

Educators of the Year

"Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose," Helen Keller once said. Few causes are as important and noble as the endeavor to educate future generations of leaders. *San Jose Magazine* is proud to present "Educators of the Year," an annual section profiling extraordinary teachers and principals in Silicon Valley. The dedicated educators profiled on these pages are examples of excellence in their noteworthy profession, enriching students' lives through creative teaching methods, a mastery of subjects, and a keen sense of compassion. In addition to instructing, these dedicated men and women serve on committees, coach athletic teams, and volunteer in the community—causing their workday to extend well beyond the typical 9-to-5. Although the job may be demanding, it has its own rewards—particularly, the knowledge that they are sparking a lifelong passion for learning in students who will one day grow to shape the Valley.

Arlene O. Bertellotti

SACRED
HEART SCHOOL,
SARATOGA



For the last eight years, Arlene Bertellotti was the principal at St. Charles School in San Carlos, but when class started last August, she returned to Sacred Heart Elementary School in Saratoga where she had been a teacher for 20 years.

A San Jose native, Bertellotti earned her teaching degree at San José State University and her master's degree in education from Santa Clara University. She also holds an administrative service credential from the state of California.

Bertellotti has implemented enrichment programs throughout her career, including learning labs, which allow for small group instruction, and movement labs, helping to develop cognitive ability through the use of large motor skills. She developed an authors' day and community read-in to promote literacy. She also designed the social studies curriculum for lower grades that features simulations of colonialism called Colonial Day.

"It is our challenge as Catholic educators to encourage respect for self and others," Bertellotti says. "Shared values among parents and educators are reinforced in a Catholic school environment. Bombarded daily by less desirable aspects of contemporary culture, our children can easily lose sight of their parents' values. Ideally, our Catholic school system supports the teachings of the home, provides a safe, nurturing place for education, and serves as extended family for the child. I believe that when the moral foundation is sound, an academic program will be successful. A solid academic program will provide the tools necessary for the fast-paced, ever-changing technological world these students will be facing."