



FALL 2019

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ANNAPOLIS AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

anchorage



Art
for
Him

Social, Emotional,
Spiritual Well-Being



Annual Report
2018-2019



SLS celebrates
five years

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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Send photos and updates to akastendike@aacsonline.org or contact the Alumni Office at 410.519.5300 x2116.

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ON THE COVER: Sixth-grade students proudly hold their Bible verse typographies, portraits—if you will—of their growing relationship with the Lord. (photo by Misty McReady) Story on page 6.



Know Your WHY

I hope you'll view Christian comedian and influencer Michael Jr.'s "Know Your Why" on YouTube after you read this. I used this short three-minute clip at our school-wide faculty worship service in August to illustrate how a shift in perspective can make all the difference.

In the clip, Michael Jr. asks an audience member to sing a few bars of "Amazing Grace" when he learns that the gentleman is a music teacher. The man delivers a pitch-perfect delivery of the first stanza of the song. Impressed, Michael Jr. asks the man to rethink his delivery. This time the man is to sing as if his uncle has just been released from jail. The second version is soulful and sprinkled with runs and notes that are divinely inspired. The audience members cheer—some with mouths gaping, others praising God—and all giving this man a heartfelt standing ovation.



photo by Misty McReady

Math Teacher Brian Dennstaedt '97, Luke Eberle '18, Brie Mori '18, Superintendent Rick Kempton, Livy Lenhart '18, and Athletic Director Josiah Wolf '01 gather before tee off at the 16th Annual Golf Classic in October.

"The first time I asked him to sing, he knew **what** he was doing," Michael Jr. explained once the room quieted. "The second time, he knew **WHY** he was doing it. When you know your **WHY**, your **what** has more impact because you are walking in or toward your purpose."

Consider the first Christian believers and how they embraced their **what**, which elevated their **WHY** to spread the Gospel:

And all who believed were together and had all things

in common. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. ACTS 2:44, 46-47

At AACS, our **what** is not that different from the verses above in Acts 2. We are relational and desire to share our faith in fellowship with one another and the broader community as well. **What** we do is train up the next generation of godly leaders within a distinctly Christian, K-12 educational community. **WHY** we do it is to advance the Kingdom for His glory.

And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. ACTS 2:47

When we do our **what** from the perspective of our **WHY**, it bears fruit. It is my privilege to present a sampling of that fruit to you in this issue. 📌

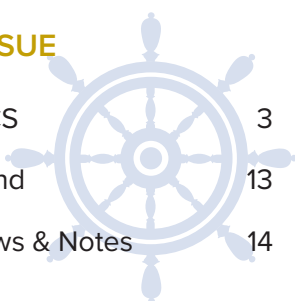
In His Service and Yours,
Rick Kempton, Superintendent/Head

IN THIS ISSUE

Inside AACS 3

Anchor Fund 13

Alumni News & Notes 14



Lighting the Way

by Harriet Petrocelli

THE SKY WAS THE creative limit for Annapolis Lower School parents Jen Groshek and Amy Marshall. With a small army of volunteers, they pulled off a whimsical outdoor movie night on a shoestring budget. Nearly 200 guests showed up, balancing blankets and bags, eager to claim their spot of grass on a cool evening in September. Families feasted on preordered pizzas from Papa John's and sashayed up to the Shake, Rattle, and Roll food truck for some finger-licking barbeque. *Secret Life of Pets 2* ran under the stars,

Kona Ice turned tongues turquoise, and the concessions crew served up salty and sweet snacks for a full movie-theater experience.

"My face gave me away," beamed ALS Principal Elizabeth Williams. "In fact, I'm still smiling. It was pure joy to witness new friendships forming and existing relationships deepening." Community is one of those words that is easier said than done. It demands consistent attention and purposeful

programming. Thanks to parents who serve for the joy of the Lord—as event planners, chaperones, guest readers, admission ambassadors, and more—the ALS community is thriving. 📍



**In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give
glory to your Father who is in heaven.**

MATTHEW 5:16

Five Years and Counting

The Lower School in Severn Turns Five in 2020

by Harriet Petrocelli

ROSIE, a bright-eyed kindergartener, arrived first on August 19, 2015. Forty-three more students crossed the threshold shortly after, marking the beginning of Annapolis Area Christian's Severn Lower School (SLS) campus.

Looking back, a key moment in SLS's history came in 2013, more than two years before the school opened. The AACS Board set a strategic goal to establish a second lower school near the Upper School in Severn. Principal Karl Graustein joined the school's leadership in 2014 to make that goal a reality. By the spring of 2015, he had secured a facility at Grace Pointe

Community Church, hired faculty and staff, and collaborated with the school's advancement team on a very successful campaign to introduce the new lower school to the surrounding community. Because of God's faithfulness, a little elbow grease, and a lot of prayer, SLS is thriving in its fifth year. The student body, K-5, has more than doubled and Rosie, a few inches taller, is now in fourth grade.

Like the other three AACS campuses, the Lower School in Severn's success is missionally rooted in an excellent, biblically-based education that provides the framework for children

to learn and discover the Lord's plans for them. Faculty teach from the perspective of God as Creator as they employ a variety of teaching strategies, including hands-on learning curricula such as the STEM-based Project Lead the Way. The new after-school coding club and the established art and music co-curricular programs are shining examples of God's presence. Every week, pastors and local leaders engage students at chapels. Field trips to Civil War battlefields, sites in Baltimore, and the Smithsonian in DC are commonplace. And parents step up regularly as chaperones, classroom



176

number of students
since 2015



133

number of families
since 2015



20

four-year average
annual enrollment
growth percentage



96

percent of fifth-graders who
have matriculated to the
AACS Middle School



Rosie and her mom, Amanda Johnson, on Rosie's first day of kindergarten, opening day, 2015.



Nic at Night musical production, spring 2019



Grandparents' Day 2019



Amazing Grace Race musical production, spring 2018

readers, open house volunteers, and project coordinators.

"The Lower School in Severn's first five years have exceeded all expectations," shared Principal Graustein. At the top of his long list of SLS "loves" are the amazing faculty, staff, families, and alumni who have returned to enroll their kids. "Above all, I love to watch students grow in their love for Jesus Christ and their knowledge of the Bible. God has been so good. I look forward to all that He will accomplish in the years ahead." 🙌



19

fall 2019 kindergarten class, the most in SLS history



8

number of students—out of nine total—from the inaugural fifth grade who enrolled in ninth grade at the AACs Upper School



2018 school picture



Veteran's Day Chapel 2018

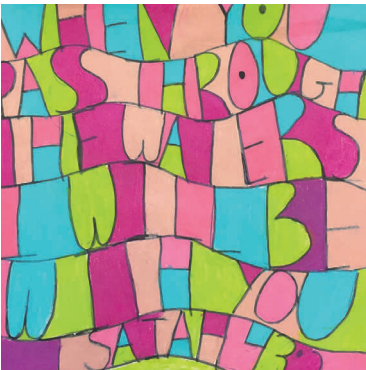


First Grade Teacher Sherrie Ridings, her students, and Principal Graustein flank more than 74 Operation Christmas Child® shoeboxes ready for delivery overseas.

Art for Him

Middle Schoolers explore art through
a biblical worldview lens

by Karen Luttrell, art teacher



EVANGELICAL AND VISUAL ARTIST communities have, at times, had a contentious relationship. Yet throughout Christian history, the visual arts have provided didactic and inspirational resources to help believers develop in their faith and understanding of God and His Word. At AACS, art provides so many opportunities for young believers to share, reflect, and defend their Christian faith in creative and unique ways. At the Middle School, visual art is taught through a biblical lens with Scripture as the foundation and inspiration.

Sixth-grade students create a Bible verse typography that many students deem as their favorite project of the year. After learning about the art of typography and how they interact with it daily from billboards to candy wrappers to websites, each student selects a Bible verse that has

special significance. Using a square format and specific guidelines, students create a work that presents Scripture in a context that emphasizes and illuminates a passage with their personal imprint. The result is a kind of portrait of each student's faith walk and growing relationship with Christ.

Seventh-grade students explore the idea of faith and fulfillment of God's promises through an Advent Jesse Tree project. The Jesse Tree is a very old Christmas tradition that began during medieval times, and this aligns with their study of the Middle Ages in history class. Jesse Trees are used to help tell the story of the Bible from Creation to the Christmas Story. It is a reference to Isaiah 11:1 and its prophecy of the coming Messiah, "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." *The Advent*





Jesse Tree by Dean Lambert Smith provides context. Each student is assigned a day with a symbol and corresponding Scripture that they use to create a three-dimensional piece based on the repoussé metalworking technique. Fabricated into ornaments and displayed together during December, the 25 symbols and corresponding Scripture reflect the harmony and continuity of the Bible as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Eighth-grade art students demonstrate the design principle of unity through an abstract watercolor painting. The goal of this assignment is to use the Elements of Art—line, shape, value, color, texture, and form—to compose an abstract work without any recognizable imagery. Students use repetition, pattern, and rhythm to unify these elements. During this exploration, students are invited to reflect on the importance of

unity among the Body of Christ. Ephesians 4:15-16: “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

Taking visual art helps kids become better critical thinkers, thoughtful learners, and compassionate neighbors. God wants us to use our creativity to address problems in our broken world. Ephesians 2:10, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Flexing the creativity muscle develops problem-solving skills so that when students go into the world, they have the desire and are equipped to impact the world through Christ Jesus. [⬇](#)



Taking visual art helps kids become better critical thinkers, thoughtful learners, and compassionate neighbors. God wants us to use our creativity to address problems in our broken world.



Am I Safe? Do I Belong Here?

by Eric Hansen, director of student development



Upper School Student Care Team: front (row 1 to r): Counselor Leia Joseph, Inclusion Aide Eliza Cary '12, back row (l to r): Chaplain and Bible Teacher Doug Scheidt, Dean of Students Jake Palumbo '99, Administrative Assistant Angela Beall, Director of Student Development Eric Hansen.

Photos by Nathalie Meade

Eric Hansen is in his 25th year at AACS. Although he loved the classroom and taught English for several years, his passion led him to cultivate community through worship and programming both within and outside of the Upper School's academic day. In his new role, he oversees students' spiritual formation, social/emotional health, and leadership development.

AT AACS, we are growing increasingly cognizant of the ways in which the landscape of education has changed in the last decade. In order to excel academically, students must learn in a place that is *safe* and where they feel like they *belong*. The weight of expectations that you and I might have felt in high school has increased exponentially. And while the internet has revolutionized life in some very positive ways, it has also opened Pandora's Box for our kids in ways that can never be closed.

I graduated from a private, preparatory, Christian high school many years ago. Just like our 99 current seniors,

I spent much of my senior year stressed about where I was headed and increasingly anxious about what it meant to be leaving a community that I loved. Like so many of our AACS students, I took challenging classes, played two sports, and participated in as many extra-curricular activities as I could. I remember many hours spent fretting over the girl whom I couldn't seem to win over and far more time and emotional energy than I care to remember (or share) in carefully manicuring an image of myself that I thought others—parents, administrators, friends—expected and needed from me.

While I can't help but see parallels between my experience and that of my students, I'm also very aware that my experience was *nothing like* my students' experience. I grew up in an era NOT governed by wifi or cell phones. From the time I stepped through the door of my house after school until I stepped onto campus the next morning, I unplugged from the stresses of school. In fact, if I wanted to talk to my girlfriend, I used a corded phone extended as far away as possible from my parents in the next room. I remember friends struggling in high school, but I do not recall depression, anxiety, loneliness, and shame being so prevalent and commonplace as what they are now.

Truly, our students today live virtually *margin-less* lives; they often feel as though they are actors in a play, and that they are being watched and evaluated all the time. The presence of social media and smartphones all but erases the places of refuge and escape I counted on in my teen years. This loss directly correlates



Light House Lead Pastor Sammy Foster and his wife, Ruth, engage the room at the Upper School's Healthy Life Conference.



Dr. Cynthia Tilghman-Lee, 11th-grade dean and science teacher, introduces students to a homemade all-natural skin scrub at the Upper School's Healthy Life Conference in November.

Photo by Mike Lentz '12



Alumni return to AACS to visit and reconnect: Nathan Gregory '18, Carlos Richardson '17, Nick Lloyd '18, Brett Schulte '18, and Brent Dixon '18

to the spike in emotional distress that our kids experience. The issues they deal with are simply not going away, and ignoring them denies the Truth that God made us all as His image-bearers (Gen 1:17, Mat 5:14). While we don't claim to be experts in mental health, we recognize that to not attend to students' social/emotional/spiritual needs is to allow a culture that's characterized by stress, performance anxiety, and a lack of grace, where students play their perceived roles in the drama that is high school.

This is not the way our students' high school experiences have to be, however. We're not actors; we're people—people who bear the image of our Father and who experience hurt, pain, confusion, excitement, and joy. As educators, we need to recognize, and attend to, these feelings. When we do, we actually reflect the image of our Father “who meets all of our needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19). So, when we see and listen to students, we cultivate safe places where students can feel like they can stop performing and actually be comfortable to be who God created them to be. —E.H. 📍

The Student Development Framework

Schoolwide (K-12) there are teams of adults whose focus is the social, emotional, and spiritual well-being of our students. These key people, along with faculty, staff, and coaches, work together to care for students and provide opportunities for growth. At the Upper School, some of the ways that we seek to address these needs of students are as follows:

- The director of development, a new role this year, leads the Student Care Team.
- The Student Care Team invests in the spiritual formation, social/emotional health, and leadership development of students.
- The dean of students and grade-level deans are immediate touchpoints, advocates, and mentors for kids.
- The academic guidance and educational support staff do a remarkable job of leveling the playing field so that learning is accessible and differentiated and so that all students are valued and challenged appropriately in the classroom.
- Students begin work in ninth grade in our College and Career Office to prepare for life after high school.
- A group of faculty and staff meet weekly to pray over chapel programming and discern how best to present the Gospel to kids in ways that are both meaningful and relevant.
- We do not employ a full-time counselor; however, we have three trained counselors on staff—Leia Joseph, Cheryl Moffatt, and Angela Beall—who work with students and families in crisis and help them obtain professional counseling services when needed.

We are in this together and we invite you to connect with us soon if you haven't already:

- attend a Wednesday morning chapel (10:48 a.m.),
- volunteer at our next student life event,
- attend a JV or varsity game,
- plan to catch the next concert or play on the Kerr Center's stage, or
- join the monthly AACS Strengthening Dads' Breakfast (check the Family Friday Update for dates and times).

Kids desire facetime with and validation from the adults in their lives. Even when they roll their eyes or sit on the other side of the bleachers with their friends, you are making a deposit in their emotional banks when you engage with the AACS community. Ready or not, the next generation of the Lord's image-bearers is here, and we could not be more honored to partner with you and walk this part of the journey to adulthood with your children.



Question, Concern, or Praise?

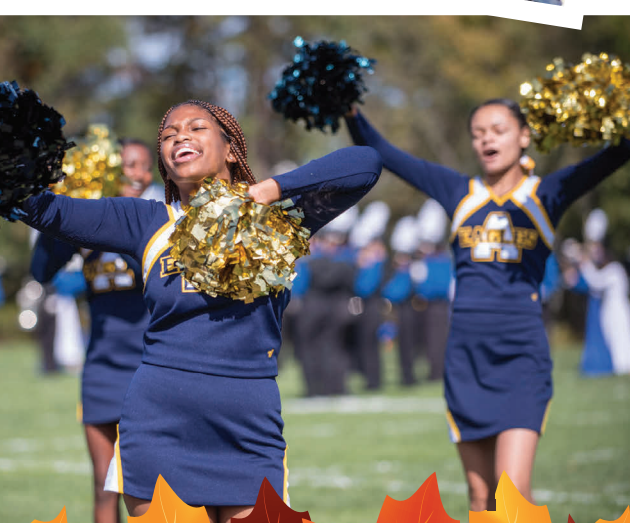
Contact Eric Hansen, director of student development, at ehansen@aacsonline.org, 410.846.3507.





AACS Fall Festival

& Homecoming





Free to Be You and Me

by Carolyn Beall '95, K-12 educational support program director

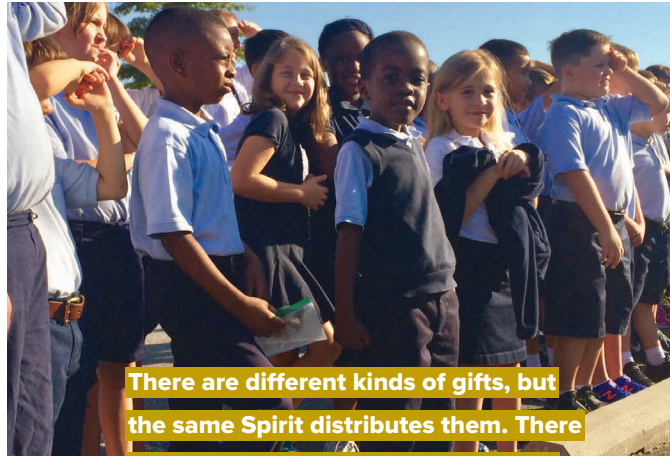
God designed each of us with a need and desire for acceptance, approval, and belonging. At AACCS, classes, programs, and events are structured to acknowledge and meet these needs. However, when students don't understand someone else's perspective or when they have a hard time connecting socially, they may feel anxious or like outsiders.

Model What Healthy Communities Look Like

Kids need adults to model what healthy communities look like and engage in conversation about them. Healthy communities are groups where individuals and their unique characteristics and feelings are valued—not for what they can provide, but for who they are—wonderfully created in the Father's image!

Teach Kids to See Through Others' Eyes

Many conflicts and anxieties come from the fact that people have different lenses from which they view the world.



There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

1 CORINTHIANS 12: 4-6

Be available to talk through situations that have come up during the day. Try role-playing and make some guesses about what the other person is feeling and thinking. Affirming your student's feelings while acknowledging the perspective of others reinforces and celebrates that God made us all uniquely.

emotions. Share some healthy strategies that you find helpful. Maybe they will resonate with your kids too!

Matching Reactions to the Size of the Problem

Often our reactions don't match the size of the problem. Is the situation a small problem, a medium problem, or a large problem? A large problem is an emergency—one where you need multiple people to help you (e.g., a heart attack or a trip to the ER). A medium problem is one where you need ONE other person to help you (e.g., you missed the bus). A small problem is one you can solve on your own (e.g., your pencil broke). After a student identifies the size of the problem, talk about his/her reaction. Was it small, medium, or large? What could they have done differently so that the size of their response matched the size of the problem?

It's not difficult to look at our world and identify things that make us fearful or anxious; often, children and teens feel these fears more acutely than adults. Evangelical Pastor Chuck Swindoll states, "Life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we react to it." And while there are reasons to feel sad and worried, there are many more reasons to trust in God's faithfulness and His presence! 🙏

Zones of Regulation by Leah Kuypers and *Social Thinking*, based on the work of Michelle Garcia Winner, are research-based, self-regulation resources and available online. Beall uses both with students at AACCS.



We're in this together and I'm safe to be me are at play under the surface of activities like the one pictured here.

Strategize How to Deal with Difficult Emotions

Kids are often at a loss for how to address unpleasant feelings such as sadness or anger in a healthy manner. Praying, reading a Psalm, taking a walk, taking a nap, talking to a trusted friend, crying, drawing a picture--these are all healthy strategies that allow us to move through strong and sometimes painful



Full Circle

As an alumnus of AACCS and having had the privilege of working here for nearly seven school years, the idea of interwoven lives overlapping in the community continues to stand out in so many areas. Watching young alumni follow their passions and giftings in work and school, hearing about new alumni marriages, reuniting with older alumni as they choose to enroll their children at AACCS, and running into the brand of AACCS and smiling alumni faces all across the world are things that keep the momentum and mission of a distinctly Christian organization alive. It is these moments that make me thankful for the investment my parents made into AACCS. And it is with hope that I do the same now with my own children attending and through our family's annual giving. Annapolis Area Christian School is one of our philanthropic priorities. We see the mission of AACCS as essential to a thriving Anne Arundel County and beyond. I pray that you do as well. This institution, as the Day of the Lord draws near, will



And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

The four Thorpe children on the first day of school, 2019.



Students and alumni explore the Netherlands.

always need more and more alumni, families, and friends to choose to invest in its people, places, and programs. Together we can accomplish much that glorifies the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 📍

Graham Thorpe '97
Chief Advancement Officer



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



SPOTLIGHT Brooke Wadsworth '16 and Garrett Atkinson '17

Garrett and Brooke were married on Sunday, November 3, at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club. **Graham Thorpe '97** officiated the ceremony where 16 of the 18 members of the wedding party were AACS alumni or current students!

"AACS has played a huge role in our lives as individuals and in shaping our relationship," said Brooke. "This was clearly evidenced in the overwhelming representation of the AACS community at our wedding, including faculty, alumni, and current students. We have

been immensely blessed and we were so excited to share it with our friends and family."

Wadsworth-Atkinson Wedding Party (l to r): **Megan Robinson '18, Kathryn Garalde '16, Kelley Atkinson '22, Cassidy Barlock '18, Chase Ellington, Shannon Baden '16, Kate Barlock '22, Isabella Robinson '23, Amanda Wadsworth '18**, bride and groom, **Benjamin Mullis '17, Luke Borchelt '15, Noah Beall '15, Kyler Wilson '18, Taylor Thiessen '17, Alex Kaweck '15, Grant Smith '14, Elliott Smith '16**, and Caleb Nash

Photo credit: We are the Cashmans

SPOTLIGHT Morgan Ray-Vottero '15

After three months as an intern with the Maryland Governor's Office of Homeland Security, I returned to Penn State where I'm currently studying Political Science and Middle East Studies. I stumbled across an opportunity via social media that felt like it was too good to be true. I encountered a link, posted by a fellow AACS alum, to the Philos Project. They are a Christian organization that promotes positive Christian engagement in the Middle East, and through their leadership institute, they take 40 individuals a year on different trips to Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinian territories.

Fast forward through a long application, a dozen essay questions, and several interviews later; I was chosen to make a journey 5,700 miles away from home with 19 people from all over the world whom I'd never met. Although that journey lasted only two weeks, I learned more in Israel and Egypt than in any classroom. I will never forget that experience, and I thank God everyday for connecting me to the brightest and most loving people I've ever known.

Ray-Vottero at Sea of Galilee



Although my bold chance took me far from home, I brought back the knowledge and experience needed to strengthen and encourage the community around me. It's certainly a big task, but I am so thankful I was chosen to do it.

SPOTLIGHT Alex (DeVore) Williams '08 and Forrest Williams '08

We welcomed our daughter, Nova Mae DeVore Williams, on December 5, 2018. Loving our new life as parents, living in Eastport, working full-time, and trying to navigate it all. Forrest '08 works as a



full-time graphic designer at Streetsense in Bethesda and makes cocktails on Wednesday nights at Fox's Den downtown in Annapolis. I work full-time in ministry at Bay Area overseeing community outreach. We also own a business where we have been exploring marketing, creative consulting, photography, and graphic design. This year is our 10-year wedding anniversary, we both turn 30, and our baby turns one so we have a lot to reflect on and celebrate. Forrest and I did not follow the stereotypical road to success after high school. Being married so young and in college at the same time, came with its own set of challenges. We still sit back and laugh about the good old days—living in a basement apartment,

counting change for groceries, trying to get through art school, working part-time, and just trying to figure out who we were. It truly has been an adventure. God has been so faithful. He opened the door for us to be missionary no matter where we were. We had the chance to travel to Ghana a handful of times in 2014 and 2016 which totally rocked our world. These days we are focusing on loving people in our own backyard. More specifically we have been serving in some of the public housing communities in Annapolis and hope to see our city flourish. We are looking forward to the next decade and where we might end up!

SPOTLIGHT Dale Crowner '99

In September, a couple of middle-school teachers and a parent hatched a letter-writing campaign in seventh- and eighth-grade home-rooms and Bible classes. A few days later, more than one hundred heartfelt notes, illustrations, and letters of encouragement were carefully boxed for Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Dale Crowner '99AACS, '04USNA, who left the States on April 2 to serve his third deployment as a Navy Reservist in Djibouti, Africa. The AACS care



package journeyed across the Atlantic filled with the letters and a few favorite snacks. "I knew something special was on the way when my daughter kept asking me if a package had arrived yet," said Dale, who has three children with wife Amanda. Gabby and Gavin



are in seventh and eighth grade, respectively, at the AACS Middle School, and Gracynn is 18-months-old.

On Oct. 21, the package arrived, and everything stopped as Dale carefully read each card. Once the onion slicer in the room quit messing with his eyes, he posted a photo and a shout-out to his favorite middle-school cheering squad



2019 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Cody Thomas '10
Lacrosse

Steven Ridings '12
Baseball

Alpha Jalloh '12
Football & Wrestling

Adam Palumbo '07
Wrestling

on Bestgate road. Deeply moved by the outpouring of love, Dale was grateful for the humor sprinkled on a few choice cards that kept his tears in check. "I've never received so much love from so many people at one time. Thank you for a gift I will treasure always," he said. Some students wrote about how LCDR Crowner inspired them. "That was very cool," Dale recalled. "Kids have tremendous minds. Anytime I can motivate a child to try something new or dream bigger—whether it is military, sports, or STEAM-related—I love it." Dale is always looking for ways to inspire kids. When Gavin and Gabby attended the Annapolis Lower School, he ran an after-school

program that introduced 3D printing, simple machines (robotics), and coding.

His drills (reserve work) are at the Pentagon in the OPNAV N3/N5 Department. When he is not on deployment, Dale is an aircraft sales director for a local broker. His active-duty service included two, 6-month tours between 2008 and 2010 to Japan, Africa, Italy, and El Salvador as a P-3 Orion Naval Flight Officer. P-3 Orions are most commonly used in maritime patrol, specifically to hunt submarines. His job entailed directing the crew in navigation, tactical planning and execution, and weapon employment. "If you want to put it in jet terms, I was Goose-ish," said Dale.

Currently, Dale serves as the air operations officer for Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, Africa. He oversees 55 contractors and 15 uniformed personnel in all things air operations from traffic control and field management to cargo and passenger details and everything in between. Dale hopes to return stateside in time to spend Christmas with his family at home in Edgewater. Join us in prayer for the Lord's continued protection over the Crowner family. Thank you for your service, LCDR Crowner, and thank you, Crowner family for your sacrifice on behalf of our great country.—H.P. for Anchorage 🇺🇸

CLASS NOTES

Luke Borchelt '15, a two-sport athlete at The King's College in New York, graduated in May 2019. He was the starting goalkeeper for soccer and first-team all-conference forward for basketball. He currently lives in New York City and works for the menswear startup Rowing Blazers. Luke continues to follow his dream of playing music professionally and recorded his first album in September with his band Airbud. **Garret Atkinson '17** produced the album and Airbud band members include **Kyler Wilson '18** and **Zack Hendrix '18**. The album is slated for release in Spring 2020.

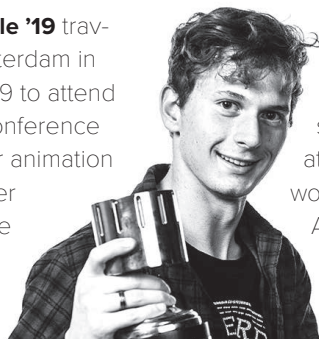


Longtime friends and Class of 2018 alumni took a break from the grind of school and work and vacationed together in Ocean City this summer. Pictured (left to right): **Nathan Gregory, Noah Buckingham, Jake Riith, Carlos Yibirin-Alicea, Brett Schulte, and Jordan Demeritt.**



Bryan Butler '11 married Dayna Hicks on June 9, 2018, in Beaver Falls, PA. Bryan is currently finishing his fourth season as the assistant coach for women's soccer at DeSales University, PA. The team finished the season by clinching a spot in the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom Championship tournament. Bryan played professionally and has a master's degree in sports administration from Liberty University. Bryan and Dayna currently live in Bethlehem, PA.

Aaron Carlisle '19 traveled to Amsterdam in October 2019 to attend an annual conference for computer animation and computer graphics. The conference was hosted by the



Blender Foundation, the support organization of an open-source 3D content-creation program. Aaron worked on developing. After two years at AACCC, he will transfer to UMBC for his junior and senior years.

Meredith Park '11 delivered a keynote speech at Calvin College in September. She spoke on creativity as a calling. Her good friend **Mike Lentz '12** was there to cheer her on as she gave the speech. As a guest speaker at the Visual Arts Guild's fall conference, Meredith addressed the necessity of creativity



and imagination as prophets and followers of Jesus. She also ran a workshop leading attendees in narrative-building exercises designed to help push them out of their comfort zone and tap into their inherent, creative storytelling ability. She currently lives in Ontario, Canada, and works for a bike cooperative as well as teaches/makes comics that are autobiographical.



Robbie Finecey '03, mom Lauren, and big brother Peyton, welcomed daughter, Summer Elizabeth, on October 2, 2019. Summer weighed 5 lb. and 15 oz. They live Centreville, MD, where Robbie is the supervisor for the Amusement Ride Safety Division for the State of Maryland and Lauren works as a nursing care coordinator for CareFirst.



Allison (DeRoo) Kim '03 and her husband, Samuel, welcomed twin boys on July 25, 2019. Their names are Jonathan Joon Young and Jeremiah Joon Min. Allison is currently on a break from teaching art at AAC's two lower schools.



Katie (Burgess) Kohn '02; her husband, Rob; and her two young daughters, Adelyn and Lillian, just moved to North Arlington, VA, where the girls will start at a new Montessori school in the new year. Katie continues to work at a private law firm in D.C. as an employee benefits litigation attorney. In her spare time, she loves to cook, bake treats, host friends and family for dinner, and plan birthday parties for her daughters. Katie's family enjoyed a trip to Europe last summer that included a stop in Paris, where this picture was taken.



Brian Dennsteadt '97 returned to AAC's to teach math at the Upper School. Brian, his wife, Katie, and their two children moved back to the Annapolis area from Mississippi where he was head of school for a small Christian school. Brian was inducted into the AAC's Alumni Hall of Fame in 2010 for his accomplishments in soccer and basketball.

Kelly (Nolan) Martin '01, her husband, Sean, and three children Connor (10), Keira (8) and Everly (4) have resided on Kent Island for the past eight years. After leaving her teaching career in Anne Arundel County, Kelly now owns and operates Challenge Island-Greater Annapolis/Eastern Shore, a local STEM-based enrichment program, allowing her to continue to share her love of teaching and learning with students throughout Anne Arundel County and the Eastern Shore. Kelly and Sean enjoy coaching and supporting their children's various endeavors. They are also very active with St. Christopher's Parish on Kent Island and assist with children's liturgy.

Jonathan Grunert '01 finished his Ph.D. in science and technology studies at Virginia Tech in December 2019. His dissertation is titled " 'Strict Fidelity to Nature': Scientific Taxidermy, U.S. Natural History Museums, and Craft Consensus, 1880s to 1930s." He lives in Rochester, New York, and works at SUNY Geneseo.



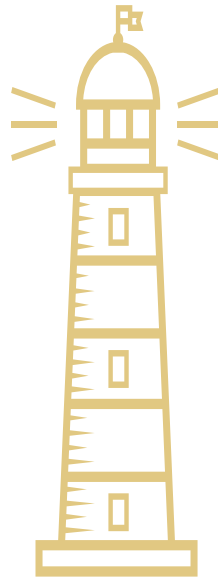
Eric Baker '04 and his wife, Katie, are the proud parents of two beautiful children, Rachel and Mark. The Lord has blessed them again with another child, a baby girl, due in May. Eric is a pediatric dentist working in Gambrills, MD. They are excited for Rachel to start kindergarten at AAC's Severn Lower School campus in the fall.





Caleb Wolf '99 finally got married! His new wife, Erica, works for the Department of Energy in D.C. and has an 8-year-old daughter named Zoe. Caleb

and his new family live in Hyattsville, MD, where Erica serves on the City Council. Caleb works in Annapolis for the Maryland Municipal League. 📧



**Send Ashlee Kastendike '01
your alumni news!**

alumni@aacsonline.org

ANNAPOLIS AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



EAGLES EXPLORATION DAY CAMP JUNE 15 to JULY 31

Do you love Kids?

Love to teach?

Have an idea for a summer camp curriculum?

WE WANT YOU!

- Hiring teachers and counselors for Summer 2020
- More than 1,000 campers, ages 3 to 16
- Located at the Upper School in Severn
- Drone Coding and Flying, Mad Scientists, Space Engineer, cheer, tennis, team sports, and much more!

Email resume to summer@aacsonline.org



2019–20 EVENTS

ALUMNI EVENTS

MONDAY DECEMBER 16 📧

Alumni Christmas Reception
7:00 p.m. Open to All Alumni
Federal House, City Dock
Annapolis
Sponsored by the Alumni
Blue & Gold Club

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8, 2020 📧

Young Alumni Day
Chapel & Luncheon
10:30 a.m.
Open to Classes of 2019,
2018, 2017, 2016, and 2015
Chapel in Kerr Center, Lunch
to follow in Kilby Center
Alumni are welcome to visit
classrooms after lunch!

THURSDAY MAY 21, 2020

Senior Breakfast for
Class of 2020
9:00 a.m.
Kilby Dining Hall
Hosted by AACSONLINE
Association

Graduation Ceremony
4:00 p.m.
Kilby Center Main Gym
Invitation Only
Reception to follow in
Field House

SUNDAY in JULY (DATE TBD)

Blue & Gold Club's
Alumni Summer Crab Feast
3:00-6:00 p.m.

📧 **RSVP to
[alumni@
aacsonline.org](mailto:alumni@aacsonline.org)**

YEAR IN REVIEW

I am pleased to report that AACCS continued on its growth trend in a number of areas during the school year 2018-19. Our enrollment rose by 3.9 percent from 908 to 943 students, which contributed to 4.9 percent more in net tuition revenue over the prior year.

Although the school yielded a remarkable ten-year high in enrollment results, leadership remains fiscally conservative given nationwide enrollment trends and limited-growth projections for private schools to continue for the next few years, particularly in the elementary grades. We are thankful that giving in the form of contributions remained flat with the only noticeable change being an expected decrease in the earmarked donations for the 20-acre property purchase at the Upper School. The acquired acres, intended for future expansion, increased our Severn property footprint by one-third. One major facility improvement included a new surface in our indoor-turf field house, which was offline for more than 3 months, accounting for most of the lost rental income. Despite the declines in these secondary revenue streams, our total revenue for AACCS increased by 3.6 percent. Total expenses rose by 3.6 percent over the prior year, primarily due to an increase in personnel expenses, such as adding faculty positions to meet the increased enrollment.

As we approach 50 years of serving families well as Maryland's thriving center for outstanding and distinctly Christian K-12 education, I sincerely pray that our community will continue to advance AACCS's mission to enable students 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 2019*

2,412

*Graduates
since 1985*

93%

*School Wide
Reenrollment
Rate*



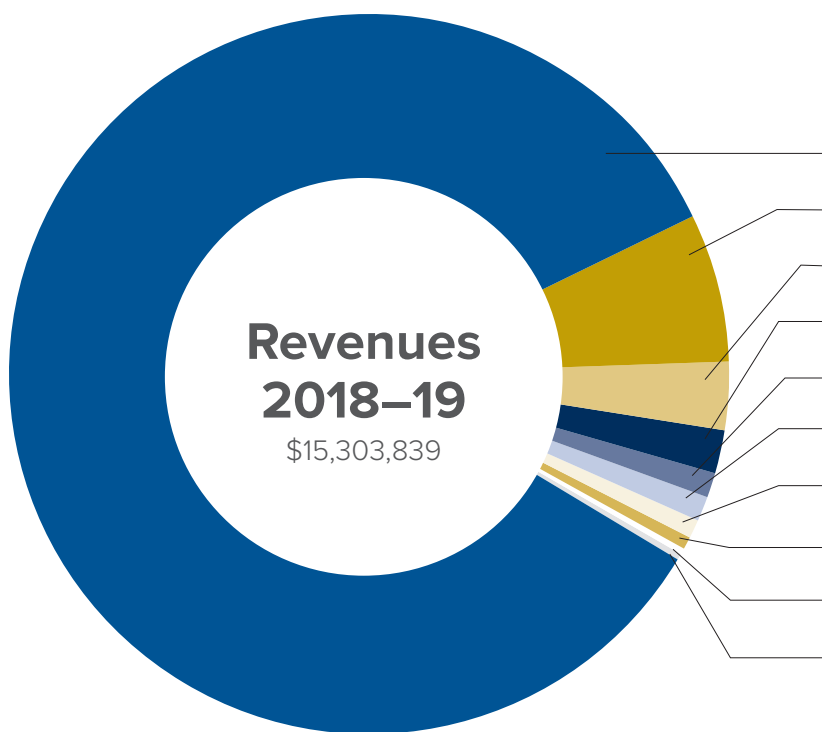
ENROLLMENT

Lower School	273
Middle School	241
Upper School	429
TOTAL	943
TOTAL Reenrolled	748
TOTAL New	195
Full-time Equivalent Teachers	97
Full-time Equivalent Staff	52
TOTAL	149

22
Sports
Programs

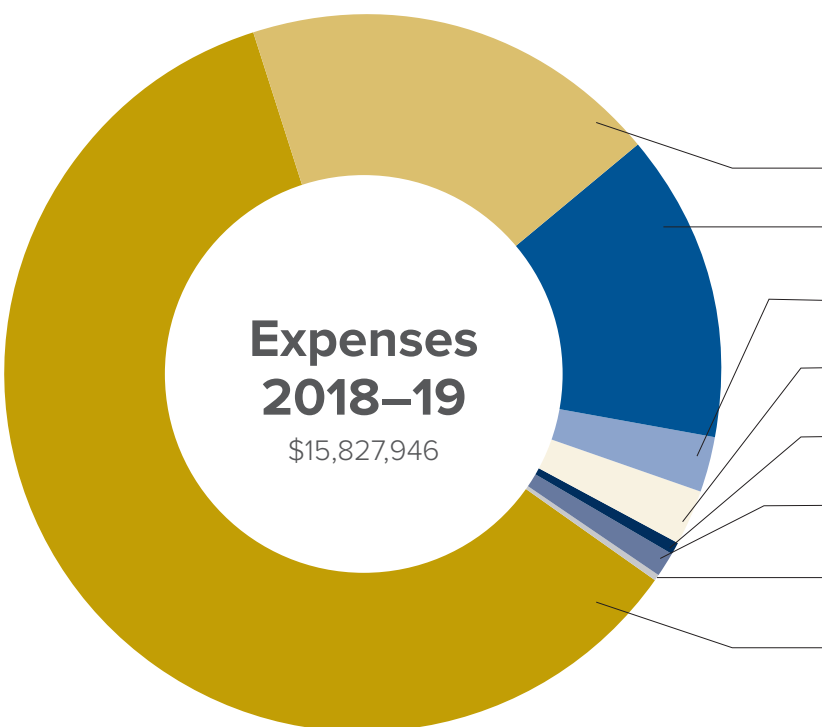
25
Clubs

15
Choirs &
Bands



	% Difference from 2017-18
Tuition	+4.9%
Contributions	-3.1%
Summer Programs	-3.3%
Transportation	+8.2%
Rentals	-17.4%
Other	+8.5%
Application & Enrollment Fees	-6.2%
Educational Support	-26.1%
Investment Income	+16.0%
Athletic	41.1%

2017-18 Revenues = \$14,978,148



Programs	+0.3%
Education	+0.5%
Administration	+0.9%
Transportation	+19.9%
Admissions	-4.6%
Technology	6.0%
Advancement	-9.4%
Personnel	+5.1%

2017-18 Expenses = \$15,283,922

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

16th Annual Golf Classic



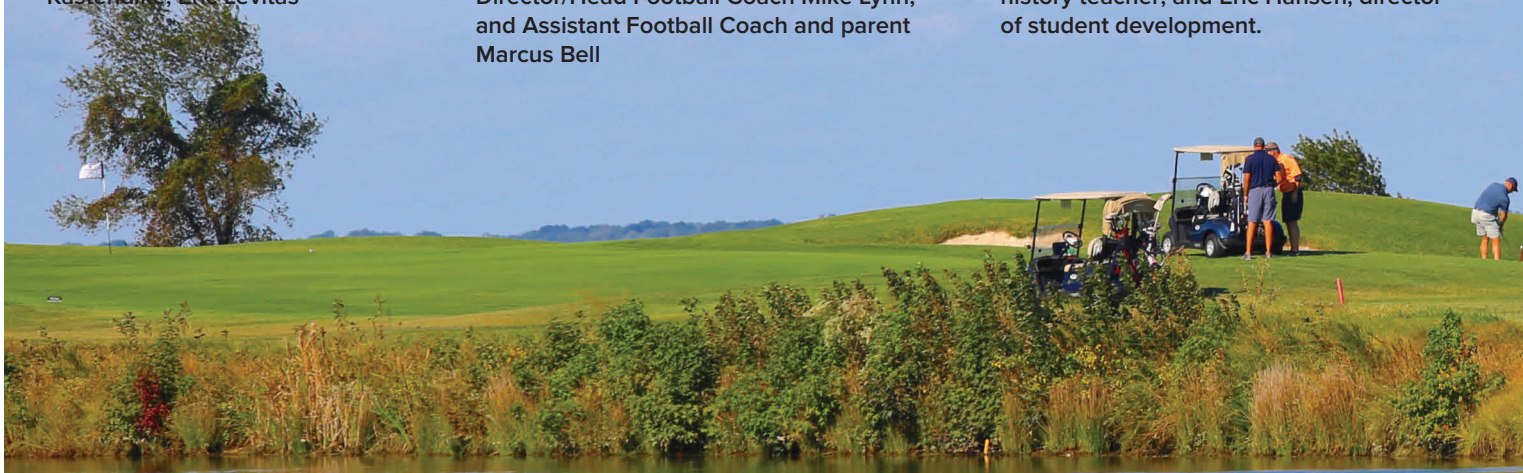
Kastendike Insurance and friends of AACS: Bob Miller, Alex Hosier, Chris Kastendike, Eric Levitas



Carlton Carrington and Martin McNair, friends of AACS; Assistant Athletic Director/Head Football Coach Mike Lynn; and Assistant Football Coach and parent Marcus Bell



Jeffrey Wall and Justin Price, friends of AACS, flank Brian Miller, seventh-grade history teacher; and Eric Hansen, director of student development.

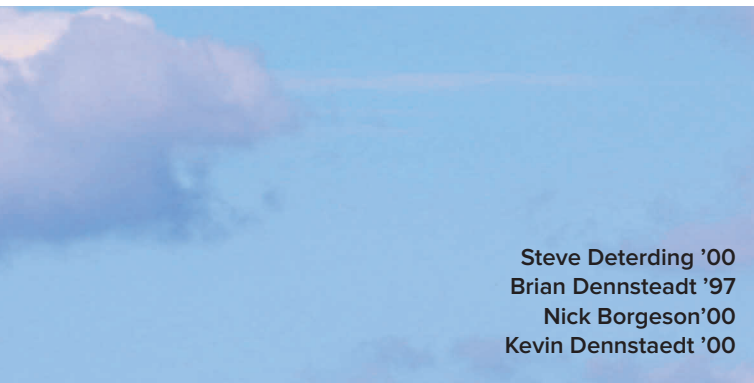


More than \$24,000 was raised to support Eagle Athletics on October 4 at the 16th annual AACS Golf Classic, held at Queenstown Harbor Golf just across the Bay Bridge. There is nothing like a strong wind off the water to level the playing field as more than 70 golfers watched ball "acrobatics" take over. Judging from the photos, these golfers didn't let a little wind keep them from having a fantastic time. Special thanks to all our volunteers, foursome sponsors, cart sponsor: **J29 Inc.**, and our two Gold sponsors: **Johnson Lumber** and **186Advertising**. This was a big win for our students both now and in the future thanks to the generosity of our community.

photos by Misty McReady

Superintendent Rick Kempton, parents Rob and Tracy Wood and Tracy's father, Dan Cannon





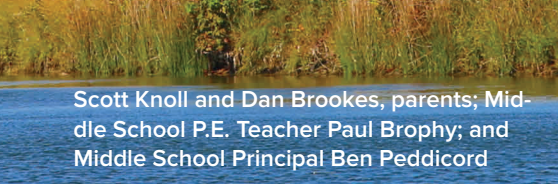
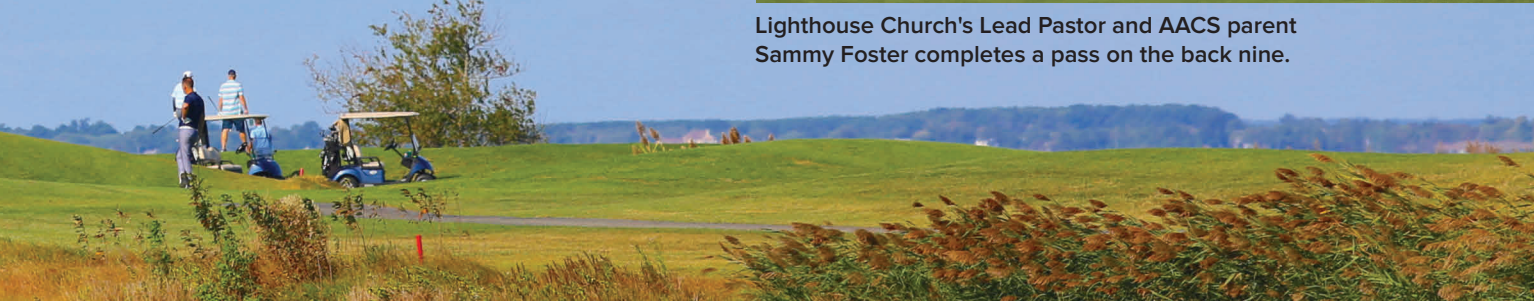
Steve Deterding '00
 Brian Dennstaedt '97
 Nick Borgeson '00
 Kevin Dennstaedt '00



Kevin Thompson, parent; John Chung; Chief Advancement Officer Graham Thorpe '97; and David Bempong, parent.



Lighthouse Church's Lead Pastor and AACS parent Sammy Foster completes a pass on the back nine.



Scott Knoll and Dan Brookes, parents; Middle School P.E. Teacher Paul Brophy; and Middle School Principal Ben Peddicord



AACS student-athletes



ANNAPOLIS AREA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

410-519-5300

AACSONLINE.ORG

LOWER SCHOOL | ANNAPOLIS

710 RIDGELY AVE.
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

LOWER SCHOOL | SEVERN

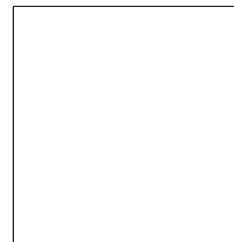
61 GAMBRILLS RD.
SEVERN, MD 21144

MIDDLE SCHOOL | ANNAPOLIS

716 BESTGATE RD.
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

UPPER SCHOOL | SEVERN

109 BURNS CROSSING RD.
SEVERN, MD 21144



FANS, FOOD & FUN

**GAME DAY
TAILGATE**

Saturday, April 18, 2020 / 6:00-9:00pm

Kilby Athletic Center / AACS Upper School / Proceeds benefit the AACS Anchor Fund.

For more information contact akastendike@aacsonline.org or 410-519-5300 x2116.