

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

CHRIST-CENTERED BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW MISSIONS MINDED







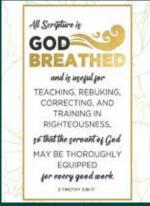




























ACADEMICALLY DRIVEN BUILDING FAMILY DEVELOPING GIFTS, TALENTS

















Dear ACS Families, Friends, and Supporters:

The 2022-23 school year marked our 52nd year in Christian education. We saw our enrollment grow to an all-time high of 701 students, including 72 8th grade students, the largest class in school history. We welcomed new families who recognized the need for their children to receive a Christian education that aligned with the moral and Biblical principles being taught at home. In May, we praised God at our Association Annual Meeting for His faithfulness that enabled us to pay off our \$4 million mortgage from 2003 when we built our 2-story, 65,000-square-foot educational building. We know that with God, nothing is impossible. We are very grateful for the many prayers and charitable gifts from our school families and community supporters over the past 20 years that helped us reach this significant, debt-free milestone.

Our Spiritual Development Theme Verse this year was from 2 Timothy 3:16-17 -- "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." This theme verse became the focus in our Bible classes, chapel programs, and COMPASS small group studies as our students learned that God's Word is useful and applicable to every part of their lives. Our teachers also received special training throughout the year on ways to integrate a Biblical worldview and the wisdom from God's Word into every subject.

Our Spiritual Development Theme Verse was also at the center of "Re-Ignite" -- a new spiritual emphasis one-day retreat introduced in the spring for our 8th-12th grade students. Three local pastors and their worship teams participated in the retreat that became a time of teaching, prayer, confession, and salvation. We rejoiced as six students came forward that day and several others after the retreat to commit or recommit their lives to Christ.

In May, we brought back our Legacy Gala spring fundraiser, which had been on a 4-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The entertaining Gala program, with Christian comedian Jeff Allen as the headliner, also featured our students giving glory to God in song and in personal testimonies about the spiritual impact Atlantic Christian has made on their lives. We also recognized and thanked the Dye family for their foresight and significant contributions to our Tuition Assistance Grant Fund that since 2017 has benefited close to 600 students.

Our primary goal is to see God's Word transform the hearts and minds of our students and we praise God for the spiritual growth we have witnessed over this past school year. Please prayerfully consider making a gift that will help us continue to make a difference in the lives of young people here in southern New Jersey as we nurture and equip them to be servant-leaders and to impact the world for Jesus Christ.

ADMISSIONS

Enrollment Snapshot

Enrollment reached a high of 701 students in the fall of 2022, the highest enrollment in our 52-year history. Niche, the leading national online review site for schools, gave ACS a 2023 Best Schools ranking, noted for academic excellence and an ethnically diverse student body. ACS

continued to welcome middle and high school-aged international students, with 4 students enrolled from South Korea. Students and their families worshipped at over 120 churches, and area pastors interacted with our students as chapel speakers, athletic coaches, COMPASS small group leaders, and teachers. Enrollment in our Early Education Center remained high at 109 students, with a transition in fall 2022 to a new age range of 2 to 5 years old.







Class of 2023

The Class of 2023 had 29 students. with 21 moving on to college in the fall, 1 entering the U.S. Coast Guard, 1 going to air traffic control school, and 6 undecided. Collectively, the students received \$790,000 in scholarships to attend various colleges, including Atlantic Cape Community College, Howard University, James Madison University. Liberty University, Penn State, Rowan University, Stockton University, and Temple University. Valedictorian Paige Noble, with a 4.22 GPA, will attend Cairn University and Salutatorian Reyna Lewis, with a 4.11 GPA, will attend the University of Notre Dame.

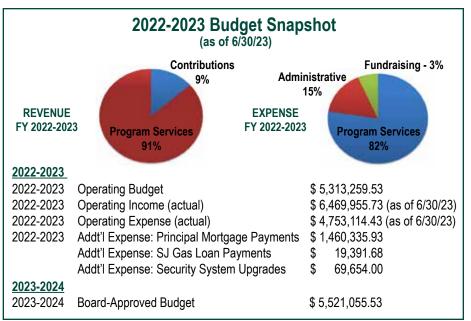






FINANCIAL

- Mortgage Paid Off! In 2003, ACS obtained a \$4 million mortgage to build a two-story, 65,000-square foot educational building. Now, 20 years later, that mortgage has been paid off, with the final payment of \$1,400,028 made on April 25. Praising God for His provision.
- Tuition Rates and Fees: In FY 22-23, tuition rates increased 3.25% for K-12 and by \$750 for PreK2-PreK4. For FY 23-24, the Board of Directors approved tuition increases of \$750 for PreK, \$220 for K-5th, \$240 for 6th-8th, and \$256 for 9th-12th.
- Tuition Assistance Grants: Our needs-based Tuition Assistance Grant Program, funded by donations, continued for its sixth year and awarded \$242,746 in assistance to 147 students from 36 new and 111 returning families. The program is being offered in FY 23-24.
- Personnel: Fourteen new faculty and staff were hired. New positions included: an Assistant Early Education Director, Early Ed nurse, and pull-out Resource Room teacher. Base salaries rose by \$1,500 (10-month employees) and \$1,600 (12-month employees).
- Income Highlights: Tuition and fees represented 91% of the school's 2022-2023 operating budget income. Support from local chuches, gifts to the Annual Fund, and several fund-raising events, including the Race for Education, the Bowls of Hope, the Legacy Gala, and the Cougar Classic Golf Tournament resulted in \$568,287 in additional income.
- Audit: An audit of the school's financial records for FY 21-22 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, 2022, and the changes in net assets for the year ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.



EDUCATION

Striving for Excellence



Early Education Center: Our award-winning Center, which educates children from PreK2 to kindergarten, continued to be a place where students learned about loving God, sharing, working together, and making friends. Dr. Seuss Day, Family and Bike Day, and Community Helpers Week were among the many activities that helped make learning fun.



Assessment: For the fourth year, ACS used the NWEA MapGrowth Assessment tool for K-8 students as our standardized test. Three testing periods were administered on computers and Chromebooks in October, January, and May. ACS also offered on-site testing for students taking the PSAT and SAT.

Honor Society: Inducted 25 members in separate ceremonies -- sixteen 7th-8th graders into the National Junior Honor Society and nine 10th-12th graders into the National Honor Society -- selected by a faculty panel for outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, and Christian character.

Concentrations: Continued offering Biblical Leadership, Education, Health and Medicine, and Technology as high school concentrations, and added Business.

Clubs: Added a new weekly club activity period for 6th-12th graders, for Student Council, Missions, chess, STEM, and more.

Fine Arts

Students developed their God-given gifts in art, drama, and music through a multi-faceted fine arts program. The production of the musical "Seussical, JR." drew over a 1,000 people to three shows in November. The cast featured 45 students from the 3rd-12th grades, directed by faculty member Genevieve Huff. Lead characters included 12th grader Evan Power as the Cat in the Hat, 10th grader Joshua Kinch as Horton the Elephant, and 11th grader Ryleigh Martin as Gertrude McFuzz. Faculty members Tim Rosie and Julie Zimmer directed the Christmas and spring concerts that highlighted students' vocal, instrumental, and public speaking abilities. The K-3rd grade students presented the musical "Puzzle Puppy" in the spring, with the lead actors wearing costumes made by students in the after-school Costume Design Workshop.





EDUCATION

Enhanced Learning Opportunities

After-School Program: For the eighth consecutive year, ACS offered fee-based after-school classes, including art, basketball, chess, costume design, flag football, Garden Club, gymnastics, intramural cheer, Lego, robotics, sign language, and soccer.

Dual Enrollment: Continued offering 7 dual credit courses through Atlantic Cape Community College: Algebra 2, Biology 2, U.S. History 2, Pre-Calculus, Spanish 3, Statistics, and Psychology. Added new Intro to Education class through Bob Jones University -- totaling 29 college credits that could be earned.

Mock Trial: The Mock Trial Team, in its 2nd year, grew to 8 students and had its first win -- beating Atlantic City High School. The team was led by teacher-coach Rhapsody Hahn-Chaney and attorney-coach Jenna Cook.

Educational Services: K-12 students with identified learning needs received assistance through Monmouth-Ocean County Educational Services. A fee-based Resource Room also offered full replacement teaching for language arts and math for 1st-8th grade students with identified needs. An Enrichment Program for high achieving 4th-5th grade students also continued to be offered.



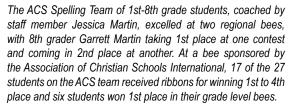
Special Achievement



5th grader Madelyn Petrinec won the school's annual 1st-8th grade Spelling Bee on February 16 and advanced to place 3rd out of 19 competitors in the Scripps SJ Regional Bee. She was interviewed for an WHYY-TV PBS special about the Bee.



7th grader Nino Miranda won the ACS Student Video Contest that helped promote the February 4 Bowls of Hope Soup Cook-Off on social media.





Four band students were selected to the South Jersey Elementary Honor Band, from left -- Chase Wilkinson, Jennyfer Loiaza-Riveros, Gabrielle DiSciascio, and Findley Maxell.



12th grader Lauren Kent won 1st place in the ACS Christmas Card Design Contest and also was awarded Honorable Mention in a Recycled Art Contest sponsored by the ACUA.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Community Outreach





ACS held a series of events to thank and recognize our students' grandparents, pastors, teachers, and veterans. ACS also continued to make its facilities available to community organizations including the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, Hope Community Church, Jehovah Jireh Basketball Outreach, Klemic Performance Method, Lady Starz AAU, Prestige Soccer Training, and SJ Premier AAU.



Race for Education

Nearly 600 PreK3-8th grade students and their teachers walked and ran around our track for our 20th annual Race for Education on October 28. Classes and students competed for prizes and raised \$43,047 for our Annual Fund, with a record 18 Event Sponsors and 38 Classroom Sponsors.

Legacy Gala and Cougar Classic Golf Tournament





In May, ACS held the Legacy Gala and Silent Auction, with Christian comedian Jeff Allen as the headliner, and the Cougar Classic Golf Tournament. These fundraisers together netted \$31,000 for the school's Tuition Assistance Grant Fund. The fund gives families in need access to a Christian education for their children. Some 400 people attended the May 12 Gala held at the Ocean City Tabernacle, which included students leading worship and sharing testimonies. At the May 16 Golf Tournament, held at McCullough's Emerald Golf Links, 94 golfers participated, including school parents, grandparents, alumni, pastors, and business community members.

Bowls of Hope Soup Cook-Off

Over 400 people sampled soups from 18 area restaurants on February 4 and voted for their favorite while 12 student groups performed in a Student Talent Show. The Student Council presented the Atlantic City Rescue Mission with \$1,517 from the proceeds of the Soup Cook-Off.



FACILITIES

Donations and grants from individuals, churches, organizations, foundations, and federal programs blessed ACS with over half a million dollars in funds that enabled significant facility enhancements and security upgrades.



Relocated the Early Education Center for children from PreK2 to kindergarten to a complex of six modular buildings across from the main educational building. Also added a separate parking area and some \$20,000 in new playground equipment.





Installed \$30,000 worth of upgrades to our stage lighting, sound, and live-stream equipment, which will greatly enhance presentations during chapel, concerts, and musical and drama productions.

Added new landscaping, concrete, and a brick pathway to the 10 Commandments Memorial Garden, located to the left of the main school building's entrance. The garden upgrades were made possible by donations and carried out by school parent David O'Donnell, owner of O'Donnell's Landscaping, and his team.



Installed six new, adjustable-height art tables in the Art Studio, thanks to gifts of nearly \$5,000. Students from the 1st-12th grades explore and develop their artistic skills in weekly art classes.





Purchased and installed a new LED digital message sign in May near the campus entrance and the Early Education Center complex. The \$9,000 sign project was largely funded by a donation from the Parent-Teacher Fellowship.



Received a nearly \$140,000 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for a new 64-camera outdoor and indoor surveillance system. The new equipment has been installed and will be operating in the 2023-2024 school year.

STUDENT LIFE

Spiritual Development



Spiritual Emphasis Retreats: Middle school and high school students were challenged to grow spiritually at fall and spring retreats. A 2-day high school retreat, held at America's Keswick, featured speaker Wil Del Valle. He also spoke at the middle school 1-day retreat, held at the Ocean City Tabernacle. A new one-day retreat was held on the ACS campus in April, called Re-Ignite, that featured three local pastors and their worship teams.



Weekly Chapel: The 2022-2023 school spiritual emphasis theme, "All Scripture is God Breathed," was incorporated into weekly chapel programs. COMPASS small groups for 6th-12th grade students met monthly for deeper discussion. Students and teachers also led chapel periodically, including the Christmas and Easter chapels, which were live-streamed on the ACS YouTube channel to connect with ACS family members and friends.



Worship Teams: Sixty-nine students participated on four teams that led worship at weekly chapels and at special events -- 22 in 4th grade, 10 in 5th grade, 23 in middle school, and 14 in high school.





One Christmas Night: Over 1,500 ACS family members and friends turned out for our 2nd annual festival on December 2 -- a joyous celebration of Christ's birth. Students presented a live nativity and various student bands and worship teams from the 4th-12th grades performed indoors and outdoors throughout the evening.





STUDENT LIFE

Missions and Leadership



Missions Trips: Thirty-eight 6th-12th grade students served as the hands and feet of Jesus during three missions trips over Easter break. Nineteen students served in Coatesville, PA at an after-school program for inner city children at the Bridge Academy. Fifteen students served in the Bahamas, which included helping with a youth soccer clinic, and four students went to South Africa to serve at an orphanage in Kwa Kwa founded by ACS parents Scott and Michelle Johnson.

Leadership Development: Students had the opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills at a November 2022 conference in Washington, DC sponsored by the Association of Christian Schools International. Twenty-one 10th-12th grade students attended and created plans for new student activities, including leading prayer during high school lunch at their lunch tables. Their DC trip also included a tour of the Museum of the Bible.



Community Service

Students from preschool to the 12th grade carried out a variety of service projects to support organizations in our community and overseas that work with youth and families in need, the homeless, mail carriers, senior citizens, and more.



Mrs. Brossman's 2nd grade class collected backpacks that were distributed to the homeless in Atlantic City by Calvary Chapel Hammonton.





Mrs. Myers' 3rd grade class was among dozens of classes that helped fill 69 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, a service project organized by 12th grader Jake DeNick as his Senior Project.

A month-long, school-wide food drive in January, led by the high school Student Council, collected nearly 2-1/2 tons of food for the Community FoodBank of NJ, Southern Branch in Egg Harbor Township.

ATHLETICS

High School





We're #1: The Varsity Boys Basketball Team, under head coach Drew Carney, won the Tri-State Christian Athletic Conference (TSCAC) championship for the 4th consecutive year. The Varsity Girls Basketball Team, under head coach Kaylee Breunig, finished in 1st place in the regular season and also won the TSCAC championship. The TSCAC Championship title in softball also went to the Lady Cougars, who beat The Pilgrim Academy 20-10 in the title game.



Soccer Success: The Varsity Boys Soccer Team, under head coach Chris Lopez, advanced to the TSCAC championship match for the 2nd straight year, but lost, finishing in 2nd place. The Varsity Girls Soccer Team finished the season in 4th place. Ten athletes were named TSCAC All-Stars.

TSCAC Top Awards: Head coach Kaylee Breunig and head coach Dara Kimmerley were named TSCAC Coaches of the Year in basketball and softball, respectively. 11th grade shortstop Evangelina

Kim and 12th grade point guard Paige Noble were named conference MVPs.







Athletic Support:
Fans of ACS athletics
purchased tickets and
concessions at home
games and turned out
for three Spirit Days
at Texas Roadhouse



in Egg Harbor Township, helping raise over \$14,500 for ACS Athletics, a school record.



Hall of Fame: Seniors Cruz Lewis and Paige Noble received the 2023 Billy Robinson Award given to one high school boy and girl for achievement, Christian testimony, and athletic ability. Three outstanding senior athletes, Robby Barberio, Maddie DeNick, and Reyna Lewis, received the Cougar Award. Alumnus Carly Harper Witherow ('08) was honored as she stepped down as the Varsity Girls Soccer Team head coach after 11 seasons and 5 TSCAC Championships.

ATHLETICS

Middle School & High School





Winning Seasons: The Middle School Boys Teams finished in first place in soccer, basketball, and baseball in the competitive Atlantic Cape Jr. High League and the Middle School Girls Team had winning seasons in soccer and softball. During the basketball season, the Middle School



Boys Basketball Team, under head coach Josh Clark, won the Dixie Howell Middle School Basketball Tournament in Ocean City for the

first time in school history. Three talented 8th grade basketball players were named to the South Jersey Future Stars Boys Basketball Team, two of whom -- Ethan Costello and Justice Settles -- played in a tournament showcase game hosted at ACS.



Cheer Team -- 2-Time National Grand Champions: The 24-member Middle School/High School Cheer Team, under coaches Morgan Gibson and Michelle Wheeler, promoted school spirit during the soccer and basketball seasons. The cheer team won 1st place at the ImpACT Competition in Toms River in February and then in April won 1st place at The ONE Cheer and Dance Finals in the Jr. High Intermediate Division in Virginia. The squad was later named National Grand Champs in that division for the second consecutive year.



Track Program Excelling: The Cross Country Club, in its 3rd year, won both 5K meets with King's Christian School and held a second Homecoming 5K Run. The spring track program continued to grow, with 60 middle school and high school students participating. Ninety middle school and high school students competed in the TSCAC Track Meet on May 11 and swept the event, with all four ACS teams finishing in first place ahead of teams from five other regional Christian schools. Senior Cruz Lewis set school and TSCAC high school records in the 200 and 400 meter races. 8th grader Ethan Costello set a school and TSCAC middle school record in the 400 meter.





THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-2023 DONORS

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

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