



FALL 2018

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ANNAPOLIS AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

anchorage



**Annual Report
2017–18**



**Alumni
Spotlight**



**A Parent's
Perspective**

**AACS
WINDOW
CLING
INSIDE!**

ANCHORAGE is the magazine of Annapolis Area Christian School. The magazine is distributed to school parents, alumni, parents of alumni, and friends of Annapolis Area Christian School. A downloadable version is also available online at aacsonline.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

We engage students in an education of excellence enabling them to impact the world through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

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 Ben Peddicord, Principal, Middle School
 Elizabeth Williams, Principal, Lower School, Annapolis
 Karl Graustein, Principal, Lower School, Severn
 John Hansen, Chief Financial Officer
 Graham Thorpe '97, Chief Advancement Officer

ALUMNI should direct news information to akastendike@aacsonline.org or contact the Alumni Relations Office at 410.519.5300 x2116.

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PRINTING SERVICES

Nelson Anderson '99
 Anderson Minuteman Press
www.minutemanmaryland.com

ANCHORAGE EDITORS

Ashlee (Finecey) Kastendike '01, Director of Donor & Alumni Relations
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ON THE COVER: Allison (DeRoo) Kim '03 teaches art for both lower school campuses at AACS. *The Artist Who Painted A Blue Horse* by Eric Carle is a vibrant tribute to the creative life and was the focus of the art lesson for third-grade students at the Annapolis Lower School.



Isn't Anchorage a Place in Alaska?

I still remember sending my daughters, who live in southern California, the first *Anchorage* magazine that my column appeared in, which was back in the fall of 2012. Barbara and I were excited for them to read more about our new school family and certainly to get their "objective" feedback. Their response, in separate conversations, before they even got past the cover, was hilariously the same.

"Daddy," even though they were both in their 30s, I'm still Daddy, "why does your new school have a magazine about a place in Alaska?"

Well, after the laughter subsided and we could have a more serious conversation, I talked with them about the nautical heritage and roots in Annapolis. But, bigger than that, I shared with them about what an "anchorage" is and how it relates to AACS.

There is a natural connection between AACS and Annapolis, where our school was founded. In fact, at first glance, the logo, which is on everything from our website to the magnets we hand out to new families, gives the immediate look of a sailboat. But look again; there is more to this familiar image. Our logo is intentionally designed with the Bible as our foundation, the lamp as the light "unto our feet," and the mast that represents Christ as our center.

You might be thinking, but what does that have to do with our magazine

title? Well, an anchorage is a safe harbor. It is also a place where ships are equipped to go back out to sea. At AACS, we serve as a safe harbor from a crazy culture that is in direct contradiction to the elements of our logo and our faith. But while we may provide some safety from the culture, I strongly believe that we represent the other application of the safe harbor, which is to equip. Much like the harbor is a place where boats are prepared to go back out to sea, AACS is a place where our students are equipped to step out into the world prepared in every way to engage the culture for Jesus Christ. What a mission to which we are called!

As you enjoy our fall publication of the *Anchorage* magazine, be encouraged that we are that safe harbor and equipper for a generation preparing for the journey ahead. 📖

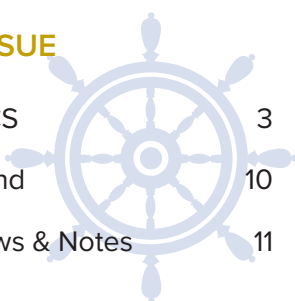
**In His Service and Yours,
 Rick Kempton, Superintendent**



Our students are equipped to step out into the world prepared in every way to engage the culture for Jesus Christ.

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Science Matters

K-5 Innovative Program Begins Third Year

By Nikki Allred, 4th Grade Teacher at Lower School in Severn

WALK INTO ANY CLASSROOM at either of our lower schools and you may see 4th graders working diligently to create a restraint system to prevent an egg from breaking in a collision; kindergartners designing a house that the big bad wolf couldn't blow down; or 3rd graders creating a glider model that could take supplies to an area hit by a natural disaster. Welcome to Project Lead the Way Launch, a K-5 science curriculum adopted two years ago in all lower-school science classes that challenges students to create, innovate, and work collaboratively to solve real-world problems.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch is a module-based program with 28 interdisciplinary components specifically designed for the elementary-school student. Each of the K-5 classrooms has incorporated 2 PLTW

"I love to build inventions and test them to see if they work."

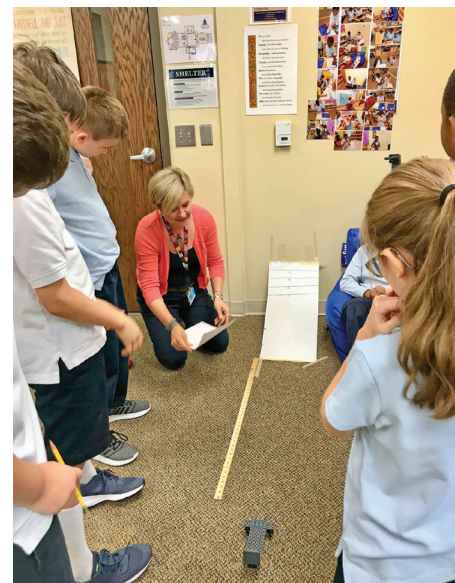
Victoria Shim, grade 4

modules into their science curriculum. The modules are all aligned with the science standards for each grade and provide students the opportunity to use the engineering design process when working towards a solution to a given problem. The modules cover all areas of science: physical science, earth science, biology and engineering.

Lower School teachers Nikki Allred (4th, Severn) and Katie Hansen (5th, Annapolis) are certified PLTW Lead Teachers. They attended a weeklong training



program where they learned the activity, project, and problem-based instructional approach. Allred guided fourth graders at the Severn campus through a module called Collisions where they worked in teams of two or three to create a restraint system to prevent an egg from cracking as it travels inside a cart, down a ramp, and in to a wall. Students learned about potential and kinetic energy and the forces involved during a crash. They worked together to build their own carts using 3-D directions on an iPad and VEX kits. They conducted tests to see what happens when their carts collided and gathered information and data to help develop a solution to the egg problem. As they worked through the stages of the engineering design process (ask, explore, model, evaluate, explain), they were limited to everyday items such as pipe cleaners, cotton balls, rubber bands, and bubble wrap to solve their restraint dilemma. "I love the creativity and collaboration I see in my students as they work together to solve problems," says Allred. "Students experience failure, yet push on and realize that success is within reach. I



"We work our friends to come up with an hypothesis, a design, and a plan to test our idea. We learn by doing which is way more fun!"

Jo Vogelzang

see this play out repeatedly in experiments where something goes awry," she explains. "Students learn how to evaluate the process, study the results, and figure out what they needed to do to adjust their design and approach to be successful."

Students love the PLTW program. Whether they are building robots in the 5th grade classroom or creating a cast to set a broken arm out of bubble wrap, craft sticks, and tape in Kindergarten, the hands-on activities keep students engaged. PLTW Launch has been a strategic step forward for the K-5 science program. The hands-on, collaborative approach to science is connecting young minds to the wonders of science. What better way to honor and introduce God's design and sovereignty over the universe? [🔗](#)



Ben Peddicord

Hometown	Harwood, MD
High School	Southern HS, Home of the Bulldogs
College	Eastern University, B.A. in secondary education history
Graduate School	Goucher College, M.A. in school administration leadership
Church	Belcroft Bible Church in Bowie on Beach Tree Lane
	<i>How's that for alliteration!?</i>

Favorite Sport I love sports. I played lacrosse at Eastern University, and I am a Nationals fan. On September 30 Neal Luebbers, executive director of Camp Wabanna, and I teamed up for the VentureQuest 8-hour Adventure Race at Fountainhead Park in Fairfax County, Virginia. It involves approximately 30 miles of mountain biking, trekking, orienteering, and paddling with a topographical map that has checkpoints for discovery. We cleared the course in 7 hours and 2 minutes and took second place overall.

Favorite Movie I watched *Swiss Family Robinson*, a 1960 adventure film, repeatedly during childhood when I was home sick from school. Perhaps my love for adventure sports stems from my deep-seeded childhood dream to explore a deserted island.

Favorite Song "Come thou Fount" is a hymn penned by Robert Robinson in 18th Century England. My 3-year old daughter asks me to sing it to her every night. What you may not guess is that I really enjoy bluegrass music.

*Come thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
I'll praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
Mount of thy redeeming love*



Harwood native Ben Peddicord took the reigns as the Middle School Principal in July. His expository style of presenting scripture followed by a demonstration or a story illuminating the life-application of God's word has caught his young audience's attention. In one of his first chapel messages, one could hear a pin drop as he shared a verse from 1 Corinthians and connected it to his defeating ACL injury in a high-school soccer game and how the Lord used the setback to refocus his life on Christ. On the second day of school, he captivated the 8th grade with a compelling toothpaste demonstration on how powerful words are as described in James. *Anchorage* sat down with Mr. Peddicord to learn more about his heart for young people, his family, and a few of his favorite things.

ANCHORAGE: What scripture is on your heart?

BEN PEDDICORD: *Train up a child in the*

way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

—PROVERBS 22:6

This scripture is constantly on my heart at work because we have the amazing privilege of partnering with families who are entrusting their children to us 40 hours each week.

ANCHORAGE: Tell us about your family.

BP: Tara and I got married 11 years ago, two solid weeks after college graduation. We started dating at age 16. Our daughters, Alice and Ellie, are 3 years old. We adopted Ellie from China and brought her home when she was 21 months old and Alice was 16 months old. They enjoy a special twin-like bond being only 5 months apart. We live on my family's farm in Harwood, Maryland. When I was a boy we had beef cattle, horses, goats, chickens, and sheep. What was once hundreds of acres in the 17th century has sized down over the years to 40 acres. Now we just have cattle and after work and on weekends, I farm the land that has been in my family for more than 300 years.

ANCHORAGE: Your Best Family Memory?

BP: Bringing my daughter Ellie home from China was special. Our daughter Alice had been home with my mom and sister for two weeks. When she saw us, she broke through the barrier set up by customs and ran into our arms. At that moment, our family became four.

ANCHORAGE: Describe a typical Saturday morning.

BP: Donut run with my daughters, Alice and Ellie, to Carlson's in Annapolis. You haven't lived until you've tried these fluffy confections. The fact that they come out of a Thai Kitchen adds to the adventure.

ANCHORAGE: What books are on your nightstand?

BP: I am reading two: *9 Marks of a Healthy Church* by Mark Dever, senior pastor at Captiol Hill Baptist Church in D.C., and *The Knowledge of the Holy* by A.W. Tozer, a classic first published in 1961. The former is a fascinating read on what we can learn from the scriptures about healthy church practices. I'm applying these biblical principles to my leadership roles at AACs and at my church. Tozer's classic is a devotional that challenges me to meditate on the attributes of God regularly so I can deepen my prayer life and best discern His wisdom, encouragement, and instruction in relation to my family, my church, and my work at AACs. I have two 3-year-old daughters, so there isn't much time for pleasure reading, but I do enjoy classics and have *Treasure Island*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Les Miserables* on my list of favorites.

ANCHORAGE: What sets AACs apart?

BP: Our focus and dedication to scripture distinguishes us. We strive to do everything from a biblical perspective. We stand on Christ alone. Although my public-school teaching experience, serving as a church elder responsible for children's ministry, and three years as an assistant principal prepared me well, I am humbled and blessed to be here. It is a challenge. It is not ever easy to lead and to lead well, but I continue to pray that God equips me more and that I never stop growing in my understanding of Him first.

ANCHORAGE: Explain your heart for the middle-school years?

BP: If you compare a 5th grader to a 9th grader, there is a huge gap. All of that change takes place during the mid-

dle-school years. It can be an emotionally wrecking or an emotionally building season for the child. How we as Christian educators partner with families in caring for and investing in middle-school children can be a game-changer. It's a tough age that I find immensely rewarding.

ANCHORAGE: What are your plans for building on the strengths of the Middle School?

BP: I want to continue to grow our community. There is a very positive feeling amongst faculty and staff here of building relationships with families. We have dedicated chapel time in our schedule every Thursday morning at 8:30 in the gymnasium and all members of our community are welcome, including families and alumni. It is a great venue for worshipping and sharing God's word. As a faculty we are always praying for the Holy Spirit to guide us in our delivery and how we can improve upon what is already a beloved part of the AACs middle-school experience. One area I'm in the process of discerning right now is how we can take what we do in chapel and weave it into other parts of our daily discipleship of students. We continue to innovate and refine our programs to meet the ever-changing needs of our students and families.

ANCHORAGE: What is the best part of your job?

BP: Prayer and devotions with my staff every morning comes to mind. No matter how daunting my day looks, I know I get to start my day in a room full of people who pray together. Regardless of what is happening in their lives, they love Christ and that's why they are here.

ANCHORAGE: How have students received you?

BP: The first few times I addressed the student body, I threw down a challenge for kids to introduce themselves to me. I've done this at my previous schools and had maybe five kids approach me. I've lost count here—I know it's north of 70 and growing, which has helped me



build relationships and connect positively with students early and often.

ANCHORAGE: How do you and your team approach the inevitable social media challenges that plague students and families?

BP: One of the things that I will always tell parents is beware of social media, but my biggest questions for parents are, "What is the value of social media for a middle-school student? Why are we doing it? Is it worth the risk?" I have yet to hear any positive feedback. Our biggest role in managing social media within our community is to partner with parents and educate them about the dangers. I've learned that parents are overwhelmed by the enormity of avenues and choices their child has on social media and they are often unaware of many of the pitfalls. The more we can provide social outlets such as team sports, music, theater, clubs, and outreach opportunities for them to engage without the crutch of an electronic device, the better chance we have of combating isolation with inclusion in a Christian community. 📌

New ASL Classes Showcase Voice-Off, Hands-On Learning

By Chelsea Woody, World Languages Department Chair, and Rachel Dixon, ASL Teacher, Cheerleading Coach

Did you know that sign language is not the same across the world?

Or that there are more than 150 signed languages used internationally?

Or that the grammar of a signed language appears on your face?

THESE ARE JUST SOME of the fascinating facts that new faculty member Rachel Dixon has shared with her inaugural Upper School American Sign Language classes. For some time, the World Languages Department and the Upper School administration have prayed about adding a second language to the curriculum. Although the Spanish program continues to grow and thrive, many students are enjoying ASL as an alternative that is relevant and practical.

Classes are largely “voice-off,” which encourages learning ASL

“I want to be a pastor or missionary, and I know learning ASL will help me better connect with the Deaf community. I’ve learned more than just how to sign. Mrs. Dixon introduced me to a culture and perspective I hadn’t considered before this class.”

Sam Burtis ’19

with little intrusion of the English language. Students are assessed on their ability to *talk* using ASL hand signs, body postures, and facial expressions; *read* ASL while watching another person sign; and properly integrate ASL grammatical structure while signing. The rich history and culture that comes from within the American Deaf community is also part of the curriculum. “Learning about ASL and Deaf culture allows our students to become more aware of people around them in their everyday lives and better prepared to communicate with them,” explains Dixon.

ASL has been around since the early 1800s, but was only formally recognized as a language in the 1960s.

ASL is indeed its own language, as it contains a specific grammar, syntax, and structure as well as a culture and history. More and more high schools are offering it as college admission boards are increasingly accepting ASL classes as they would Spanish, French, or Chinese. 🇺🇸

“The beauty of American Sign Language and the perspective of speaking and expressing emotion with the body fascinates me; my eyes have been opened by the mere existence of such an incredible artform and language.”

Brooke Lewis ’19





Measure Twice, Cut Once



Our facilities team is perhaps the busiest in June, July, and August when many of us are taking time to enjoy vacation with family and friends. This summer was no different as Director of Facilities Bill Shuman and his faithful crew took on several special renovation and repurposing projects on top of their typical summer maintenance, groundskeeping, and custodial duties.

The Upper School Fieldhouse has a new green-turf surface, and gently-used donated lockers from a local Gold's gym give every in-season student-athlete a secure place to store gear. In addition, a new math wing was added to the Kilby Center to accommodate growth at the Upper School.

The Middle School Enrichment Center opened the Eagles' Nest, a dedicated quiet, calming space for students to decompress, be comforted, and pray during the school day.

Annapolis Lower School Kindergarten classrooms are no longer in moduls. Classrooms were moved inside Annapolis Evangelical Presbyterian Church, joining grades 1 through 5 homerooms, educational support, and the main office. Kindergarten students couldn't be more excited about their new space.

At the Lower School in Severn, newly acquired and remodeled common area and classroom spaces support the school's rapid growth. Our newest campus at Grace Point Community Church of the Nazarene in Severn is beginning its fourth year and welcomed more than 80 students, nearly doubling enrollment since opening in August of 2015. [📍](#)







AACS Fall Festival
& Homecoming





A Parent's Perspective

Sometimes the past, present, and future all collide for a brief moment. While looking through old AACCS publications, I came across this letter written by Mrs. Carol Ackerman. Having known some of her children who were students, it took me down memory lane. Coincidentally, her comments also encouraged me in the present as I share in her mindset of how great AACCS is and its impact on my own four children. Further, her steady giving has resulted in blessing others well into the future. The past, present, and future all in the same moment. God uses these views from His perspective to bring us clarity and humility. What a great and faithful God we serve!

having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints

—EPHESIANS 1:18 📖

Graham Thorpe '97
Chief Advancement Officer



I consider it an honor to be able to contribute to the scholarship fund that was an incredible gift to me and my family. I give now praying that other families will be blessed in the same way! Go Eagles!

—Carol (Ackerman) Diachenko | October 2018



DURING THE ALMOST 20 years that I've been a part of AACCS, I've often been asked what I like about the school and would I recommend it. Although administrator, principals, teachers and students have changed, my answer has never wavered. My love for the school is closely tied to the love for the Lord that is exemplified in every area of the school. The commitment of AACCS to glorify Him in the monumental decisions (i.e., building a new campus) to the everyday ones (a tender hug to a Kindergartener who misses Mommy) speaks loudly to the parent who is looking for an education that is Christ-centered. As someone who loves the Lord myself and has sought to raise my children in a Christian home and church, extending that criteria to their education only made sense to me.

What a joy and privilege it has been to be a part of the growth, the changes, the challenges, and the excitement of this corner of Christ's kingdom! With four children, there are only a few aspects of the school that I haven't been aware of over the years. Not every day was perfect but every day was a gift. There is no doubt in my mind that the dedication and ability of the skilled faculty at AACCS is the primary reason my children were challenged to succeed, encouraged to work hard, and motivated to do their best.

Full tuition payments were a part of my monthly routine for many years, but there came a time when I had to lean on tuition assistance. I'll never forget the day I received the letter granting me enough assistance, while I was in school myself, for my children to remain at AACCS. I went to the school office in person, in tears, thanking them and promised to pay it all back. I was graciously told that I wasn't to think of having to "pay it back," that it was a gift and as such, it was freely given. I took advantage of that "gift" until my youngest graduated last May. It has been with great joy now, to send a check each month to AACCS for tuition assistance not because I'm paying it back, but because I want to help another family experience the same blessing I was given.

My oldest son, Paul, lives in Baltimore, plays music in a band and is self-employed. Christy has just received a full piano scholarship to finish her senior year at the University of Southern Colorado at Pueblo, majoring in elementary music education. Sarah is a junior at Geneva College, majoring in writing and business and the majority of her tuition is covered by scholarships. Mark is in the Navy in Charleston, South Carolina, in Nuclear Power School. He recently decided to pursue a career in the Navy and anticipates applying to the Naval Academy when Nuclear Power School is finished.

My children may have graduated but I have not. I don't think a fall season will ever arrive without an incredible desire to see the Golden Eagles march for Him, or enjoy the Variety Show, or interview prospective school families. And how could I forget the bus! The lives of my children have been blessed unspeakably and eternally because of AACCS and so has mine!

Carol Ackerman | Spring 2002

New Hires Add to an Impressive Number of Graduates Serving at AACs



SPOTLIGHT Visit any of our four campuses, sit in on a class, or stroll by an athletic team practice and you will more than likely meet one of our alumni working at AACs. This past August, seven alumnae returned, growing the number of AACs graduates working for the school from 12 to 19, a 58 percent increase.

Eliza Cary '12, Educational Support Inclusion Aide, Upper School

Cary, a native Annapolitan, returned home to work as a Wyzant Tutor after completing her bachelor's degree in sociology from Covenant College in 2016. Her excellent foundation at AACs led to freelance jobs as a copyeditor throughout college, a service she continues to offer to clients while working full-time for AACs as an educational support inclusion aide. Cary attends Bay Area Community Church and ran her first Across the Bay 10K in November.

Jodi Hoffman '14, Choral Program Director, Upper School

Hoffman is the youngest among our alumnae returning to AACs. She is a 2018 James Madison University School of Music graduate where she earned her bachelor's degree in music with a concentration in musical theater. While at JMU, she was a member of Into Hymn, a Christian a cappella women's group, and interned with the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir. During her AACs student tenure, she was a leader among the sopranos for Bell'Arte, Nota Dolce, and Madrigal Singers; a cast member in seven theater productions; and the performing-arts prefect, a senior-year leadership position.

Sara (nee Chew) Kulp '07, 3rd Grade Teacher, Annapolis Lower School

Kulp enrolled as a sophomore at AACs and hit the ground running, literally,

playing varsity soccer through senior year, serving as the athletic prefect, singing with Bell'Arte, and performing on stage for the fall musical and variety shows. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in elementary education from North Greenville University in South Carolina, she was hired at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Glen Burnie and stayed for eight years. She served as a 3rd grade teacher until 2014 when she was promoted to assistant principal and middle-school advanced math and Bible teacher. Several of Kulp's former students, including some in her first class of 3rd graders, are now enrolled at the Upper School. She and her husband, John '06, live in Severn with daughters three-year-old Quinn and Amelia who will turn one in April.

Rebecca Nieman '14, 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher

Nieman, an Annapolis native, spent five years of her childhood living on a sheep and dairy farm in England. During her four years at the Upper School, she achieved the rank of International Honor Thespian in the Thespian Honor Society. Nieman graduated this past May from Messiah College with a bachelor's degree in middle-level education and a concentration in language arts. Her daily journal, which she started in 2010, spans 12 spiral-bound notebooks and consists of more than 2,770 entries.

Amy (nee Deterding) Noll '99, 6th Grade Inclusion Aide

Noll, a K-12 AACs "lifer" joins her parents and two brothers Steve '00 and Jim '03, all of whom are currently or formerly employed at AACs. Noll graduated in 2001 from Covenant College with a bachelor's degree in biology and a concentration in environmental science. Noll first worked at the University of Washington in the Animal Research Department focusing on brain function in baboons and macaque monkeys and

assisting with anti-rejection drug trials. After a year, she returned to Tennessee to teach middle- and high-school science before moving back to Annapolis in 2012. She and her husband are raising two children, 5th-grader Gus and 3rd-grader Kathryn, both of whom attend the Lower School in Annapolis.

Stephanie (nee Dark) Phillips '07,
Visual Arts Teacher and Special
Projects Coordinator

Phillips graduated from James Madison University in 2011 with a B.F.A. in studio emphasis: painting & drawing and art education. After teaching art in Fairfax County Public Schools for two years, she moved to Yuma, Arizona, where she continued to teach art in the public schools. Most recently, she and 3-year-old daughter Raelyn lived in Okinawa, Japan, where she served as a private art educator. AACS is a family affair with her sister Christina '15 and her parents, both of whom are former AACS staffers.

Melanie (nee Coleman) Schini '03,
Main Office Receptionist, Upper School

Schini's heart for serving is obvious in the way she greets and cares for the dozens of people who call, email, or visit the main office each day. She performs with the faculty chapel band and led worship at the Choose Joy conference in October for young women enrolled at the Upper School. Schini continues to pursue her music career as a member of the Chesapeake Chorale and Chesapeake Chorale Chamber Singers. Both groups perform several times a year at local venues. Last spring, she was a featured soloist in a cabaret-themed show, singing from the Tony-nominated musical *Waitress*. She also leads worship weekly at New Hope Chapel, located in Arnold, Maryland. [!\[\]\(d66ff64371a51729ac8c1cdaa685ba6f_img.jpg\)](#)

Congratulations to the 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



Matt Soldano
Lacrosse
Class of 2009

Megan Campbell McCuen
Lacrosse & Soccer
Class of 2003

Cortnie Higgins Allen
Softball & Soccer
Class of 2004

HALL OF FAME Family and friends gathered together to celebrate the induction of three AACS alumni into the AACS Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, October 18. Photos of the newest members and a plaque commemorating the induction date will be added to the Athletic Hall of Fame wall at the Upper School's Kilby Athletic Center.



Founded in 2010, the Annapolis Area Christian School Athletic Hall of Fame was established to pay tribute to those individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the quality and tradition of AACS athletics. The example the Hall of Fame members demonstrate is an encouragement and a challenge to those both outside and within the school. While not exclusive, the following attributes will be principal factors in selecting someone into the Hall of fame: Christian character, recognized athletic excellence, leadership, and commitment.

**Do you not know that those who
run in a race all run, but only one
receives the prize? Run in such a
way that you may win.**

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24

CLASS NOTES



Dan Ingram, Class of 2005

Dan and his wife, Amanda, welcomed their second child, Madelyn Brooke, on August 30, 2018, at 1:12 pm. She weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 inches long. Dan is currently an account executive for Insurity, a global insurance software company, at their headquarters in Hartford, Connecticut. Amanda graduated last December with a master's degree in marine affairs and policy from the University of Rhode Island and is currently enjoying her role as a stay-at-home mom.

Cal Napolitano, Class of 2007

Cal is working as an athletic trainer at Messiah College. He works closely with the men's soccer, men's basketball, men's lacrosse, and men's swimming programs. He has always valued Christian education, especially after attending AACs. He now enjoys serving in a higher-education Christian environment.



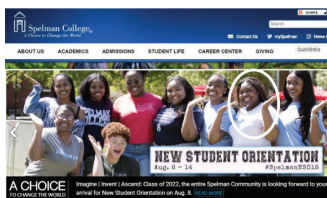
James Baden, Class of 2008

James and his wife, Mackenzie, welcomed their first child, Callie Rachel, in December 2017. They enjoy living in Sterling, Virginia. James works in sales in Reston. Mackenzie is completing her degree in business. James and Mackenzie are very active and recently ran a three-day 911 Promise Run (relay) from The Pentagon to Ground Zero in NYC.



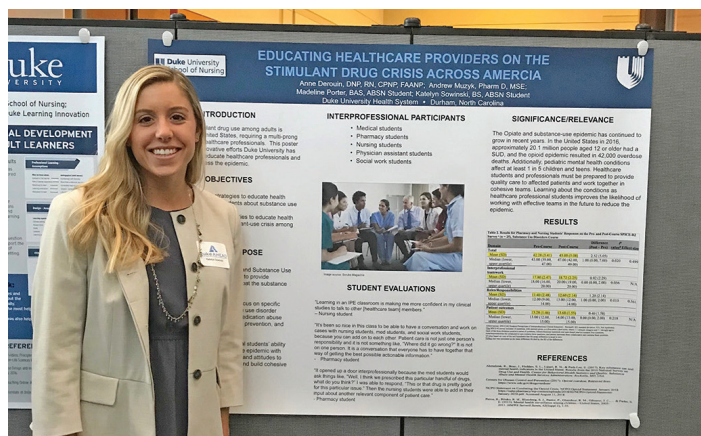
Jai Tarver, Class of 2017

Jai completed her freshman year at Spelman College with a 3.4 GPA. She is enjoying her time there and has kept with the AACs tradition of giving back as a member of one of the campus community service clubs, Lytehouse. She was selected and served as an Intern for MD Congressman Steny Hoyer this summer and was also featured on the Spelman College Website.



**Send us your
alumni news!**

**akastendike@
aacsonline.org**



Katelyn Sowinski, Class of 2013

Katelyn earned her bachelor's degree in biobehavioral health, summa cum laude, from Penn State where she was a record-holding Division I swimmer for four years. She will finish her accelerated bachelor of science in nursing degree at Duke University in December and begin work at Duke University Hospital as a nurse in cardiothoracic surgery. She was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing in November. In September, she co-presented original research with Madeline Porter, a fellow student; Dr. Anne Derouin, Duke School of Nursing faculty; and Dr. Andrew Muzyk, Duke Hospital and Medical School Pharmacy and Psychiatry, at the Duke AHEAD 2018 Health Professionals Education Day. Titled "Educating Healthcare Providers on the Stimulant Drug Crisis Across America," the findings underscore the need for healthcare-professional students to be educated before entering the workforce so that more effective, cohesive protocols and strategies can be implemented to mitigate the alarming increase in opioid overdose cases nationwide. Sowinski also presented "Collaboration of Healthcare Professionals to

Address the ADD/ADHD Crisis on College Campuses" alongside Porter and Dr. Derouin at a Sigma sponsored Duke School of Nursing event and again at the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners in October.



Joel Schaefer, Class of 2013

After graduating from Calvin College in 2017 with a degree in mechanical engineering, Joel went to Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. In January of 2018, he began Navy Nuclear Power School. He graduated from power school in August and is currently in the next step of his training before being assigned to a nuclear submarine in mid-2019. In the midst of all that, he was married on December 30, 2017. He and his wife, Kaitlyn, live in Charleston, SC.

Shannon Baden, Class of 2016

Shannon is currently studying nursing at James Madison University. In her junior year, she is very active in Inner Varsity; plays Rugby; and enjoys her studies, cooking, and friends.



Amanda Densmoor and Brooke Bloomquist, both Class of 2015

Amanda and Brooke are currently seniors at University of Maryland, College Park, and Coastal Carolina University, respectively. They traveled to Oberhofen, Germany, last summer to participate in an inten-



sive month-long operetta and musical theater training program. While there, they visited Verona, Italy, to see the Opera Carmen in one of the large arenas. "There were thousands of people there and the show featured live animals and fire,"

says Densmoor. "I have never experienced a musical performance quite like this. The atmosphere was similar to a large American sporting event with the audience making as much noise as the performers at times." While there, Amanda and Brooke spent more than 11 hours each day in rehearsals, personal coaching classes, and German-language tutorials. From dance instruction to voice lessons, they soaked in knowledge and performed for some of the most respected names in theater and opera.

Steven Ridings, Class of 2012

Steven married Julia Simpson on October 18, 2018, in Apex, North Carolina. Groomsmen included brothers Vaughn '10



and Terry '05, as well as Matt Wiley '12 and AACS-Netherlands exchange student Gavin Boerboom. AACS was well represented with guests David Topp '05, Tony Villafane '12, Marissa Minor '10, Will Kang '10, Jake Miller '12, Christian Furniss '12, and Bryan Wintersteen '12.

Annie Mitchell, Class of 2014

Armed with an athletic training degree from Miami University of Ohio, Annie Mitchell '14 could have found a job supporting an athletic program just about anywhere. But her desire to win athletes for the Lord landed her in Xenia, Ohio, where she is interning this year at the Athletes in Action (AIA) headquarters. AIA is the sports ministry for Cru Ministries, formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ. AIA's mission is to "...build spiritual movements everywhere through the platform of sports so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus." Mitchell is working with AIA's Sports Performance Team to develop online and onsite training opportunities for athletic trainers and strength coaches to engage with athletes on a spiritual level that equips and encourages those they mentor, treat, and train to seek a lasting relationship with Jesus. Mitchell



and her coworker started a Bible study in September at nearby Cedarville University for women majoring in athletic training. And she is mentoring a group of athletic training student volunteers at Xenia High School who hail from a variety of backgrounds, ethnicities, and cultures. When asked how she is approaching the year, Mitchell's spot-on humor comes through. "Where will God get the biggest bang for the Annie buck?" she often wonders aloud. The answer is unwavering as doors continue to open for her at AIA. God has Annie just where He wants her.

Matt Soldano, Class of 2009

Matt currently works for Bethesda Project, an organization committed to finding and caring for the abandoned poor and to be family with those who have none. Bethesda Project serves 2,000 homeless and formerly homeless men and women each year at fourteen sites throughout Philadelphia. Matt is the manager of My Brother's House, a safe haven program offering pre-recovery housing and an array of support services to vulnerable men with chronic mental illness and substance abuse problems.

Mary works for Women's Opportunities Resource Cen-

ter, a nonprofit that promotes social and economic self-sufficiency primarily for economically disadvantaged women and their families.

Matt and Mary are members of Liberti Church where Matt is a deacon and runs their Emmanuel Food Ministry. Their son, Christopher, was born on April 2, 2018.

They love living in the city of Philadelphia and being part of ministries that are for the city!



Andy Boggs, Class of 2018

Andy and Jonathan King (former AACCS Choral Program Director) were both selected for the University of Maryland at College Park Chamber Singers as Tenors. The UMD Chamber Singers is one of the School of Music's select choral ensembles, specializing in music from Renaissance, Baroque, and contemporary eras.



Zachary Scantlin & Alpana Kumar, both Class of 2010

Zachary and Alpana were high school sweethearts at AACCS and went on to be married. They had their first baby, Ezra Ranjiv, in December of 2017. Zach is in the Army National Guard and is currently deployed. Alpana is an optometrist where they live in Texas, but while Zach is away she is temporarily back in Maryland to be with family. 📍

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AACS is a proud participant in the Delmarva Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The five-digit code to designate AACCS is 22852. For more info, visit www.cfctoday.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS | 2018

Alumni Christmas Reception

Monday, December 17

7:00 pm

Federal House, City Dock Annapolis

Open to All Alumni

Young Alumni Chapel & Luncheon

Wednesday, January 9

10:30 am

Chapel in Kerr Center, Lunch to follow in Kilby Center

Open to the Classes of 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, and 2014

RSVP : alumni@aacsonline.org

YEAR IN REVIEW

I am pleased to report that AACCS continued on its growth trend in a number of areas during school year 2017-2018. Our enrollment rose by one percent from 898 to 908 students, which, along with tuition rate increases, contributed to 5.7 percent more in net tuition revenue over the prior year. In 2017-2018 our gifts and fundraisers substantially rose by 47 percent, primarily due to donations to purchase the 20 acres adjacent to our Upper School Campus for future expansion purposes. Total expenses likewise increased 3.3 percent over the prior year, primarily due to a rise in personnel expenses to accommodate the higher enrollment and some program offerings. As a final note, the non-cash depreciation expense of \$989K, along with interest and insurance expenses, was allocated by our CPA firm across the reported expense categories accordingly.

As we move toward our school's Golden (50th) Anniversary, I sincerely pray that our AACCS Community—our students, families, faculty, and staff—will continue to advance our mission to “impact the world through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.”

John Hansen, CPA
Chief Operating Officer



ANNAPOLIS AREA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Did You Know?

100%

*College
Acceptance for
Class of 2018*

2,310

*Graduates
since 1985*

93%

*School Wide
Reenrollment
Rate*



ENROLLMENT

Lower School	256
Middle School	221
Upper School	431
TOTAL	908
TOTAL Reenrolled	708
TOTAL New	200
Full-time Equivalent Teachers	85
Full-time Equivalent Staff	60
TOTAL	145

21

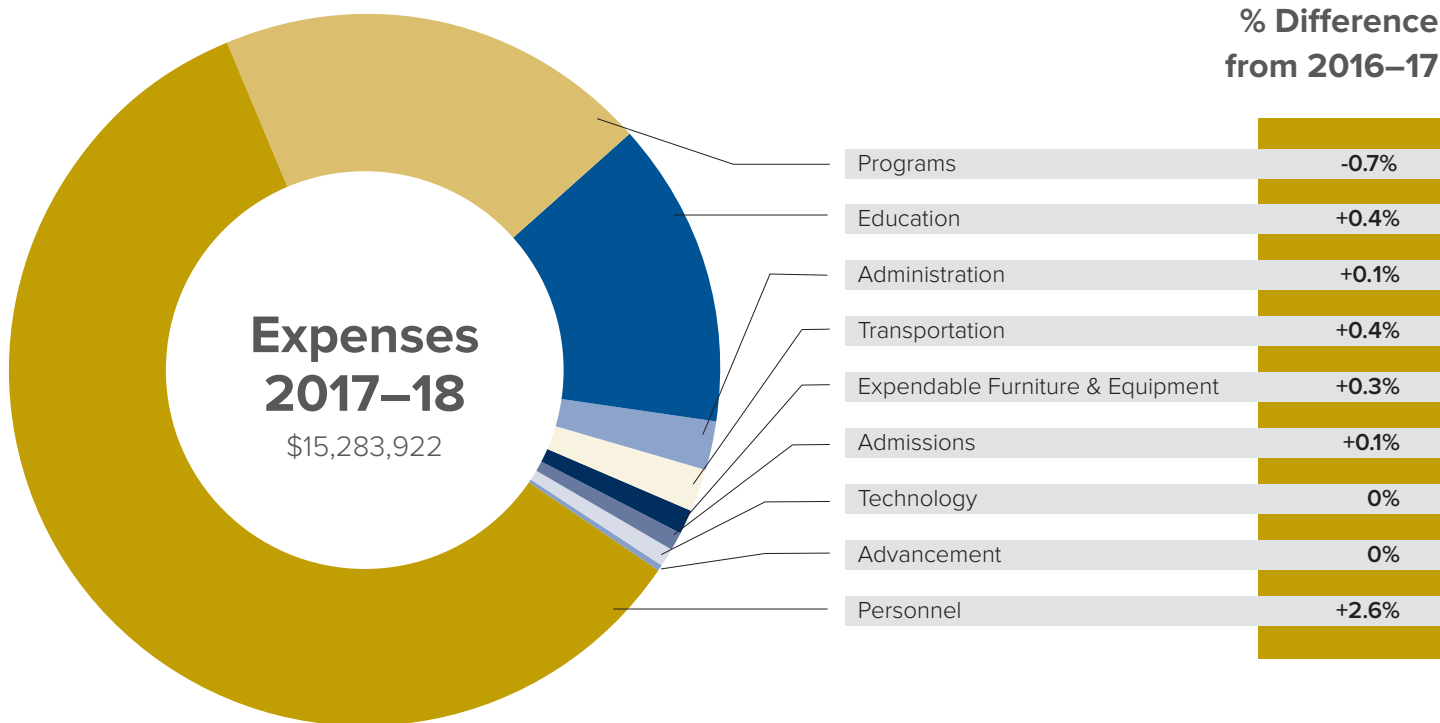
**Sports
Programs**

27

Clubs

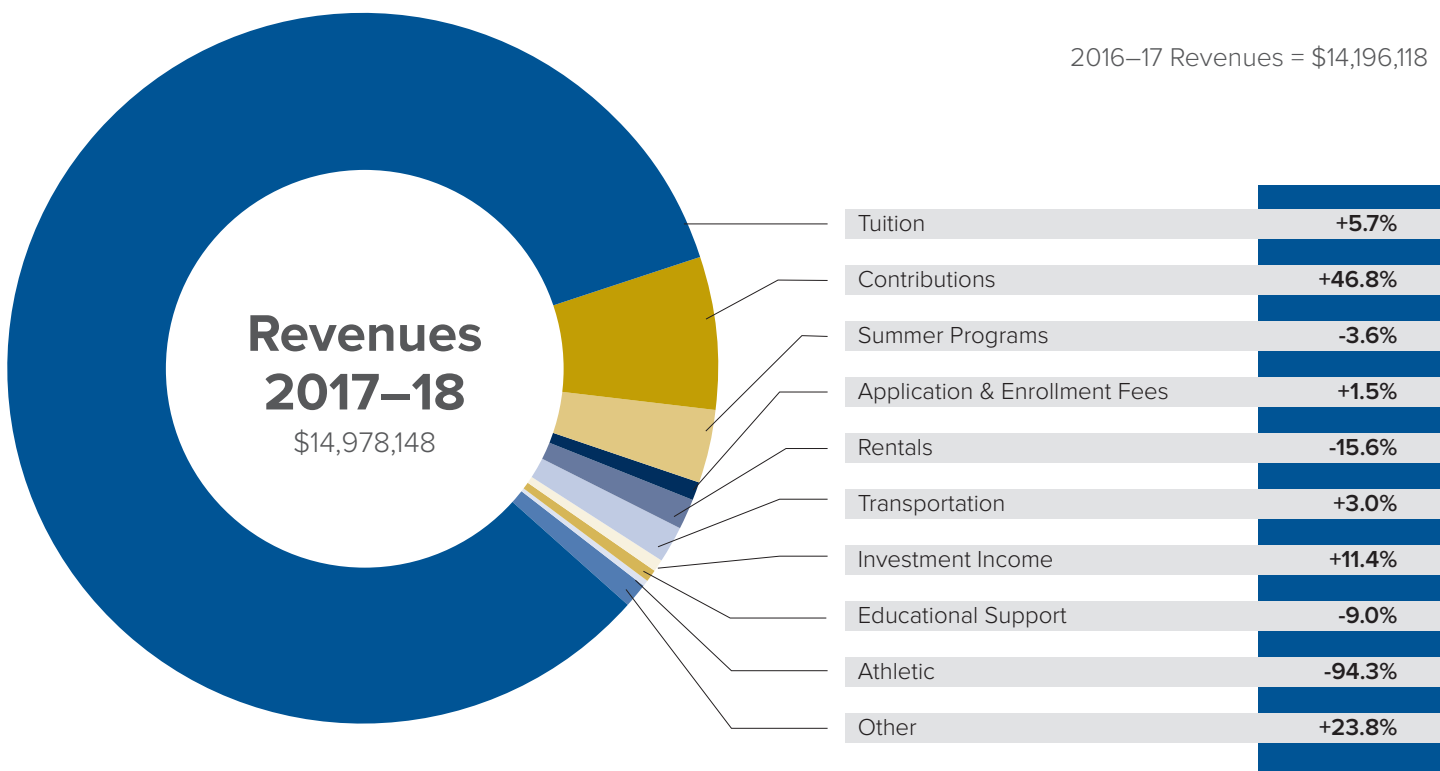
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**Choirs &
Bands**



2016-17 Expenses = \$14,801,837

2016-17 Revenues = \$14,196,118



**Totals are from our certified audited financial statements. Interest, insurance, and depreciation are allocated across expense categories.*



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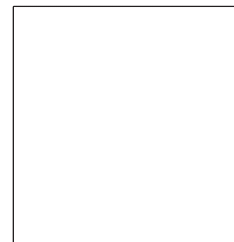
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2019 Spring Spectacular
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SAVE
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DATE

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Kilby Athletic Center
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For more information, contact
410-519-5300 x2116 or
akastendike@aacsonline.org.