



## For Immediate Release

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### **St. Patrick – St. Vincent Students Pilot Sustainability Program and Plan Demonstration Food Forest Garden**

Students at St. Patrick-St. Vincent Catholic High School will have a unique opportunity this year to learn about sustainability through a pilot sustainability curriculum. This pilot program could ripple out to other schools around Solano County.

Some details of what students will learn:

- In May, students will build a cob bench using natural, on-site materials as part of the program supported with funding from the Solano Community Foundation.
- In the fall, students will work to establish a demonstration food forest garden fed by rainwater on campus. This part of the program is supported through Solano Sustainable Backyard, which is funded by the Solano County Water Agency.
  - The demonstration food forest project will not only demonstrate sustainable urban agriculture and water conservation, but also will create an outdoor gathering space for the community.
  - Through the installation, students will gain hands-on, practical experience in building swales to capture rainwater, build a rainwater collection system and learn about greywater.
- The project will connect directly with the development of a sustainability curriculum that brings in systems thinking (permaculture and biomimicry), planetary limits and wise water use; it also will enhance classroom learning, especially math and science. The

curriculum program is funded through the Solano Community Foundation.

“I am excited about the partnership with Sustainable Solano, because it will transform and bring to life an area on our campus that typically goes unnoticed and unused,” Principal and Interim President Coleen Martin said. “The garden will be a wonderful space for our SPSV community to gather while surrounded by the beauty of God’s gifts.”

The school community is enthusiastic about this exciting program and the connected projects, raising additional funds to build more reinforced and secured seating terraces in the community gathering space. St. Patrick – St. Vincent Catholic High School in partnership with Sustainable Solano will have an opening ceremony in fall 2019.

*This demonstration food forest project is supported by a grant from the Solano County Water Agency. The pilot curriculum program and cob bench construction are supported by an ED Plus grant from the Solano Community Foundation.*

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### **About Sustainable Solano**

Sustainable Solano is a countywide nonprofit organization that is dedicated to “Nurturing Initiatives for the Good of the Whole.” The organization, now in its 20th year, brings together programs that support and sustain one another and the Solano County community. Initiatives include sustainable landscaping, local food, resilient neighborhoods, sustaining conversations and community gardens.

For more information about Sustainable Solano, email [info@sustainablesolano.org](mailto:info@sustainablesolano.org) or visit [sustainablesolano.org](http://sustainablesolano.org)

### **About St. Patrick-St. Vincent School**

St. Patrick – St. Vincent Catholic High School is the only diocesan Catholic college preparatory high school in Solano County with a century-long tradition of education that supports the success of 465 students every school year.

For more information about St. Patrick – St. Vincent Catholic High School, please visit our website at [spsv.org](http://spsv.org).