage Rose Garden – Students support the maintenance of a rose garden, including pruning, weeding, and other tasks to maintain the health of the rose garden located near Downtown San Jose.
  - Bellarmine Recycling Club – Students share flyers in their neighborhoods. Later, they collect the recyclables of their neighbors. Finally, they bring the recyclables to a facility where they redeem the recycled goods for cash. Then, they donate that cash to Sacred Heart Community Services.
  - The CSP also organizes an annual Rural Plunge program that allows students to work alongside farm workers to appreciate where their food comes from and the lives of those working in the fields.

- Bellarmine is host to several sustainability-focused student groups. In addition to the Sustainability Club, the school supports clubs like the Student Green Team, the Garden Club, the Surfrider Club, and the Recycling Club. The Sustainability Club coordinates classroom and community projects, while the Student Green Team works with the Faculty/Staff Green Team to coordinate schoolwide projects. The Surfrider Club coordinates the annual Coastal Cleanup and River Cleanup programs, and the Garden Club works to create green spaces on campus and in the community.

- Students from APES classes founded the Bellarmine Sustainability Club to discuss sustainability on campus. Annually, the club has a core leadership group of about six to eight students and an entire membership of around twenty to thirty students. The Sustainability Club started the composting program in the school garden, volunteers with non-profits like Heal the Bay and Second Harvest Food Bank, and helps organize the annual Coastal Cleanup and Bike to Work Days. Their influence can be seen in the
success of the Backpacking and Surfrider Foundation clubs and new classes such as the Theology of Nature and California Natural History courses.

- The Sustainability Club partnered with Our City Forest to participate in the planting and dedication of several new trees on campus. The dedication ceremony was held at an all-school assembly. Additionally, in 2022, members of the club did a school water use audit, checking for leaks around the school, and presented their results to the administration.

- Each year, Bellarmine hosts a schoolwide Symposium on Faith and Justice. Since 2012, three of the symposiums have addressed sustainability, climate change, and restorative justice. Student leaders helped to organize, create, and present topics of interest to their classmates and the school community. The weeklong symposium suspends regular class activities to integrate big ideas and expose the Bellarmine Community to ecological topics. Topics presented at the Justice Summit have included:
  - Climate Change - specifically in 2021 – 2022, presentations focused on the concepts in the book *DrawDown* which gave students many practical ways that climate change could be addressed.
  - Water use and water quality
  - Food and agriculture impact
  - Transportation and mass transit
  - Environmental justice

- Throughout their Bellarmine experience, all students have multiple opportunities to engage in meaningful outdoor experiences.
  - Freshman students in Physics class complete most of their lab activities outside the quad. By design, these activities give the students a greater sense of connection to and ownership of the outdoor spaces on campus.
  - All sophomore students participate in an outdoor, overnight retreat at Camp Redwood Glen. They learn about leadership, participate in cooperative ropes courses high in the redwoods, and spend time learning about themselves and their connection to nature.
  - Most sophomores will also visit the Bellarmine Garden as part of their Biology class. Juniors and seniors have multiple pathways to outdoor learning through elective courses like APES, Botany, Marine Biology, Theology of Nature, and many other courses which use the ample outdoor spaces on campus as “outdoor laboratories” for learning.

- Bellarmine students and teachers work with various organizations and non-profits, particularly in areas with fewer resources, to provide service to those in need. Some ecological examples include the following:
  - Students, faculty, and family members harvest organic produce for donation to Second Harvest Food Bank and Sacred Heart Community Center.
  - Over 800 students and faculty members volunteer to assist the non-profit organization Wine to Water in assembling water filtration devices in many parts of the world that lack safe drinking water. For example, the immersion program has students and teachers dig a well in Tanzania to provide safe water to a village so that students can attend school rather than walk five miles to the river daily.
  - Students participate in the Solar Suitcase Project to build and deliver a portable and reliable energy and lighting kit to people in need in many parts of the world,
gaining firsthand knowledge of the engineering process and providing power and potential to developing nations.