

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES.
TRANSFORMING LIVES.



GUADALUPE
REGIONAL MIDDLE
SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Br. Tom Schady, FMS
 Sr. Colette Brehhoney,
 IWBS
 Br. Peter Zawot, CFC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mr. Al Villarreal, President
 Mr. Polo Borrego
 Mr. Jorge De La Garza
 Mrs. Liliana De La Garza
 Ms. Letty Fernandez
 Br. Francis Garza, FMS
 Dr. Rose Gowen

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Michael Motyl,
 President
 Dr. Virginia Miller,
 Principal

FACULTY | STAFF:

Mr. Andrew Crum
 Mr. Benjamin Cox
 Mrs. Meredith Fernandez
 Mrs. Patricia Flores
 Mrs. Estella Lopez
 Mrs. Alma A. Martinez
 Ms. Dandy Pilon
 Mr. Gilberto Ramirez
 Mrs. Celia Smith
 Mr. Brian Shannon
 Mrs. Rosalinda Sullivan
 Br. Arthur Williams, CFC

****August 2021***

Br. Edward Bergeron,
 President

****October 2021***

Monica Uribe,
 Advancement Director

MISSION

The mission of Guadalupe Regional Middle School is to offer a tuition-free, quality Catholic education to boys and girls in grades 6, 7, and 8 whose families desire but cannot afford a Catholic education.

This academically challenging school teaches its students how to live the gospel values of love, justice, self discipline and respect for others with the goal that they will become the future leaders of the Brownsville civic and church communities.

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of Guadalupe Regional Middle School draws upon the traditions of the three religious congregations that sponsor the school - the Congregation of Christian Brothers, the Marist Brothers of the Schools, and Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament - Our educational philosophy is embodied by the following four pillars:

- Religious formation
- College preparatory instruction
- Educating the whole person
- The Christian learning community



college & heaven



SCHOOL PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Dear Friends of Guadalupe,
Through the grace of God, the generosity of our supporters, the dedication of our faculty and staff, we have served the young people of Brownsville for 20 years. For two decades, this little school has been transforming the lives of students and their families. 99% of our nearly 400 middle school graduates have gone on successfully to high school and to college. And now we have a growing number of Guadalupanos graduated from colleges and universities from around the country establishing themselves in their professional careers and giving back to GRMS.

The past two years posed some difficult problems—to educate our kids while establishing protocols to keep them safe and implementing multiple educational modalities to allow for at home learning, in-person, and hybrid classes. We have not been able to have sporting events and other extra-curricular activities. We had to devise creative ways to celebrate some of our cherished GRMS traditions and some we had to cancel all together. Nonetheless, we have kept our students engaged and have thrived despite these obstacles. Our students have learned that by pulling together and exercising creativity and steadfastness seemingly impossible challenges can be overcome.

Now, we are delighted to be back to a full schedule of in-person classes. Our kids are once again participating in sports and other activities. We look forward to recovering our beloved traditions: the Fall Blessing, Charro Days, the Mardi Grad Gala, etc.

Special thanks to Dr. Virginia Miller, the Principal, Ms. Dandy Pilon, the Vice-president for Advancement, and Mr. Michael Motyl, the President for shepherding us through the difficulties present by COVID-19 and the pandemic. Thanks also to all of you who continued to support the vision and mission of Guadalupe Regional Middle School.

As the new President of GRMS, I look forward to getting to know you and to working with you going forward. I am excited to see where God's grace and your generosity will take us in our next 20 years.

May God bless you abundantly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Bergeron".

Brother Edward Bergeron, CFC



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear GRMS Family of Friends,
Happy 20th Anniversary!! I am proud to announce that I witness the mission of Guadalupe Regional Middle School alive and in practice, each and every day at our school. The ongoing importance of serving and providing a Catholic education to our young students during the highly, formative years of adolescence remains firm and in place as it did when the doors were opened in 2002. There have been years of struggle and success, but none more memorable than what the school and families experienced with the pandemic beginning in March 2019 and into 2020-2021. We continue to face our challenges even in this school year of 2021-2022 but remain firm in our commitment to our school community.

Through it all and for over 20 years, GRMS is proud to provide the high quality of education from professional educators who love them and support them. Our commitment is even stronger as we reach every individual, middle school students each year. We are proud to see younger siblings, relatives, family friends and neighbors of past alumni which reaffirm the satisfaction that parents and families have with our school.

GRMS alumni now are making their path in the world after high school and university graduations embarking on their professional careers that is bringing dynamic change to themselves and their families. Breaking the cycle of poverty, one child at a time, has begun in our classrooms and will continue to do so.

GRMS is proud to enrich every child's life with our Catholic faith formation. Each student leaves our school with a stronger understanding of our faith, an increased awareness of the Liturgical Calendar, and the knowledge of the importance of all the Catholic Social Teachings that will influence their lives beyond their school-age years. Shared celebrations of our beautiful faith are extended beyond weekly, school Holy Mass, memorization of prayers and petitions, enactments of our Easter Triduum, spiritual retreats, and community recitation of the Holy Rosary. Each and every day our students are involved in celebrating our faith through community prayer and devotion to our school patroness, Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is through the shared belief that we have, along with our three founding congregations, and you that the continued success of Guadalupe Regional Middle School enters its second decade of shaping the lives of our youth into the future of our Catholic church.

**Thank you for your joined dedication,
Dr. Virginia G. Miller, GRMS Principal**



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Greeting's friends of Guadalupe Regional Middle School,

2021 was a very challenging year for all, and Guadalupe was not the exception. Thanks to our close friends that believe in Guadalupe's mission to provide a tuition free Catholic education, the school was able to overcome such a challenging year.

In addition to last year's COVID challenges, we said goodbye to our longtime school president, Michael Motyl, and our longtime Advancement director, Dandy Pilon, who both were instrumental in the school's success. We wish them both well.

With these two losses we were blessed to hire Br. Ed Bergeron as the school's third President. Br. Ed comes to Guadalupe with much experience, and more importantly with enthusiasm to take on this new challenge as we celebrate our 20th anniversary.

A very special thanks to all our supporters - without them we would not be able to continue our school's mission.

A big thank you to our school's faculty/staff, who have played a pivotal role in the school's successfully overcoming the past challenges.

Finally, a big thank you to GRMS principal Dr. Virginia Miller who has taken her leadership role to the next level and managed to have a very successful 2021.

I am very excited for 2022, hoping things begin to normalize, so we can continue working hard to serve our community.

**Thank you,
Raul Villanueva**



CATHOLIC IDENTITY

GRMS is one of the Catholic schools within the Diocese of Brownsville and the importance of Faith Formation is as important as the academic curricula.

The Catholic identity is found throughout the campus, in each classroom, the daily Religion course, weekly mass, and daily prayers. Our students lead our school mass as the alter servers, lecturers, ushers, gift bearers and choir that allows them to take an active role in our mass.

Bringing the Liturgical Calendar to life for our students is critical in developing the future of our Catholic faith with the recitation of the Holy Rosary, celebrating days such as All Souls/All Saints Days, our re-enactments of the Gospel in the Advent/Christmas and Lenten/Easter seasons, and the celebration of our Patroness, Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day each December 12th.

The Catholic Social Teachings are also connected in the occurrences of our outside world so that our students are conscientious of the community of faith beyond the school walls.





LEGACY

GRMS prides itself in serving Brownsville families. Keeping the trust of several families for the second, third, or fourth child to attend GRMS is just one of our proud accomplishments. Some of our currently enrolled "Legacy Students" whose older siblings also attended Guadalupe in the past are featured here proudly noting where they fall in number of enrolled children from their family. GRMS knows that a child is a family's greatest resource, and the family legacy continues in each child enrolled in our Catholic school. In addition, GRMS has eight sets of siblings currently enrolled this year as well. With each child, the confidence and faith that the family entrusts us with is strengthened and our connection with community families, and we are proud that Guadalupe Regional Middle School has become a FAMILY TRADITION!





GUADALUPE ALUMNI





Angela Smith
GRMS Class of 2005
First Generation

Bachelors in Interdisciplinary
Studies

Major: General and Special
education

UTB/TSC

Class of 2013

Masters of Education

Early Childhood Special Education

UTRGV

Class of 2019

Doctorates in Education

Special Education Leadership

UTRGV

Class of 2024

What was your GRMS experience like?

My experience at Guadalupe was unique. When the school first opened, it was only 6th graders and I was part of that first class. Each year, as new sixth graders joined the school, we were always the leaders, the ones who set the example. Being part of Guadalupe, you are not just a student in a school you are part of a family that is always there for you, cheering you on, making sure that your goals become a reality.

How did GRMS impact you?

One thing that GRMS taught me is that if you set your mind to something and work hard anything is possible. I was that student who gave 110%. I'm still that student. The foundation that GRMS set for me is one of the reasons that I feel I am where I am today. With God all things are possible, Matthew 19:26. At GRMS I was able to grow my faith and knowing that I have the greatest supporter by my side, I know I will achieve any goal that I set for myself.

How was your experience different from peers (that went to other schools, etc)?

What made the experience so special was the religious component that Guadalupe offers. Being able to learn about your faith and practice one's faith during weekly mass was different. What also made the experience different was our days of service. I had the opportunity to attend community service at Mother of Perpetual Help Nursing Home. If I remember correctly, we would go twice a month and spend time with the residents. The experiences that were provided to us, such as trips to the USS Lexington, Texas State Aquarium, The Alamo, Natural Bridge Caverns, Camp YO, and Camp Marist are memories and educational experiences that I still remember.

Where are you now?

After graduating with my masters degree in 2019, through the Border SPICES grant at UTRGV, I was nominated to apply for Project PLEASE doctoral grant program. Of the nominations, I was 1 of 24 to be chosen for the interview/selection process. From that process, I was 1 of 14 to be accepted into the doctoral program and a recipient of the Project PLEASE grant. This grant was provided to UTRGV by the U.S. Department of Education-Office of Special Education Program. I am currently on my second year of my studies and taking a deeper dive into special education and educational leadership. I am also on my 9th year of teaching as a special education teacher.



Jaime Villarreal Jr
GRMS Class of 2009

University of Texas at Austin
Degree in Government
Class of 2017

Texas A&M University School
of Law - Juris Doctor
Class of 2021

University of Texas at Austin
School of Law, Master of
Laws, Class of 2022

What was your GRMS experience like?

My GRMS experience was transformative. GRMS provided me with an educational environment that encouraged me to think critically and to study hard and a cultural environment that allowed me to grow in my faith, family, and relationships. With its small class sizes and its emphasis on community, learning amongst my friends and being taught by teachers I considered mentors truly helped me in developing a sense of worth within myself and planted the seeds for my educational journey.

How did GRMS impact you?

For the same reasons stated above, GRMS impacted me by building the foundation for my eventual career goals. Every class challenged and engaged me and each student was on equal footing when it came to our educational outcomes. Outside of the classroom, GRMS strived to ensure that we lived the best version of ourselves and that our faith shone bright in everything we did. The biggest impact GRMS had on me was its emphasis on the importance of education and I have carried with me all the lessons learned during each portion of my educational journey.

How was your experience different from peers (that went to other schools, etc)?

I cannot describe with certainty the experience of my peers who went to different schools. What I can say, however, is that attending a small, close-knit parochial school like GRMS significantly impacted my life in a way I will be eternally grateful for.

Where are you now?

As a licensed Texas attorney, I currently live in Austin, Texas, where I practice Texas legislative law, campaign finance law, and business and corporate law. I am also currently the Chief of Staff and General Counsel for the Texas House of Representatives District 38 (Brownsville, San Benito, and Harlingen).



Kevin Berlanga
GRMS Class of 2011

Columbia University
BA in Economics
Class of 2019

What was your GRMS experience like?

My experience at Guadalupe was incredibly formative because it was at Guadalupe where I first felt part of a community. Surrounded by a team of teachers and staff that continue to go above and beyond for the success of all students, I always felt proud of being a Bobcat. This tight-knit learning environment fostered in me accountability, envisioned my success, and most importantly, always made it fun. My favorite memories would definitely have to include learning to play the Clarinet for our school band, religion class with Mrs. Flota, and attending community service!

How did GRMS impact you?

I enjoy talking to others about GRMS because they're often surprised that I stay in touch with my middle school. GRMS not only shaped my academic journey by fostering in me a love for learning, but also supported professional growth by providing me access to internships and development opportunities throughout my undergraduate years. The attention to the academic and professional success of Bobcats is what motivates alumni like me to give back and keep supporting the mission of GRMS.

How was your experience different from peers (that went to other schools, etc)?

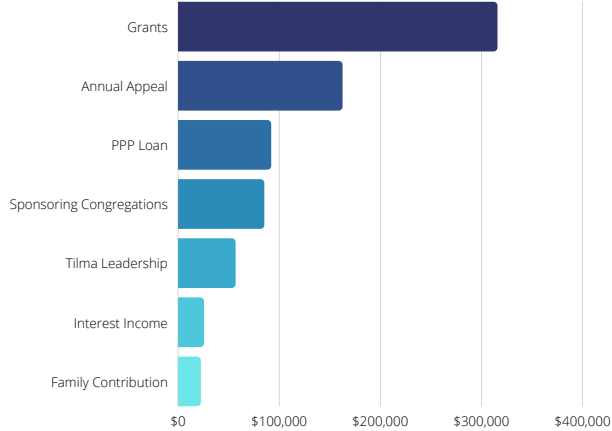
One aspect that makes the Guadalupe experience unique is that there is also a spiritual component to the curriculum. From attending weekly-mass to religion class, as a student I treasured the opportunity to be involved in community service projects, which through the years grew to be the passion behind my professional work.

Where are you now?

Currently I live in New York where I work as a designer and Software Engineer. I am passionate about social entrepreneurship and economic development.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

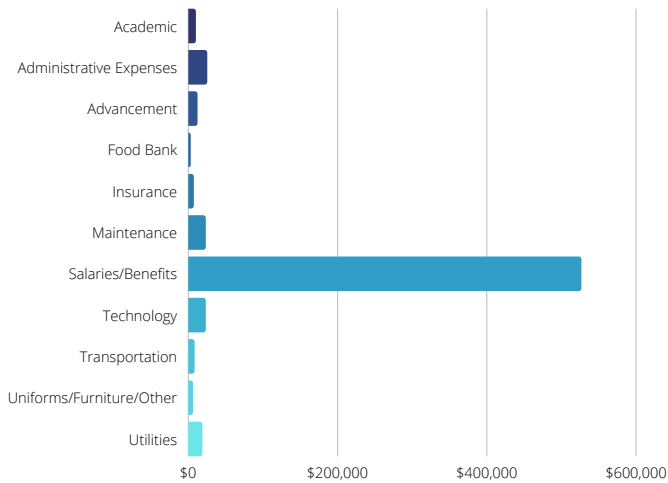
REVENUE SOURCES:



TOTAL REVENUE:

\$758,895.02

EXPENDITURES:



TOTAL EXPENDITURES:

\$654,689.17

DONORS

We thank everyone who has given in support of our school.

Your generosity enables us to continue our vital work of never giving up on a child.

The following lists include donations to our Annual Fund received during July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

We have done our best to ensure the complete accuracy of these lists. We apologize for errors or omissions and would appreciate having any mistakes brought to our attention.





TILMA LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

The Tilma Leadership Circle is comprised of those individuals and organizations who make an annual, unrestricted financial pledge of \$1,000 or more to Guadalupe Regional Middle School.

**Steven De La Garza
Family**

MIRACLE OF THE ROSES CIRCLE

**Shannon & Jorge Green
Family**

MIRACLE OF THE ROSES CIRCLE

**Lauren & Paul Serafy
Family**

MIRACLE OF THE ROSES CIRCLE

**Patrick & Mary Regan
Family**

MIRACLE OF THE ROSES CIRCLE

**Liliana &
Jorge De
La Garza
Family**

TEPEYAC CIRCLE

**Violeta &
Roman
Hinojos
Family**

TEPEYAC CIRCLE

**Azeneth &
Robert
Katusak
Family**

TEPEYAC CIRCLE

**Dr. Virginia
& Mark
Miller
Family**

TEPEYAC CIRCLE


**Cristy & JC
Ortiz
Family**

TEPEYAC CIRCLE

**Rosalinda &
Thomas
Sullivan
Family**

TEPEYAC CIRCLE

The Society is a level of the Tilma Leadership Circle dedicated to financially and spiritually supporting the mission of Guadalupe Regional Middle School. It is compromised of couples who pledge a contribution each year of \$1,000, \$500 as an individual, or at the Young Professionals levels. We sincerely thank each of our Tilma Leadership Circle contributors for their dedication.



Imelda Alania

Anonymous 1

Magda & Sergio Arguelles

Vicky Balderas

Elvia Beaman

Liz & Antonio Bernus

Mina Besteiro

Polo Borrego

Michael Boyle

Shirley & Daniel Butler

**Burton, McCumber, &
Cortez**

Andrea Carroll

Edgar Chrnko

Yajahira Cordova '09

**Muñeca & Francisco De La
Garza**

Karen De Leon

Letty Fernandez

Ruben Garcia

Leticia Garza

Joanne Gilmore

Dr. Rose & Jeff Gowen

Pilar & John Herrera

Claudia Kauachi

Marcela & Marion Lawler III

Carla & Tony Martinez

Cynthia Martinez '05

**Juan Pablo & Irma Gloria
Martinez**

Edgar Moncada

Romeo Montalvo

Lita Pashos

**Dr. Homer Richer & Dr.
Angela Kozak**

Jesus Rivas

Marti & Ken Schaefer

**Neal & Lourdes Simmons
Foundation**

Angela Smith '05

Alexander Stillman

Bitty Truan

Georgina & Raul Villanueva

Cassandra & Brad Wolfe

Penny & Richard W. Wolfe

Dan Wetegrove

Sponsoring Congregations

Sisters of the Incarnate Word & Blessed
Sacrament
Congregation of Christian Brothers
Marist Brothers of the Schools

Our Lady of Guadalupe (\$75,000+)

Mission & Ministry Impact
Kenedy Memorial Foundation

Cerro De Tepeyac (\$50,000-\$74,999)

Rodrigo Rubiano

Saint Marcellin Champagnat (\$10,000-\$49,999)

Christian Brothers Institute
Mission & Ministry Impact
The Raul Tijerina Jr. Foundation
The Westerman Foundation
Catholic Human Services Foundation
C&ERP Scholarship Foundation Inc.
P Twenty-One Foundation
Marist Brothers Provincial office
Koch Foundation, Inc.
Jorge Green

Venerable Jeanna Chezard de Matel (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Love Builds Hope Foundation
The Brownsville Foundation for Health &
Education
Serafy Foundation
Vancouver College
TD*X Associated LP
John Cowen
The Edmundian's Society
Las Huellas, Inc
Brownsville Community Improvemennts
Corp
Marist Brothers Provincial Office
Marist Brothers
The Musk Foundation
Steven De La Garza

Blessed Edmund Rice (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Liliana & Jorge De La Garza
Christian Brothers - Comunidad Juan
Diego
Christopher Colombus High School
Cristy & JC Ortiz
Patrick Regan

President's Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499)

St. Thomas More Collegiate
Anonymous
NovaLink
Laura Andrews
Michael Boyle
Dandy Pilon

Catherine Hartwig
Paul Meuten
Karen Settle Newton and Harvey Newton
Charitable
Virginia & Mark Miller
IBC
Falcon International Bank
Lawler & Associates - PC
Sergio Arguelles
ZIWA Corporation
Sisters of the Incarnate Word
David Willis
James Rose
Amigo Consultants, Inc.
Plains Capital Bank
Texas Regional Bank
Kenmont
Tipton Motors, Inc.
Ralph Flores

Platinum Medal
(\$500-\$999)

Rosalinda & Thomas Sullivan
Dan Wolpert
Brownsville Kiddie Health Center
Richard Shea
BBVA Compass
John Scileppi
MBMT Law Firm
Carlo Molano
Damien Memorial School
Mauricio Sampayo
Noe Ortiz
Letty Fernandez
Cassandra & Brad Wolfe
Penny & Richard Wolfe
Wells Fargo Advisors

Dulceria Pinkis
John Cowen
Port of Brownsville
Jane Ambrose
Anonymous
Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary
Immaculate

Gold Metal
(\$250-\$499)

Marist College - Campus Ministry
Central Catholic High School
Courtyard by Marriott South Padre Island
Star Kids (Show Infantil)
Rita Lapeyre
Essential Medical Beauty Treatments
John Scileppi
Dandy Pilon & Michael Motyl
Letty Fernandez
Dr. Rose & Jeff Gowen
Peggy Gonzalez
Leticia Garza
Neto Roser
Brownsville Kiddie Center
Hecho Por Iiz
Celia Smith
Ernesto Velarde-Danache
Rio Bank
Maria Elena Garcia
Juan Varela
Marcela Gonzalez
James Concannon
Carla Mancha
Edgar Moncada
Romeo Montalvo

Silver Medal (\$100-\$249)

Still Austin Whiskey Co.
David Elliott Merrill
Dominick Pujia
Joseph Lucero
Raul Villanueva
Jesus Rivas
Diana Kidwell
Palma High School
Deborah Kirk
Homer Richer
Rancho Viejo Resort & Country Club
La Maquila
Wing Step
Estela Lopez
Kenmont
Carriage House Day Spa
Anonymous
Anonymous
Marist Brothers Community
Anonymous
Sales Force
John LaBelle
Brendan Brennan
Gerard Cormier
Francis Ferrell
Alfred George
John Herrmann
Joe McAlister
Donald Richard
Ken Robert
Phil Robert
Kevin Moran
Martha Kammer
Modesto Garcia

Juliana Diaz
Hugo Zurita
Angel Smith '05
Robert Conley
Jim Adams
Mary Versaggi Davis
Mary Uyeno
Marisa Fava
Tom Schady
Jackie Martinez
Adrian Juarez
Chuck Aragon
Alexa Aragon
John LaBelle
Matthew Wilsey
Eoin Gillespie
Ed Stapleton
Susan DeCostanza
Donald Kresse
Marist Brothers - Eden Terrace
Community
Dennis Hartnett
Paul Meuten
Francis Garza
James Norton
Anonymous
Carolyn Polke
Jeanna Walsh
Joseph Lucero
Taylor Blanton
Back to Action
Dennis Hartnett
William Lavigne
Richard Casallas
Bitty Truan
Wimberley Cafe
Marist High School

JuiceUs
Aqua-Tots Swim School
IQ's Juice Bar
Jaime Gomez
Miguel Garcia
Cathy Thomas
Adriana Lugo
Francisco Del Castillo
Adriana Babiak Vazquez
Crown Janitorial

Friends of Guadalupe (\$1-\$99)

Irvine Downing
Madeira Restaurant
Zoe Flowers & Design
Anonymous
Danielle Gonzales
Joe Scanlon
Joe Teston
Andrea Carroll
Matthew Madden
Cynthia Cavazos
James Antos
Maureen Hagan
James T. Marini
Andres Shane
Jennifer Rose
Gustavo Pena
James Vagan
Ann Brown
Elizabeth Stowe Fennell
Emmette Beauchamp
Donald Loiselle
I Natural Salon & Spa
Giana Hesterberg

Lydia Garcia
Andrea Gonzalez
Peter Zawot
Amor y Pan
Bocata Meriendas &
Botanas
Bernard P. Listwan
Gerry Brereton
Judith Garcia
Cassandra Salas
Kevin Berlanga
Thomas Montalbano
Gerald Doherty
Anthony L. Naclerio
Daniela Barbosa
Marlene Garza
Samantha Smith
Jessica Ramos
Jaime Villarreal
Bertha Lance
Jackie Martinez
Daniela Barbosa
Dr. Mark A. Quinn
Ximena Villanueva
Iris Bezanilla
Thomas Hinds
Ian Buenrostro
Karla Gutierrez
Jessica Lewis
Anthony J. Mastromarino
Kelly Griffith
Ivette Villarreal
Amalia Espinoza
Bradley Warfield
Gerry Brereton
La Barra Del Taco
Laura Andrews

Santiago Cantu
Alejandra Rodriguez
Karla Gutierrez
Iliana Banda
Angela Paz

Major In-Kind

Antonio & Liz Bernus
Charro Days, Inc.
Dandy Pilon
Dr. Virginia & Mark Miller
IBC Bank
NovaLink
Rex Cleaners

Our Partners

Catholic Diocese of
Brownsville
NativityMiguel Coalition
Alliance for Catholic
Education
Diocese of Brownsville
Catholic Schools Office
Our Lady Of Guadalupe Parish
Texas Catholic Conference of
Bishops - Accredited
Camp Marist

THANK YOU

Guadalupe Regional Middle School is sustained by a group of wonderful people and has done so for 20 years now.

Thank you to everyone who is and has been a part of our school - Our Sponsoring Congregations, directors, trustees, supporters, administration, faculty, staff, parents, current students, JBOD, and graduates.

We are one of a kind - a tuition free Catholic middle school serving children of economically disadvantaged families in Brownsville, TX.

We are a school that never gives up on a child.

On behalf of everyone at Guadalupe, thank you.



This report was made in transition by the new advancement director who came into position on October 2021 - Monica Uribe.

Recognizing this report should have been completed in August 2021, I appreciate everyone's patience and contribution in completing this report.

I feel so humbled and honored to be a part of the Guadalupe Regional Middle School team. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Go, Bobcats!



Monica Uribe,
GRMS Advancement Director

A NATIVITYMIGUEL COALITION SCHOOL SPONSORED BY:
CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS, MARIST BROTHERS OF THE
SCHOOLS, & SISTERS OF THE INCARNATE WORD BLESSED SACRAMENT.



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ANNUAL REPORT DESIGNED IN HOUSE AT GRMS