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IMPORTANT DATES

October

- 20 K-5 Parent Teacher conf. K-5 Noon dismissal
- 21 K-5 Parent Teacher conf. No school K-5 only
- 28 Trunk or Treat

November

- 4 All Saints/Grandparent's Day/Noon Dismissal
- 23 Noon dismissal
- 24 Thanksgiving Day
- 25 No school

December

- 15 Christmas Concert
- 19 Christmas Break until 1/2/23

Annunciation Reaches Record Enrollment for 22'- 23'

The 2022-2023 school year began on August 10 with record enrollment of 241 students. We are thankful for our 3 new teachers who joined the K-5 team. And our new nurse in the school office. Our wonderful Spanish teacher, Mrs. Ribadineira, is now full time and our new PE program is lead by Coach Dave and Coach Julie of DCL360. (See more about all of our new team member on pages 2 & 3.)

Other changes include the move of our school office to its permanent home in the parish social hall. We welcome all of our new students, families, and staff and pray for a happy, healthy, and successful year!



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.

Welcome New Staff Members



2nd Grade – Mrs. Katie Waters

Mrs. Waters comes to us with four years' experience teaching in a Catholic school, three years in fourth grade and one year in first grade. She has always wanted to teach second grade and brings a wealth of resources from her mom who was a second grade teacher. She received her Bachelor degree in education from ASU and is certified to teach K-8. Mrs. Waters and her husband live in Scottsdale and are active members of St. Bernadette Catholic Parish.



4th Grade – Mrs. Angie Cunningham

Mrs. Cunningham comes to us with a wide array of experience as a classroom teacher, a homeschool teacher, and a dyslexic specialist/tutor. Since 1995 she has taught in both Catholic and public schools in grades 2, 3, 5, and 6. Mrs. Cunningham and her family recently moved here from Colorado and have joined St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish. Her three children are enrolled at ACS in grades 4 and 8 (twins). Mrs. Cunningham has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Education in Language and Literacy. She is a certified teacher in Colorado and Arizona.



5th Grade – Mrs. Elysha Ferguson

Mrs. Ferguson has 7 1/2 years' experience in upper elementary grades. She is certified to teach grades 5-9, and her specialty areas are math, reading, and language arts. She has taught in both public and Catholic schools. Mrs. Ferguson's family moved here in December and recently joined St. Gabriel parish. Her three children are enrolled in grades 3, 4, and 5 at ACS.



Another Awesome Nurse for ACS!

Welcome to Nurse Stephanie Raiff, newest addition to our staff! She will job share the nurse position with nurses Joann and Bridget. The nurse's room is staffed every day from 8-3. Nurse Stephanie received her Nursing Degree from the University of Iowa. She has 10 years of experience as a pediatric nurse and pediatric ICU nurse. She is also the mother of Christian Raiff in second grade, and Mrs. Cunningham is her sister-in-law. We are so blessed to have Nurse Stephanie join our team!

Physical Education – Grades 6-8

Coach Dave Lauria is the owner of DCL360 Coaching. He has been an art and PE teacher in the past in the Diocese of Camden, NJ and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. He also coached at Cabrini College and Villanova University. Coach Lauria is a certified teacher with experience at all grade levels. He currently provides PE at Whiz Kids Preschool, Paradise Valley Montessori School, and Great Hearts Veritas Prep (grades 6-12). Vist Coach Dave's website:

https://dclmultisportfitness.com/p_e_classesafter-school-prog



Physical Education – Grades K-5

We also welcome Coach Julianne Wright from DCL360 Coaching. She is experienced as a teacher and coach. She formerly worked for The Boys and Girls Club of Nevada.



ANNUNCIATION

CATHOLIC IDENTITY COMMITTEE



Monthly Fruit of the Spirit Awards

Have you heard of the Fruits of the Spirit? Here is a brief background of what they are...In his letter to the Galatians, St. Paul lists the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22-23). These fruits emanate or proceed from the Holy Spirit and reveal what the Holy Spirit is like. These are the Holy Spirit's character traits. And because the Holy Spirit is a Person of the Most Holy Trinity, and because the three Persons are one, the fruits reveal what God is like.

The grace and power of the Holy Spirit gives an increase to these fruits. A confirmed person cooperates with this grace, and with growth in holiness, these fruits expand and intensify. (ref. Father Van Sloun)

Teachers at ACS are given the opportunity to reward students with our monthly Fruit of the Spirit awards. Each month a different fruit is highlighted and awards are given to a select group of students at our community prayer service. We encourage everyone to know the Fruits of the Spirit and work hard to live our lives with these special characteristics.

JOY GOODNESS
SELF-CONTROL KINDNESS
PEACE LOVE Patience
Faithfulness GENEROSITY

PLEASE JOIN CIC EVERY FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 9:30 AM

The LaBrake Family Summer starts in Rome!

The LaBrake family, Dominic (2nd grade), and his mom and dad, Bryan and Cara, traveled to Europe this summer. They sent us some amazing pictures of their trip while in Rome. The family especially enjoyed their visit to the Vatican. Thank you Dominic for sharing your school spirit while on vacation!



Fruit of the Spirit Awards

August



August recipients of the Fruit of the Spirit award were chosen by their teachers (classroom or specials) for sharing the spirit of **Joy**. This includes looking on the bright side, being driven by a love for God, and being thoughtful to others. These are traits of an Active Christian and a Thoughtful Citizen.

Front row: Ariyan (5th), Ella (5th), Erin (K), Esme (1st), Stanley (2nd), Anneliese (3rd), Samuel (1st).

Second row: Zachary (4th), Thomas (7th), Jayden (4th), Faith (8th), Leia (8th).

September recipients of the Fruit of the Spirit award were chosen by their teachers (classroom or specials) for sharing the spirit of **Goodness**. This includes seeing everything as a gift and being thankful. Being trustworthy and true. Caring for those who suffer. These are traits of an Active Christian, Thoughtful Citizen, and a Strong Communicator.

Congratulations to all!

Front row: Camden (7th), Evagrace (6th), Gigi (2nd), Enzo (K), Brinley (1st), Antonio (3rd), Corbin (3rd).

Second Row: Josie (4th), Elena (6th), Anderson (8th), Tierney (5th), Gabby (6th).

September



Our Catholic Identity in Action

Our Catholic Identity Committee welcomes all students and parents to the new school year. Did you know that our students visit the Adoration chapel each week? Also, grades 3-8 go to reconciliation monthly.

Pictured below, Mrs. McClay's 3rd grade class attends Adoration in the chapel.



Annunciation Catholic School All Saints Day Celebration and Grandparents Day!

Friday, November 4, 2022

9 - 11:30 a.m.

St. Gabriel Parish Hall

Grandparents are welcome to visit the classrooms
The school book fair will be open in the parish hall

Refreshments will be available to all guest!

ACS

The logo for Annunciation Catholic School (ACS) features the letters 'ACS' in a large, bold, white serif font. Below the letters is a graphic of a trumpet, rendered in a dark blue color with gold accents on the bell and valves.

The Vibrant Vinnies Summer Service

The Vibrant Vinnies stayed busy this summer helping our homeless community in need. They handed out blessing bags, backpacks, and served food at the St. Vincent de Paul's dining room. Thank you Vinnies!



We were very glad to have ACS IT Coordinator, Mr. Elijah Morford join us. He was kind enough to bring along a couple more volunteers!

St. Vincent de Paul pray for us! Blessed Frederic Ozanam, pray for us!



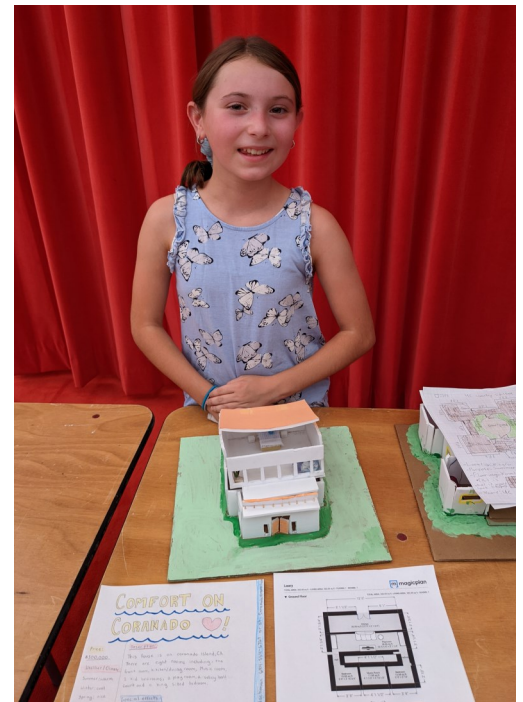
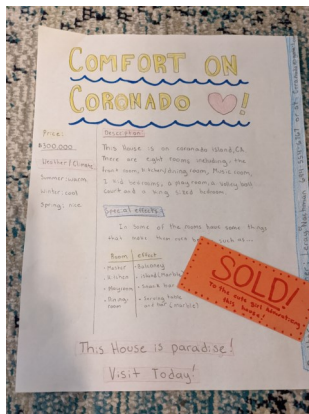
More Vinnies Serving the Community



Vibrant Vinnies have been staying busy helping at the food pantry and the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store! Together we are making a difference in our community living the Gospels !

Summer Fun at FLW Design Camp

LeRay Nachman attended Design your Own Dream Space Camp at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West this summer. There she learned all about Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture and his influential designs, her favorite being the Guggenheim in New York City. Each child was able map out their design, use blueprint software and build their own 3D model. LeRay learned a lot about scale and detail in particular. The foundation and education she has received from ACS art teacher, Mrs. Himmelein, was extremely beneficial at this camp.



Mr. Hubbard Wins Golden Gator Award from Xavier Prep



Congratulations to our own Mr. Edmund Hubbard, middle school Literature and Social Studies teacher, for receiving the Golden Gator Excellence in Teaching award from Xavier College Preparatory. This award was created by Xavier so that incoming freshmen are able to nominate a 7th or 8th grade teacher who had inspired her and significantly helped her along her academic route and guided them toward academic success. Mr. Hubbard joined the ACS teaching staff in 2020 and is a beloved and valued member of the school community.

Mr. Hubbard and his wife Logan, were recently blessed with the birth of their first child, a boy named Warren, born on October 9! The entire ACS family is thrilled for Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard. The middle school students had a surprise baby shower for them on September 28. The students enjoyed playing baby shower games and showering the happy couple with gifts.



Save the
DATE

October 19- ACS Grand Land Adventure Glow Run

October 28- St. Gabriel Trunk or Treat

October 31- November 4 - Din-O-Mite Book Fair

First School Day Mass of the Year!

On August 17, our students attended the first school day Mass with their classmates. Our students attend Mass together weekly. It's a great way to start the school day!

Below: 8th graders with their Kinder buddies walking to the church

Right: The Cupo kids take a family photo with our Blessed Mother Mary.



Save the Date

Annunciation

Christmas Concert

December 15, 2022

At 6:30 p.m.



Fun Run - October 19, 2022

ACS Grand Land Adventure Glow Run!

On your mark, get set, GLOW! ACS student runners, walkers, skippers, and jumpers will participate in a fun-filled event with glow necklaces, black lights, and great music in the St. Gabriel Parish Hall on October 19, for the GRAND LAND ADVENTURE GLOW RUN. This year's character-themed glow run will give our students a look at several national parks while they learn about Gratitude, Stewardship, Bravery, Perseverance, and Wonder.

The Grand Land Adventure Glow Run helps raise money through corporate and student sponsorships. Our fundraising goal is \$58,000. In order to reach our goal, we ask all community business partners, families, and friends of ACS to be a sponsor for this event. All financial gifts will go to support the technology program and classroom supplies. Your Classroom FunD Angels are working hard to make sure this year's event is a blast! Look for volunteer opportunities in Mobileserve.



St, Gabriel's Fall Festival

Saturday, October 22, 2022

Following 4:30 pm Mass

Adult Dinner \$15 (choice of chicken or pork)

Kids (ages 15 and under) \$5

Music, Food, and Fellowship!

Tickets on sale after all weekend Masses

Brought to you by the St. Gabriel Knights of Columbus #13286



Alumni News



ACS alumni Hannah Fabry, class of 2019, is a senior at Xavier College Preparatory and is our first ever alumni to be named a National Merit Scholarship Semi-finalist which is based on the score received on the PSAT taken during the Junior year of high school. Hannah is 1 of 16,000 high scorers among all high schools in the nation. She will complete an essay and submit her transcripts to be considered as a finalist and will compete for over 8,000 scholarships with a total value over \$35 million.

Hannah is part of the Xavier Great Books program, which is an integrated honors program of English, Theology, and Social Studies. She is also a member of the National Honor Society.

After graduation, she plans to study pre-medicine and become a pediatrician. We wish Hannah the very best and we look forward to her very bright future! Congratulations to her parents Deb and Randy!

ACS '19 alumni, Nick Ramey, has received early admission to New Mexico State University in Las Cruces New Mexico for Fall 2023!

He will major in Engineering/ Physics and he plans to join ROTC Air Force.

Pictured is with the NMSU Aggie mascot. Nick is a senior at Bourgade Catholic in Phoenix.

Congratulations to Nick and his mom Christina Ryan!



St. Gabriel Annunciation Catholic School



Trunk or Treat - October 28, 2022

North parking lot behind the parish hall

The annual Trunk or Treat will be on Friday, October 28, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Get ready to decorate your trunks and hand out yummy treats! Reserved parking spaces will go on sale during the first week of October. Look for the link and more information to come in the Friday updates.

ACS Bookfair

Reading is Dino-Mite!

In the parish hall October 30 - November 4

The Dino-Mite Book Fair is here and we're ready to

STOMP, CHOMP and READ!

Bring your Mighty STAR readers to the book fair to pick out a new favorite book. Many new titles and authors to choose from at the ACS Book Fair! ACS Angels will get to experience the magic of the onsite school shopping experience by discovering new authors and picking up some awesome trinkets.

Every dollar you spend will benefit our school by 75%.



Welcome Erik Ochoa! St. Gabriel's New Coordinator of Youth Evangelization

Hello, my name is Erik Ochoa. I am so excited and blessed to be a part of the St. Gabriel Roman Catholic Church Community as the new Coordinator of Youth Evangelization, and I humbly desire for the Lord to bless the work he has planned for the new ministry.

Just a little bit of myself: I was born in Sonora, Mexico, came to the U.S. when I was 2 years old and grew up

here in the Valley - in Laveen, Central and West Phoenix. I am the second of five sons...yes...I know, my poor mom! However, having four brothers has been one of the biggest blessings in my life. I grew up in St. John Vianney Parish, participating in their youth ministry program all throughout high school. I went to Saint Mary's High School, Class of 2017, where my faith was deepened. Through the combination of an amazing youth ministry program at my parish, an enriching catholic high school education, and the support of my family, I discerned to enter into Seminary after high school, attending The Pontifical College Seminary in Columbus, Ohio for two years - an experience that I would never trade. I gained maturity in my faith, life-long friends, a family within the church, and a longing for God like never before. Spoiler alert: I was not called to the priesthood. I returned home to continue my studies in Theology and Philosophy at Benedictine University located in Mesa where I befriended the woman who would become my wife, Allison Ochoa. We were married on April 29, 2022 at St. Bernard of Clairvaux.

Favorite Saints: St. Augustine, St. Rose of Lima, St. John the Baptist, and St. Daniel the Prophet.

Hobbies of mine: pickup basketball, reading, writing poetry, talking about all things comics, traveling, and watching movies.

I ask that you would please pray for me as I am called to serve here at St. Gabriel Catholic Church, and I will pray for you and your vocations in the Kingdom of God.

If you would like to reach out to Erik, you can contact him at youthministry@stgacc.org or call the parish office at (480)595-0883 xt. 8219

School Administration

Pastor

Fr. Chad King
frchad@stgacc.org

Principal

Dr. Sharon Pristash
spristash@acsphx.org

Dean of Students

Ms. Lynne O'Keeffe
lokeeffe@acsphx.org

Director of Development/Marketing

Mrs. Keli McCann
kmccann@acsphx.org

Director of Operations/Facilities

Mrs. Lynn Schwartz
lschwartz@acsphx.org

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Maria Garcia
office@acsphx.org

School Nurses: nurse@acsphx.org

Mrs. Joann Perraut
Mrs. Bridget Primavera
Mrs. Stephanie Raiff

For the complete staff directory visit

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

ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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E-mail: office@acsphx.org

School Hours 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Office Hours 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Find us on [Facebook!](#)

"He must increase, but I must decrease." – John 3:30



Theosis

Diving deeper into the riches of our faith!

Apologetics, theology, ministry, philosophy, church history, social issues, etc.

Post-sacrament High

School Teens:

October 13th, 2022

Bi-weekly on Thursdays
from 6-7:30 pm

For more information contact

Erik Ochoa:

youth@stgacc.org

480-595-0883 x8219



Sports nights

PLAY, PRAY, AND PIZZA

- Wednesdays October 5th and 19th from 5:30- 7pm.
- Location @ the school basketball court.
- Middle school and high school teens invited!!!

