



Dear Family and Friends of Annunciation,

I recently heard from a theology teacher at Notre Dame Preparatory (NDP) how many of their teachers love the students that come from Annunciation. Not only are they well-formed academically, but also behave politely. We really do have a very strong reputation of being one of the top schools in the Diocese (regardless that we appear first alphabetical in the Catholic school diocesan directories). But more than a top school, ACS also has the closeness of a family that I

continually see in the parents and staff, a testament and thanks to Dr. Pristash who still knows and calls every child by name, even after 13 years. This NDP teacher was also impressed at how formed the students are spiritually in the Catholic faith. Personally, I am also thankful for Dr. Pristash, our faculty, and Catholic Identity Committee, amongst others for doing such a great job in fostering the Catholic identity within the school. For example, Mrs. Cullen, our amazing middle school religion teacher, has started an initiative to help get every Catholic student practicing their faith and going to Mass every Sunday. And when I am hearing confessions of the 3rd - 8th graders every month, I hear confessions of how mortal sin against others is wrong, which is another example of how they are growing in their faith. I know of several students who are asking their parents to take them to Sunday Mass. And some have asked another student's family to take them! As their Pastor, I am so proud of the effort we as administration, the faculty, and students are making to make the Catholic faith the primary identity of this school, you can be too. I look forward to another year helping make that even more of a reality.

In Christ,
Fr. Chad King
Pastor- St. Gabriel Catholic Church/Annunciation School



Dear Family, Friends, and Generous Supporters,

It is hard to believe that we are in the midst of our fifteenth year of operation. Each year passes more quickly, and each year brings something new. In January 2023 we brought our library out of storage where it has waited for four years until the campus project was complete. It took many months to unpack and organize the library, and it officially opened its doors to students in August. In January we also added a food forest garden to our campus. You will find information about both of those

projects in this report.

This year, again, we are at capacity enrollment with waiting lists for all but one grade. Our ninth class of 8th graders are busy preparing for the high school application process. We expect another year of 100% acceptance into the Catholic high schools. If you are wondering how are graduates do when they leave ACS, check out the alumni section in this report.

All of our accomplishments would not be possible without the time, talent, and treasure of many people. Each one of you has had a part in bringing our school from its humble beginnings to the success it is today and has provided the foundation for a bright and hopeful future. I am grateful for all you have done -- your faith, your service, your financial support, and your prayers. May the peace of Christ be with you always.

Blessings,

Dr. Sharon H. Pristash

## 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.

Front cover pictured: Lucia Garcia (8th grader) at the monthly rosary.

## **Congratulations to the Class of 2023**



On May 17, we celebrated the 8th graduating class of Annunciation Catholic School. The class of 2023 is an amazing group of students. All who applied were accepted to Catholic high schools. Many with honors, highest honors, and scholarships. This class is recognized in our school's history as the second class that has students who attended since kindergarten. ACS added kindergarten in the fall of 2013. Fourteen students in this class of twenty nine attended all nine years of elementary school at ACS.

High School	Accepted	Honors
Notre Dame Preparatory	26	10 Honors
Xavier College Preparatory	5	3 Honors 1 Highest Honors/Scholarship
Brophy College Preparatory	9	3 Honors
St. Mary's Catholic High School	1	1 Honors

STANDARD SCORE	National Standards Average		Diocesean 2023 Average	ACS 2022 Average	ACS 2023 Average
Verbal Skills	500	532	N/A	581	564
Quantitative Skills	500	547	N/A	572	582
Cognitive Total	500	539	N/A	576	567
Reading	500	517	N/A	544	542
Math	500	524	N/A	495	501
Language	500	511	N/A	529	541
Basic Skills Total	500	516	N/A	522	526
Composite	500	525	521	542	541

## **Christian Service Award**

Christian Service Award from the Catholic Community Foundation. Since 1998, the mission of the Christian Service Award (CSA) Scholarship is to acknowledge students who demonstrate exemplary Christ-centered behavior through volunteer service to their parish, school, and community. Recipients display a love and understanding of their Catholic faith and articulate a commitment, not only to perform acts of service but to live a service-focused life. They recognize their God-given gifts and provide persuasive evidence of their maturity, humility, and leadership. Charlotte was awarded the scholarship of a \$2,000 payment during each year at a Catholic high school for a total of \$8,000.





## **Mason Carter**

Mason Carter, ACS Class of 2021, attends Notre Dame Preparatory (NDP). Mason attended ACS for the entirety of his elementary schooling. Mason's older sisters Ashlynn and Lauren also attended Annunciation. Mason is currently a sophomore at NDP where he has lettered in two varsity sports: football and wrestling. Mason keeps in touch with many of his fellow ACS class graduates.

Mason pictured below with the class of 2023 when they visited NDP on 8th grade day.







## **Olivia Bax**

Olivia Bax, ACS Class of 2023. Olivia attends Xavier College Preparatory and made the Xavier Varsity Cheer team as a freshman. Congratulations Olivia!



Maddy Levell, ACS Class of 2022. Maddy attends Notre Dame Preparatory (NDP) and is a member of the NDP Drama Club. She has participated in several plays and most recently had a role in The Women of Lockerbie by Debrah Brevooort. In May 2023, Maddy was inducted into the International Thespian Society. Congratulations Maddy!







## **Owen Wallace**

wen Wallace, ACS Class of 2020, received the National Merit Scholarship Commended Student Award during his junior year at Brophy College Preparatory for his outstanding academic success. He is a recipient of the Eagle Scout Award with Troop 323 and was on Brophy Broncos Varsity swim team all four years.

## Mark Rossbach

Mark Rossbach, ACS Class of 2017, is the current President of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Baja team at Arizona State University. His club engineers and manufactures a Baja-style, single-seat racecar to compete against other American and International Universities in a series of static and dynamic events. The club participated in the SAE Ohio competition in Nashport, Ohio in the summer of 2023, where the team placed 27th out of 78 teams, with notable results of 9th in suspension testing, 12th in pilot pull, and 15th in maneuverability testing. Mark now leads the team in improving the 2023 ASU racecar and gathering sponsorship to prepare for the 2024 racing season. The team is planning on attending the May 2024 competition in Pennsylvania, where they hope to make the top 15.



## **Christian Bax**

Christian Bax, ACS Class of 2020, is a junior at Brophy College Preparatory and used the summer of 2023 to accomplish some major bucket list items! Christian applied for and was accepted at Harvard Medical School summer intensive to study cancer research and Northwestern University Medical School summer intensive to study various medical practices with hands-on experience in the lab and diagnosing patients. Christian ultimately chose Northwestern. Christian also took one summer course at Brophy and accomplished all his junior year service hours through a non-profit called Saving Amy. Christian participated in a lacrosse tournament in Oceanside earlier in the summer and attended a lacrosse camp at Stanford University.



## **Mary Hill**

**B**rophy/Xavier Preparatory Colleges coed Mountain Bike Team obtained its first win as a team in Prescott in 2022. The mountain bikers went on to win the conference in the fall. Mary Hill, ACS graduate Class of 2020 and Xavier senior, is one of the team leaders and will graduate with over 25 top-five podium wins, the most highly decorated athlete in the program's history. With seven years of competitive racing, she's learned about herself and made unforgettable memories with teammates and competitors.

"My favorite part of being on the team is being a part of the community," Mary said. "It's unlike any other sport. I feel much closer to my teammates in mountain biking than in any other sport I've been in."



## **Chapman Richardson**

Chapman Richardson is a proud ACS graduate from the Class of 2022 and is a sophomore attending Notre Dame Preparatory. While at ACS, his 8th grade class was the second to take classical Guitar taught by an NDP teacher. The class enhanced his skills and ignited his passion for guitar.

During the summer, Chapman returns to ACS to offer guitar lessons to ACS students. As his favorite guitar teacher once said, "Music is a universal language. Music is math, music is art, music is what makes us human." Chapman believes you can always express yourself through guitar, but if you mess up, just play 'Free Bird'!



## **Ambassadors**

Student Ambassadors are selected to be the official student representatives of ACS during their 8th grade year. The Student Ambassadors greet and converse with prospective students, families, and donors through educational and social events. This group of students showcase the quality and diversity of the student body, promote pride, and communicate the remarkability of the school itself.

Ambassadors attend developmental workshops led by Ambassador Mentor, Keli McCann, to develop their skills. ACS Ambassadors are present at special events including serving as ushers at the ACS All School Masses at St. Gabriel, distributing Catholic Education Arizona brochures at several parishes and serving as greeters at our annual Evening Under the Stars Gala.



Back Row: Mache, Gabriel, Anderson, Charlotte, Brenna, Simeon, Brayden, Benjamin. Front Row: Dash, Lucas, Enzo, Ellie, Jamison, Cady, Emma, Izzy, Olivia.

## **Catholic Identity - Catholic Schools Week**

The students had a great time during Catholic Schools Week. The Knights of Columbus Free Throw contest took place after Sunday Mass during the Open House. Catholic singer and songwriter Michael John Poirier visited and performed with the ACS student choir. All students visited the "Eucharistic Miracles of the World" exhibition blessed by Carlos Acutis which was in the parish hall for the week. Here are a few snapshots from some of the activities.











## **Evening Under the Stars Dinner and Silent Auction**



The annual Evening Under the Stars Dinner and Silent Auction was held on April 1, 2023. It has become a highly anticipated event for friends and families of Annunciation. The event has been growing steadily for the past seven years, and this year, it drew over 240 attendees. The dinner was catered by Citron Catering, and the event featured a silent and live auction, a commedian, an music by the Nineball band.

The highlight of the evening was the first-ever paddle raise, which generated an electric atmosphere as a large number of generous donors contributed a total of \$36,000. Thanks to their generosity, we were able to fund new uniforms for the boys basketball team, courtside wall padding, and new sets of series read ing books for the middle school section of the library. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Christy Brown, Lisa DiPasquale, Heather Dyer, and the ACS Room Angels for their efforts in bringing some spectacular class baskets and projects to the auction. We also thank our FunD Angels for procuring additional items and

experiences, Joy Renner and Gae Carpenter for creating the beautiful centerpieces, and all the volunteers who graciously assisted with the tiniest of details, and Lori Mar, Development Administrator, for her attention to detail, and data entry for a successful event. Thank you Keli McCann, our Director of Development for her work on this event and facilitating our volunteers.



Pictured: Keli McCann, Director of Development and Lori Mar, Development Administrator.

## Fun Run 2022 Hits Its Goal

Every year, we organize a Fun Run event that encourages our students to seek sponsorship from their family and friends for the annual event. This year's theme was a Glow Run, which took place inside and raised a remarkable \$60,000 for ACS. We had the pleasure of hosting the Boosterthon team members on our campus, who planned and organized the event and gave our students a daily challenge to help motivate the students to participate. Once they met the challenge, they were allowed to silly string the team members, tape them to a pole, and much more.





One of the incentives was that our staff members would wear a wig for the day, and even Father Chad joined in on the fun. We would like to thank our team of volunteers who helped us make this event a success, and a special shoutout to Bri Gesell for planning and organizing the crafts and activities for the day.



### **STREAM**

nnunciation teachers have been incorporating-**1**STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math) principles into their curriculum for many years. All the teachers at Annunciation use Project Based Learning (PBL) methodology to teach their students. At the start of this academic year, the kindergarten class learned about the importance of washing hands and staying healthy in a fun and creative way through a Germ project. The fifth graders learned about ecosystems through research and exploration into Arizona's Biosphere. The seventh and eighth grade students used CAD design to 3D print and coded with SCRATCH to create a Roomba robot using an Arduino (a single-board microcontroller). The middle school students also look forward to creating a solar oven out of reusable itemsto make Smores. The STREAM program at Annunciation challenges and engages all students to become critical thinkers.







# **School Library Returns after Four Year Absence**



In January 2023, we started remodeling two former classrooms to make a new home for our school library. The former first and second grade classrooms in what is now the Youth Center (former K-3 building) have been combined to create a nice space for the library. Several amazing volunteers have been busy setting up the space, unpacking cartons of books, and organizing the shelves.

We also wish to thank the amazing volunteers who have have spent many hours over the past six months putting the library back together: Kate Hill (founding parent of ACS, her 3 daughters graduated in 2016, 2018, and 2020). Valerie Lederer (alumni parent, her son graduated in 2017). Diane Thomas (member of OLOJ parish and donor to the library project at ACS). Thank you to our volunteer librarians Haide Casey and Colleen Brennan.

# **Students Share Their Talents and Courage**



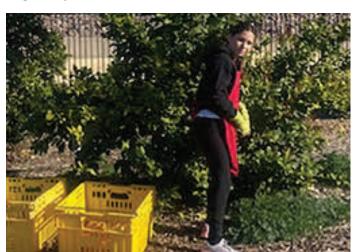
The end of year student Talent Show was a blast! Lots of talented student singers, dancers, and performers stepped up to share their gifts and courage with the entire student body. Even some of our teachers got in on the acts! Our amazing art teacher, Mrs. Hemmelein, who also teaches private music lessons, had a group of students who formed their own band, "The Kool Kids" which performed at the Student Talent Show. Thanks to all who participated in this year's annual event.

Pictured: The Kool Kidz band featuring Michael Khoury, Conrad Cupo, Alli Cave, Amelia Shen, Bennett Tranter, and our art teacher and music mentor Mrs. Himmelein!

## **Vibrant Vinnies Makes a Postive Impact on Community**

Vinnies have been working hard! They harvested enough food for 75 people in the garden and unpacked pallets of peanut butter for sandwiches for the homeless! Next month we will be doing some crafts with the veterans! St. Vincent de Paul pray for us!

Congratulations to 8th grader and the President of the ACS Vibrant Vinnies, Sabini Morawa. She had the honor of speaking to the Life Teen group at St Joan of Arc Catholic Church about being part of Vibrant Vinnies and her call to serve the community. She currenly attends Notre Dame Preparatory and is serving with the Sanctity of Life ministry. To learn more about the ACS Vibrant Vinnies, please visit https://acsphx.org/vibrant-vinnies/







## National Junior Honor Society Inductees 2022-2023



Pictured: Thomas, Riley, Breyden, Drake, Andrew, Meadow, Cali, Nola, Cece, Ava, Ashley, Lucia, Antonio, Camden, Eleanor, Lucas, Alex.

on February 8, 2023, seventeen students were inducted into the James Rapisarda Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. The Chapter aims to develop leadership, scholarship, citizenship, service, and character traits among the students at Annunciation Catholic School. The faculty bestows the honor of membership in this chapter to deserving students based on their scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

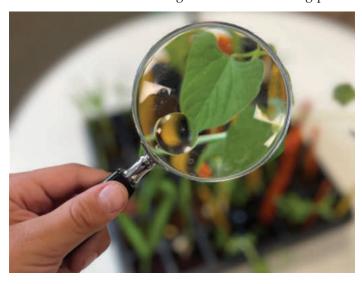
To be eligible for selection, candidates must be in the seventh or eighth-grade class and have a minimum cumulative grade average of 96% in all subject areas. Candidates are also evaluated based on their service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Congratulations to the 2022-2023 inductees.

## **Garden Angels Club Blooms at Annunciation**

In late 2022, Dr. Pristash received a proposal to create a Garden Angels Club. The ACS parent volunteer team, led by Bri Gesell, took up the challenge and aimed to not just bring the club to life but also to expand the vision.

They envisioned creating a food forest where students could learn about growing plants that are not typically associated with the Sonoran Desert. Thus, the ACS food forest was born! The team spent most of January and February digging trenches, laying water lines, critter-proofing, and planting the first phase of the forest.

The first phase included a variety of deciduous trees such as apple, peach, fig, plum, jujube, and apricot. In August and September, the second phase added tropical plants and herbs such as mango, ice cream bean tree, bare-root bananas, dragon fruit, thyme, and rosemary. The third phase included a variety of citrus trees. The team also installed the Mother Mary Rose Garden, made possible by those who purchased a fruit tree or rose bush during an initial fundraising phase.



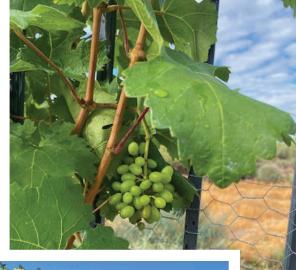
Dr. Pristash and Father Chad are excited to bring Mary's rose garden back to ACS and St. Gabriel's for families to enjoy. The rose garden will be a peaceful and tranquil place for anyone to come and pray.

To introduce the students to the food forest, each grade participated in a seed-to-soil challenge. Every student planted a seed that would later be transplanted into the garden on field day in April. Even the staff and teachers, including Father Chad, planted their own seeds.

The Garden Angels Club will officially start in November 2023. The club will not only teach students about horticulture and plant growth but also provide hands-on experience in community service.

The school and parish community are also welcome to participate in the club. To stay updated and receive announcements, join the Garden Angels Garden Club newsletter by signing up on our flock note: https://acsphx.flocknote.com/ACSGardenAngels/notes.







## **Thank You to Last Year's Donors and Community Partners!**

#### **Annual Appeal**

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Rosemary Baker Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan and Angela Bashinsky Mr. and Mrs. Ronald and Lisa Baumann Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Anna Marie Benich Mr. Robert Calabrese Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Mary Cunningham Mr. and Mrs. Patrick and MarySharon Curran Mr. and Mrs. Keith and Pat Dzija Mr. and Mrs. Al and Nikki Eiden Ms. Cathy Esposito Mr. and Mrs. John and Joann Frale Mr. and Mrs. John and Kathy Friess Mr. Michael Garramone Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Charmaine Girdish Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Melanie Hooper Dr. and Mrs. Vivek and Megan Iyers Mr. and Mrs. Christopher and Dena Kellogg Mr. and Mrs. Corey and Jennifer Kludt Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Martha Komives Mr. and Mrs. Ken and Sandy Kowalec Mr. and Mrs. Ed and Valerie Lederer Ms. Sandra McCullough Dr. and Mrs. Steven and Kathy Morozowich Mr. and Mrs. David and JoAnn Niemi Mr. and Mrs. Nancy and Carl Petersen Mrs. Barbara T. Powers Ms. Marina Rapisarda Mr. and Mrs. Brian Ricken Mr. and Mrs. Charlie and Patti Robeson Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Karen Root (In Memory of Debi Gall)

Ms. Sharon Slattery
Mr. and Mrs. Max and Deb Snowden
Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Christina Snozek
Mr. and Mrs. Roger and Madeline Stack
Ms. Gabrielle Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Debravka Tollison
Mr. and Mrs. Ted and Janet Windus
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Pamela Wold
Dr. and Mrs. Matthew and Melissa Wright
Mr. and Mrs. Alan and Victoria Zalewski

#### White Ribbon Club \$1,000+

Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Janice Calabrese
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Mary Cunningham
Mr. and Mrs. Al and Nikki Eiden
Mr. and Mrs. David and JoAnn Niemi
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie and Patti Robeson
Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Christina Snozek
Ms. Gabrielle Thomas

#### Green Ribbon Club \$1,500 +

Dr. and Mrs. Vivek and Megan Iyer Mr. and Mrs. Max and Deb Snowden

#### Blue Ribbon Club \$2,500+

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher and Dena Kellogg

#### Principal Club \$5,000+

Ms. Sandra McCullough

#### St. Gabriel Tuition Fund

Mrs. Margaret Abbruscato Mr. and Mrs. Paxton and Dawn Jevnick Mr. and Mrs. Phillip and Carol Loignon

#### Grants

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Carol Gillespie Catholic Community Foundation Endowment

> The Kiwanis Club of Carefree Matthews 19:14 Project

#### **Angel Donors**

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Carol Gillespie Catholic Community Foundation Endowment Mr. and Mrs. Ron and Vicki Krizek The Rechterman Family

#### **General Donations**

Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Michelle Boggiano Barro's Pizza Bricks 4 Kidz Mr. Robert Cannon Chipotle

Mr. and Mrs. James and Laura Dearing Desert Delectables

Mrs. Lois Forsell

Freeport-McMoRan Foundation Ms. Dolores Galligan

Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Rozenah Goebel Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Donna Hastings

It's Little Bull, LLC Junkluggers

ania Club of Cana

Kiwanis Club of Carefree Mr. and Mrs. William and Amy Kremer

Fr. David Kulandaisamy

Mr. Gregory Lemke

Mrs. Catherine Mason

Mr. and Mrs. Doug and Jody Meier Melaleuca

Dr. and Mrs. Steven and Kathy Morozowich
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Mr. and Mrs. John and Jennifer Rainney
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Strong Minds, LLC

Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Teresa Vitolo Mr. and Mrs. Stefan and Melissa Vojt Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Rosalee Walsh The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey

## **Designated Donations**

Catholic Education Arizona
Ms. Cathy Esposito
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Carol Gillespie
Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Rozenah Goebel
Dr. and Mrs. Vivek and Megan Iyer
Mr. and Mrs. Paxton and Dawn Jevnick
Mr. and Mrs. Ron and Vicki Krizek
Mr. and Mrs. David and Maureen Needham
Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Carol O'Neill
Mr. and Mrs. John and Jennifer Rainney
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Diane Thomas

## **Thank You to Last Year's Donors and Community Partners!**

#### **Glow Run Sponsors**

#### **Champion \$3,000**

Arizona Leadership Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Todd and Andrea Hofmeister Phos Electrical Raiff Family Foundation The Crystal Tribe

#### Runner \$2,500

Starkweather Roofing

#### **Sprinter \$1,000**

3B's Landscaping Dunn Powers Material Handling Equipment **Eton Marketing** MegaPlanIT Shamrock Foods Company Sonoran Hopital Medicine, PLC Velasquez Family

#### Jogger \$500

Adaptive Force Performing Arts Albertson/Safeway Cordon Orthodontics Grotto Café' Hernandez Ironworks, LLC Horticultural Frontiers Miaian Pediatrics Mr. Handyman of Scottsdale North Valley Eye Care, P.C. Pinks Moving and Junk Removal Pop Up Celebrations RZR Recycling Warner Law

#### Walker \$250

Dr. Charles Emery and Marcia Balestrio Pecos Valley Produce

#### **Evening Under the Stars**

#### **Platinum \$5,000**

Arizona Leadership Foundation Right Toyota Raiff Family Foundation

#### Gold \$2,500

AZ Ortho

Jolesch Enterprises Kiwanis Club of Carefree Mr. and Mrs. Todd and Andrea Hofmeister Pinks Moving and Junk Removal Starkweather Roofing Torcom Companies LLC

#### Silver \$1,000

North Valley Eye Care Mr. and Mrs. Jason and Sarah Cupo Dr. and Mrs. Vivek and Megan Iyer Dr. and Dr. Bernadinio and Michelle Velasquez

#### Centerpiece Sponsor \$3,000

Country Financial

#### **Activity Sponsor \$500**

AZ Premier Realty, Danielle Paluscio Mr. Hank Bried Catholic Education Arizona Dr. Charles Emery and Marcia Balestrio HIS Lighting Launch Powered by Compass-The Pinnacle Group, Kelly Pope and Connie Edelman Mr. and Mrs. Dean and Sue Pierce . . . . . . .

### Friends and Family of Annunciation \$250

Pinks Moving and Junk Removal **Desert Valley Surgical Solutions** Mr. and Mrs. Dave and Bee Piazza Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Susan Rindahl Mr. and Mrs. Don and Liz Raiff Mr. and Mrs. Antonio and Carmen Zullo

#### Special Appeal

Mrs. Debra Atkinson Mr. and Mrs. Chris and Romisa Baasten Mr. and Mrs. Ed and Gae Carpenter Mrs. Tiffany Cooper Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Joy Del Giorno Mr. and Mrs. Dustin and Bri Gessel Mr. David Gordan Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Gougion Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Kathy Hanson Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Maria Henricks Mrs. Patricia Jelsma Mr. and Mrs. Dale and Athena Jensen

Dr. and Mrs. Tim and Deanna Kavanaugh Mr. and Mrs. Ed and Sandy Khoury Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Molly Krause Mr. and Mrs. Ed and Jenn McGettigan

Mr. Corbin McNeill Mr. and Mrs. Doug and Jody Meier Mr. and Mrs. Damon and Angie Miller Dr. and Mrs. Steven and Kathy Morowozewich Mr. and Mrs. Aaron and Arianna Muth Mr. and Mrs. David and Maureen Needham Ms. Katie Ovesen

Mr. and Mrs. David and Bee Piazza Mr. Jim Pogge Mr. and Mrs. Jamey and Rani Reichow Mr. and Mrs. Andy and Mylene Richardson Mr. and Mrs. Mario and Draga Rozaci Mr. and Mrs. Homer and Julie Savard Mr. and Mrs. Monte and Kristen Smith Mr. and Mrs. Max and Deb Snowden Mr. and Mrs. John and Sheila Stoner Raiff Family Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Sue Torigian Mr. and Mrs. Shane and Kathleen Warner

Mrs. Linda Wright Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Caren Youwer

## We Thank Ron & Vicki Krizek for Their Spirit of Giving





Our Lady of Joy parishioners, Ron and Vicki Krizek, toured our campus in April of 2022 with Dr. Pristash. They asked her about the school's current needs, specifically needs not covered by the operating budget. Dr. Pristash proudly showed them the new sports court used for our basketball and volleyball teams in addition to PE class and recess. She pointed out the bleachers facing southeast into the sun and explained how during after-school games the sun beats down on the spectators and shines brightly in their eyes. Retractable awnings over the bleachers would greatly improve their usefulness at athletic events. A few days later, Dr. Pristash received an email from Mr. Krizek stating that they would like to assist in purchasing the awnings. Mrs. Keli McCann, development director, researched and worked with the Krizek family to find the right solution, and three electrical awnings were installed in March of 2023.

In recognition of their generous donation, a plaque with a special bible verse was placed on the wall. The bible verse they chose was "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. "Joshua 1:9

## **How to Give**

#### **Annual Appeal**

The Annual Appeal fund helps support Annunciation cover the day-to-day operation of the school, which includes utilities, rent, and maintenance.

#### **Cash Gifts**

Your financial gift to Annunciation Catholic School provides operational support for the school's mission, including academic programs, athletics, fine arts and technology.

#### **Matching Gifts**

Many corporations offer as a benefit to their employees a matching gift program. Please ask your human resources department for a matching gift to support Catholic education.

#### Gifts-In-Kind

The parents and parishioners of Annunciation continue their generous donations of their time and talent. Please consider donating your experience or services to help Annunciation Catholic School. Some gifts that have already been received include printing, food and beverage donations, office and classroom supplies, and equipment for the school.

#### **Tuition Assistance**

St. Gabriel Catholic Parish has created a fund to help families at Annunciation who experience an unforseen financial need during the year. Designated donations to Annunciation Tuition Assistance program through the parish St. Gabriel Tuition Assistance Fund can be given directly to the parish or school office.

#### **Appreciated Securities**

Gifts of securities, mutual funds and stocks are an excellent way to support Catholic education in your estate planning.

#### **Planned Giving**

Leave a legacy that reflects your ideals and values by supporting Catholic education in your estate planning.

#### **Endowments**

An endowment fund is known as "forever money." It is a special account that is established in order to generate revenue. One of the distinguishing characteristics of an endowment fund is that the principal amount contained in the account is not disbursed for any reason. This principal amount is invested in a manner that creates a steady return.

## **Kiwanis of Carefree Awards Two More Grants to ACS!**



Pictured: Dr. Sharon Pristash, Ted Dimon and Keli McCann

The Kiwanis Club of Carefree has been very generous to Annunciation Catholic School for the past 8 years, with grants totaling over \$100,000 to support technology, special needs, and athletics. Kiwanis approved two more grant requests in the spring of 2023 totaling \$40,000. The first grant, received in July, was used to purchase new laptops for all the teachers. The second grant, awarded in August, is a \$10,000 gift to the ACS Garden Project. We are forever grateful to Carefree Kiwanis for their tremendous support which has provided all of our students with such a high level of STREAM experiences.

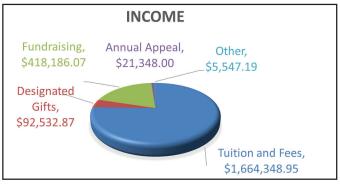
Please support Kiwanis of Carefree by donating to and shopping at their thrift store, the Kiwanis Marketplace. It is located in Cave Creek across from Dairy Queen. The Kiwanis Marketplace is also in need of volunteers. It's a great place for our middle school students to provide service hours to our community. Learn more about kiwanis at https://kiwaniscarefree.org/.

## **Financial Summary**

Annunciation is pleased to announce that we have successfully ended another financial year with zero debt, thanks to the generous support of our parents, parishioners, and donors. Our operational budget is funded by three sources: tuition, fundraising, and donations to the annual appeal, as well as grants and personal gifts. We were able to use designated funds from the previous fiscal year to cover expenses that occurred during the 2022-2023 academic year.

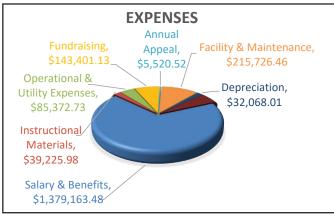
Each year, the cost of Catholic education increases. For the 2022-2023 academic year, it cost \$8,220 to educate a student. Tuition for kindergarten to 5th-grade students was \$6,300, while middle school students paid \$6,600. The difference between the cost of education and tuition fees is known as the "Gap," which is filled through fundraising and donations.

INCOME								
Tuition and Fees	\$	1,664,348.95	76%					
Designated Gifts	\$	92,532.87	4%					
Fundraising	\$	418,186.07	19%					
Annual Appeal	\$	21,348.00	1%					
Other	\$	5,547.19	0%					
Total Income	\$	2,201,963.08						



EXPENSES							
\$	1,379,163.48	69%					
\$	39,225.98	2%					
\$	85,372.73	4%					
\$	143,401.13	7%					
\$	5,520.52	0%					
\$	215,726.46	11%					
\$	32,068.01	2%					
\$	105,290.84	5%					
\$	2,005,769.15						
	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$ 1,379,163.48 \$ 39,225.98 \$ 85,372.73 \$ 143,401.13 \$ 5,520.52 \$ 215,726.46 \$ 32,068.01 \$ 105,290.84					

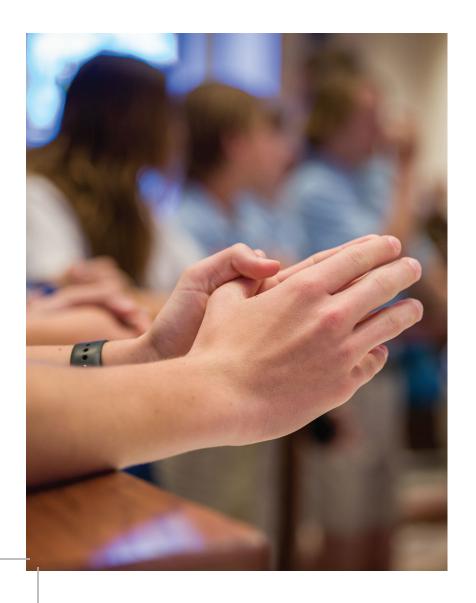
Change in Net Accete	
Change in Net Assets \$ 196,193.93	



CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Cave Creek, Arizona 85331

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All Our Students Strive to be a S.T.A.R.







