



Better

TOGETHER

at Aspen Academy

Friends,

When the state ordered schools to close their campuses last spring, Aspen Academy was ready and made the pivot to full-time, remote, live instruction within 12 hours. Our teachers knocked it out of the park and 94% of our students met or exceeded their grade level learning growth goals. Most other schools not only closed their buildings, but effectively shut down teaching and learning. Through our spring and summer town hall meetings, I promised you that – barring a state order that closed schools – we were going to get our kiddos back to campus.

As back-to-school season neared, news abounded of schools around the country not opening and teachers refusing to return. Currently, it's estimated that only 15% of the 56 million K-12 students in America are attending school five days a week. In contrast, Aspen Academy again led the way as one of the first schools in the state to bring students back to campus full-time, as well as providing a concurrent remote learning platform.

The school's important supplementary revenue of \$668,000 was eliminated as a result of the COVID regulation requiring suspension of extended care, extra-curricular activities, and facility rentals; decreased summer school duration and capacity; as well as the cancellation of last year's and this year's annual gala. At the same time, emergency new financial aid applications surged and operating expenses surged.

As a young school, Aspen Academy does not yet have an endowment that can help weather the financial challenges of COVID. We borrowed \$1,393,201 to cover critical expenditures that allowed us to meet state and health regulations regarding COVID and then worked what seemed to be 24/7 to make good on our commitment to bring students back to school.

Through it all, we took care of the beloved Aspen Academy teachers and staff. The vast majority of schools laid off employees, made salary and benefits cuts and required employees to take unpaid furlough days. In contrast, at Aspen Academy, no one was laid off. No salaries or benefits were cut. Commitments for pay raises made during the re-contracting period last January were kept. Throughout this unprecedented season, we came

TOGETHER as a community to support each other and the return to school. We were kind. We did good. We worked very, very hard. And we sincerely hope that you feel that we made your family's world better.

Aspen Academy has maintained one of the lowest tuition rates at 25-45% less than other independent schools in the Denver-Metro area. For the first time in the school's history, we have a tuition gap because of COVID-related expenses, that we must come TOGETHER to fund. This gap of \$2,977 per student represents the difference between tuition dollars received and the actual costs to the school. As well, if the community's desire is to maintain teacher development and need-based student financial aid at the current level, we need to fund raise an additional \$1,000 per student. The **TOGETHER Campaign** asks that each family consider donating \$2,977 to the COVID Expense Gap Fund and \$1,000 to the Annual Fund (\$3,977) for each of their enrolled students on or before Aspen Academy Gives Day (December 8, 2020). This will be the only fundraising focus this year, and we truly need 100% participation in this important effort.

The pandemic has had a unique impact on each family. There are some who have suffered financial challenges and some who have been fortunate and are weathering the storm better than others. Whatever your family's situation, we ask that you please make a meaningful gift to cover this COVID Expense Gap and to continue to provide support for our teachers and students through the Annual Fund. Additionally, if you are able, we ask you to consider stretching your gift amount to help to cover the gap for families who need help. Every gift makes a difference and inspires others to give.



With love and gratitude,

Kristina Scala, Head of School
kristina.scala@aspenacademy.org

Give Now @ [ASPENACADEMY.ORG/GIVING](https://www.aspenacademy.org/giving)

COVID Resiliency Fund: Goal \$1,393,201

TOGETHER in Health, Safety and Security

We consulted and worked with infectious disease specialists, building health experts and county, state, and national health leaders to devise and execute a plan for an optimally healthy and safe campus. Aspen Academy has been an industry leader in safe and secure school development. Nearly every element of the school's operations had to change to accommodate COVID requirements. It was critical that as the operations changed, the safety and security measures to protect students and teachers were also adapted and new investments were made to focus on this priority.

The school spent \$293,598 in COVID Transmission Risk Mitigation and Campus Safety costs including:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): surgical, KN95 and clear masks, face shields, disposable gloves, ventilator masks and hazmat suits for use in disinfecting
- HVAC: surgical room-grade GPS devices to disinfect air through 21 industrial HVAC units; equipment upgrades to increase airflow exchange to 14 times per hour, HEPA air purifier units, MERV filters
- Hospital-grade disinfecting equipment and supplies, including EMist sprayers and disinfectant foggers
- Medical supplies and infrared, no contact digital thermometers for all classes
- Individual desks for oldest students, to allow for proper social distancing
- Operable window installations through the north class wing
- Plastic student desk screens and dividers
- Daily COVID symptom checker software
- Additional health and safety personnel to manage all COVID related matters
- Additional facilities personnel to manage disinfecting schedule
- Security fence screening along Orchard Boulevard
- Additional security cameras, locks, and alert devices



Mr. Romero disinfecting a first grade classroom during the mid-day disinfection.

"We decided to reimburse the school for the expense of the Clear Masks to show our gratitude and our appreciation that every detail is considered for our children's wellbeing and best interest at Aspen... As a family, we've always strived to make a positive impact in the community. We have found that whatever we give, we get back several times over. As everyone knows, this is a very difficult time for the world in general. It's times like this that we all need to come together to help each other however we can. We feel very blessed to be a part of the Aspen family!"

- Parents of 6th & 4th Grade Students



Aspen Academy playgrounds, installed Summer 2020.

"We chose Aspen because of the dedication to teaching life skills and empowering the whole child to be their best - whoever they are. We are inspired by the positive effects these skills and empowerment have on our five-year-old. This made it so easy for our family to step-up and help Aspen with funding the new playground. Ms. Scala and all the staff have been working tirelessly due to COVID 19. We are so excited for all the kids to use the new playground and look forward to many more squeals of delight."

- The Hallquist Family

TOGETHER Outdoors: Classrooms, Recreation, and Playgrounds

In accordance with Health Department regulations and recommendations from the medical and scientific community, we know that outdoor spaces are optimal for mitigating the risk of contracting and transmitting COVID and that robust physical fitness staves off the effects of pathogens on a human body.

Fourteen outdoor classrooms, two playgrounds and a parkour fitness course were built this summer at the cost of \$567,346, to ensure the integrity of the small grade-level cohorts and the health and wellness of our amazing heroes who deserve to be protected and taken care of — teachers and the children they care for, nurture, love, and teach.

Last year's spring gala, which would have funded the replacement of the two old and increasingly unsafe playgrounds, was cancelled because of COVID restrictions. As regulations came out over the summer with regard to grade-level cohort requirements, it became clear that a third playground needed to be added.

"We could not be more impressed with the investment and effort that YOU are putting into our kids' learning. While other schools are giving up for the year, or scrambling to figure out where to even start, Aspen Academy faculty and kids are getting it done! What an unbelievable advantage our kids have - now and always."

- The Tucker Family

TOGETHER in Teaching, Learning, and Technology

To meet local and state regulations and recommendations for on-campus learners; develop a concurrent remote platform for students on a COVID medical accommodation; ready a HyFlex teaching platform that could pivot in the case of a cohort having to quarantine; and provide the technology necessary to do both; the school had to spend \$532,256 for critical additional teachers and technology that included:

- 5 additional Core and Essentials teachers to meet state regulations for max number of adults student is allowed to have contact with per day
- 1 additional counselor to support students' emotional health
- 1 additional learning specialist
- To allow for outdoor classrooms and HyFlex and Concurrent Teaching Platform:
 - 1 additional Technology Manager
 - Upgraded & expanded the entire IT infrastructure,
 - Equipment: cameras, microphones, iPad stands, iPads, speakers, ear buds, computers
 - Software and Licenses: Transition all physical curriculum to online accessible curriculum, across academic domains



Mrs. Pingle with her students in one of the outdoor learning tents.



Outdoor amphitheater: one of several new outdoor classrooms constructed this summer.



Support Today @ [ASPENACADEMY.ORG/GIVING](https://aspenacademy.org/giving)



Annual Fund: Goal \$470,000

TOGETHER for Teachers and Students

Aspen Academy's secret sauce starts with an inquiry-based learning environment that gives students the freedom to be curious and explore the world around them. We mix in opportunities for self-reflection, time for collaboration; and the knowledge of how to assess and grow themselves as learners, leaders, and entrepreneurs. Finally, we give our students the opportunity to proudly present their growing, learning, and leading on a daily basis in a myriad of ways. There's one more ingredient that is absolutely crucial: teachers who love learning.

Children are greatly influenced by the adults in their lives. That's why, at Aspen Academy, we make the love of learning contagious. Our teachers are enthusiastic about continuing their own education and are passionate about seeking opportunities to learn and grow. We believe that educators who find joy and challenge in the pursuit of

their own professional growth inspire our students to love learning too. Last year's Annual Fund helped to provide \$87,000 for educator professional development.

With the support of generous donations to the 2019-2020 Annual Fund and from the emergency financial aid raised at the onset of COVID-19, we were able to award \$374,000 in financial aid for the 2020-2021 school year. Aspen Academy's financial aid program enables students, regardless of economic circumstance, to take part in this extraordinary educational program. This fund has played a key role in reaching towards our goal of full and diverse enrollment by lowering financial barriers.

The number of longstanding families experiencing a temporary financial challenge has increased. With your support, we hope to be able to provide financial aid to families in need next school year.

"For seven years now, each day we've delivered our three kids to school with absolute confidence that they will be challenged, supported and loved. We invest in the school regularly because we believe the foundation they have established not only supports and grows our kids, but also encourages the teachers and administrators to continue their growth. This culture of lifelong learning aligns with our family values. In 2020, the coronavirus obstacles have only reinforced this feeling immensely! To be included in this remarkable community of families and for the academics and the character and leadership curriculum, we would absolutely remake the decision to enroll our kids in Aspen Academy."

- Pam and Jim Johnston

TOGETHER in giving

WHY WE GIVE

We know that there are many worthy nonprofits asking for your support. However, there probably is no organization that is more present in your daily life, impacting the life and future of your children, your family and immediate community than your child's school. Our community includes beloved teachers, students, parents, grandparents and friends who know this as home. Every dollar you invest helps: to cover the costs incurred from COVID, enabling us to bring our students back on-campus safely; to provide remote learning for our students on medical accommodations. This is truly an opportunity to take care of your second home and the people and programs that, TOGETHER, make us Aspen Academy.

WHEN TO GIVE

We thank you in advance and encourage your contribution on or before **Aspen Academy Gives Day on December 8th, 2020.**

Our aim is to announce that this COVID expense gap has been covered, that student financial aid, and our faculty support program is funded by January 31, 2021.



PLANNING YOUR GIVING

Grow your giving with the Colorado Child Care Tax Credit. The state offers a **50% tax credit¹** to taxpayers who make gifts to qualified nonprofits. The table below shows how your out-of-pocket donation cost is a fraction of your actual contribution. Both individuals and corporations can take advantage of the credit.

	Suggested Donation for COVID Expense Gap	Less 50% CO Child Care Tax Credit ¹	Less Estimated CO Tax Deduction ²	Less Estimated Federal Tax Deduction ³	Estimated After Tax Cost of COVID Expense Gap Donation	Suggested Donation for Teacher Support and Development and Needs-Based Financial Aid	Total Suggested Donation	Total Estimated After Tax Cost of Donation⁴
1 Student	\$2,977	-\$1,489	-\$69	-\$417	\$1,003	\$1,000	\$3,977	\$2,003
2 Students	\$5,954	-\$2,977	-\$138	-\$834	\$2,006	\$2,000	\$7,954	\$4,006
3 Students	\$8,931	\$4,466	\$207	\$1,250	\$3,008	\$3,000	\$11,931	\$6,008
4 Students	\$11,908	-\$5,954	-\$276	-\$1,667	\$4,011	\$4,000	\$15,908	\$8,011
5 Students	\$14,885	-\$7,443	-\$345	-\$2,084	\$5,014	\$5,000	\$19,885	\$10,014
10 Students	\$29,770	-\$14,885	-\$689	-\$4,168	\$10,028	\$10,000	\$39,770	\$20,028
20 Students	\$59,540	-\$29,770	-\$1,378	-\$8,336	\$20,056	\$20,000	\$79,540	\$40,056

Legacy Naming Opportunities

For current table of available Legacy Naming Opportunities, visit [aspenacademy.org/giving](https://www.aspenacademy.org/giving).

Area	Donation to Cover Cost of Project	Less 50% CO Child Care Tax Credit ¹	Less Estimated CO Tax Deduction ²	Less Estimated Federal Tax Deduction ³	Estimated After Tax Cost of Donation⁴
Exploration Playground	\$60,213 RESERVED	-\$30,106	-\$1,394	-\$8,430	\$20,283
Parkour and Fitness Course	\$157,581	-\$78,790	-\$3,648	-\$22,061	\$53,081
Tower Playground	\$204,626	-\$102,313	-\$4,737	-\$28,648	\$68,928
North Courtyard Outdoor Classroom	\$25,244 RESERVED	-\$12,622	-\$584	-\$3,534	\$8,504
North Patio Outdoor Classroom	\$25,310 RESERVED	-\$12,655	-\$586	-\$3,543	\$8,526
Tower Outdoor Classroom	\$23,280	-\$11,640	-\$539	-\$3,259	\$7,842
East Courtyard Classroom	\$26,350	-\$13,175	-\$610	-\$3,689	\$8,876
Amphitheater Outdoor Classroom	\$50,050 RESERVED	-\$25,025	-\$1,159	-\$7,007	\$16,859
Apple Orchard Outdoor Classroom	\$25,000 RESERVED	-\$12,500	-\$579	-\$3,500	\$8,421
Bear's Outdoor Classroom	\$25,000 RESERVED	-\$12,500	-\$579	-\$3,500	\$8,421
Outdoor Tent Classrooms	\$27,000	-\$13,500	-\$625	-\$3,780	\$9,095
Outdoor Music Lab	\$15,908 RESERVED	-\$7,954	-\$368	-\$2,227	\$5,359
Outdoor Art and Sensory Studio	\$15,908 RESERVED	-\$7,954	-\$368	-\$2,227	\$5,359

1. Only monetary donations are eligible. Stock or other securities and in-kind gifts, such as labor or equipment, are not eligible but may qualify for other tax benefits. The maximum credit you may take in any one year is \$100,000 or your actual Colorado income tax liability for the year, whichever is less. Any unused credit may be carried forward for up to five additional tax years.
2. 4.63% Colorado Tax rate is assumed.
3. 28% Federal Tax rate is assumed.
4. Information is for illustration purposes and is not tax advice. Please consult your tax professional.



HOW TO GIVE

- Visit [aspenacademy.org/giving](https://www.aspenacademy.org/giving) to make a one-time or recurring monthly gift.
- Complete the donation pledge form on the following page and mail it with your check to the school.

Questions? Please reach out to Debbie Cordero, Director of Development & Community Engagement at debbie.cordero@aspenacademy.org or 303-346-3500 x105.

PLEDGE & DONATION FORM

Giving Levels

Founder's Circle	\$25,000+	Special invite to annual donor honor event and all below
Leadership Circle	\$10,000-\$24,999	Name displayed on "Leadership Circle" dedication plaque and all below
2005 Circle	\$5,000-\$9,999	Exclusive thank you gift and all below
Head of School Circle	\$2,500-\$4,999	Name listed in newsletter and all below
Scholar Circle	\$1,000-\$2,499	Acknowledgment on our website and all below
Honor Circle	Up to \$1,000	Acknowledgement in annual report and our sincere gratitude from 525 staff and students

HOW TO GIVE

- Visit [aspenacademy.org/giving](https://www.aspenacademy.org/giving) to make a one-time or recurring monthly gift
- Complete this form and send it, with your check, to Aspen Academy: 5859 S. University Blvd; Greenwood Village, CO 80121

COVID Expense Gap Fund	and	Annual Fund
My COVID Expense Gap Fund donation to cover the costs incurred to return students to campus and to provide concurrent remote learning for students on a COVID medical accommodation for (please choose):		Maintaining current funding levels for teacher development and support needs-based student financial aid would require an average gift of \$1,000 per student.
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Student: \$2,977 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Students: \$5,954 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Students: \$8,931 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Students: \$11,908 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Students: \$14,885 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Students: \$29,770 <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Students: \$59,540 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$4,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Total 2020-2021 Together Campaign Donation	=	

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Enclosed is my check in the sum of \$_____.

Make check(s) payable to: Aspen Academy
 Send to: ATTN Office of Community Engagement & Development,
 Aspen Academy, 5859 S. University Blvd,
 Greenwood Village, CO 80121

- Please charge \$_____ to my Visa/MC/Disc/Amex.

Name on card _____

Billing address (if different) _____

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

PAYMENT SCHEDULE OPTIONS

- I'd like to make a single payment on (date): _____.
- I'd like to make my donation and recurring payments starting on (month/year) _____ and ending June 30, 2021.
- I'd like to pledge \$_____. Please contact me.

RECOGNITION - Each gift inspires others to give.

- Please indicate the name that we may recognize publicly for this donation: _____
- I/we prefer our donation remain anonymous.

- My employer has a matching gifts program.
- Please contact me about planned giving.
- I have left Aspen Academy a gift in my will or trust.

Contact our Director of Development, Debbie Cordero (debbie.cordero@aspenacademy.org) for any assistance.