

**CHRIST-CENTERED
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW
MISSIONS MINDED**



**DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF
THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY
THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND.**

2019-2020 Spiritual Development Theme Verse



**ACADEMICALLY
DRIVEN
BUILDING FAMILY**

**DEVELOPING
GIFTS, TALENTS**



Dear ACS Families, Friends, and Supporters:

We began the 2019-2020 school year with excited optimism and a Spiritual Development Theme about “transformation” based on Romans 12:2 – “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” In Bible classes, chapel programs, and small group studies we learned that for a Christian to be transformed it meant we needed to approach life’s daily challenges by thinking Biblically and then acting differently. When we gathered for our September Back-to-School BBQ and popular February Bowls of Hope Soup Cook-Off, we never imagined the challenges that would come our way in March with the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. Our school campus was closed, our teaching methods were transformed to remote online instruction, and our students’ homes became their classrooms. More than ever before, we understood our urgent need to seek wisdom from God and rely on the truth in His Word to determine how to act and react.

We were thrilled to be able to finish the school year strong and hold an outdoor Commencement Ceremony in July for the Class of 2020 and a Blessing Ceremony for the 8th grade class. As Valedictorian Ashleigh Martin delivered her Commencement speech, I was encouraged to hear how our school’s spiritual theme had become real for her and her classmates during the pandemic. She noted that “in all this fear and despair, we learned we have a God who carries us through. We learned to trust in what God would do; we learned to persevere and finish the year strong.” The Bible passage in Proverbs 3:5-6 that our students learn and memorize had become a strong anchor – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”

God has blessed ACS with an extraordinary team of teachers and support staff who gave 110% to ensure that our students stayed on track academically, socially, and spiritually. God has truly been faithful to ACS and the stories and photos in this Annual Report testify to that. We are now looking forward to celebrating our 50th year in Christian education and remain firmly committed to training our students with a Biblical worldview so they can reach their God-given potential and be equipped to be servant-leaders and impact the world for Jesus Christ.

We urgently need your prayers and financial support as we move forward with faith to open this fall with 5-day-per-week, in-person instruction and a new Remote-Only option. Your gifts this year will support training and technology upgrades and equipment and staffing necessary to provide a safe and healthy on-campus learning environment. Thank you for being a part of the ACS Family. Your gifts and support will make a difference in the lives of our students.

Karen M. Oblen, M.Ed.
Chief School Administrator

ADMISSIONS

Enrollment Snapshot

With 515 students enrolled, ACS reached its highest enrollment in school history. Niche, the leading national online review site for schools, gave ACS a 2020 Best Schools ranking, with high marks for economic and racial diversity. Thirty-six percent of the student body represented ethnic minorities and 15 international students were enrolled from Belgium, China, South Korea, and Taiwan. Students and their families worshipped at over 100 different churches, celebrated at our February 12 Pastor Appreciation Day. Enrollment in our Early Education Center continued to grow, with evening operating hours offered to meet the needs of working parents. We also continued to experience growth in our Summer Cougar Camp and Early Education Summer Program.



Class of 2020

The Class of 2020 had 20 students, including 5 international students. Nearly all of the seniors are moving on to college and collectively were offered over \$1.2 million in scholarships at such institutions as Anderson University, Cairn University, Eastern University, Johnson & Wales University, Pennsylvania State University, Pratt MWP College of Art & Design, Stockton

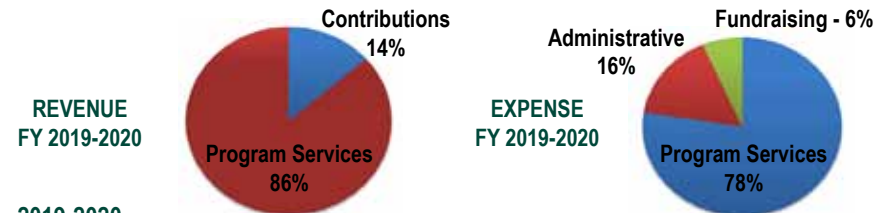


University, and Thomas Jefferson University. Senior Ben Noble committed to play Men's Soccer at Cairn University and Ashleigh Martin was 1 of 25 South Jersey seniors to receive the "Press of Atlantic City Young Leaders Award" in May.

FINANCIAL

- **Tuition Rates and Fees:** In FY 19-20, K-12 tuition rates remained at the 18-19 level and the tuition increased by \$200 for the Early Education program. For FY 20-21, the Board of Directors approved a 3.25% tuition rate increase for K-12, and increases in PK1-PK4 rates.
- **Tuition Assistance Grants:** A needs-based Tuition Assistance Grant Program, funded by donations, continued for its third year and awarded \$159,000 in assistance to 86 students from 70 new and returning families. The program is being offered in FY 20-21.
- **Personnel:** ACS added 8 new highly qualified Christian faculty and staff, including one alumnus, Ben Chapman ('13), and one former student, Rhapsody Hahn-Chaney. Salaries of full-time faculty and staff increased in FY 19-20 and will rise again in FY 20-21.
- **Audit:** An audit of the school's financial records for FY 18-19 was conducted by Clayton Simpson, CPA. The auditor's opinion stated that the financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the school's financial position as of June 30, 2019, and the changes in net assets for the year ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.
- **COVID-19 Assistance:** ACS received a Paycheck Protection Program loan from the Small Business Administration, which provided important financial stability, and also received \$55,000 in grant funds to purchase technology and equipment and supplies for enhanced cleaning and sanitizing measures.
- **Income Highlights:** Tuition and fees represented 86% of the school's 2019-2020 operating budget income. ACS was blessed with additional income of \$457,170 due to support from local churches, designated and undesignated gifts to the Annual Fund, gifts in lieu of the Legacy Gala that was cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak, and several fund-raising events, including the Race for Education and Bowls of Hope Soup Cook-Off.

2019-2020 Budget Snapshot (as of 6/30/20)



2019-2020

2019/2020	Operating Budget	\$ 3,198,683.56
2019/2020	Operating Income (actual)	\$ 3,027,467.56 (as of 6/30/20)
2019/2020	Operating Expense (actual)	\$ 3,139,716.69 (as of 6/30/20)
2019/2020	Additional Expenses	
	Principal Mortgage Payments	\$ 43,565.13
	NJ South Jersey Gas Loan Payments	\$ 9,991.40

2020-2021

2020/2021	Board-Approved Budget	\$ 3,333,576
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EDUCATION

Striving for Excellence



Early Education Center: Our award-winning Center for children from 6 months to PreK4 continued to grow in enrollment. Dr. Seuss Day, Teddy Bear Pajama Day, and Fire Prevention Week were among the activities that helped make learning fun.

Assessment: Implemented a new NWEA MapGrowth Assessment tool for K-8 students, replacing the TerraNova as a standardized test. Two of three testing periods planned were administered on computers and Chromebooks in October and January.

Honor Society: Inducted 17 members in separate ceremonies -- seven 10th-12th graders into the National Honor Society on

October 24 and ten 7th-9th graders into the National Junior Honor Society on Nov. 14.

Remote Learning: From March 17 to the end of the school year, K-12 teachers and students successfully transitioned to online learning in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Weekly chapels, the spring concert, and athletic and academic awards events were held virtually online. Creative online classroom activities included Grammy-Award winning recording artist Mandisa doing a Zoom interview with the 5th grade classes on being an overcomer.

Science Fair: Middle School students conducted experiments and competed for awards at our new Science Fair on March 6.



Special Achievement



Two videos promoting ways to be healthy during the winter months created by Mrs. Kiefer's and Mr. Miller's 5th grade students and Mrs. McCarthy's 2nd grade students tied for the Grand Prize in an AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children video.



6th grader Paityn Kates won second place in a Veterans Day essay contest sponsored by the Egg Harbor Township Veterans Advisory Board.



Students in the 1st-8th grades competed in classroom and school-wide spelling bees on Feb. 21. 4th grader Leila Alobeidy won the bee after 60 rounds and 8th grader Ryleigh Martin placed second. The SJ Regional Spelling Bee was cancelled due to the coronavirus. Senior Mark Rosie took 1st place in a new Bowls of Hope Student Video Contest.



EDUCATION

Enhanced Learning Opportunities

Chromebooks: Gifts and grants enabled the purchase of 100 additional Chromebooks, including classroom sets for middle school and elementary, and upgrades to the Wi-Fi System.

Dual Enrollment: Received approval for 2 additional dual-credit courses at Atlantic Cape Community College for fall 2020 -- statistics and psychology -- bringing the total dual-enrollment high school courses offered to 7.

High School Concentrations: Created new concentrations of Business, Education, Health and Medicine, and Ministry. Adding Technology concentration in fall 2020.



Library: Librarian Rhapsody Hahn-Chaney launched a new online catalog of the over 10,000 books in the library, enabling students to research, reserve, and check out books. The Scholastic Book Fair in November raised

a record \$7,300 to benefit the school library.

After-School Program: For the fifth consecutive year, ACS offered fee-based after-school classes, including art, basketball, gymnastics, intramural cheerleading, karate, soccer, model railroading, sign language, and Snapology LEGO.



Move It Mondays: Launched a new monthly morning healthy work-out session in November, led by staff member Jessica Martin, to get K-5 students moving and help stimulate their minds for increased learning.

Educational Services: K-12 students classified with special needs were provided assistance from Monmouth-Ocean County Educational Services and from Resource Room Specialist Kelly Schlundt. An Enrichment Program for high achieving 4th-5th grade students was also offered.

Fine Arts



Students developed their God-given gifts in art, drama, and music through a multi-faceted fine arts program. In November, 42 students from elementary to high school presented the musical "Annie, Jr.," with 4th grader Vanessa Rallo playing Annie. Christmas concerts and a virtual Spring Concert highlighted students' choral and instrumental abilities. Students created designs in Mrs. Mirakian's art classes for the school's annual Christmas card and 11th grader Katherine Kong took 1st place. The "Take Note" vocal ensemble performed at the annual service of the historic Head of the River Church in Estell Manor.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Community Outreach

ACS held a series of annual events to thank and recognize our students' grandparents, veterans, pastors, and teachers. ACS also continued to make its facilities available to community organizations including the American Red Cross, Atlantic Huaxia Chinese School, Boy Scouts of America, Global Premier Soccer, NJ Baseball, Prestige Soccer Training, Shoreline Model Railroad Club, and Triple Crown Baseball. The 7th annual Legacy Gala planned for May 1 at the Ocean City Tabernacle, with Christian recording artist Mandisa as the featured speaker, was cancelled due to the outbreak of the coronavirus.



Race for Education

Our 17th annual Race for Education on Oct. 25 was a huge success, raising nearly \$36,000 and exceeding our goal by over \$9,000. Over 350 PreK3-8th grade students walked and ran around our track, cheered on by family and friends. A new, challenging obstacle course was added to the Race for our 6th-8th grade students. Records were set for sponsors, with five Event Sponsors -- Chick-fil-A, Bill and Cris Clark, the Macbrair and Vanaman Families, the Miller Family, and J. Wilhelm Roofing Co. -- and 25 individuals and businesses donating to be Classroom Sponsors.



Bowls of Hope

Twenty chefs and restaurants participated in our popular 7th Bowls of Hope Soup Cook-Off Benefit on Feb. 1. Over 450 people sampled delicious soups and voted for their favorite while 16 student groups performed on stage. Gregory's in Somers Point won the "Golden Spoon Award"



for the second year in a row. A check for \$1,760 was given from the proceeds of the Cook-Off to support the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. ACS Student Council members also led a school-wide canned food drive in conjunction with the Cook-Off that collected a record 1,021 pounds of canned goods that were donated to the Community FoodBank of NJ on Feb. 6.

FACILITIES

Individuals, churches, organizations, and foundations blessed ACS with over \$165,000 in donations and grants that enabled significant facility enhancements and security upgrades.



New school office entrance with locking front doors



New, more secure school office waiting area



Security ballistic film installed on first floor classrooms and office windows, funded by a School Shield Program grant from the NRA Foundation.



Green security fencing erected around outdoor play areas



New artificial turf Varsity Soccer field



Outdoor basketball court -- A gift from the Vogel family in memory of Robert and Ruth Vogel, with additional gifts and services donated by alumni parent Dave Scheidegg of SNS Engineering, Ralph Clayton, parents Doug Pearson and Scott Shivers, Landon Shivers, and grandparents Bill and Ida Winkel, Sr.



New indoor and outdoor Early Education playgrounds



STUDENT LIFE

Spiritual Development



Fall Retreats: Middle school and high school students were challenged to apply God's Word to their lives and to follow Christ and not the crowd at separate Spiritual Emphasis Retreats at America's Keswick. Travis and Allegra Lee of the Travis Lee Band sang and led devotions at the Sept. 16-17 high school retreat and ACS parent Michael Melody spoke at the Oct. 10 middle school retreat. Team-building retreat highlights included an Amazing Race game, an obstacle challenge course, canoeing, nerf archery tag, and more.



Weekly Chapel: The 2019-2020 school theme, "Be Transformed," was incorporated in weekly chapel programs, as students heard from Eagles chaplain Ted Winsley, Christian country recording artist Daryl Boyer, Pastor Urick Lewis of Fresh Start Church (right), and other speakers about how to think Biblically and act differently. COMPASS break-out groups for 6th-12th grade students met for deeper discussion. Students and teachers also led chapel periodically, including the Christmas chapel. After the COVID-19 outbreak, chapel was aired on the ACS YouTube channel.



Worship Teams: Thirty-two students learned about serving God by leading worship at weekly chapel and special school events. Middle School and High School Worship Teams were offered as elective classes. The 5th grade Worship Team continued leading worship for PreK-K and Elementary chapels.



Time for Prayer: Each school day opened with school-wide prayer led over the intercom by students or staff. Students also shared prayer requests and led prayer during daily classroom morning devotions. The school family participated in special events focusing on prayer, including "See You at the Pole" in September. The "Parents in Prayer" group continued to meet Tuesday mornings and a new monthly morning prayer meeting for parents, staff, and students was launched in January that met before the start of school.



STUDENT LIFE

Missions, Leadership, and Service



Missions Trips: Thank you to the many family members, friends, and churches who donated nearly \$50,000 for fifty-one 6th-12th grade students and 14 chaperones to serve on missions trips planned for spring break to the Bahamas, Panama, the Carolinas, and Coatesville, PA. A car wash, jewelry sales, and other fundraisers were held. Due to COVID-19, all trips were rescheduled to April 2021.

Leadership Development: Students had the opportunity to hone their leadership skills at conferences sponsored by the Association of Christian Schools International. Eighteen students attended the October 30 middle school conference in Philadelphia and 12 high school students attended the November 24-26 conference in Washington, DC. A 28-member Student Council led a number of service projects including the Bowls of Hope canned food drive and a February 12 American Red Cross blood drive.



COVID-19 Response: Students, staff, and parents donated meals this spring to bless area health care professionals serving on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Service-Minded

Students from kindergarten to the 12th grade carried out a variety of service projects to bless our veterans, seniors living in nursing homes, mail carriers, local churches and pastors, and organizations serving needy children abroad, the homeless, and children with medical needs.



Miss Williams' 2nd grade class filled shoe boxes with supplies for Operation Christmas Child.



Mrs. Parker's 7th graders created a craft for Valentine's Day gift bags for children staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Camden.

Kindergarten students made hot chocolate-themed thank-you gifts to give to their mail carriers at Christmas.



The 2nd-5th grade students in the after-school Servant's Heart Club spread some Christmas cheer caroling for seniors at Somers Place Assisted Living.

ATHLETICS

High School



We're #1: Our Varsity Girls' Soccer team and Varsity Boys' Basketball team were undefeated and became the Tri-State Christian Athletic Conference Champions.



Coach's Award:

Varsity Girls' Soccer head coach and ACS alumnus Carly Harper Witherow ('08), at right, was named TSCAC Coach of the Year. Under Coach Witherow, the team has won four consecutive TSCAC championships.



National Competition: The Varsity Boys' Basketball team advanced to win its division at the National Christian School Athletic Association's national tournament in Ohio.



Excellence: The Varsity Girls' Basketball team was undefeated and finished in 1st place in the regular season, but lost in the TSCAC Championship Game.



Moving Up: The Varsity Boys' Soccer team had its best season since 2013, with an 11-1-8 record, and played in the TSCAC tournament consolation game.

Hall of Fame:

Junior Chloe Vogel (top left) was named TSCAC Varsity Girls' Soccer MVP and junior Sydney Pearson (top right), was named TSCAC Varsity Girls' Basketball MVP. Junior Cristen Winkel was selected tournament MVP at the Delco Basketball Tournament in Pennsylvania, where the Varsity Girls took first place for the first time in school history. Significant career milestones were reached by senior Dan Roland and junior Landon Shivers, who each pulled down 500 rebounds, and senior Ben Noble who scored 1,000 points (bottom). Pearson and Noble received the Billy Robinson Award and seniors Emily Kelley and Roland received the annual Cougar Award.



ATHLETICS

Middle School



Soccer Success: The Boys' Middle School Soccer team, led by coach George Dickson, and the Girls' MS team, under coach Casey Hopwood, both had winning seasons in the Atlantic Cape Junior High League.



Memorable Basketball Season: Both the Middle School Girls' and Boys' Basketball teams kicked off the season strong by winning first place in the Pilgrim Academy Tournament. Ethan Haynes and Evangelina Kim were named tournament MVPs, joined by five other players who were named to the All Tournament teams -- Jayden Dixon, Jackson Gayeski, Noah Gibbs, Kendall Murphy, and Kayaha Smalls. The Middle School Girls, under coach and ACS alumnus Grant Miller ('07), took first place in the Atlantic Cape Junior High League, and the Middle School Boys, under coach Lee Martin, finished in second place.



We Have Spirit:

A Middle/High School Cheer squad, an intramural cheer team, pep rallies, and Green-and-White Days promoted school spirit.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2019-2020 DONORS

Annual Fund Gifts, Grants, and Gifts of Equipment and Services Valued \$150+

7 Mile Island Cleaning
 Russell & Dorothy Adams
 Adams-Perfect Funeral Homes
 Dr. Salaam & Lauren Alobeidy
 AmazonSmile Foundation
 American Church Group of NJ
 Luella Andrews
 Atlantic Masonry Supply
 AtlantiCare Foundation
 B.F. Mazzeo Fruits and Produce
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 Fusion Church
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Pastor Dave & Robin Genter
 James & Erin Gibbs
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 Lee and Elaine Goldberg
 Jay Goldberg
 Verna Goss
 Greate Bay Racquet & Fitness
 Gregory's Bar & Restaurant
 Warren & Elaine Green
 Greentree Church
 Guthrie Glass & Mirror
 Hammonont Baptist Church
 Michael & Theresa Hanrahan
 James & Marlene Hardock
 Head of the River Methodist Church
 Herr Foods
 Pamela Horton
 HS Restoration, Joe Raine
 Inspire Brands, Buffalo Wild Wings
 Richard & Julianne Jackson
 Suzanne Jennings
 JRC Plumbing & Heating
 Mike Jorgenson, Scoutmaster,
 ACS Boy Scout Troop 389
 Peter & Carole Karabashian
 Phil Kates
 Jason & Bethany Kiefer
 Steven & Lorrie Kiefer
 Katelin Klingert
 Klingert Chiropractic Wellness

Klingert Family Chiropractic
 Albert & Beatrice Kuntz
 John & Shirley Landgraf
 Lands' End
 Licensee Services
 Lifetouch National School Studios
 Bill Link, Truth That Rocks,
 WXGN 90.5 FM
 Linwood Community Church
 Craig Lockerd
 Christian & Lisa Loeb
 Dan & Avril Losacco
 Joseph & Gina Lushina
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 Westside Meats
 J. Wilhelm Roofing Company
 Joseph & Linda Willshire
 William & Ida Winkel
 Alexander & Christine Witherow

(Donations Made From 7/1/19-
 6/30/20)



A new Elkay water bottle filling station was installed on the second floor in January for use by Upper School students and staff, a gift from ACS parents Dr. Salaam and Lauren Alobeidy and plumbing services donated by ACS parent Phil Kates.



Dining out for Spirit Days at Buffalo Wild Wings in Mays Landing helped raise funds for our athletic teams and programs.



An AtlantiCare Foundation grant provided funds for new plastic sheeting for our greenhouse roof, installed by Scoutmaster Mike Jorgenson of ACS Boy Scout Troop 389. New PE and recess equipment was also purchased with the grant.