



# ANNUNCIATION

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025





### Looking Forward at ACS - A Message from Father Chad

It's hard to believe that I have been here a full 5 years now, and the current school and Church buildings have been here a full 4 years! I continue to be so grateful for ACS, Dr. Pristash, and all the administration and faculty who are such a joy to work with. This year we added Exposition after Wednesday Mass followed by a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the chapel for Adoration. Each week, one class participates in the procession. The students are literally following Jesus!

I want to also thank Jennie Cullen, our middle school religion teacher, who is walking with the parents, and Steven Piorkowski, St. Gabriel's new Youth Minister, who is taking on the added responsibility of forming the 25+ school children in grades 4-8 grades who want to receive Sacraments they might not have received yet and fostering the active practice of their growing faith in the family.

Looking forward, we are in the planning stage of a senior living facility on St. Gabriel property, which will be a benefit to both St. Gabriel and Annunciation - think about having grandparents living right next door from school! The building project will include the construction of a full gymnasium for the school. After the completion of the Gym (Phase 1), we will plan the school expansion project to add a second class per grade in the future (Phase 2). While I am so pleased with our current school, I am also looking forward to what Annunciation will become in the future. What an exciting time!

May the peace of Christ be with you always,  
Fr. Chad King



### Dear Family, Friends, and Generous Supporters,

It is hard to believe that we are in the midst of our seventeenth year of operation. Each year passes more quickly, and each year brings growth and accomplishments. In November of 2024 we hosted our second accreditation visit after two years of preparation, and we passed with flying colors! We also added Girls' Softball to our athletic program and ukuleles to our music program. You will find information about these accomplishments in this report.

This year, again, we are at capacity enrollment with waiting lists for all but one grade. Our eleventh 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 our graduates do when they leave ACS, check out the alumni section in this report.

Most exciting of all – we are preparing to kick off another building project next year. We plan to break ground on a new senior living facility and school gymnasium in 2026. See more information about this exciting prospect on page 3. On the horizon – feasibility study for a school expansion.

Our many accomplishments would not be possible without the time, talent, and treasure of many people. Each one of you has had a part in growing our school into 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.*

## Campus Projects on the Horizon



### Senior Living Facility

A 125 unit facility will be built on the portion of our parish campus adjacent to Rancho Paloma Road. The facility will be built and managed by the developer. It will provide three levels of living — senior living, assisted living, and memory care. The plan is for the residents to become integral members of our Catholic Community.

### Annunciation Catholic School Gymnasium

A full-size gymnasium with a stage will be built concurrent with the construction of the senior facility. The gymnasium will provide indoor space for athletics, PE, and many other school and parish events.

The plans for the construction project are currently at City of Phoenix awaiting permits. The developer is hoping for groundbreaking in the summer of 2026. Once we have broken ground, the construction will take 18 months or less. Watch for more information about this project in future newsletters and the church bulletin.





## Annunciation Catholic School is fully accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA)

Dear ACS Families and Friends,

It's official! Although we had our accreditation visit last November, a WCEA Board only meets once a year in May, so we weren't officially re-accredited until they issued the letter. We received full 6-year accreditation.

In November, a team of seven professional educators verified that our Self-Study reflected the wonderful teaching and learning environment that facilitates our Catholicity and high achievement for all students. They affirmed the Educational Improvement Plan goals that we have chosen for the next six years. You can find the goals listed on the Accreditation page on our school website, "About Us" dropdown.

The term of accreditation is for six years with annual reports due each spring to the Catholic Schools Office at the diocese. We are committed to improving student learning and to the continuous school improvement process. Our gratitude goes to the visiting team members for their objective and enthusiastic Report of Findings!

Blessings, Dr. Sharon Pristash

### Final Comments by the Visiting Accreditation Committee

As a Visiting Committee, our time at Annunciation Catholic School can be summed up in one word; special. The school and parish community are welcoming and supportive of one another, and parent involvement on campus is exceptional. Parents are truly viewed and respected as the primary educators of their children and partner with staff to ensure that their children are thriving academically, socially, and spiritually.

Honoring and forming the whole child is of top priority to staff, administration, and volunteers. This is evident from the differentiation and support offered to students of all needs. Students are kind, respectful, and encouraging to each other and to adults. Teachers work together to give students the time and space to be successful and take interest in their lives. The implementation of effective technology provides students the opportunity to grow in 21st century skills necessary for success in their futures, and helps them to learn to be good digital citizens. We saw the (Student Learning Expectations) come to life on campus in every classroom we visited and in every student we spoke to.

But what stood out to us the most, was the genuine faith and joy that we experienced on campus. Students love their school. Teachers love their jobs. Parents are so proud of the work that's being done here and the lasting impact that the school has had on their children. Teachers, parents, and students feel supported and heard, and we can tell that everyone, especially Dr. Pristash, puts their heart and soul into the mission of this beautiful school. God was brought up in every lesson we witnessed, and the desire of the young people on campus to grow in their faith and have a relationship with Jesus is a testament to the work that is being done by each and everyone.

**The Visiting Accreditation Committee  
with Dr. Pristash**










## Congratulations to the Class of 2025



On May 16, we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> graduating class of Annunciation Catholic School. The class of 2025 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 fourth class that has students who attended since kindergarten. ACS added kindergarten in the fall of 2013. Fourteen students in this class of twenty eight attended all nine years of elementary school at ACS.

High School Acceptance Results 2025

Catholic School	Accepted	Honors
 Bourgade Catholic High School	1	
 BROPHY COLLEGE PREPARATORY	12	4 Highest Honors 2 Distinctions
 NOTRE DAME <sup>TM</sup> Preparatory High School	18	6 Honors
 SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL	3	
 <i>women of faith pursuing excellence</i> Xavier College Preparatory Roman Catholic High School	3	

High School Placement Test Results

STANDARD SCORE	National Standard Score Avg	Diocesan 2019 SS Avg	ACS 2020 SS Avg	ACS 2021 SS Avg	ACS 2022 SS Avg	ACS 2023 SS Avg	ACS 2024 SS Avg	ACS 2025 SS AVG
Verbal Skills	500	532	582	584	581	564	544	567
Quantitative Skills	500	547	604	579	572	582	571	577
Cognitive Total	500	539	591	581	576	567	554	572
Reading	500	517	571	582	544	542	557	559
Math	500	524	543	535	495	501	497	526
Language	500	511	555	543	529	541	519	512
Basic Skills Total	500	516	555	553	522	526	523	531
Composite	500	525	568	563	542	541	534	546

## Christian Service Award - Matthew Himlin and Gabby Zullo

Two of our 8th grade 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.

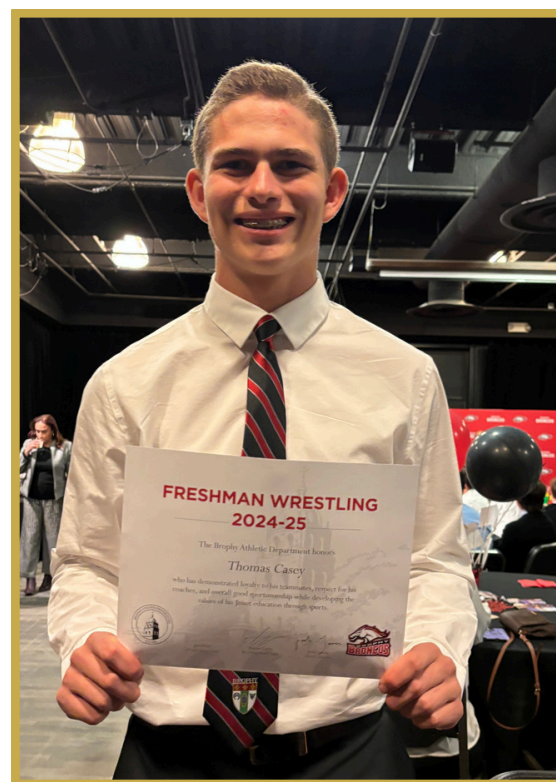
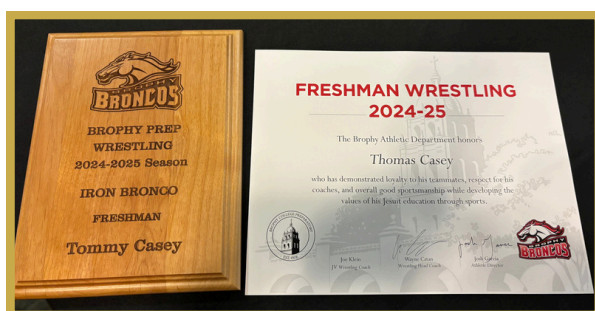




## Tommy Casey

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 freshmen 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.



## Mason Carter & Emma Wicker



Notre Dame Prep seniors Mason Carter and Emma Wicker, both alumni from the ACS class of 2021, were commissioned Kairos leaders by Fr. Bona, Chaplain at NDP. Kairos leaders play a significant role at the Kairos retreats that Notre Dame Prep. and many Catholic high schools offer to students during their junior and senior year. These retreats are a series of structured talks, meditations and activities followed by small group discussions. Students describe these retreats as life-changing by bringing their faith to the center of their lives while they reflect on their relationship with God, family, and friends. It is an incredible growth experience.

In the fall, Emma plans to attend Seton Hall University while Mason recently signed his letter of intent to play football at Concordia University Wisconsin.



## Iain & Maddy Erskine

Siblings Iain and Maddy Erskine, Annunciation graduates of '20 and '21 respectively, have been very busy since they left our school. Iain attended Brophy College Prep as an honor student, where he played soccer and graduated in 2024. He went on to attend Clemson University taking along with him 26 college credits he earned in high school. Now, a college sophomore, he is majoring in biomedical engineering with a pre-med track and is aspiring to be a interventional radiologist. He is very busy with his studies.

Maddy, who is one year younger, attended Xavier College Prep where she was a Great Books student, and a member of the crew team, National Honor Society and National Spanish Honor Society. She graduated in May at the top of her class and followed her brother to Clemson where she is a freshman pursuing a medical engineering degree with a pre-law focus on patent law. Maddy was able to transfer 36 college credits she earned in high school.

Iain and Maddy's parents, Dr. Tom Erskine and Mrs. Claudia Erskine R.N., have been long time volunteers and supporters of Annunciation Catholic School. To this day they still continue to volunteer their time, talent, and treasure and we are so very grateful for their love and support.



Left: Maddy, Dr. Tom, Iain and Claudia Erskine.



Right: Maddy and Iain sightseeing while visiting family in Antigua, Guatemala this summer.

## Zariah Garcia

### AHG Stars and Stripes Project Honors The Holy Family



Congratulations to Zariah Garcia, ACS alumni from the class of 2021, on her graduation from St. Mary's Catholic High School and also on her completion of her Stars and Stripes project for the American Heritage Girls (AHG).

Zariah attended ACS from first through 8th grade. She joined AHG when she was a kindergartener. She has remained committed to the values and goals of AHG. During her senior year, her goal was to reach the penultimate achievement of AHG, earning the Stars and Stripes award. She began the process during her junior year by formulating her plan to bring a garden dedicated to the Holy Family to St. Gabriel.

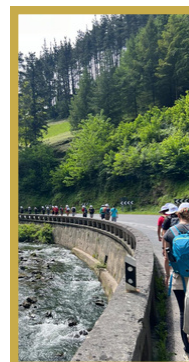
She presented the idea to Fr. Chad for approval. She then designed the project, acquired the funds through outreach to the parish and community. With the help of her family, friends, and fellow AHG members, the grotto was built, and the statue was installed. It is a beautiful addition to our church grounds.



## ACS Alumni Experience El Camino Ignaciano

A select group of 25 Brophy students, including Christian Bax (ACS '21) and Ryan Yparraguirre (ACS '21), recreated a powerful and physically demanding pilgrimage retracing the steps of Ignatius of Loyola. The route took the students from his home in Spain's Basque country, passing through Catalan lands, to Montserrat and Manresa. This pilgrimage is known as the Camino Ignaciano.

Along the two-week journey, the students received special behind the scenes access in churches and monasteries, including the private original church in Monserrat. They were able to witness the rib of St. Peter Claver and touch the hand of the Mary statue where Ignatius left his sword.



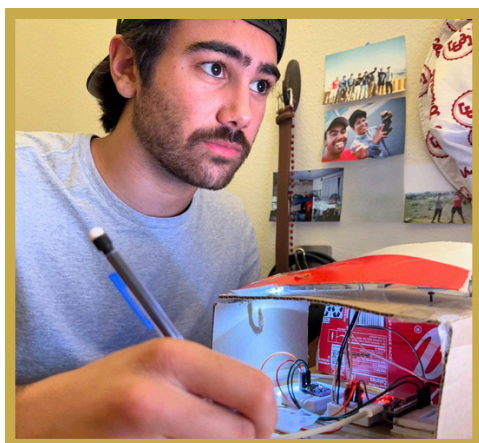
## Jackson Stack

After graduating Annunciation Catholic School (class of 2021), Jackson Stack attended Brophy College Prep with honors. Now he continues to excel as an emerging leader in biomedical innovation. Jackson is studying Bioengineering on a Pre-Med track at Santa Clara University, he is committed to becoming a physician-engineer focused on developing accessible health technologies.

During a brief pause in his primary hemoglobin-analysis project, Jackson created KEIRA, the Knowledge-based Ensemble Intelligent Risk Assessor, a machine-learning system designed to predict cardiovascular risk. KEIRA evaluates clinical and lifestyle variables using an ensemble of Random Forest models and has already demonstrated an impressive 87.7% accuracy in early testing. Jackson is also refining his original hemoglobin device with upgraded CAD housing and new material testing.

Jackson often reflects on the formative experiences that shaped his academic and personal passions, including his time in the Annunciation music program. He recently shared with his former teacher, Mrs. Trayer, that performing at school Masses deeply influenced his lifelong love of guitar. Her encouragement, he explained, gave him confidence during pivotal years—support that helped fuel both his musical journey and the discipline he now brings to engineering, research, and service.

Today, in addition to his studies and research on early-stage disease detection, Jackson volunteers in hospital settings and works part-time as an EMT—living out the values of service, curiosity, and compassion fostered during his years at Annunciation Catholic School.

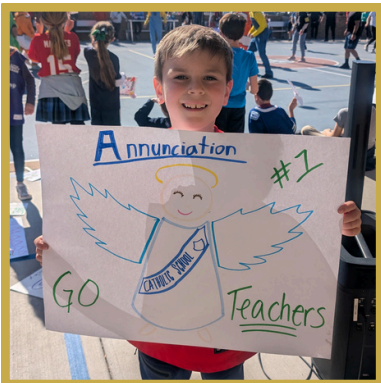




## Catholic Identity - Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week was a joyful celebration of faith, community, and school spirit at Annunciation Catholic School. Throughout the week, students participated in a variety of activities that highlighted the pillars of Catholic education—faith, knowledge, and service. From spirited assemblies and buddy activities that brought older and younger students together, the school was filled with excitement and unity. Classrooms, hallways, and outdoor spaces buzzed with energy as students showcased their talents, prayed together, and expressed gratitude for the blessing of Catholic education.

The week also featured our annual 8th grade vs staff volleyball game, opportunities to honor our dedicated teachers, staff, families, and parish community. Students cheered one another on during lively outdoor events, created thoughtful projects with their buddies, and joined in celebrations that strengthened our sense of belonging. Catholic Schools Week once again reminded us that Annunciation Catholic School is more than a place of learning—it is a family rooted in faith, enriched by tradition, and committed to forming disciples who love, learn, and serve.





# Thank You to the Donors Who Make Our Mission Possible

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Each year, Annunciation Catholic School continues to thrive thanks to the generosity and partnership of supporters like you. As we look ahead, your support is more important than ever.

Exciting projects—including a new school gymnasium and a study for future school expansion. You have helped build the strong foundation we stand on today, and with your continued generosity, we will create an even brighter future for our students and our community.

Thank you for being an essential part of our mission and our growth!



## STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics)

At Annunciation Catholic School, \*STREAM education—Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, and Mathematics—\*continues to shape students into curious, innovative, and faith-filled thinkers. By integrating Catholic values into hands-on, inquiry-based learning, STREAM allows students to explore God’s creation through problem solving, creativity, and collaboration. From engineering challenges, design thinking, and visual arts, students engage in meaningful projects that strengthen critical-thinking skills while nurturing a sense of wonder and purpose.

STREAM initiatives continue to flourish across all grade levels. Classrooms and shared learning spaces were alive with energy as students built prototypes, tested hypotheses, explored digital tools, and discovered new ways to connect learning with their faith. Teachers incorporated interdisciplinary projects that encouraged students to see the harmony between scientific discovery, artistic expression, and the teachings of the Church. STREAM at Annunciation Catholic School not only prepares students for future academic and career success—it forms compassionate, creative disciples who are ready to lead and serve in an ever-changing world.



## UKULELE

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, our students will soon begin learning to play the ukulele! This gift marks another exciting milestone in the growth of our music program. Four years ago, the same donor funded our 8th grade classical guitar program—an initiative that has flourished and become a treasured part of our curriculum. The continued support of this benefactor reflects a deep commitment to enriching the educational experience of our students through the arts.

Beyond building musical proficiency, the ukulele program supports our school’s mission to educate the whole child—mind, body, and spirit. Music invites students to express themselves, work as a team, and appreciate the beauty of the arts as one of God’s gifts. We are deeply grateful for the donor whose vision continues to enrich our students’ lives and strengthen the vibrant music culture at Annunciation Catholic School.





## Vibrant Vinnies

### SVdP Commissions ACS Vibrant Vinnies President for 2024-2025

On September 21, 2024, ACS 8th grader Gabriella Zullo was commissioned as President of the St. Vincent de Paul Vibrant Vinnies youth group for the 2024-2025 school year. The event was held in the Hall of Banners at St. Vincent de Paul Society at Watkins St. in Phoenix.

The Vibrant Vinnies is an official part of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It was started in 2014 and received their official charter in 2018. The Vinnies banner hangs proudly in the SVdP Hall of Banners. ACS students have been serving our community for 10 years. Our conference is comprised of students in 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade and our Vinnies complete one or two service projects a month.

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



### Michael Khoury

Michael Khoury, a 5th grade student at Annunciation Catholic School, believes that easier access to a wide variety of books can make a difference in the lives of struggling students. In February and March of 2025, Michael organized a book drive hosted by the St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Phoenix to collect new and gently used reading materials so that kids in his community could share in the thrill of learning a new word, or help solve a mystery set in ancient Egypt, or to own a personal set of a series of books, even when they don't have a place called home. Michael enlisted the help of his peers in the Vibrant Vinnies to help him sort and organize the almost 1,000 books which were donated, far exceeding his initial goal of 350.

The donated books were distributed through the St. Vincent de Paul Society to multiple children, veterans, and homeless resource agencies throughout the Phoenix area - creating a lasting impact and inspiring his peers to echo, "what is something I can do?" when planning future service projects.



## American Heritage Girls (AHG)



The American Heritage Girls program at Annunciation Catholic School provides an excellent foundation for young girls, fostering their growth as leaders while staying rooted in Christian values. By promoting qualities like compassion, honesty, and perseverance, the program ensures that girls develop a well-rounded character. Through the AHG Oath, participants are inspired to love God, cherish their families, honor their country, and serve their communities, all of which help shape them into responsible and compassionate young ladies. The focus on integrity, faith, and respect equips these young women to positively impact the world with confidence and purpose.



## 2024 - 2025 National Junior Honor Society Inductees

On January 9, 2025, Annunciation Catholic School proudly welcomed a new group of students into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), a distinction that recognizes not only academic excellence but the formation of character rooted in service, leadership, citizenship, and scholarship. These inductees demonstrated consistent dedication to their studies while modeling integrity and responsibility in their daily actions. Their achievement reflects the strong partnership between our school, our families, and our faith community in nurturing students who strive for excellence in all they do.

Membership in the NJHS is both an honor and a commitment. As newly inducted members, our students pledge to serve their community, lead with humility, and uphold the values that define Annunciation Catholic School. Throughout the year, they will participate in service projects, mentor younger students, and contribute to initiatives that strengthen our school community. Their leadership sets a powerful example for their peers and reflects the mission of ACS—to form young men and women who learn, lead, and serve in the light of Christ.



*Top row left to right: Mason B., Talia A., Samantha V., Shane D., Danny G., Matthew H., Jay J.  
Bottom row left to right: Ariyan B., Ellie D., Delaney F., Sofia R., Annasophia B., Chase B., Sebastian B.*

## 2024 -2025 Student Ambassadors

Each year, Annunciation Catholic School selects a distinguished group of 8th grade students to serve as Student Ambassadors—leaders who represent the heart and spirit of our school community. Ambassadors are chosen through a thoughtful process that considers academic effort, character, leadership qualities, and the ability to serve as positive role models for younger students. Teachers and administrators look for students who exemplify kindness, responsibility, and a willingness to step forward in service. Being selected is both an honor and a recognition of a student's commitment to living out the values of faith, integrity, and excellence.

Serving as a Student Ambassador carries meaningful responsibility. These students welcome visitors, assist at the family Mass and events, help guide prospective families, and support key initiatives that strengthen our community. Their presence reflects the warmth and hospitality that define Annunciation Catholic School. As representatives of the 8th grade class, Ambassadors demonstrate leadership rooted in service and humility—qualities that prepare them not only for success in high school but for a lifetime of faithful leadership.



*Top row left to right: Monte S., Liam B., Madison M., Josephine T., James O., Franco F.  
Bottom row left to right: Gabriella Z., Harris R., Jude P., Bennett R., Leray N., Jay J., Elena S.*



## 7th & 8th Grade Boys Flag Football Team are C.Y.A.A. Champs

Congratulations to the 2024 Boys 7th/8th grade flag football team on winning the C.Y.A.A. Small Schools Championship. This was a very hard fought tournament as Annunciation had to go through the losers bracket and play twice as many games as the top seeded team. The Semi Final Game and the Championship Game were played back to back, so this win had to be a total team effort. There were many stand out players. Congratulations to Coach Powers, Coach Cave, Coach Johnson, Coach Smith and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> boys of the Annunciation Angels.



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



On January 24, 2025, 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.

## First Girls' Softball Team

We are thrilled to celebrate a historic milestone for Annunciation Catholic School—our very first girls' softball team! This exciting addition reflects the growth of our athletics program and the enthusiasm of our students who have long hoped for this opportunity.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to our Athletic Director, Coach Dave, and to Coach Travis Flowers for stepping up with dedication, leadership, and a genuine passion for helping these young athletes learn and thrive. Their commitment has brought this team to life and created an inspiring new chapter for ACS sports.

We can't wait to cheer on this incredible group of girls as they make history on the field and pave the way for future generations of ACS athletes.





## Gala d' Amore

The Gala d'Amore was an unforgettable evening of celebration, community, and generosity in support of Annunciation Catholic School. Guests were welcomed with a beautifully hosted sponsored cocktail reception before enjoying an elegant plated dinner paired with wine. One of the most memorable highlights of the night was a special appearance by Hank the burro, who brought smiles and laughter to guests throughout the reception. Attendees also enjoyed an exciting mix of silent and live auctions, as well as spirited paddle raises that truly showcased the heart of our community.

Following dinner, guests filled the dance floor and continued the celebration in the lively Sips & Stogie Lounge, creating an atmosphere of joy and connection that carried through the night. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our sponsors, donors, and supporters, the Gala d'Amore raised \$136,000, directly benefiting the students and mission of Annunciation Catholic School. This incredible outpouring of support reflects the deep commitment of our community and helps ensure a strong and thriving future for our school.



## Castle Quest Aqua Run



Annunciation Catholic School Castle Quest Aqua Run brought our entire community together in joyful celebration while supporting an essential mission: bridging the gap between the actual cost of educating each student and the tuition our families pay. As one of our school's most impactful fundraisers, the Aqua Run provides critical resources that help maintain excellent academic programs, support faculty, enhance campus needs, and keep Catholic education accessible. Families, students, parishioners, and community partners once again showed tremendous generosity, the Castle Quest Aqua Run raised \$96,000 demonstrating how deeply they believe in the mission of ACS.

Adding an extra splash of excitement, this year's event transformed into the Castle Quest Aqua Run adventure, filling our campus with big smiles, water-soaked cheers, and unforgettable moments of school spirit. Students ran, splashed, and powered their way through the course, celebrating health, teamwork, and unity. Beyond the fun, the day highlighted the strength of our ACS community—families volunteering, teachers encouraging, and students joyfully participating for a cause larger than themselves. The success of the Castle Quest Aqua Run reflects what makes ACS remarkable: a community rooted in faith, commitment, and shared purpose.







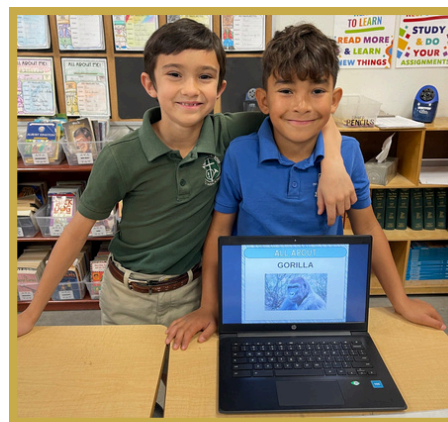
## Thank You Kiwanis Club of Carefree

The Kiwanis Club of Carefree has been a steadfast supporter of Annunciation Catholic School for the past eight years, providing more than \$150,000 in grants to enhance technology, special needs resources, and athletics. Their ongoing generosity has had a meaningful impact on our students and has strengthened the overall learning environment at ACS.

This year, a \$32,000 grant from Kiwanis funded new Chromebooks for our middle school students. Thanks to their commitment, ACS is able to maintain a three-year replacement cycle for both student Chromebooks and teacher laptops, ensuring that our classrooms are equipped with reliable, up-to-date technology. We are deeply grateful for the Kiwanis Club's partnership and continued investment in our school community.

*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/>.*



## Teachers Receive a Gift from Kiwanis Club of Carefree



*Above: Dr. Pristash along with Kiwanis members: Sandra Carrier-Executive Director, Tim Dimon, Larry Key-Treasurer, and Darrell Doepke.*

The Kiwanis Club of Carefree has been an extraordinary partner to Annunciation Catholic School for the past eight years, demonstrating steadfast commitment to our students and teachers. With more than \$125,000 in grants supporting technology, special needs, and athletics, their generosity has strengthened programs across our campus. This year, Kiwanis once again surprised our community with an unsolicited gift—\$200 classroom supply cards for every teacher. Their thoughtful support not only eased expenses but also lifted spirits, reminding our educators that the wider community values their dedication and hard work.

Thanks to a Kiwanis technology grant awarded last spring, our second and third grade students are now learning with brand-new Chromebooks. This investment directly enhances instruction, ensuring students have reliable tools for research, writing, and interactive academic activities. The Kiwanis Club's continued generosity also makes it possible for ACS to refresh student Chromebooks and teacher laptops every three years, maintaining a modern and effective learning environment. We are deeply grateful for their enduring partnership and their ongoing belief in the mission of Annunciation Catholic School.



## How to Give

Giving to Annunciation Catholic School is a meaningful way to strengthen our mission and ensure a vibrant future for our students. Whether through direct financial gifts, matching contributions, donated services, tuition assistance, or long-term legacy planning, every act of generosity helps sustain the daily operations, enrich academic and extracurricular programs, and expand access to a faith-filled education. With a variety of giving opportunities available, families, parishioners, and community partners can support the school in the way that best reflects their values and commitment to Catholic education.

### Annual Future Fund

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 unforeseen 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.

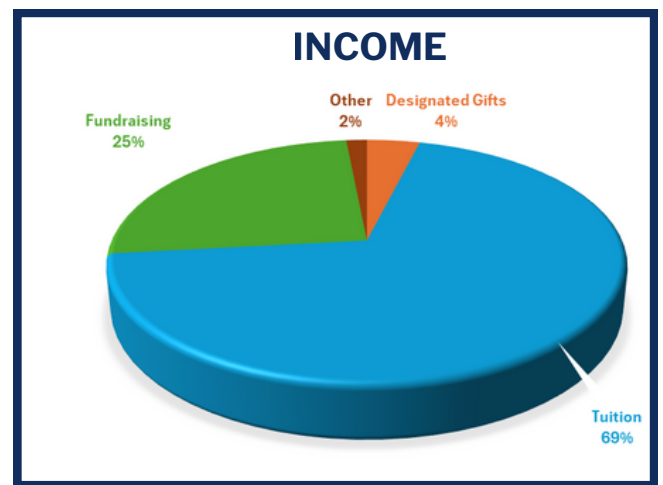


## Financial Summary

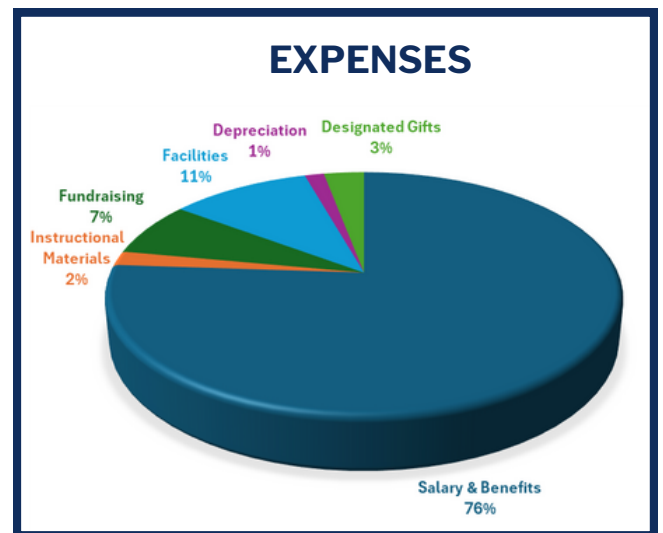
Annunciation Catholic School is pleased to share that we closed the fiscal year with zero debt, a reflection of responsible stewardship and the extraordinary generosity of our parents, parishioners, and benefactors. Our operational budget is sustained through a combination of tuition, fundraising initiatives, annual appeal contributions, grants, and personal gifts. In addition, designated funds from the previous fiscal year allowed us to meet expenses incurred during the 2023–2024 academic year.

The cost of providing a high-quality Catholic education continues to rise each year. For the 2024–2025 academic year, the actual cost to educate one student was \$9,582. Tuition for kindergarten through fifth grade was set at \$7,000 while middle school tuition was \$7,300. The difference between the true cost of education and tuition—commonly referred to as the “Gap”—is bridged through fundraising efforts and the generous support of our community

INCOME		
Designated Gifts	102,247.84	4%
Tuition	1,816,845.37	69%
Fundraising	660,039.18	25%
Other	39,790.60	2%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,618,922.99</b>	<b>100%</b>



EXPENSES		
Salary & Benefits	2,013,390.35	76%
Instructional Materials	50,054.37	2%
Fundraising	190,926.70	7%
Facilities	276,055.67	11%
Depreciation	37,723.35	1%
Designated Gifts	78,803.94	3%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,646,954.38</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(28,031.39)</b>	



1 Peter 4:10

*“As Each has received a gift,  
use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”*



# ANNUNCIATION

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

32648 N. Cave Creek Road  
Cave Creek, Arizona 85331



## ANNUNCIATION

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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



STRONG COMMUNICATORS



THOUGHTFUL CITIZENS



ACTIVE CHRISTIANS



RESOURCEFUL LEARNERS