

**CHRIST-CENTERED
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW
MISSIONS MINDED**




Be the Light

*You are the light of the world
A TOWN BUILT ON A HILL CANNOT BE HIDDEN.
NEITHER DO PEOPLE LIGHT A LAMP AND PUT IT
UNDER A BOWL. INSTEAD THEY PUT IT ON ITS STAND
AND IT GIVES LIGHT TO EVERYONE IN THE HOUSE.*

IN THE SAME WAY,
*let your light shine before others
THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS
AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.*

Matthew 5:14-16

ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 2023-2024



**ACADEMICALLY
DRIVEN
BUILDING FAMILY
DEVELOPING
GIFTS, TALENTS**



Dear ACS Families, Friends, and Supporters:

The 2023-2024 school year marked our 53rd year of providing Christian education, and we were blessed to have an enrollment of approximately 640 students. Our Early Education program continued to thrive, with young learners beginning their academic journey with us. We were also proud to share that Niche, a respected source for school rankings and reviews, recognized Atlantic Christian School as one of the best and most diverse private schools in New Jersey.

This year, we were especially thankful for the grants that allowed us to install a state-of-the-art surveillance system and high-grade security doors. We also received a generous donation from an anonymous donor, which enabled us to transform our kitchen from a warming kitchen to a full production kitchen, paving the way for us to offer new courses, including culinary arts.

Our spiritual theme for the year, “Be the Light,” was inspired by Matthew 5:14-16: “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” This powerful message guided our Bible classes and chapel programs, encouraging our students to live out their faith boldly.

This Annual Report provided a comprehensive overview of school life, featuring narratives, pictures, and data that captured the experiences of our students from preschool through 12th grade. We celebrated the many achievements of our students as they grew not only physically but also academically and spiritually.

As we prepared to enter our 54th year of Christian education, our commitment to providing a Christ-centered, academically rigorous, and mission-driven education remained unwavering. Rooted in God’s Word and a Biblical worldview, this commitment lay at the core of our mission.

We are profoundly thankful for the ongoing support and involvement of our community. The success and longevity of our ministry in southern New Jersey are a direct result of God’s faithfulness and the generous support of our community—parents, grandparents, alumni, alumni parents, businesses, churches, and nonprofits—who share our passion for Christian education. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a contribution to help us continue making a transformative impact in the lives of young people in southern New Jersey. Your gift enables us to nurture and equip the next generation of servant-leaders, preparing them to make a lasting difference for Jesus Christ.

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



ADMISSIONS

Enrollment Snapshot

In the 2023-2024 school year, Atlantic Christian School continued to see strong enrollment with 640 students enrolled. Our school was once again recognized as a top-rated private school in the region, earning a 2024 Best Schools ranking from Niche, noted for our academic excellence and ethnically diverse student body, with an overall A- rating. Our International Student Program thrived, with four high school students joining us from South Korea and Iran. Additionally, our community was enriched by the involvement of students and families who worship at over 119 area churches, with local pastors actively participating as chapel speakers, athletic coaches, COMPASS group leaders, and teachers. Our Early Education program also remained robust, with 101 students enrolled.



Class of 2024

The Class of 2024 included 22 students, with 17 planning to attend college in the fall. Collectively, the students received nearly \$450,000 in scholarships to attend various colleges, including Penn State, Liberty University, Stockton University, Lipscomb University, LeTourneau University, Atlantic Cape Community College, the University of Rochester, and Lancaster Bible College. Two students now attend Word of Life Bible Institute, one attends BASIC School of Discipleship, one attends Universal Technical Institute, and one plans on pursuing an entrepreneurial venture.

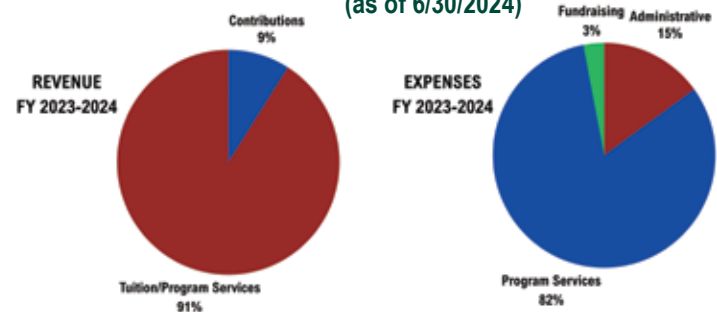


FINANCIAL

- **Tuition Rates and Fees** – For the 2023-2024 school year, PreK tuition increased by \$750, K-5 tuition increased by \$220, 6th-8th tuition increased by \$240, and 9th-12th tuition increased by \$256. For the 2024-2025 school year, annual tuition will increase as follows: PreK: \$356; K-5: \$228; 6th-8th: \$249; 9th-12th: \$265. The continuous enrollment fee remained the same.
- **Tuition Assistance Grants** – Our needs-based Tuition Assistance Grant Program, funded by donations, continued for its 7th year and awarded \$270,502 in assistance to 181 students—150 returning and 31 new. The program was offered in FY24-25.
- **Personnel** – Welcomed 21 new Christian faculty and staff. Base salaries were increased by \$2,500 for full-time faculty and salaried employees in the 2024-2025 school year.
- **Income Highlights** – Support from local churches and donors, including both designated and undesignated gifts to the Annual Fund, grants, and several ACS fundraisers—such as the Race for Education and the Cougar Classic Fundraiser—blessed ACS with additional income of over \$442,670 as of May 15, 2024.
- **Audit** – A financial review of FY 2022-2023 was conducted by Clayton Simpson, CPA. The financial statements were found to be presented fairly and to reflect the school's financial position as of June 30, 2023. Changes in net assets were in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

2023-2024 Budget Snapshot

(as of 6/30/2024)



2023-2024

Operating Budget	\$ 5,065,681.04 (as of 6/30/2024)
Operating Income (Actual)	\$ 5,3167,83.03 (as of 6/30/2024)
Operating Expense (Actual)	\$ 5,308,699.18 (as of 6/30/2024)
Additional Expense	
- South Jersey Gas Loan Payment	\$ 19,391.88 (as of 6/30/2024)

2024-2025

Board-Approved Budget	\$ 5,115,006.00
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EDUCATION

Striving for Excellence

- **Technology** – Upgraded the Wi-Fi infrastructure by adding more access points and increasing bandwidth. Also purchased an additional 104 Chromebooks, 8 teacher laptops, and 2 TV monitors.
- **Assessment** – Continued using the NWEA MAP Growth Assessment tool for K-8 students.
- **Resource Room** – The Resource Room provided full replacement teaching for language arts and math for the entire school year. This fee-based service was available to students in grades 1-8 with identified needs.
- **Honor Societies** – Twenty-three students were inducted in separate ceremonies: six into the National Honor Society and seventeen into the Junior National Honor Society.
- **Senior Project Class**
 - Wear Pink for Breast Cancer by Evangelina Kim
 - Bible Study/Workout Group by Nate Mills, Noah Gibbs, Louis Spirko, and Malachi Vasquez
 - Biblical Body Image Seminar by Haven Sanchez and Maddie Haag
 - Missions 2024 Video by Becca Kelley
 - Christian Retreat by Noelle Thompson
 - Worship Night by Ryleigh Martin (May 26)
 - Dog Therapy with the Elderly by Cadence Warren
- **Clubs** – Offered weekly club activity period for 6th-12th graders, which included Student Council, Missions Club, Bible Studies, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Chess, Board Games, Current Events, Mock Trial/Debate, Italian Club, Middle School Ensemble, and more.
- **Dual Enrollment** – Continued offering seven dual credit courses for high school students through ACCC: Algebra 2, Biology 2, U.S. History 2, Pre-Calculus, Spanish 3, Statistics, Psychology, and Education, totaling 29 credits.



EDUCATION

- **Mock Trial** – In its third year, the Mock Trial Team had seven students and continued as a high school elective class. New this year, a jury panel of five middle school students was added, and a Mock Trial/Debate Club was included in the Thursday club offerings.
- **High School Concentrations** – Continued offering concentrations in Education, Health and Medicine, Biblical Leadership, and Technology, and added a Business concentration.



Competitions

- Senior **Ryleigh Martin** won the ACS Christmas Card Design Contest and represented the school at the State Teen Arts Festival.
- Sixth grader **Madelyn Petrinec** won first place in the school-wide Spelling Bee for grades 1-8 and competed at the Scripps SJ Regional Bee.
- Eighth grader **Grace Lushina** was the Student Grand Prize Winner in the Race for Education, raising \$1,160 through gifts from her sponsors. Additionally, **Laura McCarthy's 3C class** was the Class Grand Prize Winner, raising \$3,023.
- Twenty-three students from grades 3-12 participated in this year's new Student Talent Show, which was hosted by Kelly and Mike Flynn.



Elementary Awards:

- 1st Place: Olivia Moren Owens (3rd Grade)
- 2nd Place: Layla Aspenberg & Brianna Shull (5th Grade)
- 3rd Place: Addison Rawlings (3rd Grade).



Upper School Awards:

- 1st Place and Grand Prize: Hailey Everland (8th Grade)
- 2nd Place: Ava Barberio (10th Grade)
- 3rd Place: Parker Maxwell (6th Grade).



- **ACUA Recycled Art Contest:** Special recognition was awarded to 12th grader **Cadence Warren**, while **Jahnae Spoltore**, also a 12th grader, earned 3rd place. Additionally, 12th grader **Vera Huff** received an honorable mention.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Community Outreach



ACS held a series of events to thank and recognize our students' grandparents, pastors, teachers, and veterans. We also continued to make our facilities available to community organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, Hope Community Church, Jehovah Jireh Basketball Outreach, Klemic Performance Method, Lady Starz AAU, Mainland United Soccer Association (MUSA), Nor'Easters Academy, and Prestige Soccer Training.

Race for Education



Close to 500 PreK3-8th grade students and their teachers walked and ran around our track for our 21st annual Race for Education on October 27. Classes and students competed for prizes and raised approximately \$41,146 for our Annual Fund, with a record 20 Event Sponsors and 44 Classroom Sponsors.

Cougar Classic Golf Tournament, Silent Auction and Social Mixer



On May 2nd, ACS held the Cougar Classic Golf Tournament, Silent Auction, and Social Mixer at Harbor Pines Golf Club in Egg Harbor Township. Together, these fundraisers netted \$32,673.30 for the school's Tuition Assistance Grant Fund, which helps families in need access a Christian education for their children. A total of 100 golfers participated in the tournament, and over 200 people attended the Social Mixer, including school parents, grandparents, alumni, pastors, and members of the business community. Special thanks go out to all the participants in the Silent Auction, both at the event and from their homes. This year, we achieved a record-breaking \$11,650 from the Silent Auction, setting a new milestone. We are truly grateful to the sponsors, donors, and ACS classrooms for their contributions in making it a success.

FACILITIES

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

New Soccer Turf Field: The previous turf was worn and needed replacement to ensure a safe environment for students and players. Board Member Jim Gibbs led this project, working closely with Shaw Sports Turf, the company that installed the new turf. Funding came from our development fund, which was generously supported by donors and fundraising events over several years.



Security Cameras: ACS installed a new 64-camera IP-based network and surveillance system, including security cameras inside the Early Education buildings, the 1st-12th grade educational building, and outdoors in the parking lots and athletic fields. This state-of-the-art surveillance system was funded by a nearly \$140,000 Nonprofit Security Grant that ACS received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Department of Homeland Security.



High Grade Security Doors Installed: ACS used \$56,000 in grant funding to replace all exterior doors.



New Flooring in Lobby and Main Offices: The installation of new flooring in the lobby and main offices followed a flooding incident in December, when pipes broke during extreme winter temperatures.



New Concrete Area in the Bus Loop: ACS completed an upgrade to the student transportation hub at the rear entrance of the school building.



Kitchen Upgrade: We received a donation from an anonymous donor to renovate our kitchen. The ACS kitchen was upgraded from a warming kitchen to a production kitchen. Carole Karabashian served as the project manager for this exciting and beneficial project for the school. The renovation was completed in August.

STUDENT LIFE

Spiritual Development



Spiritual Emphasis Retreats: Middle school and high school students were challenged to grow spiritually at various retreats throughout the year. The high school retreat was held at America's Keswick with speaker Zack Caracostantakis, while the middle school retreat took place at the Ocean City Tabernacle with speaker Jesse Stokes. Two special retreats were also held: Re-Engage on February 15 and Re-Ignite on April 25.



Weekly Chapel: The 2023-2024 school year's spiritual emphasis theme, 'Be The Light,' 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.



Worship Teams: Fifty-five students participated in four teams leading worship at weekly chapels: eight in 4th grade, twelve in 5th grade, twenty-two in middle school, and thirteen in high school.



Missions Trips: Thirty-three students participated over Easter break: sixteen middle schoolers served in Washington, DC, and seventeen high schoolers served in Belize.



STUDENT LIFE

Leadership Development: Twenty-seven 11th and 12th grade students attended a leadership conference in Washington, DC, in November 2023, which included a tour of Arlington National Cemetery. The students used this time to grow in the Lord and to refine their leadership skills. It was a great time of worship and learning together.



Student Events

One Christmas Night: ACS families and friends turned out for our 3rd annual festival on December 1 and enjoyed various activities, including a live Nativity, pony rides, a petting zoo, a magician, Christmas movies, laser tag, and more, as well as performances by several bands, choral groups, and worship teams.



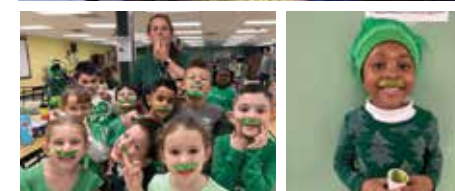
Art Show - Art teacher Genevieve Huff curated and effectively displayed creative works from ACS students in grades 1-12. The display coincided with the spring concerts and remained in the hallways until the end of the school year.



All-School Drama Production: Forty-six students from grades 3-12 presented a spectacular production of *Beauty and the Beast JR.*, performing three shows on November 17-18, which were attended by close to 1,000 people.



Green Mustache Day: Elementary students proudly displayed their green mustaches after enjoying nutritious and tasty smoothies during lunch. This fun annual tradition was part of ACS's involvement in AtlantiCare's Healthy Schools, Healthy Children program. Congratulations to first grader Skylar Walker for winning AtlantiCare's Green Mustache Contest.



ATHLETICS



We are immensely grateful for the overwhelming support from our school families, whose dedication helped elevate our athletic program. Special recognition should be given to our students who volunteered at the Cougar Den and manned concession stands at various events, helping us raise over \$10,000 in entrance fees and concessions this year. Your commitment and enthusiasm are truly appreciated.



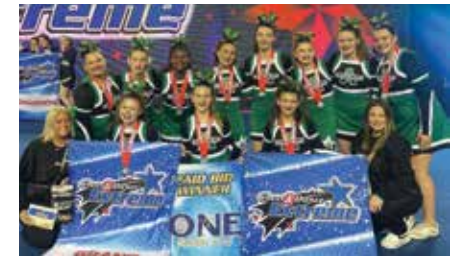
Soccer: Forty-two high school and forty-one middle school students participated. The Varsity Boys placed 2nd in the TSCAC Championship, while the Varsity Girls finished 4th. The Varsity Boys' soccer team dominated the regular season with an unbeaten record, narrowly missing out on the championship in an intense overtime match. Our girls showcased remarkable skill, securing 4th place. Congratulations to Manny Johnson for being named MVP of the league.



Basketball: Thirty high school and thirty-four middle school students participated. The Varsity Boys and Girls both claimed 1st place in the Doane Invitational Tournament. Their victory in the Doane Invitational Tournament was especially significant, as it was the first time both the Boys' and Girls' teams won the Invitational in the same year. The Boys went on to win the NCSAA National Championship in Ohio, while the Girls secured 2nd place. Under the leadership of head coach Paul Jones, the Varsity Boys' basketball team achieved an extraordinary milestone by capturing the TSCAC championship title for the 5th consecutive year. Junior Noah Stokes was honored as the 2024 TSCAC MVP. The Varsity Girls' team also had a remarkable season, finishing with an undefeated league record. Although they narrowly missed the top spot in the championship game, ending the year in 2nd place, this marked their 10th consecutive appearance in the championship. Senior Evangelina Kim was named league MVP.

ATHLETICS

Cheer: Fifteen high school and nine middle school students participated. Our cheer team once again wowed the crowds, earning the titles of Champion and Grand Champion at the Cheer and Dance Extreme tournament in Maryland. Their spirit and enthusiasm secured them a coveted spot at THE ONE Cheer and Dance Finals in Virginia Beach. They also lit up the court, boosting school pride at basketball games.



Softball: Sixteen high school and nineteen middle school students participated. Our softball team was on fire! The Varsity Softball team defeated The Pilgrim Academy 12-2 to win the TSCAC Championship.



Baseball: Sixteen high school and twenty-one middle school students participated. This year's baseball team played great! We had a solid freshman squad with stellar performances. The Varsity Baseball team defeated Gloucester County Christian to finish in 3rd place in the playoff.



Track Program: Sixty-five high school and middle school students participated. Track athletes were able to compete in two major events. The TSCAC Track Meet, held at our school, was a success, and both our high school and middle school girls' track teams won 1st place. The track team also participated in the Messiah Invitational, held at Messiah University in Grantham, PA. There they competed against teams from various schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.



Athletic Awards: Seniors Emmanuel Johnson and Evangelina Kim received the 2024 Billy Robinson Award, given to one high school boy and girl for achievement, Christian testimony, and athletic ability. Seniors Noah Gibbs and Rebecca Kelley were honored with the Cougar Award, while freshman Ethan Costello received the Rookie of the Year award. Senior Evangelina Kim made ACS history with her 100th career hit in softball and achieving 1,000 career points in basketball. Senior Noah Gibbs also reached a significant milestone with his 500th career rebound.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2023-2024 DONORS

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

Marc & Melissa Abreu	Colonial Williamsburg	Tina Gatto	Linwood Community Church	Maureen Pineo	Mark & Heidi Sray
AC Photo, Gail Crafton	Foundation	Joseph & Joanne Geisenhoffer	Linwood Country Club	PJ Buckets	Dr. Richard & Becky Stanislaw
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Adams-Perfect Funeral Homes	Kevin & Lisa Connolly	Glenn Insurance, Inc.	John Loreaux Photography	Albert & Marie Porreca	Sterling Tackle
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Joan Anderson	Damien & Brittany Correa	Greater Absecon Island VFW	Arnold & Ida Lucchesi	Randy and Lynn Pricskett	Linda Stiteler
AtlantiCare Foundation	Charlie & Amanda Costello	Post 215	Joseph & Gina Lushina	Jun Qi Pan	Nancy Swank
Atlantic City Cruises	Ray Costello	Eileen Green	Rudy & Angela Lushina	George & Carol Quinn	Sykora Family Charitable
Anne Baker	Costello Roofing	Greentree Church	M&L Electric	Range 129	Foundation
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Barnabas Foundation	Billie Jo D'Amico	GSV Strategic Partners	Lori Mancinelli	Linda Reeves	William Thome
Baumgardner Finishings Co.	Beth DeForest	Hammonton Baptist Church	Master DJ & Sound Services	Jeff & Diana Reilly	Jonny Thomsen
Bay Shore Rebar Inc.	Paul DelVecchio	Hand and Stone Massage	Brent & Summer Maurer	Ed & Kathy Reinheimer	Jennifer Tressler
Beacon Evangelical Free Church	Destiny Builders & Design	and Facial Spa, Somers Point	William & Brenda Maurer	Brad & Lorie Rice	Joseph Velez
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Andrew & Danielle Carney	Fidelity Charitable	Richard and Julianne Jackson	Nyamse & Imaabasi Obot	Scullville Bible Church	Christine Witherow
Patricia Cassell	First Presbyterian Church of	Kristine Jacoby	Ocean City Tabernacle	ServPro of Egg Harbor, Ventnor	Karen Worman
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Chick-fil-A Fire Road	Fortress Financial	Peter & Carole Karabashian	and Cooling	Shelley Showers	
Ralph Clayton	Kimberley Fox	Stephen Kay	Stephen Taylor Portrait Artist	Sleepy Hollow Campground	
Clayton's Self Storage	Barbara Freeman	Stephen Keiner	Sue Paone	Deron & Lisa Smith	
The Crab Trap	Friends of Paul W. Hodson	Robert Keirsej	Doug & Lori Pearson	Tina Smith	
Coastal Christian Church	Friendship Bible Church	Klingert Family Chiropractic	Roger & Iva Pedersen	Ezequiel & Yoammy Sosa	
Nicole Cohen	Albert Fry	Center	Nathan & Kelly Petrinec	Thomas Spengler	

*(Donations Made From
7/1/23-6/30/24)*