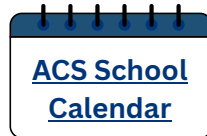


# ANNUNCIATION PRESS

## Quarterly Newsletter

### WHAT'S INSIDE

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On Wednesday, August 5, all students and staff were welcomed to campus for the start of the 18th year of Annunciation. We celebrate another year of near capacity enrollment, improvements to the campus, and some amazing new staff members (see inside!). Our first day of school began with our annual opening day prayer service in the parish hall. Dr. Pristash welcomed the students, staff, and parents, and our Student Council officers led the prayer. As always, our welcome back theme was JOY — to find true joy in life, you must think first of Jesus, then Others, and finally, Yourself. We are especially joyous about all our new students and their families! We are so happy to have you join the ACS family. We look forward to a great year ahead and pray for God's blessings for our school family!

Here are some first day of school pictures!



### Important DATES

| October  |                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1        | Noon Dismissal, K-8 parent conf. |
| 2        | No School                        |
| 9        | No School                        |
| 12       | No School                        |
| 21       | Picture Retakes                  |
| 23       | Trunk or Treat                   |
| 30       | Noon Dismissal All Saints Day    |
| November |                                  |
| 20       | Noon Dismissal                   |
| 25-27    | Thanksgiving Break               |
| December |                                  |
| 17       | K-8 Christmas Concert            |
| 18       | Noon Dismissal                   |
| 21       | Christmas Break begins           |

## 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.

# MEET OUR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AMBASSADORS



TOP ROW: JAYDEN Z, GRIFFIN S, ZAC C, CONNOR C  
 MIDDLE ROW: KAITLYN G, CHARLIE P, JOSEPHINE J, OLIVIA M  
 BOTTOM ROW: CHARLOTTE S, HADLEY H, ISABELLA S, GIADA M

Our 8th Grade Ambassadors are student leaders who are proud to represent Annunciation with enthusiasm, confidence, and school spirit. Selected through an application and interview process, these students are entrusted with an important role in welcoming others to our school community.

Throughout the year, Ambassadors give campus tours, answer questions from prospective families and visitors, volunteer at school events, and assist wherever their leadership is needed. They have developed an extensive knowledge of our campus, traditions, and school history, allowing them to share what makes Annunciation such a special place.

Serving as an Ambassador is a year-long commitment and an opportunity for students to grow as leaders while representing their school. The experience also provides a valuable foundation as they pursue leadership opportunities at the high school level.

We are proud of our 8th Grade Ambassadors and the many ways they lead, serve, and help make Annunciation a welcoming community for all!

## MYSTERY READER



Our Kindergarten class kicks off Mystery Reader every Thursday with a special surprise and our favorite mystery reader was someone very familiar to our school community: our very own Pastor, Fr. Chad! Fr. Chad joined the kinder class to read *What Do You Do, Fr. Drew?*, a wonderful book that helps children understand the many ways a priest serves his parish and community.

As he read, Fr. Chad shared examples from his own experiences and invited the students to ask questions, creating a meaningful and engaging learning experience for everyone. It was a wonderful way to continue our Mystery Reader tradition and our students loved having Fr. Chad in their classroom.



## *Familiar Faces in New Places!*



### **Front Office Manager**

Mrs. Elizabeth Bravo has been the Kindergarten teacher aide since January 2025. This year she has moved into a new position as Office Manager. You will see her working in the front office alongside Mrs. Bowers. Mrs. Bravo is the aunt of Lorena Zuno (2nd grade teacher aide) and Jayden Zuno (8th grade).

### **Kindergarten Teacher Aide**

Mrs. Andrea Reza has been a familiar face around ACS for 4 years as a parent volunteer. This year Mrs. Reza joined our staff as the Kindergarten teacher aide. She most recently taught at St. Joan of Arc Preschool and holds a substitute teaching certificate. Mrs. Reza is the mother of Naomi in fourth grade and Noe in Kindergarten.



### **Full Time Receptionist**

Mrs. Adrienne Bowers has worked part time at ACS for many years – as lunch and recess aide, aftercare supervisor, and most recently part time at the front desk. She is now our full time receptionist, ready to greet you at the reception window or on the phone. Mrs Bowers is one of our founding parents. Her son, Seth, was a member of our inaugural first grade in 2009, and graduated in 2017. Her son, Liam, and daughter, Annasophia, also graduated from ACS. All three of them went on to high school careers at St. Mary's High School. Mrs. Bowers' youngest child, Elias, is in sixth grade.



# A SPECIAL VISIT FROM PHOEBE FOX



## KINDERGARTEN



## 1ST GRADE

Our ACS K-3rd grade students enjoyed a wonderful visit from local children's author Phoebe Fox! She read some of her engaging books and shared her love of storytelling with our young readers. Meeting a real author brought our reading and writing lessons to life and encouraged our students to see themselves as authors, too! It was a fun and memorable experience for everyone!



## 2ND GRADE



## 3RD GRADE

## ACS GOLF TEAM BEGINS NEW CHAPTER IN THE GREAT HEARTS CONFERENCE



Dear ACS Families,

I am proud to announce an exciting new chapter for ACS Athletics as our outstanding golf team competes in the Great Hearts Sports Conference this season.

This is a tremendous opportunity for our school and, most importantly, for our student-athletes. Competing in the Great Hearts Conference will allow our golfers to challenge themselves, represent ACS with pride, and build lasting experiences both on and off the course.

Our athletes have been working hard, preparing for the season ahead and embracing the opportunity to compete at a high level. We are excited to see their dedication, sportsmanship, teamwork, and competitive spirit on display throughout the season.

This promises to be an incredible season for ACS Golf and an exciting journey for our entire athletic community. If you have an opportunity to attend one of our home golf matches, we encourage you to come out and support our student-athletes. Your presence and encouragement can make a tremendous difference to our players.

Let's come together as an ACS community and cheer on our golf team as they proudly represent our school in the Great Hearts Conference.

Go ACS!

Dave Lauria, ACS Athletic Director



# Alumni News

## ACS ALUMNI AT XAVIER COLLEGE PREP



Braylee is most proud of the non-profit charity she started to raise funds for the special needs community and their caregivers, Care for Caregivers at [www.SeeMeHearMe.com](http://www.SeeMeHearMe.com). She will be attending Wake Forest University on a Pre-Med track and has been selected to join the Division 1 Cheer Team.

We are so very proud of Braylee and know she will continue to do great things. May God continue to bless and guide her throughout her life.

Braylee Jevnick (class of 2022) attended Annunciation from Kindergarten through 8th grade and went on to attend Xavier College Prep. She graduated in May with a Great Books and AP Capstone Diploma. She is a National Merit Commended Scholar, Presidential Scholarship recipient, and earned AP Scholar with Distinction honors. Braylee is nationally recognized by the College Board for Outstanding Academic Achievement, and on May 17 was named the 2026 AZ State Scholar Activity Student of the Year by Arizona Interscholastic Association. Throughout her years at XCP, Braylee spent four years on Varsity Cheer, earned 2 MVP awards, and served as cheer captain senior year. She has been an active member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and Xavier Ambassadors.



# Service Spotlight

## Summer Camp Volunteers

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Anne Frank's words came to life this summer as Annunciation Catholic School students stepped forward to serve younger children at several camps in the Cave Creek and Carefree communities over the school break.

Middle school volunteers helped make summer programming possible through Camp Invention, NatCoProductions: Camp Turn Up, and Art Camp. They also offered their time and energy at Vacation Bible School at Our Lady of Joy Church in Carefree. Across these programs, youth helpers were not simply extra hands; they were role models, assistants, encouragers, and examples of service in action. Their responsibilities varied by day. Some helped younger campers build, imagine, and solve problems during hands-on projects. Others encouraged kids on the playground, assisted teachers and adult leaders, guided activity transitions and supported set up and clean up. Whether the day centered on STEM invention, art, musical theatre, or Vacation Bible School, the presence of older kids from school created a welcoming atmosphere for younger campers and the opportunity to gain leadership experience.



"Student volunteers help bridge generational gaps. Parents get to see teenagers stepping into service roles; younger kids get an example of 'someone I want to be like.' Furthermore, student volunteers learn how to foster relationships with not only the children but also the other adult volunteers. It is a beautiful experience for all who participate," said Tatiana Horne, who helped organize Vacation Bible School.

That spirit of service was especially visible at Camp Invention and Art Camp, where ACS alumni and Annunciation students supported both campers and camp leaders. Mrs. Jennifer Cullen, who teaches Social Studies and Religion at ACS and helps facilitate the summer camps, enjoyed having the extra hands available. "Volunteers helped with everything from working alongside of children assisting with their projects, to playing with them on the playground, and assisting with set up and clean up." said Mrs. Cullen. Having so many students willing to show up, serve, and lead helped make camp days smoother, brighter, and more joyful for everyone involved.



In a summer filled with songs, crafts, inventions, games, prayer, and play, these ACS middle schoolers proved that service does not have to wait another moment. By sharing their time and talents, they fostered a community where younger participants can look up to older students, adults can see leadership taking root, and every volunteer experienced the joy of giving.

# NATIONAL SERVICE WINNERS

Recipients of the National Service Honor are recognized for providing exceptional achievement in community service. The award celebrates not only their time the students gave, but also the spirit in which they served, demonstrating generosity, leadership and compassion. The dedication to serving others embodies the values of civic responsibility and reflects the call to be a force for good in the community. As recipients of this national recognition, they stand among volunteers across the country who are making a meaningful impact through service. Their efforts represent the commitment needed to build stronger communities, foster justice, and bring hope to those in need. Each of these students are a reflection of their families who have modeled the virtue of service to others by serving our school and our greater community. We are thankful to these students for representing themselves, their families and Annunciation so well.



Left to right we have Michael K., president and awardee of the National Service Honor (Gold); Alli C. and Amelia S., recipients Vibrant Vinnies recognition; Avery F. (accepting on behalf of Delaney F., awardee of the National Service Honor (Gold); Ella C., awardee of the National Service Honor (bronze), Tia V., vice president, Vibrant Vinnies; Oliver P. treasurer and awardee of the National Service Honor (silver); Ellie S., secretary and awardee of the National Service Honor (silver). Not appearing: Lacy G., awardee National Service Honor (bronze).



I'm excited and honored to step into the role of Chair of the Advisory Council, and I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Andrew Krahe, and my wife Brooke, our daughter Abby, and I have been part of the ACS community for nearly three years.

I come into this role with a deep respect for the leaders who came before me. Both Chelsea Cordell and Marcie Mills built something meaningful alongside Sharon, and their dedication to this community is clear and sets a wonderful standard. While I may be newer to ACS than my predecessors, I've come to appreciate something that newer families discover quickly: this community has a way of making you feel at home from the moment you arrive. To the families still finding their footing, we see you, we're glad you're here, and we're available if you need anything.

The Advisory Council exists to support the mission of ACS, to listen to the needs of our community, and to work collaboratively with school leadership to make decisions that help our students and our school thrive. This past year, the Council supported school leadership in expanding student services, deepening communication with families, and investing in the staff who are the pillars of everything for which ACS stands.

Looking ahead, the Advisory Council will continue to explore new ways to foster deeper communication between families and the school, and to find creative ways to enrich the ACS experience for every student.

Thank you for your continued support of ACS and a faith-based education. I look forward to an incredible year ahead, and I welcome your ideas, feedback, and prayers as we move forward together.

Best,  
Andrew Krahe

# FunRun KICK-OFF PEP RALLY



This year, ACS kicked off the FunRun with a Teachers' Race! Our teachers brought the energy, excitement, and a little friendly competition to get our students pumped and ready to run! Let the FunRun fun begin!

Together, we are investing in the future of Annunciation Catholic School. Your partnership helps sustain the faith-filled, academically excellent environment that enables every student to reach their fullest God-given potential.

Donations raised through this event goes directly to support educational growth while providing valuable recognition for your business within our school and parish community.





"Together, we are investing in the future of Annunciation Catholic School. Your partnership helps sustain the faith-filled, academically excellent environment that enables every student to reach their fullest God-given potential.

Your sponsorship directly supports educational growth while providing valuable recognition for your business within our school and parish community."

## Youth Group

### FALL/WINTER CALENDAR

#### HIGH SCHOOL (SUNDAY NIGHTS)

6:00-7:30 PM • Youth Center

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| ★ September 13 | ★ October 25  |
| ★ September 20 | ★ November 1  |
| ★ September 27 | ★ November 8  |
| ★ October 4    | ★ November 15 |
| ★ October 11   | ★ November 22 |
| ★ October 18   | ★ December 6  |

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL (MONDAY NIGHTS)

6:00-7:30 PM • Youth Center

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| ★ September 14 | ★ October 26  |
| ★ September 21 | ★ November 2  |
| ★ September 28 | ★ November 9  |
| ★ October 5    | ★ November 16 |
| ★ October 12   | ★ November 23 |
| ★ October 19   | ★ December 7  |

**NOTRE DAME™**  
Preparatory High School



**LITTLE SAINTS**  
*clinic*

Come join the NDP Cheer and Pom teams for an exciting opportunity to cheer and perform at a high school football game!

**CLINICS:** September 30 & October 1  
5:30–7:00 PM | NDP Gym

**PERFORMANCE:** October 2  
at the Varsity Football Game  
Kickoff at 7:00 PM

Registration includes:  
Little Saints T-shirt to wear at the Friday night performance  
Shirt size options: Youth S, Youth M, Youth L, Adult S, Adult M



Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 (Wed. & Thurs.):  
Calling all future Cheer Leaders!  
Notre Dame Prep is offering a cheer clinic with the opportunity to perform at a NDP Saints football game!



Thurs. Oct. 8 : Bishop Olmsted presents “Catholics in the Public Square” at 6:30pm in the parish hall. Learn about your role as a Catholic American.  
All are invited!

Learn about your role as a Catholic American

★★★★★

*Bishop Olmsted Presents*  
**CATHOLICS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE**



**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup> @ 6:30PM**  
**IN THE ST GABRIEL PARISH HALL**

★★★★★

All Are Invited!

## **School Administration**

### **Pastor**

Fr. Chad King

[frchad@stgacc.org](mailto:frchad@stgacc.org)

### **Principal**

Dr. Sharon Pristash

[spristash@acsphx.org](mailto:spristash@acsphx.org)

### **Vice Principal**

Mr. Matt Raiff

[mraiff@acsphx.org](mailto:mraiff@acsphx.org)

### **Dean of Students**

Ms. Lynne O'Keeffe

[lokeeffe@acsphx.org](mailto:lokeeffe@acsphx.org)

### **Director of Operations/Facilities**

Mrs. Lynn Schwartz

[lschwartz@acsphx.org](mailto:lschwartz@acsphx.org)

### **Development/Marketing**

Mrs. Christy Brown

[cbrown@acsphx.org](mailto:cbrown@acsphx.org)

### **Front Office Manager**

Mrs. Elizabeth Bravo

[ebravo@acsphx.org](mailto:ebravo@acsphx.org)

**School Nurses:** [nurse@acsphx.org](mailto:nurse@acsphx.org)

**For the complete staff directory visit**

<https://acsphx.org/staff-directory/>

## **Pray & Play Rosary for mamas & kids**

BRING YOUR INTENTIONS, A ROSARY &  
YOUR KIDS!

### **Complimentary Coffee**

**Saturday, October 3rd  
10:00am**

Youth Center Playground & Garden

**MEET. SIP. PRAY.**

while the kids play. all ages welcome

New to the Rosary? Don't have a Rosary?  
We've got you covered!



## **PARK AND PRAY**

### **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS**

Avoid the long pick up line and park in the back lot by the chapel. Add your child's name to the clipboard by 2:45 and a staff member will bring your child to you in the adoration chapel at dismissal allowing you some quiet time in prayer.



## **One Million Children Praying the Rosary**

For unity and peace

"In the End my Immaculate Heart will Triumph."

**October 7, 2026**

Join the worldwide prayer campaign  
[www.millionchildrenpraying.org](http://www.millionchildrenpraying.org)

ACS students and staff will be joining the worldwide rosary Oct. 7.

## **ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

32648 N. Cave Creek Road  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Phone: (480) 361-8234

Fax: (480) 207-6730

[www.acsphx.org](http://www.acsphx.org)

Email: [office@acsphx.org](mailto:office@acsphx.org)

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

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