

**CHRIST-CENTERED
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW
MISSIONS MINDED**



BE ON YOUR GUARD, STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH, BE COURAGEOUS, BE STRONG.

1 Corinthians 16:13

2020-2021 Spiritual Development Theme Verse



**ACADEMICALLY
DRIVEN**



**BUILDING FAMILY
DEVELOPING
GIFTS, TALENTS**



Dear ACS Families, Friends, and Supporters:

The 2020-2021 school year marked our 50th year in Christian education – an amazing milestone and a year we will never forget. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges and uncertainty, but we stepped out in faith and opened in September with full in-person instruction for five days a week. Each day we relied on God in prayer to lead and guide us and to provide for our needs -- and God was faithful. Like the Israelites walking across the Red Sea, we kept moving forward, following God's direction and He made a way.

Our Spiritual Development Theme verse from I Corinthians 16:13 spoke clearly of the focus required for this school year – “Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong.” In Bible classes, chapel programs, and small group studies we learned that in the midst of uncertainty we can stand strong, without fear, because God is our rock and our fortress. Salutatorian Kami DeNick touched on this theme in her Commencement address, quoting from Deuteronomy 31:8, one of the many Bible verses that our students are taught and commit to memory. The verse in Deuteronomy says: “It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

We praise God that our doors remained open the entire school year and that our enrollment has continued to grow as more parents see the importance of training up their children in the knowledge of God's truth. The 50-year legacy of Atlantic Christian School is its unwavering commitment to providing an education that is Christ-centered, academically excellent, missions-minded, and grounded in God's Word and a Biblical worldview. We are thankful that over 12,000 students have been impacted by ACS over the past five decades, many of whom have gone on to serve in ministry as pastors, youth ministers, worship leaders, missionaries, teachers, counselors, and more.

The stories and photos in this Annual Report are a testimony to God's faithfulness. As we look ahead, we know that God will continue to sustain and grow this ministry. With your prayers and continued financial support, we can continue to be a beacon of light in our community. We are excited about opening new classrooms this fall as more families choose Atlantic Christian for their children's education. Please consider making a gift that will help underwrite the expenses of this important expansion.

Thank you for being a part of the ACS Family. Your gifts and support will make a difference in the lives of our students as we nurture and equip them to servant-leaders and to impact the world for Jesus Christ.

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



ADMISSIONS

Enrollment Snapshot

With 567 students enrolled, ACS reached its highest enrollment in its 50-year history. Niche, the leading national online review site for schools, gave ACS a 2021 Best Schools ranking, with high marks for economic and racial diversity, and an overall A- rating. Thirty-one percent of the student body represented ethnic minorities and 8 international students were enrolled from China, France, and South Korea. Students and their families worshipped at over 100 churches, with area pastors involved as chapel speakers and athletic coaches. Enrollment in our Early Education Center for children from ages 6 months to 4 years old continued to grow. We also offered our summer Cougar Camp and the Early Ed summer program, with a shortened season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Class of 2021

The Class of 2021 had 18 students, including 4 international students. Sixteen students are moving on to college in the fall and two will be serving in the U.S. military. Collectively, the students were offered just over \$1 million in scholarships and are attending various colleges, including Atlantic Cape Community College, Liberty University, Penn State, Stockton University, The School of Visual

Arts, and Virginia Tech. Senior class president Sydney Pearson was 1 of 25 South Jersey seniors to receive the "Press of Atlantic City Young Leaders Award" in June. She was also chosen to receive Widener University's High School Leadership Award. Malachi Brown, point guard on the Varsity Boys' Basketball Team, signed a Letter of Intent in June to play basketball at Middlesex College.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Success in Facing Unprecedented Challenges

We thank God for providing for ACS every step of the way throughout the school year. To open in September 2020, many health and safety items needed to be purchased, such as barriers for every desk and on lunchroom tables, temperature checkpoints, and sanitation stations. With funding and grants, we were able to obtain what was needed in a timely manner.

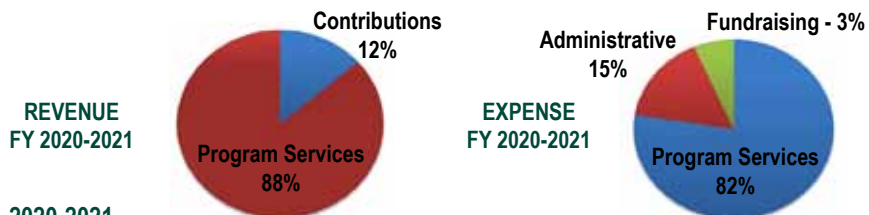
- **Open Throughout School Year:** School opened on September 8, 2020 with full in-person instruction five days a week and remained open until the last day of school on June 11, 2021 without closing. Wednesdays were half days, providing time for enhanced cleaning and sanitizing.
- **New Remote-Only Option:** Families with students in Grades 4-12 were offered a new, Remote-Only option, which was used by 17 students on a regular basis and up to 100 who needed to quarantine at various times due to vacations or exposure.
- **Paycheck Protection Program Loan:** A second Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loan was received from the Small Business Administration that provided continued financial stability.
- **Livestreaming:** Additional technology equipment was purchased and internet access was expanded to enable weekly chapels, special events, concerts, and home basketball games to be livestreamed via the ACS YouTube channel.



FINANCIAL

- **Tuition Rates and Fees:** In FY 20-21, tuition rates increased 3.25% for K-12, by \$20 per week for PreK 3 & 4, and by \$1,000 for PreK 1 & 2. For FY 21-22, the Board of Directors approved a \$500 tuition increase for PreK, a \$192 increase for K-5th grade, a \$210 increase for 6th-8th grades, and a \$223 increase for 9th-12th grades.
- **Tuition Assistance Grants:** Our needs-based Tuition Assistance Grant Program, funded by donations, continued for its fourth year and awarded \$241,892 in assistance to 141 students from 32 new and 109 returning families. The program is being offered in FY 21-22.
- **Solar Panel System Paid Off:** Our \$1.5 million solar panel system installed in 2011 on the roof of the main school building was paid off and will continue to generate revenue for at least the next five years.
- **Personnel:** Ten new highly qualified Christian faculty and staff were hired, including our first-ever certified School Guidance Counselor, Christina Ragland. Salaries of full-time faculty and staff increased by 2% and will rise again in FY 21-22.
- **Audit:** An audit of the school's financial records for FY 19-20 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, 2020, and the changes in net assets for the year ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.
- **Income Highlights:** Tuition and fees represented 88% of the school's 2020-2021 operating budget income. ACS was blessed with additional income of \$536,909.58 due to support from local churches, designated and undesignated gifts to the Annual Fund, and several fund-raising events, including the Race for Education and the Cougar Classic Golf Tournament. Every fundraiser exceeded its budget goal.

2020-2021 Budget Snapshot (as of 6/30/21)



2020-2021

2020/2021	Operating Budget	\$ 3,423,437.88
2020/2021	Operating Income (actual)	\$ 4,514,674.04 (as of 6/30/21)
2020/2021	Operating Expense (actual)	\$ 3,496,249.70 (as of 6/30/21)
2020/2021	Additional Expenses	
	Principal Mortgage Payments	\$ 42,689.82
	NJ South Jersey Gas Loan Payments	\$ 16,159.90

2021-2022

2021/2022	Board-Approved Budget	\$ 3,689,769.98
-----------	-----------------------	-----------------

FACILITIES

Individuals, churches, organizations, and foundations blessed ACS with over half a million dollars in donations and grants that enabled significant facility enhancements and security upgrades.

New security fencing enclosed the outdoor basketball court and school greenhouse.



Construction got underway to renovate and equip nine modular classrooms with new flooring, HVAC systems, windows, bathrooms, security cameras, SMART Boards, internet, intercom, and more to be ready to open in fall 2021.



A new PA system, funded by \$16,000 in grants, replaced an antiquated system and added communication to modular classrooms adjacent to the main school building.



Three new cafeteria tables were donated by the PTF and staff member Sandra O'Brien for use in the Multi-Purpose Room.



Infield dirt was added to the Varsity Girls' Softball field and Middle School Boys' Baseball field, thanks to donations from the PTF and ACS parents Charlie and Amanda Costello.



A Buddy Bench was installed in the elementary playground, made out of plastic bottle caps that students collected for a service project in spring 2019.

EDUCATION

Striving for Excellence



Prevention Week were among the activities that helped make learning fun.

Assessment: For the second year, ACS used the NWEA MapGrowth Assessment tool for K-8 students, which replaced the TerraNova as a standardized test. Three testing periods were administered on computers and Chromebooks in October, January, and May.

Early Education Center: Our award-winning Center for children from 6 months to PreK4 continued to grow in enrollment and in April 2021 received a 3-year renewal of its state-issued Child Care Center license. Dr. Seuss Day, Teddy Bear Pajama Day, and Fire

Honor Society: Inducted 17 members in separate ceremonies -- twelve 7th-9th graders into the National Junior Honor Society and five 10th-12th graders into the National Honor Society -- chosen for outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, and Christian character.



Fine Arts

Students developed their God-given gifts in art, drama, and music through a multi-faceted fine arts program. Christmas and spring concerts highlighted students' choral, instrumental, and dramatic abilities. Students received recognition in several art and design competitions.



Artwork created by high schoolers Kami DeNick, Katherine Kong, and Amber Ramos was selected to be part of the 2021 NJ State Teen Arts Festival.



11th grader Amber Ramos designed a poster in computer class that was selected as the Southern Region Winner in the Teens4Teens Mental Health PSA Contest.

12th grader Katherine Kong won 1st place in the ACS Christmas Card Design Contest.



8th grader Makayla Tomlinson won 1st place in a new ACS Pastor Appreciation Thank-You Card Design Contest.



EDUCATION

Enhanced Learning Opportunities

Technology Integration: Some \$24,000 in grant funding was used to purchase laptops for every teacher, webcams in every classroom, Google Management systems, and additional Chromebooks.

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.

Dual Enrollment: Offered 7 dual credit courses through Atlantic Cape Community College: Algebra 2, Biology 2, U.S. History 2, Pre-Calculus, Spanish 3, Statistics, and Psychology -- totaling 26 college credits that a student could earn during high school.



After-School Program: For the sixth consecutive year, ACS offered fee-based after-school classes, including art, baseball, basketball, flag football, gymnastics, intramural cheerleading, karate, origami, photo editing, soccer, sign language, and video production.

High School Concentrations: Continued offering Business, Education, Health and Medicine, and Biblical Leadership, and added a Technology concentration.

Special Achievement



1st-8th grade students competed in classroom bees, with winners advancing to the school-wide spelling bee on January 27. 7th grader Gabriella Goodwin won the bee after correctly spelling the 232nd word -- gooeey. She then competed in the online South Jersey regional bee.



8th grader Taylor Sutton and 6th grader Kalee Tardif won 2nd and 3rd place in a PSA Graphic Arts Contest about the dangers of underage drinking, sponsored by Join Together Atlantic County.



Original stories and poems written by 8th grade students were selected in contests for publication by Young Writers USA.



5th grader Malena Meyer was selected as a 2021 Carson Scholar and received a \$1,000 scholarship for college.

Katherine Kong (12th), Gaebriel Hahn-Chaney (4th), and Caedyn Hahn-Chaney (6th) were the top three winners in our Bowls of Hope Student Video Contest.



STUDENT LIFE

Spiritual Development



Worship Teams: Student participation grew to its highest ever and a new 4th grade worship team was formed. Fifty-three students led worship at weekly chapels -- 8 on a 5th grade team, 28 on Middle School and High School teams, and 17 on the 4th grade team.



Fall Retreats: Middle school and high school students were challenged to grow spiritually at separate one-day retreats at ACS. The high school retreat featured six speakers, including Crossroads Fellowship Pastor Matt Moulert. Middle School students participated in a virtual ACSI workshop focused on how to use their God-given gifts and strengths to develop leadership skills for life.

Missions Trips: No middle school or high school missions trips could be held this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but trips are expected to resume in spring 2022.

A Giveback Spirit: In December, a new all-school Giving Tree Christmas service project raised nearly \$4,600 for some two dozen local and international charities, as a way to give back to support organizations struggling due to COVID-19. Charities supported included the American Red Cross, the Atlantic City Rescue Mission, the Cape May Zoo, and Scullville Volunteer Fire Company. Each class decorated a Christmas tree to match their charity's theme and reached out to family and friends to support their chosen charity.



Weekly Chapel: The 2020-2021 school theme, "Be on Your Guard - Stand Firm," was incorporated into weekly chapel programs. COMPASS break-out groups for 6th-12th grade students met for deeper discussion. Students and teachers also led chapel periodically, including the Christmas and Easter chapels. Chapel was also aired for the first time on the ACS YouTube channel to reach students on remote-learning.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS & SERVICE

Community Outreach



Annual chapel programs to thank and recognize veterans, pastors, and students' grandparents, were not held as in-person events due to COVID-19, but the programs were livestreamed over the ACS YouTube channel and students created personalized cards and craft projects that were mailed. ACS also continued to make its facilities available to community organizations, including the Academy of Basketball, the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, Jehovah Jireh Basketball, NJ Baseball, Prestige Soccer, and South Jersey Lady Starz.

Race for Education

Our 18th annual Race for Education on November 3 was a huge success, raising \$40,000, with a record 10 Event Sponsors and 37 Classroom Sponsors. Nearly 500 PreK3-12th grade students walked and ran around our track to raise funds for the ACS Annual Fund.



Bowls of Hope

Our popular winter Bowls of Hope Soup Fundraiser was not held as an in-person soup cook-off. Instead, ACS sold Super Soup Coupon

Cards that gave purchasers a free soup, with a minimum purchase, at 15 local restaurants. ACS netted \$9,336 from this fundraiser and \$1,870 of the proceeds went to support the Community FoodBank of NJ, Southern Branch. The Student Council also led a school-wide canned food drive and record donations from school families totaled over two tons (4,655 pounds) of food, which was donated to the FoodBank.



Cougar Classic Golf Tournament

ACS welcomed 125 golfers from the school family, local churches, and the business community to our Cougar Classic Golf Tournament on May 13 at Greate Bay Country Club, the largest-ever ACS Golf event. The Tournament, followed by an Awards Dinner and Silent Auction, raised nearly \$61,000 for ACS educational programs and student scholarships.



ATHLETICS

High School



We're #1: Our Varsity Girls' Soccer Team won its 5th consecutive Tri-State Christian Athletic Conference (TSCAC) championship and had another undefeated season. The Varsity Boys' Team had its best season since 2012, under new head coach Andres Tortola, tying for 1st in the regular season and finishing in 3rd place after winning the playoff consolation game.



Hall of Fame: Two Varsity Girls' basketball players reached significant milestones during the season -- forward Sydney Pearson (left) scored 1,000 points and forward Olivia Chapman (right) pulled down 500 rebounds.

TSCAC Awards: Varsity Girls' Soccer head coach Carly Harper Witherow ('08), top right, was named TSCAC Girls' Soccer Coach of the Year and senior Chloe Vogel was named TSCAC Girls' Soccer MVP. Both received their honors for the 2nd consecutive year. Senior Shelby Einwechter won 1st place in the annual TSCAC Golf Tournament.



Dual Champions: The Varsity Girls' and Boys' Basketball Teams both won the TSCAC championship title. Senior Cristen Winkel was named TSCAC Girls' MVP.



Excellence: The Varsity Boys' Baseball Team and the Varsity Girls' Softball Team both advanced to the TSCAC Championship games, but lost hard-fought battles to finish the season in 2nd place.



ATHLETICS

Middle School & High School



Winning Seasons: Both the Middle School Girls' and Boys' Basketball Teams kicked off their seasons strong by winning first place in the Pilgrim Academy Tournament and had winning seasons, although COVID-19 disrupted conference play in the Atlantic Cape Junior High League.



We Have Spirit: A 24-member Middle School/High School Cheer Squad, and an intramural cheer team promoted school spirit during the basketball season. The Upper School squad also did two service projects, including cheering at Fresh Start's "Night to Shine." Pep rallies and Green-and-White Days promoted school spirit.



Athletic Support: Enthusiastic support from athletes, their families, alumni, alumni parents, and friends, who purchased food at concessions at home games and turned out for our first Spirit Day in May at the Texas Roadhouse Restaurant in Egg Harbor Township, raised over \$7,000 for ACS Athletics.



Track Meet Success: The High School Boys' and Girls' teams and the Middle School Boys' and Girls' teams all finished in 1st place with the highest number of points earned among the teams from six other regional Christian schools who participated. Sixty ACS athletes competed in the meet, with ACS receiving 34 1st place medals.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2020-2021 DONORS

Annual Fund Gifts, Grants, and Gifts of Equipment and Services Valued \$200+

7 Mile Island Cleaning	CKJR LLC	George H. Wimberg Funeral	Law Offices of Raymond N.	Cody & Ceira Panetta	Tee-Off for Veterans Corp.
Aaron Bada's Golf & Sports	William & Christine Clark	James & Erin Gibbs	Beebe	Evan & Amy Parker	Texas Roadhouse
Performance Club	Ralph & Dolores Clayton	Home	Craig Lewis	Philip D. Pattison, Jr. Contractor	William Thome
Abundant Life Church	Clayton's Self Storage	Glenn Insurance	Lexus of Atlantic City	Roger & Iva Pedersen	Trans 48 LLC
Action Uniform	Comfort Now by Bob McAllister	Lee and Elaine Goldberg	Liberty Coca-Cola	Eleanor Pepper	Mario & Melissa Tridente
AC Photo, Gail Crafton	Kevin & Lisa Connolly	Goodeal Discount Transmissions	Lifetouch National School	Merion E. Perfect	Twisted Dune Golf Club
Russell & Dorothy Adams	Kemp & Rita Cook	Dr. Ronald Gove	Studios	John & Heather Peterson	U.S. Realty
Adams-Perfect Funeral Homes	Damien & Brittany Correa	Greate Bay Country Club	Linwood Community Church	Lawrence A. Pray, Inc.	Matthew & Jeanne Van Sant
John C. Allen Charitable Trust	Joseph & Tara Costantini	Andrew Gregas	Long & Associates	Charles & Kathy Previti	Vega's Transportation
AmazonSmile Foundation	Charlie & Amanda Costello	Greentree Church	Joseph & Gina Lushina	Hayley Price	Viking Yacht Company
AM Technical Solutions	C. Costello Roof and Solar	Gregory's Restaurant & Bar	Rudy & Angela Lushina	William & Melissa Reed	Paul & Terry Vogel
American Church Group of NJ	Costello Home Construction	Gary & Sharon Griffith	M&L Electric	Jeff & Diana Reilly	James & Renea Walder
American Sleep & Pulmonary	Cumberland Christian School	Hammonton Baptist Church	Darryl & Mary Mack	Edward & Kathy Reinheimer	David & Norma Wallace
Medicine	Hawthorne Davis	Frank & Kerry Hannum	Andrew & Connie MacPherson	Stephen & Alisun Klingert	Jonathan F. Wallace, Jr.
Carl & Joan Anderson	Beth DeForest	Michael & Theresa Hanrahan	Robert & Cynthia MacPherson	Richards	William & Ida Winkel
Melissa Angelo	Jeff & Giannine DiSciascio	Roger & Edwina Hansen	Mahogany Company of Mays	Robert Roland	Wire Wiz
Angerman Landscaping	Bruce & Suzanne Dudzic	Harbor Pines Golf Club	Landing	Tim Rosie	Barrett & Shailen Woods
AtlantiCare Foundation	Curtis Dull	James & Marlene Hardock	Kenneth & Barbara Mann	Ronald & Margie Rosso	Joseph & Amanda Wyzen-
Atlantic City Electric, An Exelon	Lisa Dye	Marilyn Harris	John & Amy Manzione	Michael & Kathleen Ruth	Gregory
Company	Bob & Mary Jane Dye	Isla Haveman	William & Brenda Maurer	Salartash Surgical Associates	Jun & Jiayu Zeng
Atlantic County Toys for Kids	East Cost Roofing, Siding &	Linda Hinchman	Dale & Amy McCloy Miles	Arzum Sanchez	
Atlantic Huaxia Chinese School	Windows	Michael Hinchman	McCullough's Emerald Golf Links	Frank & Elaine Santo	(Donations Made From 7/1/20-
B.F. Mazzeo Fruits and Produce	Duane & Kim Eaves	HMY Yacht Sales	Michael & Meg McHale	David & PJ Santos	6/30/21)
Richard Baehrle	Edward Jones, Jason Kiefer	Jason & Jennifer Holmstrom	Tom & Mandy McNulty	Dennis & Patti Scardilli	
Anne Baker	Financial Advisor	Hoover Collective	Tom & Sherri McNulty	Robert & Linda Schlosser	
Barberio School of Massage	James & Diane Ennis	Pamela Horton	The Messner Foundation	Ray & Jill Schlundt	
Berges Awning	Thomas & Linda Falzani	J&E Installations	Shawn & Kristina Meyer	Ray & Robbie Schlundt	
The Blackbaud Giving Fund	Bruce & Deana Farrell	Richard & Julianne Jackson	Vincent & Haydeliz Miranda	David & Joelle Schrag	
Anne Block	English Creek ShopRite	Richard & Rebecca Jackson	Mission Point Church	Samuel & Joan Scott	
Boscov's Department Store	First Presbyterian Church of	Anthony & Kristine Jacoby	Nelbet Business Solutions	Scullville Bible Church	
James & Katie Boyle	Ocean City	Melanie Jain	George & Marian Newell	Kenneth & Meredith Sellers	
Boyle Real Estate Team	J. Michael & Kelly Flynn	Suzanne Jennings	NJ Workforce Registry	Philip & Barbara Senseney	
Steve & Kris Breunig	Mary Campbell Forbes	Michael & Carrie Jorgenson	Dan & Karen Noble	Stephen & Sandy Settles	
Kathy Breunig	Barbara Freeman	Stephen & Rita Kachmarchyk	Rich & Patty Nugent	John & Susan Shirk	
Linda S. Brown	Friends of Paul W. Hodson	Peter & Carole Karabashian	Karen Oblen	Shelly Showers	
Eric & Theresa Brumble	Friendship Bible Church	Keller Williams Realty Atlantic	Sandra O'Brien	Tina Smith	
CASA Payroll Service	John F. Fuoco Charitable	Jason & Kaitlyn Kelley	Ocean City Tabernacle	Ezequiel & Yoammy Sosa	
Pat Cassell	Testamentary Trust	Earl Eugene Kern	OceanFirst Bank	ServPro of Egg Harbor, Ventnor	
Castle Energy	Galloway National Golf Club	Richard & Carolann Klingert	OC Waterpark & Adventure Golf	Sotter Construction	
Steve & Brandie Cesari	Anna Garrett	Katelin Klingert	Justin & Nikki Odell	Thomas & Lisa Spengler	
Marques & Rhapsody Chaney	Richard & Janice Garrett	Klingert Chiropractic Wellness	Robert & Lorie O'Donoghue	Mark & Heidi Sray	
Ben Chapman	Lenny & Maureen Gebhardt	Lok Yan & Lilian Koo	Olympic Physical Therapy	Philip & Michelle Stein	
Chick-fil-A Fire Road	Gentilini Chevrolet	Albert & Beatrice Kuntz	Lou & Kim Ordile	Linda Stiteler	
Church of Grace & Peace	Gentilini Ford	John & Shirley Landgraf	Karen Otepa	Sykora Family Charitable Foundation	