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IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER

9 - No School-Educator's Day
12 - No School- Columbus Day
18 - ACS Mass, 10:30 a.m.
22 - Parent Teacher Confer.
Noon Dismissal. K-5
No school for Middle School
23 - No school K-8, Conference
30 - All Saints/Day, Noon dismissal

NOVEMBER

6 - End Trimester 1
14 - Virtual Night of Hope
15 - ACS Mass, 8:30 a.m.
25 - Noon dismissal.
26/27 - Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER

4 - Noon dismissal, staff day
14 - School Spelling Bee
16 - Christmas Concert
18 - Noon dismissal
19 - Christmas Break begins

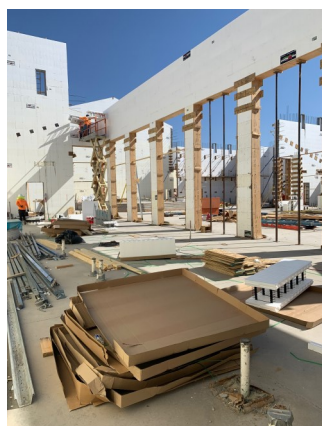
Annunciation's Unconventional Start to 2020-2021 School Year

The start of the 2020-2021 school year was far from typical, to put it mildly. Most students began distance learning on August 17. Some students came to school and received assistance from staff. Meanwhile, Dr. Pristash closely watched the rates of reported numbers of positive COVID-19 cases in the zip codes of the majority of our students and staff. When the numbers dipped below the benchmarks set by state and county governance, she was able to submit a request to the diocese, along with the supporting data, to re-open Annunciation prior to the rescheduled start date of September 8.

With diocesan approval, our Kindergarteners through 3rd grade students began in person classes on August

31 and our 4th through 8th graders began on September 8. Following the guidelines students are wearing masks when indoors and when they can't socially distance. Opening day prayer was done via live video link using Google Meet. We thank all of those who were able to and ready to come back to school. Accommodations were made for the first month for those who were high risk and as of September 28 almost all are back on campus daily.

The construction of our new school and church is moving along and we are excited to share these pictures of the progress.



The Mission of Annunciation Catholic School

Within our strong Catholic community, we develop children to their fullest God-given potential - spiritually, intellectually, morally, socially, and physically.

Annunciation Fundraising Kicks off with the RockTOBER Dance Challenge

Next week we will kick off our ACS RockTOBER Dance Challenge on October 7, 2020!

Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for bridging the tuition gap and provide health and safety essentials. We can't wait to have fun and strengthen our school community. This year more than ever, we need additional funds to provide an excellent educational experience for all of our students. We completely understand if your family is not in a position to financially support the school right now. You can still be involved by simply SHARING our fundraiser with friends and extended family online at funrun.com. Sharing IS supporting! All students will participate in the ACS RockTOBER Dance Challenge, regardless of financial participation. We will also be following our school safety guidelines to ensure a safe and fun experience for everyone.



New Year, New Logo, New Website for School and Parish



The campus of Annunciation Catholic School and St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Community changes daily as progress is made on the new church and school. Each day there is non-stop construction activity, trucks and equipment moving supplies and materials. The church walls grow taller, new curbs and sidewalks are formed, asphalt is laid to create new driveways.

As the look of the campus changes, so will our school and parish websites. Both are receiving make-overs and will be launched in the coming weeks. Both the school and parish have new logos which will be phased in to the school uniforms over time. The logos (pictured right) were designed to represent our patron Saint Gabriel and the Annunciation of the Blessed Mother. Each has symbols representing St. Gabriel (horn), the M for our Blessed Mother and the dove which is the symbol of the Holy Spirit. All refer to the story of the Annunciation. The book underneath the cross represents our scholastic mission while keeping the cross of Christ and his sacrifice for us above all. The parish logo includes the angel wing of Gabriel the archangel. The similarity of each logo reminds us of our shared past and future. We are blessed to have such a wonderful parish and a wonderful school that each provides us a place to grow and learn in our faith.

There are no plans to change the color of our school uniforms. The new logo will be provided to our uniform vendors and they will switch the logo only. All current school shirts with the original logo will be allowed as part of the school uniform until they naturally wear out.



CATHOLIC IDENTITY COMMITTEE (CIC)

The vision of the Catholic Identity Committee is to promote and enrich Catholic values, while supporting families and faculty in their efforts to instill a deep love and reverence for our faith in children who attend ACS.

2020-2021 School Year

All parents, grandparents, and parishioners are invited to join the Catholic Identity Committee! Many of us have chosen ACS as the school for our children largely due to the strong Catholic faith presence it has to offer. To provide this special gift, the Catholic Identity Committee needs your help to implement key faith-based events and rituals our students have grown to love!



<https://acsphx.org/catholic-identity-committee/>

CIC NEEDS YOUR HELP TO
ENRICH OUR CHILDREN IN
THE CATHOLIC FAITH

CIC PROVIDES

Classroom Saints
Community Prayer
Priests & Religious Visitors
Crucifix & Rosaries in Classrooms
Advent Wreaths & Nativities in
Classrooms
School Mass Coordination of
Student Lectors

EVENTS

Feast of St. Nicholas
Catholic Schools Week
Feast of the Annunciation
Pancake Lunch
May Crowning

Great Volunteer Opportunities!

2020-2021 Co-Chairs

Angela Riley & Sarah Cupo
smileyrileys007@yahoo.com
sarah.cupo@gmail.com

Monthly Meetings

To Be Decided

Vibrant Vinnies: Calling ACS 5th—8th Graders to Service

Annunciation Catholic School Vibrant Vinnies is an official part of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul under the leadership of the Diocesan Council of Phoenix and the Elizabeth Ann Seton (District Eleven) Council. We were founded in 2013 and officially aggregated in 2017.



Our conference is comprised of students in 5th - 8th grade. Currently, we are the only elementary St. Vincent de Paul conference in the state of Arizona. We hold monthly meetings led by our student officers. Our conference completes one or two service projects a month. We pay for our own works and projects through member contributions, donations and fundraising. The Annual Friends of the Poor Walk serve as our primary sources of fundraising income.

Upcoming events

First meeting :
Tuesday Oct. 13,
3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
ACS campus (room
location TBD)

For the last five years, we have paid for a Christmas party for the children of the working poor held at a local parish. Our members create over two hundred Christmas stockings for the children. We serve in St. Joan of Arc's food pantry, deliver food boxes to families in the inner city, and we make and distribute survival bags to the homeless. Our conference members work tirelessly to help those in need.

Our conference motto is "You are never too young to serve."

Inquiries for new members may contact [Angel Vogelsang](mailto:Angel_Vogelsang), our adult liaison, at angelicafrank@hotmail.com

To join the Vibrant Vinnie please download the **registration form on ACS website under Vibrant Vinnies tab** and return it to the school office to be placed in the mailbox marked "Vinnies" **BY OCTOBER 1.**

Due to the number of registrants, we are unable to accept registration after October 1, 2020.

Part Time Bookkeeper Needed

St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church is looking for a part-time bookkeeper to help with the parish finance department.

If you are interested, please contact Amy Jo Hutchison at 480-595-0883 or email to communications@stgacc.org



After School Treats at Cherry on Top!

Many ACS students kicked off the school year with a first day of school afternoon treat at Cherry on Top. These smiling faces represent the student sentiment throughout the school day. The entire staff was delighted to have our students back on campus learning t

ogether. Annunciation is very much a family and we are grateful to be back together. Thanks to Cherry on Top for hosting this first fundraiser. Their delicious frozen yogurt and toppings are always a crowd pleaser. Annunciation earned \$150 which was 10% from all sales that mentioned our school that day.

Pictured right: the Shen Family, the Cave Family, the Brady family and the Powers family.



Join us for the Monthly ACS Dining Out School Fundraisers

October:

Wednesday, October 21

The Creek Cookies and Cream from 2:00pm - 8:30pm

28248 N Tatum Blvd #B1, Cave Creek, AZ 85331. For take out and dine in



November:

Tuesday, November 17

Barros Pizza from 10:30am - 10:00pm

30815 N Cave Creek Rd #132, Cave Creek, AZ 85331. For take out, dine in or curbside pick up (not delivery)



December:

Tuesday, December 15

Cafe Zupa's from 11:00am - 9:00pm

Desert Ridge location 21001 N Tatum Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85050. For take out and dine in.



Night of Hope



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

Virtual Night of Hope supporting the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Schools

What: Due to the current pandemic, we have decided to move away from our traditional dinner and event.

**Instead, this year we will host a 35-minute
FREE Virtual Event to raise emergency funds for our schools!**

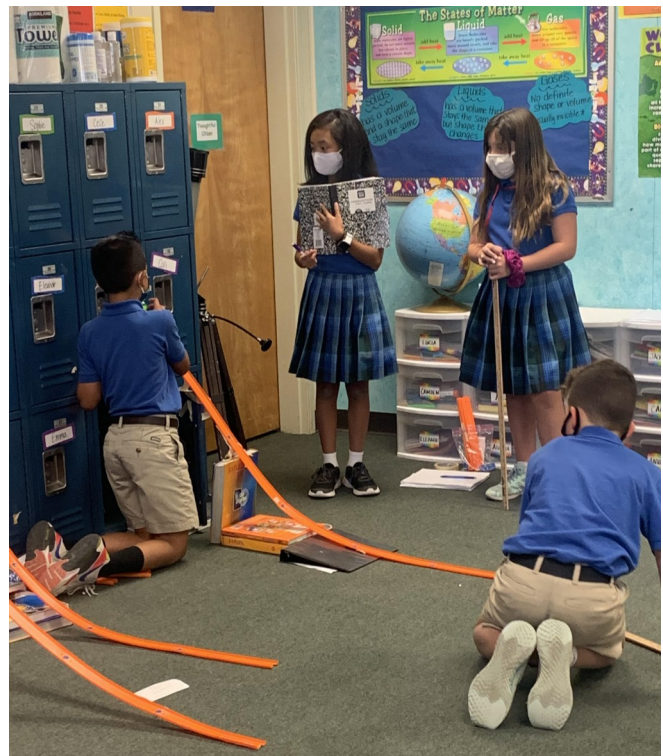
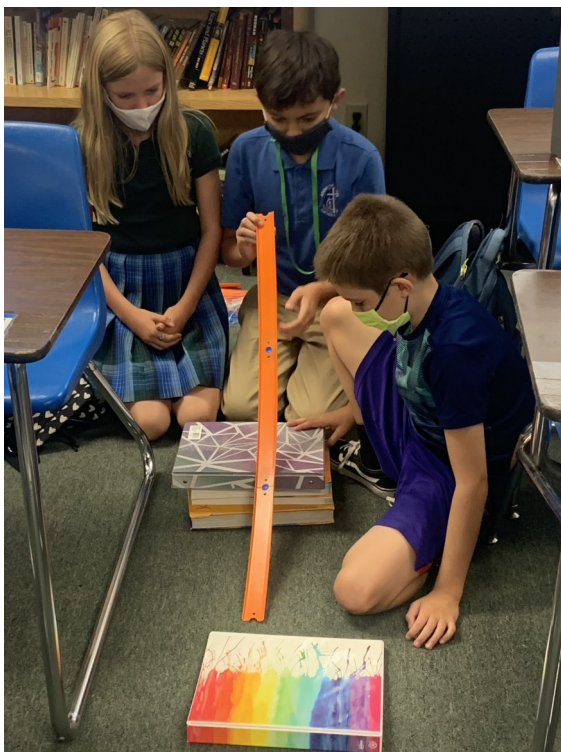
When: Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: On your computer, tablet, or smartphone

How: Click here to [RSVP](#) to secure your spot for this special event!

5th Grade's STREAM with Energy

Ms. Sposi's class STREAMed into the school year by using Hot Wheel cars to teach potential and kinetic energy! The students worked in groups to deepen their understanding of potential and kinetic energy by measuring distance to describe the energy used while altering different variables that affected the potential and kinetic energy of the Hot Wheels cars. They engineered their own ramps in order to configure both speed and distance. They used three, six and ten strips of track and mounted them at different levels with books. The student's used graphs to analyze the patterns in their data. The objective was to mathematically determine how high the track can be to successfully have the car go the farthest distance. Way to go Ms. Sposi and your ENERGETIC 5th grade!



ACS Student Graduates Young Marines Program



This summer, 8th grader Mason Carter graduated from recruit to marine private with the North Valley Young Marines. The Young Marines strengthens the lives of America's youth by teaching the importance of self-confidence, academic *achievement*, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines program focuses on character building, mental, moral, and physical development of its members as well as love and respect of country.

As a recruit, Mason participated in months of unit drills before a two-day capstone encampment in the white mountains filled with physical and academic challenges. Mason graduated with distinction on August 2. Congratulations Mason!



The Young Marines is open to all youth ages 8 through the completion of high school and are located in the North Phoenix/Cave Creek area.

Follow the link to learn more about Young Marines.



**Annunciation
Catholic School**

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www.acsphx.org
E-mail: office@acsphx.org

Office Hours
8 – 4 p.m.



Get new school uniforms and
accessories online.

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School Administration

Parochial Administrator

Fr. Chad King

Principal

Dr. Sharon Pristash
spristash@acsphx.org

Dean of Students

Ms. O'Keeffe lokeeffe@acsphx.org

Director of Development/Marketing

Mrs. McCann kmccann@acsphx.org

Office Manager

Mrs. Schwartz lschwartz@acsphx.org

Office Support

Mrs. Garcia office@acsphx.org

School Nurses: nurse@acsphx.org

Joann Perraut & Bridget Primavera

For the complete staff directory visit

[http://acsphx.org/about us/
staff directory](http://acsphx.org/about_us/staff_directory)



September & October Birthday's

September

NaTalia Aronson
Mache Baasten
Annasophia Bowers
Athena Clark
Priskilla Demalek
Kellan Eiden
Faithanne French
Kateri Gutierrez
Liliana Hooper
James Humphrey
Ellie Kludt
Aubrey Kremer
Bevin Kremer
Finnegan Macauley
Olivia McClay
Michael McGettigan
Madison Mills
Aidan O'Neill
Analiese Oveson
Ethan Reno
Harris Richardson
Catherine Riley
Ryker Sarchett
Abigail Wright
Ms. Miley
Nurse Bridget Primavera

October

Ariyan Baasten
Mason Baasten
Oliva Bax
Margot Beal
Mireya Bernal
Mason Carter
Sawyer Cordell
Antonio Diaz
Emmalia French
Kellan Henry
Luke Kanigan
Michael Khoury
Maxwell Mills
Benjamin Nachman
Ava Niemi
James O'Neill
Bennett Riley
Griffin Scagnoli
Camden Tilley
Giavanna Star Vogelsang
Fr. Chad King
Mrs. Connell

*****Calendar Changes*****

ACS School Book Fair
Jan. 31– Feb. 5, 2021

Grandparents Day Celebration
Wednesday, February 3, 2021