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IMPORTANT DATES

March/April

3/21	Early dismissal
3/21-23	School Musical
3/31	ITBS testing begins
4/11	Field Day, early dis. 12pm
4/14-21	Easter Break
4/26	Gala D'amore

May

2	Mass & May Crowning
4	All School Mass, 10:30am
16	8th grade Graduation
22	Kinder Promotion
23	Last Day of school, early dis.

8th Grade Boys Basketball Team are C.Y.A.A. Champs



8th grade basketball team champions and their coaches at SS. Simon & Jude gymnasium.

On January 24, our 8th grade boys from the class of 2025 brought home the first place trophy from the C.Y.A.A. Small Schools Basketball tournament. This was the second year in a row the ACS team took the title. Congratulations to Coach Maskala and Coach Humphrey for their time and dedication preparing the team. We are very proud of these boys and all they have accomplished together this year. Go Angels!

Ukulele Class is coming to ACS!

Thanks to an anonymous donor our students will begin learning to play the ukelele! Four years ago the same donor funded our 8th grade classical guitar program, which is still going strong.

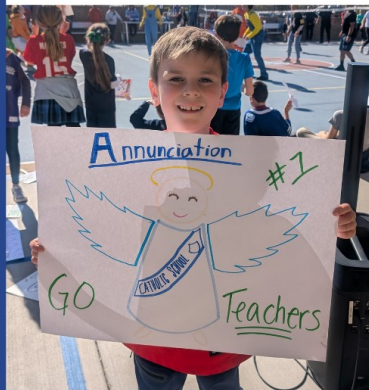
With the purchase of 30 ukuleles, students in 6th and 7th grade will now have the opportunity to learn an instrument while using the music theory skills they learned in 4th and 5th grade.



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.

Catholic Schools Week Brought Joy to All. Thank you Sarah Cupo & CIC Team. We ♥ You!



- * June 2-5, M-Th: K-2nd grade Theater Camp
- * June 2-5, M-F: 3rd - 8th grade students, Sticky Fingers Cooking camp
- * June 9-13, M-F: 3rd-8th grade Theater Camp
- * June 9-13, M-Th: K-2nd grade, Sticky Fingers Cooking camp. More info to come!
- * June 16-20, M-F: Camp Invention -- [Register at this Link](#)
- * July 7-11 & 14-18: [Art Angels Camp](#) for rising K-5 students

More info to come!

Fruit of the Spirit January (Faithfulness) and February (Love)

Each month we celebrate the Fruits of the Spirit that are witnessed in our students by their teachers. They receive these awards at the monthly community prayer held on the last Tuesday of each month.

Cullen B.
Beckett A.
Lucy P.
Hannah W.
Stanley P.
Fiona S.
Jon P.
Chase B.
Bennett R.
Maggie G.
Allison K.
Christian C.
Zac C.
Jemma F.



January Fruit of the Spirit is Faithfulness: Believing in God and all He has revealed. Saying "yes" to the loving will of God and those He has set over us. Being faithful to promises and commitments.



Jemma F.
Rose R.
Mario H.
Luke M.
Holden H.
Michael K.
Dylan B.
Ariyan B.
Amelia W.
Macy L.
Penelope P.
Stella H.
Madison M.
Grace B.

February Fruit of the Spirit is Love:

Loving God with all your heart, mind, and strength and your neighbor as yourself.



**LA DOLCE VITA AWAITS.
Let's Celebrate!**

amore.givesmart.com



**We are delighted to invite
you to a Night of Faith,
Joy & Gratitude**

gala d'amore
APRIL 26, 2025

cocktails, dinner, auction & dancing

Enjoy Italian cuisine,
exciting auctions, raffles,
live entertainment, dancing,
and much more as
we gather to support the
future of our school.

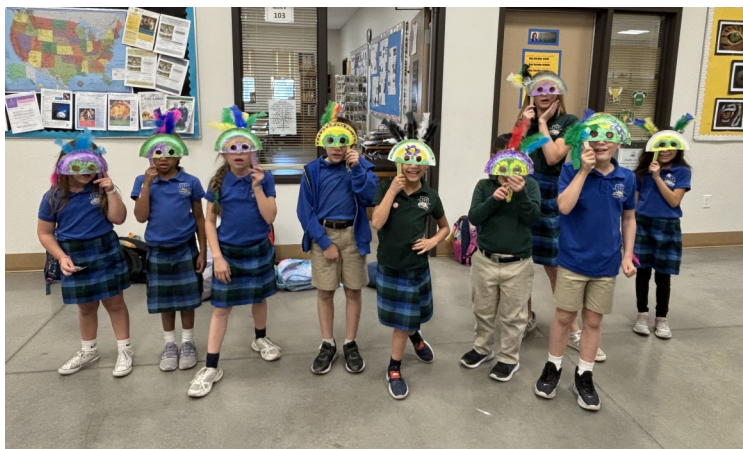
Date: April 26, 2025

Time: 4:30 - 10:00 PM

Location: Grayhawk Golf Club

Let's come together in support
of a great cause - all while
enjoying the warmth of
good company and
the spirit of Italy!

We hope to see you there!



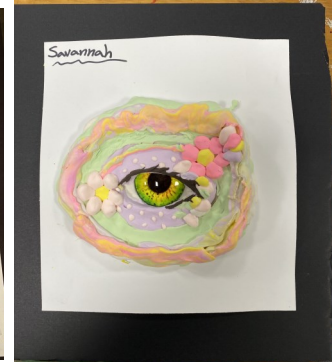
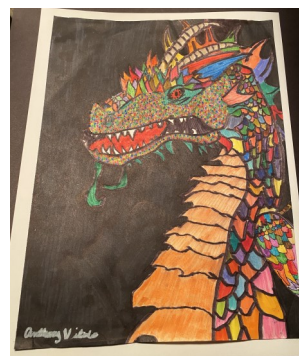
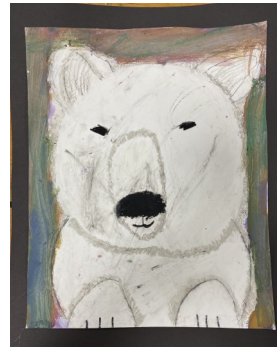
Art Club with Mrs. Cullen!

The students in Mrs. Cullen's after school art club had a fun time making Mardi Gras masks. This club is assisted with the help of Mrs. Cullen's high school age daughters, Emma and Charlotte who both attended ACS and are now at Notre Dame Prep. Emma will be graduating in May. We can't wait to see what other fun things this group will create!

ACS Students Shine at the Tempe Arts Festival

Student	Category	Award	Title of artwork
Rose Reichow - Gr. 1	Kinder. & 1st grade	3rd place	Mighty Polar Bear
Jimmy Geist - Gr. 1	Kinder. & 1st grade	HM	Polar Bear
Claire Ensign - Gr. 2	Grades 2-3	HM	A Sight of Heavenly Glory
Mabel Phelan - Gr. 3	Grades 2-3	3rd place	Artic Fox
Anthony Vitolo - Gr. 4	Grades 4-5	HM	Rainbow Dragon
Lacy Geist - Gr. 5	Grades 4-5	3rd place	Northern Lights
Savannah Dean - Gr. 5	Grades 4-5	HM	Dragon Eye
Amelia Wicker - Gr. 8	Grades 6-8	1st place	Mont St. Michael Abbey
Abby Wright - Gr. 8	Fiber Art - All Grades	2nd place	Sewn Tiger

ACS art teacher, Mrs. Debbie Himmelein, is very proud of her students whose artwork received awards and honorable mention at the annual Tempe Festival of the Arts which was held in early March. Each year our students have done very well in this competition, which includes entries from young artists in grades K—12 throughout the valley. This year we congratulate the following winners and those who received Honorable Mention for their works of art.



You can see more of our student artwork on the bulletin boards throughout the school buildings. Some are featured on the Annunciation Instagram account [@ACS_angels](#) . Give us a follow!

Annunciation Students Receive Christian Service Award



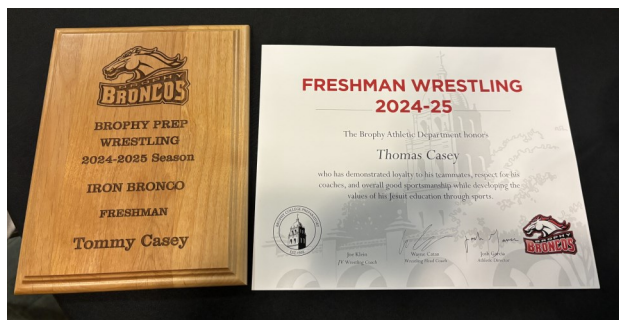
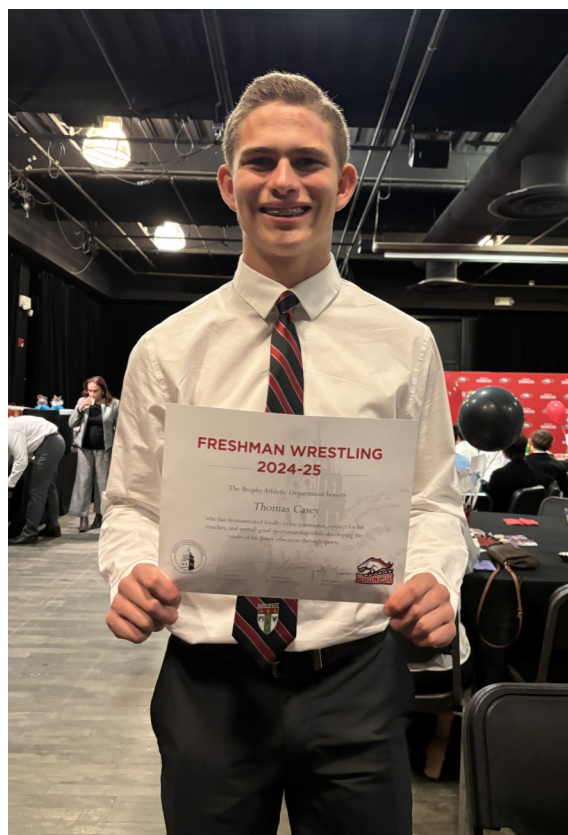
We are very happy to share the news that 2 of our 8th grader students, Matthew Himlin and Gabby Zullo, received the 2025 Christian Service Award from the Catholic Community Foundation at the Diocese of Phoenix. They will each receive a tuition scholarship worth \$8,000, paid out annually, \$2,000 per year. Matthew will be attending Brophy College Prep with highest honors. and Gabby will attend Notre Dame in the fall.

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. Matthew and Gabby’s faith inspired them to serve others and they are wonderful role models for all of our students. Congratulations to Matthew, Gabby, and their families!

Alumni News

Congratulations to ACS alumni, Tommy Casey, class of 2024, who was awarded the “Iron Bronco” for freshman wrestling at the Brophy College Prep wrestling banquet. Tommy was one of only two freshman to receive this award. He is currently participating in rugby and is enjoying his freshman year. Next year he will participate in the Honor Chorale. While at Annunciation, Tommy participated on the baseball team, National Junior Honor Society, and was a student ambassador. He also played major roles in our school musicals and was part of the student choir during his time here.



New Chromebooks for Middle School in 2025-2026



Kiwaniis
CLUB OF CAREFREE

Thanks to a generous grant from the Kiwanis Club of Carefree, Annunciation middle school students will be getting new Chromebooks next school year. With the support from this amazing organization, we have been fortunate to be able to provide technology to all of our students at a 1:1 ratio with iPads for Kinder & 1st grade and Chromebooks for grades 2 - 8. The Kiwanis Club of Carefree has been a major source of technology funding for many years and we are most grateful for their support.



Learn more about the amazing team at [Kiwaniis Club of Carefree](#) and support the charitable works by shopping at the [Kiwaniis Marketplace](#) located in carefree. Open Tues. - Sat. 9AM-5PM.

Show your appreciation to Kiwanis of Carefree by coming out for their delicious pancake breakfast on Saturday April 12!

KIWANIS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

All you can eat!

For the kids

Saturday,
April 12, 2025
7am – 12pm

Sanderson Pavilion
on Easy Street in Carefree, AZ

SCAN FOR TICKETS

\$10 ADULT
\$5 CHILDREN

#1 CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

"Thank you for making my dreams come true."

Catholic Education Arizona:

- Accepts AZ Individual and Corporate Tax Credits
- Accepts Donations
- Awarded 157,000 scholarships since 1998

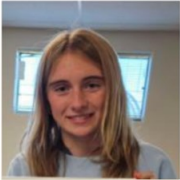
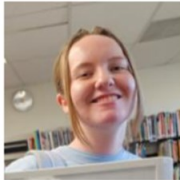
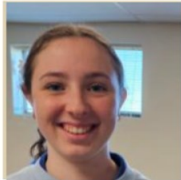
602-218-6542 OR WWW.CEAZ.ORG

Catholic Education

ARIZONA

Changing lives one scholarship at a time.

Catholic Education Arizona is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization and has never accepted gifts designated for individuals. Per state law, a school tuition organization cannot award, restrict or reserve scholarships solely on the basis of donor recommendation. A taxpayer may not claim a tax credit if the taxpayer agrees to swap donations with another taxpayer to benefit either taxpayer's own dependent.



VIBRANT VINNIES



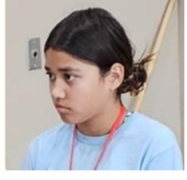
24 VINNIES
5-8 GRADE

2024 - 2025



U R B A N G A R D E N

THREE APRICOT TREES DONATED



FOURTEEN SERVICE PROJECTS



264 VOLUNTEER HOURS

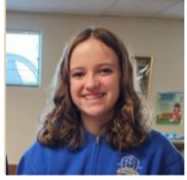


FAITH

780lbs
Food Collected



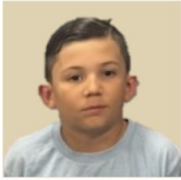
"I want all young people with both head and heart to assemble for some charitable work."
- Frédéric Ozanam



130 TURKEYS

Conference Founded **2017**

150 STOCKINGS



4,000 MEALS PACKED

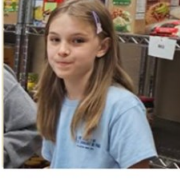
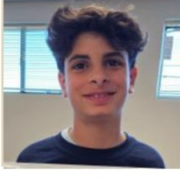
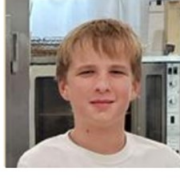
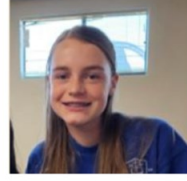
Who are we?
We are young members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul changing the world through our spirituality, friendship, and service through an international network of charity.
We are a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

300+ meals served



500 BOOKS COLLECTED

10 EMERGENCY BAGS PREPARED







ACS Advisory and Finance Councils

Did you know that ACS has an Advisory Council and a Finance Council that meet monthly and assist Fr. Chad and Dr. Pristash in planning and decision-making? A recent school survey indicated that many do not.

These two councils meet monthly and the council's meeting agendas and summarized minutes are on our [School Advisory and Finance Council webpage](#).

Advisory Council Mission:

The Advisory Council's mission is to provide strategic counsel and direction to the Pastor and Principal in order to assist them in accomplishing the mission of the school. Read the [Annunciation Catholic School Advisory Council Bylaws](#)

Advisory Council Responsibilities:

- Planning
- Policy formulation
- Finance
- Development
- Accreditation
- Communication
- Selection and evaluation of the principal

Advisory Council Members

Council members include parents and grandparents of current students and alumni as well as parishioners of St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church.

- Marcie Mills, Chair -ACS parent of students in 6th and 8th grades, acsadvisorycouncil@acsphx.org
- Chelsea Cordell, Vice Chair - ACS parent of an 8th grade student and two ACS graduates.
- Andrew Krahe, Secretary - ACS parent of a Kindergartner
- Don Raiff -ACS grandparent of a 6th grade student and two graduates
- Marty Roop- St. Gabriel parishioner
- Chris Baasten – ACS parent of two students in 7th grade and one graduate
- Jenn O'Neill – ACS parent of students in 6th and 8th grades
- Marcia Balestrino – St. Gabriel parishioner

Finance Council Purpose

The finance council's purpose is to ensure the school's financial stability and to help the school fulfill its mission. The council provides advice and assistance to the pastor and principal.

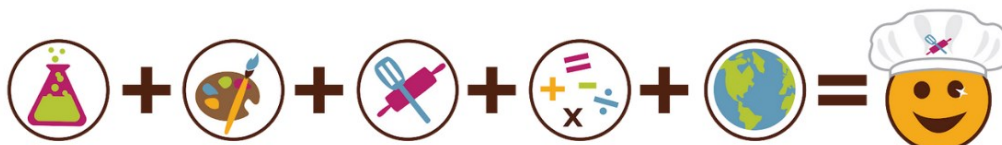
Finance Council Responsibilities

- **Budgeting:** Create and review budgets, including revenue and expenditure forecasts
- **Financial reporting:** Prepare financial reports and ensure responsible stewardship
- **Financial analysis:** Analyze financial data and make recommendations
- **Long-term planning:** Develop long-range financial goals and strategies
- **Asset management:** Safeguard the school's assets and oversee investments
- **Business affairs:** Oversee business affairs such as insurance and capital improvements

Finance Council Members

The finance council of Annunciation Catholic School includes members from the parish and school who possess extensive financial analysis and accounting backgrounds (listed below). The council members' experiences range from CEOs, Bookkeepers, CPAs, and Financial Analysts of both for-profit and non-profit organizations. An outsourced accounting firm oversees the school's financial plans and budgets and complies with Diocesan requirements.

- Lisa Johnston - Streamline Accounting
- Richard Johnston - Streamline Accounting
- Greg Lewis - St. Gabriel Parishioner & ACS Parent
- Todd Modic - St. Gabriel Parishioner
- Hal Cranmer - St. Gabriel Parishioner
- Damon Miller - St. Gabriel Parishioner
- Marcie Mills - ACS Parent, Advisory Council Chair
- Dena Wholey - ACS Development Director
- Sharon Pristash - ACS Principal
- Fr. Chad King - St. Gabriel Pastor
- Bill Marcotte - St. Gabriel Parish Manager



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IT'S THYME TO TURNIP THE BEET ON WHAT KIDS EAT!

Join our 'COOL'inary Cooking Club with NEW recipes every week! Our engaging cooking classes make cooking fun and deliciously educational. Kids will enjoy tasty, healthy recipes while learning S.T.E.A.M., culture, language, geography and more. Led by experienced Chef Instructors, we ensure all allergies are accommodated, and recipes are always nut-free. Explore our weekly recipes and join us to WHIP up some culinary fun all year!

ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

DAY: TUESDAYS

TIME: 3:15-4:15pm

CLASS DATES:

- 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13



OPEN TO STUDENTS IN K-5TH!

For more info, visit stickyfingerscooking.com or email us at phoenix@stickyfingerscooking.com

HANDS-ON! ENGAGING 100% NUT FREE ALLERGY FRIENDLY



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 Operations/Facilities

Mrs. Lynn Schwartz
lschwartz@acsphx.org

Director of Development/Marketing

Ms. Dena Wholey
dwholey@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

32648 N. Cave Creek Road
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Phone: (480)361-8234
Fax: (480)207-6730

www.acsphx.org

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!](#)

2025-2026 School Year Important Dates

Aug. 4: 1:00-4:00pm Open House for all families.

Aug. 4: 4:30pm New Family Orientation & dinner

Aug. 6 : First Day for Students, 12pm dismissal

Nov. 26 - 28: Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 22- Jan. 2: Christmas Break

Jan. 5: Classes resume

Apr. 13 - 24: ITBS Testing

Apr. 3-10: Easter Break

May 22: Last Day for Students, 12pm dismissal



St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church Easter Week Calendar of Events

Palm Sunday April 13

Regular weekend Mass Schedule

Holy Thursday, April 17

6:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration until Midnight in the parish hall

Good Friday, April 18

8:00am Outside Live Stations of the Cross
3:00pm Private Prayer
6:30pm Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 19

1:00pm Blessing of Easter Meal Baskets
7:00pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, Mar 31

Mass Times: 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am

