

The
Avery Coonley School
Magazine *Fall 2020*



Annual Report 2019–2020

The Avery Coonley School

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the Board of Trustees page on our website:
[https://www.averycoonley.org/page/
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Our Philosophy

We believe that the joy and excitement of learning must begin early in life. We place a high premium on developing the desire in our students to become critical thinkers and independent, life-long learners.

We assist our students in realizing their intellectual, emotional, social, creative, and physical potential by promoting academic achievement, character development, self-reliance, self-confidence, independent thought, and personal fitness.

We recognize and are sensitive to the unique needs of gifted children. Within a traditional structure, we provide acceleration and enrichment, and foster a supportive atmosphere that provides opportunities for creativity, problem-solving, and risk-taking.

We believe that diversity is the foundation for a strong, competent, and compassionate community. Therefore, we value racial, religious, economic, and cultural diversity in our student body, faculty, and staff.

We strive to build a community that encourages understanding and mutual respect and nurtures appreciation of the individual, civility, gratitude, honesty, kindness and consideration, responsibility, and volunteerism.

Mission Statement

The Avery Coonley School is an independent school whose mission is to provide a learning environment that is appropriate both for academically bright and gifted children who are motivated to learn and have demonstrated the potential for the scholastic achievement necessary to succeed in a challenging academic program, in order that they may become positive, productive, and respectful members of society.

Cover: A Kindergarten student enjoys spending time outdoors and practicing her creativity as well as divergent thinking skills by participating in a "Loose Parts" activity.



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Dear Friends,



While 2020 has been full of twists and turns, notably impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, our community rose above the noise, stronger than ever. This edition will showcase stories about our teachers, community, their response to COVID-19, and our 2019-2020 Annual Report.

We are very excited to share with you the success of our strategic plan and fundraising efforts. Our first-ever Virtual Auction proceeds and donations raised \$225,143 for our COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund, providing financial support for returning ACS families. The Annual Auction also helped support this year's Fund-A-Need playground expansion, raising \$69,579 for the project. These two funding priorities allow us to continue building a strong community and campus at ACS. Your unwavering generosity and support for our school continue to amaze us every year.

Students enjoyed their Summer Program from home this year. Our graduating class was celebrated and congratulated virtually. We shared moments of laughter and heartfelt goodbyes to retirees at our spring fair via Zoom. Our community came together to make this year special, and that is something we'll never forget. Our families and staff quickly adapted to new ways of teaching, learning, and staying engaged with one another. While this was new territory for us, we can look back on this year and feel encouraged and proud of the work put forward by our staff, students, and parents. It was a valiant team effort.

As you continue through the Annual Report, you will get a closer look at how our operating budget has been used to improve ACS through landscaping, safety measures, and new equipment.

Thank you for your continued support.

With deep appreciation and thanks,



Paul Druzinsky, Head of School

Happiness

by Rebecca Malotke-Meslin

In November 2018, the Avery Coonley School Board of Trustees approved the “Inspiring Excellence: A Strategic Plan for ACS.” This living document was carefully crafted to guide decision-making and programmatic changes over the next several years of the School’s existence. The first of its four goals is to “Deepen our commitment to our gifted mission and program.” Within that goal, the first objective focuses on happiness, specifically directing our faculty, staff, and curriculum to nurture gifted children to become happy, engaged, lifelong learners. Merriam-Webster defines happiness as “a state of well-being and contentment.” This definition seems simple enough, but creating actionable items to move the community towards achieving this goal is more complicated.

The approach to defining and promoting happiness is multifaceted. During the 2019-2020 school year, ACS counselors Meghan McCarthy and Angel Van Howe worked closely with division heads, students, and faculty to create a Social Emotional Learning framework, also known as SEL. The framework provides learning expectations that vary based upon the developmental level of the students. It also provides teachers with a clear and common language to help students navigate classroom interactions, recess confrontations, and lunchroom discussions. Be respectful. Be engaged.

Be mindful. These principles guide the specific behavioral expectations. The intention is to create a state of well-being and contentment for the entire community of learners. Knowing what is expected of them and how best to live out those expectations creates a sense of accomplishment while simultaneously improving student contentment.

While generally used as a time of rest and reflection, the summer of 2020 brought planning and preparation for the Return to Learn Plan. The administrators and staff instead were bustling about the building implementing massive changes to physical spaces. Simultaneously, teachers reimaged curriculum delivery for social distancing, mask-wearing, and the possibility of remote learning.

Additionally, every adult in the building knew that it was more important than ever to show up for the students with a growth mindset and joyfulness during this time of uncertainty and worry. In keeping with the Strategic Plan, and under the direction of Lisa Wiltz, the entire faculty and staff returned to school to engage in learning through a program called The Orange Frog. This professional development course is based upon Shawn Achor’s Happiness Advantage and is used by educational organizations worldwide to teach the impact of positive psychology. Shawn Achor’s 2011 TED Talk explained, “Your brain at ‘positive’ is 30% more productive than your brain at negative, neutral, or stressed.”

Happiness is not on the other side of success, but rather, the mindset that helps you achieve it. The Orange Frog program posits that we can retrain our brains by expressing gratitude, physical exercise, and meditation. Faculty were taught WHY positivity matters, and HOW to achieve it, for themselves and their students.

At The Avery Coonley School, happiness has a trickle-down effect. If administrators lead with happiness and gratitude, faculty and staff will be inspired to teach and lead with happiness and gratitude. Subsequently, students will learn and grow in happiness and gratitude.

Amidst all the change, the reminder to be respectful, be engaged, and be mindful guides students in their learning journey. Positive psychology also encourages us to share our joy with others, celebrate progress, express gratitude, and take time for self-care. With that, ACS is excited to have made measurable progress towards achieving the 2018 Strategic Plan’s goals, including improving students’ social emotional health and happiness.





Outdoor Playground Expansion

by Carolyn Johnson

In early March, Student Council surprised ACS students with an announcement that the 2020 Auction Fund-A-Need would focus on expanding the existing playground. More than just an announcement, it was an invitation for students to help select the new equipment. Both lower and middle school students were eager to share ideas about what they would like to see added. They imagined how fun the new area would be during recess, before school, and after school. Less than ten days later, what students knew as a “normal” school day changed dramatically. Uncertain of what the remaining school year would hold, let alone the next school year, students and staff persevered to achieve the newly envisioned goal. With the in-person school year coming to an abrupt close, the playground expansion project became a symbol of hope during a time of great uncertainty. Rallying around the students, the ACS community opened their hearts and wallets at the first-ever Virtual ACS Auction and generously donated \$69,579 for the project.

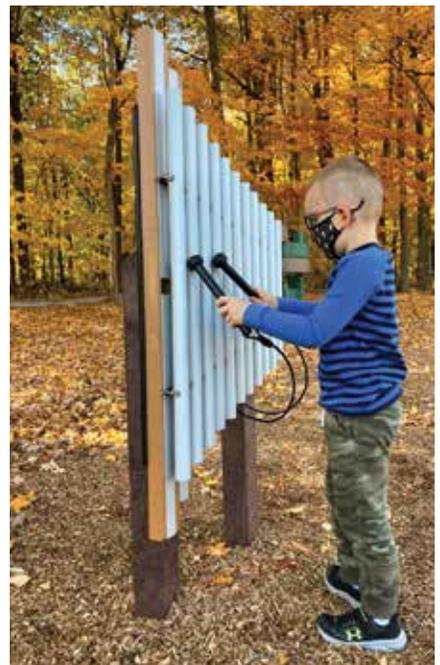
Raising funds was only the first step in securing the much-anticipated playground expansion. The next step was to prepare the area for the new equipment. Adding approximately 4,500 square feet to the play area – nearly doubling the playground’s size – required significant landscaping and construction affecting the soccer field and adjacent sidewalk. Truckloads of dirt, mulch, and wood timbers were brought in over the summer to expand its footprint. The soccer field was rotated 90 degrees to run north/south, and new benches were built alongside the playground retaining wall. A new sidewalk path now connects the blacktop to the Makerspace annex (also known as The Barn).



Last but not least was the installation of the new play equipment. In addition to the student ideas shared in March, the Student Council was pivotal in providing feedback on the latest equipment. The most popular requests included swings, slides, and monkey bars – all of which were added to the playground!

Students can now play on a new multi-piece playground structure with slides, climbers, and monkey bars and rings, complete with an overhead shade.

Two traditional swings, two tire swings, a motion spinner, and large outdoor chimes completed the new addition. Thank you to the Student Council and the generous supporters listed on page 42 whose contributions brought this project to reality for ACS students!



Students enjoy playing outside on the new playground equipment.

This year, as COVID-19 cases increased throughout the nation, so did the need for protective equipment and financial support for various communities. The Avery Coonley School community stepped up and took action to help others during this difficult time.

When COVID-19 hit, there was an immediate need for more personal protective equipment (PPE). Many members of The Avery Coonley School came together to help those on the frontline. Three young alums, Adam Kipp '19, Alex Turk '17, and Christian Turk '19, created and delivered masks and headgear for medical personnel and others in need. Adam Kipp is the Founder of the Protect Our Community Group (POCG2020), which provides PPE to medical and non-medical people as protection from COVID-19.

His group donated over 2,000 masks and other supplies to hospitals and senior citizens. Alex and Christian Turk started F.A.C.E (Fighting Against COVID-19 Exposure), with two 3D printers donated by Chess ED. Their group has donated more than 1,500 face shields to hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, and doctors' offices.

While ACS alumni were hard at work providing protective equipment to front-line workers, The Avery Coonley School joined TinkRworks on another project. Together they offered equipment to first responders and medical professionals by utilizing 3D printers and laser cutters to create protective face shields. The partnership with TinkRworks began more than two years ago when they collaborated to build the first Makerspace at The Avery Coonley School. This partnership evolved from supporting curriculum and instruction to helping the greater community in its time of need.

The Makerspace transformed into a workshop for PPE equipment. Through this collaboration, ACS, TinkRworks, and Brookfield District 95 created around 60-65 face shields each day of production. The school's 3D printers were used to fabricate headbands and chin supports. Then, overhead transparencies were laser cut for the shield. Once assembled, the face shields were distributed to first responders at the Aurora Fire Department, Brookfield Police Department and Fire Department, La Grange Park Police Department and Fire Department, Riverside Police Department and Fire Department. They were also distributed to medical professionals, including respiratory therapists, and were delivered to Hines VA, Loyola Hospital, and The Chicago Fire Department.

A Community of Generosity

by Rachel Bucek



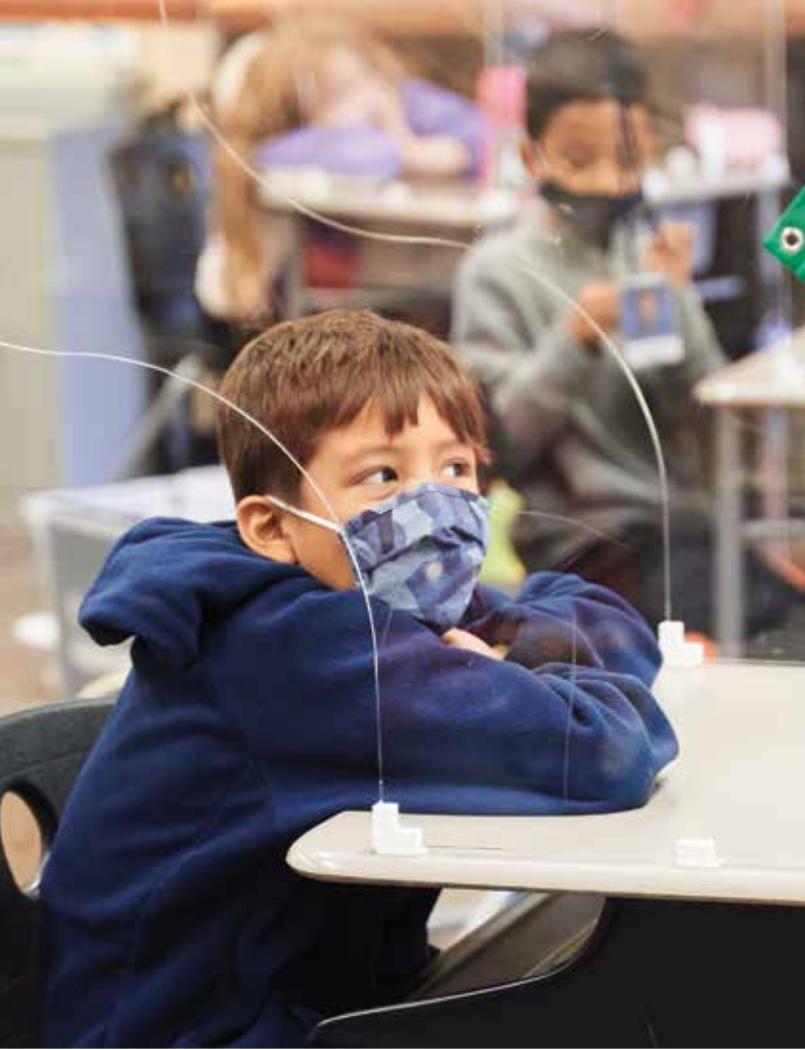
The local healthcare industry was still in desperate need of N95 masks, face shields, protective eyewear, shoe covers, and more. Faculty, staff, and parents were encouraged to donate protective gear to support a current parent working at Edward Hospital and their fellow medical staff. Current ACS parent, Fei Dong, worked with the ACS administration to reach out to other parents in their class to establish a donation bin on campus. Families donated extra materials safely and securely that were then delivered quickly to those working at the Edward Hospital.

Support from The Avery Coonley School community did not stop there. During this time, The Avery Coonley School also created the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund. The fund provided tuition assistance to ensure that students whose family faced financial hardship due to COVID-19 could return for the 2020-2021 school year.

The COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund was an avenue for those in a position to help financially. The outpouring of support was incredible, though not surprising. Members of the ACS Board of Trustees personally pledged \$50,000. In total, \$225,143 was raised for this important fund through donations and the ACS Annual Auction. Families began applying for and receiving funds in August for the 2020-2021 school year. Despite the uncertainty, ACS remained generous, compassionate, and resilient.



A local healthcare professional wears a face shield created by Makerspace.



Return to Learn

by Rachel Bucek and
Rebecca Malotke-Meslin

This year, the Avery Coonley School took a strategic approach to the fall semester. With the COVID-19 pandemic undeniably impacting their 2020-2021 school year plans, ACS took every necessary precaution to create a safe learning environment for its students and staff. In June, Head of School, Paul Druzinsky and his administrative leadership team began preparation. The first step was to create two task forces to devise a plan that would allow for a safe return to campus in August.

These task forces spent many hours researching and meeting to first determine feasibility then provide guidance and direction about returning to campus. The SAFE ACS Task Force addressed health and safety procedures, while the Academic Continuity and Scheduling Task Force addressed academic and scheduling details. The task force members included representation from current ACS parents, students, faculty, staff, and medical professionals.

Based on the committees' work and recommendations, The Avery Coonley School announced it would fully reopen for in-person learning five days per week for the 2020-2021 school year. To ensure all community members remained informed, The Avery Coonley School created and launched the ACS Return to Learn Plan on August 3, 2020, which included protocols, safety procedures, and guidelines. From staggered drop-off and pick-up times to temperature taking to a rotating schedule for outdoor learning, every part of the day was evaluated for how to keep students and faculty safe.

As a part of the extensive plan, the school received many renovations and changes to classrooms and outdoor spaces. Under the supervision of Peter Brown, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Head of School, and Andrew McCormick, Director of Maintenance, the school saw the addition of socially distanced desks with plexiglass barriers, UV lights, HVAC equipment to improve airflow, indoor and outdoor handwashing stations, hand sanitizing stations, speakers and audio support

to accommodate mask-wearing, technology for students and teachers for outdoor or remote learning, hands-free faucets in bathrooms, enhanced nurse's station, and more. The task forces and staff went above and beyond to create redundancies that would keep students safe, and help families feel comfortable returning to campus.

Driven by the motivation to have in-person learning once again, The Avery Coonley School confidently re-opened its doors on August 27, 2020. What felt like the finish line, was really only the beginning. With so many changes, there were bound to be challenges and frustrations. In response, faculty and staff were nimble and creative in their problem-solving. Only a few weeks into the school year, everyone is becoming more comfortable and familiar with the changes.

To learn more about our return to learn page visit the COVID page of our website.



New Leadership

As The Avery Coonley School diligently prepared for the 2020-2021 school year, a new leader rose to assume the role of Middle School Head. Gwen Cooper, former Middle School teacher instructing Group 7 and 8 Language Arts, eagerly took on the position of Middle School Head earlier this summer. With her broad experience in education, the transition into this new role felt natural, in a somewhat unnatural year.

by Rachel Bucek

While Ms. Cooper is already familiar with the ACS community, having been a part of the faculty for five years, what made her an ideal candidate was not familiarity, but rather an impressive background in leadership and education. She began her career as a fifth and sixth grade English teacher at BASIS Peoria and later moved into an administrative position as the school's Director of Student Affairs. Upon relocating to Chicago, Ms. Cooper joined Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development. She worked as the academic dean for the Equinox program, where she had the opportunity to work with academically talented students and faculty from across the country.

Ms. Cooper holds a B.A. in English from the University of Illinois, a Master's in Education from Arizona State University. She is currently pursuing her Ed.D in leadership and innovation from Arizona State University. Her Ed.D research focus is on socio-emotional student development and gifted education. Her goal is to help students navigate the increasing complexities of our everyday world through students' socio-emotional skill development.

As The Avery Coonley School navigates the 2020-2021 school year, the School's Administrative Team is excited to have her as a collaborative partner and thought leader. While her focus on education - as both a leader and a student - requires most of her attention, she also enjoys doing many activities such as baking new confections, traveling near and far, and defending the Oxford comma's rights. In these endeavors, she is often joined by the company of her dog and her husband.

This position has played an essential part in the success of The Avery Coonley School, this year especially. Gwen's leadership skills and experience will guide the Middle School and ACS to pursue a dynamic and diverse learning environment for academically bright and gifted students.

Go Green with the ACS Magazine

Help ACS go green! In effort to continue our green initiatives, future editions of the ACS Magazine and Annual Report will now be sent via email and will be available to view online at www.averycoonley.org.

Tell us how you want to stay in touch! To ensure you receive an electronic copy, or if you prefer the ACS magazine mailed to you in print form, please return the enclosed envelope to update your preferences. You can also indicate your communication preference and confirm your contact information online by visiting www.averycoonley.org/StayConnected.

If you have a current student and need to update your contact information, please contact Mrs. Angela Tufo, Front Desk Receptionist, at 630-969-0800 or atufo@averycoonley.org.

Ways to Support ACS Students

Sharing your gifts of time, expertise, and financial resources enables the School to provide a transformative experience for students and helps ACS continue to be one of the nation's finest independent elementary schools. Consider making a gift today to support ACS students and the School!

Online

Visit www.averycoonley.org/donations to make a gift or to learn more about the COVID-19 Fund, the ACS Fund, and other funds in support of ACS.

Cash Gifts

We accept gifts of cash and checks made payable to Avery Coonley School.

Gifts of Securities or Wire Transfers

To make a gift of securities or wire transfer, please notify Carolyn Johnson, Director of Development, at 630.969.0800 x7218 or development@averycoonley.org.

Matching Gifts

Many employers will double or even triple the impact of their employees' philanthropic giving through matching gift programs. Contact your human resources department to find out if you qualify.

Honor and Memorial Gifts

A friend or loved one may be honored through a gift to the Avery Coonley School. Along with your gift, include the name and address of the person whom you are honoring or relatives to be notified of the gift.

Planned Giving

Contact Carolyn Johnson, Director of Development, at 630.969.0800 x7218 or development@averycoonley.org about including The Avery Coonley School in your estate plans.

The Avery Coonley School is an IRS approved 501c3 tax-exempt organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and are gratefully received. Our Federal Identification Number (EIN) is 36-2171680. Your gift will be acknowledged with a letter and receipt for your tax records.





Class of 2020

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Your class has dealt with pandemic worries, eLearning adjustments, and having special traditional events that would have been your last as ACS students move entirely online. You accomplished this all with grace, understanding and enthusiasm. On behalf of the alumni and the Alumni Council, we welcome all of you to the Alumni Body!

Special thanks to Ross Dettman

Photography for this amazing picture of our graduates. It is actually a composite of each alum, which the photographer put together into one seamless photo.

Our Class of 2020 is excited to be continuing their education at the following secondary schools:

Class of 2020 High School Choices

Benet Academy

Chicago Academy for the Arts

Downers Grove North High School

Fenwick High School

Glenbard West High School

Hinsdale Central High School

Hinsdale South High School

Lake Forest Academy

The Madeira School, VA

Naperville Central High School

Naperville North High School

Neuqua Valley High School

Phillips Academy Andover, MA

St. Francis High School

St. Ignatius College Prep

Trinity School, NY

University of Chicago Lab School

Walter Payton College Prep

Waubonsie Valley High School

Class of 2016

Congratulations to the ACS Class of 2016 on their high school graduations and best of luck on their future journeys! Members of the class matriculated to the following colleges and universities:

Class of 2016 College Choices

Brown University
George Mason University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Indiana University
Loyola University
Miami University, OH
Mount Holyoke College
Northwestern University
Rice University
Southern Methodist University
Stanford University
Swarthmore College
Tulane University
University of California - Berkeley
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Michigan
University of Notre Dame
University of Richmond
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Yale University

Editor's Note: We regret that Yale University was omitted from the Class of 2015 listing of college and universities in the Spring 2020 issue of the ACS Magazine.



Alumni News

We love to hear what our alumni are doing! Please visit the Alumni portion of our website www.averycoonley.org and register; you will be able to post updates and see news and photos from your classmates and friends. You can also contact Barbara Cosentino, Alumni Relations at bcosentino@averycoonley.org or 630.969.0800 x7220.

1989

Jonathan Karoly '89 and his wife Cathy were featured in the *Los Angeles Times* for the front porch concerts they performed for their neighbors during the pandemic. Both are musicians in the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

1992

Jason Jedlinski '92 joined *The Wall Street Journal's* Digital Strategy & Experience team as Head of Audience Touchpoints. Jason is responsible for the product experience of WSJ's website and mobile app platforms. His team works to help more people get the facts they need, when and how they want them.

2000

Sagar Shah '00 is Uber Freight's Director of Carrier Operations. He was interviewed on WGN radio on Uber Freight's growing success, and its expansion in the Chicago area. <https://wgnradio.com/2020/01/07/heres-how-and-why-uber-set-their-sights-on-freight/>

2001

Anne Horn Baroody '01 was recognized in the 2019 Georgia Super Lawyers rankings. Anne is an associate in the firm's litigation practice group and works for Parker, Hudson, Rainer and Dobbs LLP in Atlanta.

Allison Baum '01 recently published an article on the advantages of small workplaces. Allison is currently a General Partner at Semper Virens Venture Capital. https://qz.com/work/1784597/the-rise-of-extra-small-businesses-and-the-end-of-corporate-jobs/?fbclid=IwAR1sRI-CoqHxGe848WWuLVSLFHhgK-1DqkSSbkuHLU_eK79xjrwtOsYY9KOU

Natalie Self '01 presented a TED style talk at the Social Innovation Summit on "Entrepreneurial Diversity, Opportunities in The Midwest." Natalie is the Executive Director of STEMSTL, a nonprofit that works to provide equitable access and opportunity to high-quality STEM learning to the St. Louis area.

2004

David McAlpine '04 recently moved to New York to work for CBS This Morning as a producer. He was previously a producer at Fox News and coordinated field production for breaking news and special events coverage across all Fox News Channel and Fox Business platforms. Prior to that, David spent two years at Walt Disney Television producing the 5 p.m. show for WPVI-TV in Philadelphia.

Sean Mirski '04 was included in *Forbes* list for 30 Under 30 - Law and Policy. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School.

Mary J. Saran '04 had her art as part of the "I AM WOMEN" exhibition at DragonFly Gallery. She also recently had a show open at the Greenleaf Art Center in Rogers Park. More of her work is available for viewing at her studio space. <https://maryjsaran.com/>



Mary Saran '04 is an artist and entrepreneur. Her artwork can be found at www.maryjsaran.com

Mike Zevin '04 was awarded the esteemed 2020 NASA Hubble Fellowship, and will begin working as a postdoctoral researcher at the Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics and the Enrico Fermi Institute of University of Chicago in the fall after graduating with his PhD.

2005

Kevin Credille '05 was one of the eleven medical student summer research fellows selected from a group of 140 presenters as the top eleven winners of the Dr. Michael J. Dunn Poster Contest Awards. Kevin's poster category was in Clinical Science, and was themed "Presurgical prediction of language lateralization in pediatric epilepsy patients using Wada and fMRI."

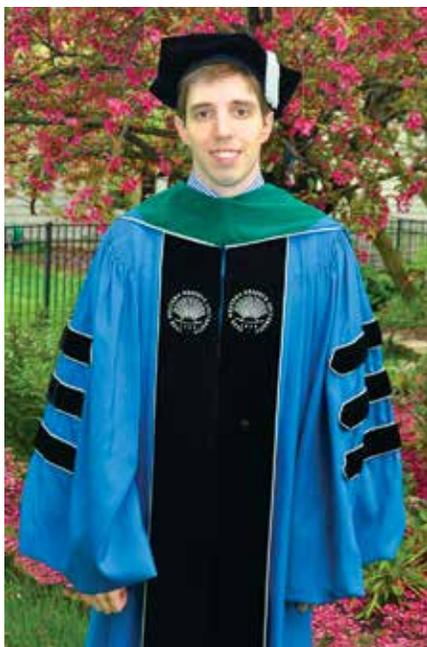
Liz Melton '05 and her colleague, Jason Thomas, are the creators of "Between the Term Sheets" a podcast highlighting the founders of early stage businesses. Their goal is to make valuable connections and inspire future entrepreneurs. You can find the podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google Play.



Adam Kipp '19 delivers masks for medical personnel and people in need.

2008

Dominic Vitello '08 graduated from Case Western Reserve School of Medicine, and has begun his Surgical Residency at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.



Dominic Vitello '08 graduated from Case Western Reserve School of Medicine.

2010

Zoe Briskey '10 served as the alumni guest speaker at the 2020 ACS Auction. Scan the code with your phone to watch Zoe's remarks to the ACS community.



2013

Rishi Chandra '13 was interviewed by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences about his internship with NASA. Rishi is a senior studying physics and planetary science.

Michael Flynn '13 has started a new position as President & Secretary General at Northwestern University Model United Nations. Michael is double majoring in Economics and Political Science with a certificate in Integrated Marketing Communications.

2016

Jacob Flynn '16 was Valedictorian at St. Ignatius High school for the Class of 2020. He also received the Science Award (John B. Esmaker, S.J - Edward L. Fergus, S.J. Science Award). He is currently a freshman at Rice University, studying Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Maya Goyal '16 was awarded a \$20,000 College Scholarship to attend Georgetown this fall. Maya was one of hundreds to apply for this highly competitive scholarship.

Catherine Ramsey '16 was among the many talented seniors presenting their senior solos in a virtual concert hosted by District 99 in Downers Grove, IL. Cate Stocki '18 introduced Catherine. The concert is available on YouTube.

Alumni News

2018

Julia Marshall '18 was one of only 84 students selected nationwide to take part in Grammy Camp, a music industry program for high school students hoping for a career in the music industry. When Julia shared the news with ACS music teacher Jaime Surdyski, she sent her a special thank you: "I just wanted to thank you for giving me a good foundation for music when I was younger and helping me grow as a musician. So thank you for all of your support!"



Alex Turk '17 and Christian Turk '19 started F.A.C.E (Fighting Against COVID Exposure), with two 3D printers donated by Chess ED.



Julia Marshall '18 had some kind words to share with ACS music teacher, Jaime Surdyski prior to leaving for Grammy Camp.

2019

Adam Kipp '19, Alex Turk '17, and Christian Turk '19 have all been involved with creating and delivering masks and headgear for medical personnel and people in need. Adam is the Founder of the Protect Our Community Group (POCG2020), which provides PPE to medical and non-medical people to protect them from COVID-19. He and his group have donated over 2000 masks and other supplies to hospitals, senior citizens and other people in need. Alex and Christian started F.A.C.E (Fighting Against Covid Exposure), with two 3D printers donated by Chess ED. Their group has donated 1500+ face shields to hospitals, nursing homes, hospice and doctors' offices.

Emilia Krylov '19 released a new video cast "Most Intriguing Military Battles on YouTube."



The Class of 2020 recently had a chance to gather one last time to reconnect with classmates, pick up their diplomas and say goodbye to teachers. Pictured above is Middle School Head Gwen Cooper and Class of 2020 Class President Abby Davis.

Alumni Council and Alumni Relations

ACS

Alumni
Family



*As a member
of the alumni family,
you will always
have a place
at ACS!*



Alumni Council

The ACS Alumni Council connects alumni to each other and to the school through various programs and activities. As the alumni leaders at ACS, the Alumni Council acts as a voice for the alumni community. Meetings are held quarterly with an option to participate remotely.

Regional events

Help plan a local or regional alumni gathering near you. Planning assistance is always welcome!

Class agents

Class agents keep class spirit alive by making their class aware of upcoming alumni events, sharing classmate news, and assisting in updating alumni contact information.

Guest speaker

Would you like to return to campus to share your professional or academic insights? ACS has opportunities for guest speakers, including panel and virtual opportunities.

Stay connected

Update your email and mailing address to receive news from ACS. Follow ACS on social media to see what's happening at the school!

Make a gift

Your donation will help ACS continue to ensure accessibility for future students. Please consider making a gift today.

Interested in getting involved or have an idea to share? Contact Barbara Cosentino, Alumni Relations at bcosentino@avery-coonley.org or 630.969.0800 x7220.



Alumni reconnect every year by attending various alumni events.



The Report
of **Giving**
to *The Avery Coonley School*



Charitable giving supports the life of The Avery Coonley School and our students on a daily basis. It is evident in the classrooms, where small groups of students, highly-trained faculty, an innovative curriculum, and technology all interact in magical ways. It is seen in the rich offerings of the arts, physical education, and extracurricular activities that address the development of the whole child. Philanthropic support makes possible the remarkable array of physical spaces of this beautiful and historic campus. It is in the school pride and spirit that build a strong and welcoming community. It is in the financial aid that ensures that an ACS education can be within the reach of as many families as possible. All of this, and more, is made possible by the contributors acknowledged in this Annual Report.

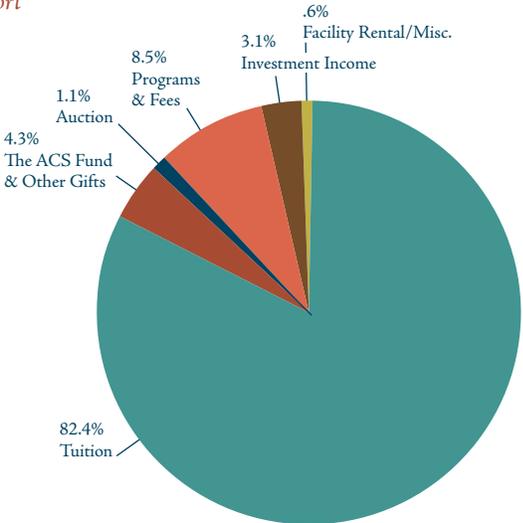
Each year, the School conducts two major fundraising initiatives that are led by the Development Office: the ACS Fund and the Annual Auction. With the COVID-19 pandemic in full swing and distance learning in place for all ACS students, proceeds from the 2020 Annual Auction were dedicated to support the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund. This fund provided financial tuition assistance to ensure that every ACS student was able to return for the 2020-2021 school year, despite financial hardship caused by the pandemic. All monies raised from the Silent Auction, Party Boutiques, and Class Basket Raffles were directed toward this Fund.

Charitable gifts to the School may also be directed to one of three major endowment funds: the General Endowment, which supports a wide range of School needs; the Professional Growth Endowment, which provides vital resources for the ongoing professional development of faculty; and the Financial Aid Endowment, which supports the goal of broadening access for qualified students of all socio-economic backgrounds.

The tradition of philanthropy started by Queene Ferry Coonley continues to be a vital part of the success and well-being of ACS. Every gift received supports the School's commitment to providing a transformative education for the students of today and tomorrow, inspires others to give, and represents the collective power of our community. Thank you for making ACS your philanthropic priority.

How ACS Works Financially

2019–2020 General Operating Fund
Revenue and Support



Revenue and Support

Tuition Income Less Need Based Financial Aid \$7,604,052

Full tuition is charged to all students who attend the School. ACS awards financial aid to qualified recipients based on financial need calculated by School and Student Services (SSS), managed by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). Partial financial aid was awarded to 58 students during the 2019-2020 school year.

ACS Fund and Other Gifts \$396,857

The ACS Fund is generous charitable support from current parents, alumni, grandparents and other friends of the School to help pay the additional expenses not covered by tuition.

Auction \$101,690

Net proceeds from the ACS Annual Auction helps bridge the gap between what tuition covers and the actual costs of educating students at ACS. Currently, the gap is \$3,693 per student.

Programs and Fees \$783,926

Net income from the After School Program, Summer Program, milk fees, testing services, and new student fees assist with paying for the variety of addition programs and services offered by ACS.

Investment Income \$280,176

Income earned on operating cash, designated cash, and a portion of the interest earned on the endowment.

Facilities Rental and Miscellaneous Income \$58,572

Net revenue generated from the rental of school facilities and other programs sponsored by the School.

Expenses

Educational Salaries and Benefits \$4,708,969

Salaries and benefits for faculty and assistants. The benefits include retirement contributions, health insurance, life insurance, disability, and FICA contributions.

Administration and Staff Salaries and Benefits \$1,246,276

Salaries and benefits for administrators, maintenance, and ACS staff. The benefits include retirement contributions, health insurance, life insurance, disability, and FICA contributions.

Building Maintenance \$758,163

Contracted maintenance services including custodial, landscape services, snow removal, utilities, maintenance supplies, and repair costs.

Educational Expenses \$1,137,043

Expenses related to instruction including educational software, curricular materials, textbooks, technology equipment, classroom supplies, educational professional growth, standardized testing costs, as well as spending to fulfill requirements of temporarily restricted donations.

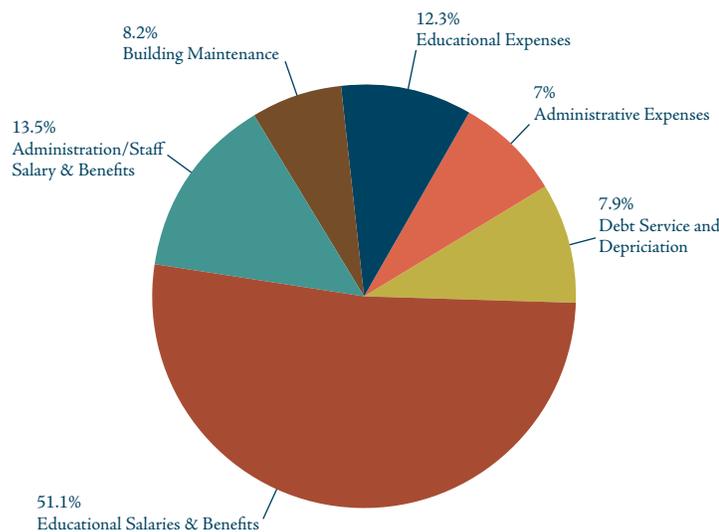
Administrative Expenses \$640,245

Includes property and casualty insurance, financial and legal costs, photocopying, postage, office supplies, telephone, professional growth for the administration, and membership dues for school associations.

Debt Service and Depreciation \$725,356

The Village of Downers Grove issued Revenue Bonds on the school's behalf. The principal and interest payments represent the current cash outlay to cover the Middle School addition and a portion of the Lower School renovations. Depreciation is also included.

2019–2020 General Operating Fund Expenses



2019 – 2020 School Year

Statement of Income and Expenses – Operating Fund

For the Period Ending June 30, 2020

	Actual	Budget	Variance
<i>Revenues and Support</i>			
Tuition income	\$7,604,052	\$7,625,188	(\$21,136)
Programs	739,416	769,600	(30,184)
Fees	44,510	43,600	910
Dividend and interest income	280,176	10,000	270,176
Miscellaneous income	22,760	70,000	(47,240)
Facility rental	35,812	45,000	(9,188)
Internally-generated income	\$8,726,726	\$8,563,388	\$163,338
Auction proceeds	101,690	370,000	(268,310)
Unrestricted gifts and annual giving	369,857	350,000	46,857
Total support	\$498,547	\$720,000	(\$221,453)
Total income	\$9,225,273	\$9,283,388	(\$58,115)
<i>Expenses</i>			
Educational	\$5,846,012	\$6,004,500	\$158,488
Administration and staff	1,886,521	2,102,886	216,365
Maintenance	615,072	534,000	(81,072)
Building and grounds	143,091	247,653	104,562
Interest expense and bond costs	122,979	394,349	271,370
Depreciation	602,377	0	(602,377)
Board expenses	0	0	0
Total operating expenses	\$9,216,052	\$9,283,388	\$67,336
2019-2020 surplus/(deficit)	\$9,221	0	\$9,221
Special expenditures and allocations	(\$9,221)	0	(\$9,221)
Net Change in Undesignated Fund Balance	0	0	0

An independent auditor's report is available for review in the ACS Business Office.



THE ACS FUND
AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The Importance and Tradition of Giving

The Avery Coonley School extends a warm thank you to the members of the school community who generously supported the School in the 2019-2020 school year. Board members, parents, alumni, alumni families, grandparents, faculty, staff, foundations, corporations, and other friends generously contributed to the ACS Fund and other funds. This generosity enables the school to provide a transformative experience for our students and helps ACS continue to deliver in its mission to serve gifted learners. It is also a demonstration of our collective commitment to the importance of a specialized education for gifted and talented young minds.

Contributions to ACS Fund support operations in the current school year by “filling the gap” between tuition and other revenue and operating expenses, which allows the school to remain financially sound. Through your generosity, we raised \$396,857 for the ACS Fund and other designated funds in the 2019-2020 school year. Once again, every member of the Board of Trustees of supported the ACS Fund.

Special thanks to the following volunteers for their significant roles in securing philanthropic support.

*ACS Fund Leadership for
2019-2020 School Year*

ACS Fund Chairs

Bill and Reagen Atwood

Alumni Chair

Andy Behrens '85

Faculty and Staff Chairs

Katie Arnold

Sunshine Echevarria



Niam Goel reads “The Day You Begin” by National Book Award winner, Jacqueline Woodson.

Honor Roll of Donors

2019-2020 ACS Fund Leadership Giving Circles

The leadership giving circles were established to honor the rich history, traditions, and founding leaders of ACS.

Thank you to the following members of the School community who supported the ACS Fund during the fiscal year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

Elizabeth Coonley Circle

Honoring the only child of Avery and Queenie Ferry Coonley, and the first student of the school, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$10,000 and above.

The ACS Home and School Association
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Kathleen Danakis
Mr. Lloyd "Chip" Fry '67 and the
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Mr. John '74 and Mrs. Karin Kukral
Karin Bain and John Kukral Foundation
Dr. Steven and Mrs. Amy Louis
Amy & Steve Louis Foundation
Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Lisa McClear
Nickum Foundation
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Catherine Slark

Waldron Faulkner Circle

Honoring Avery and Queenie's son-in-law and the architect of the 1929 school building, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$5,000 to \$7,499.

Mr. David and Mrs. Heidi Keeling
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Eva Metzger '38
M.R. Metzger Family Foundation
Mr. Neal and Dr. Jennifer Reenan
Mr. Brendan and Mrs. Mary Sheehy
Mr. Joel and Mrs. Shannon Weinberger

Henry Chapman Mercer Circle

Honoring the designer and ceramicist who created the fireplace, floor tiles and Cloister triptych, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$2,500 to \$4,999.

Dr. Anup Bendre and Dr. Anuradha Perni
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Tracy Blackburn
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Debra Bruns
Mr. Jeffrey Chen and Mrs. Victoria Cheng
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Deb Clarke
Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Jennifer Douglass
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Jacqueline Gupta
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Kathleen Havlick
Dr. Bryce Higa and Dr. Anna Stanislaus
Mr. Naufal Khan and Mrs. Asma Afridi
Dr. Jae and Mrs. Jiyeon Kim
Mr. Kirill and Mrs. Laura Krylov
Mr. Stephen Lunn
Mr. Ravi and Mrs. Jane Malhotra
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Daile McCann
Dr. Anita and Dr. Wayde Nagamine
Dr. Uday and Mrs. Sheetal Narahari
The O'Donoghue Family
Mr. John and Mrs. Qiqi Qin
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Laura Sandahl
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Laura Stasaitis
Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Lisa Vaughan
Mr. Rick Wang and Mrs. Jean Gu
Mr. Aloysius Wild, III and
Dr. Caer-Eve McCabe
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Laura Zeman
Anonymous (2)

Lucia Burton Morse Circle

Acknowledging our first Head of School and Mrs. Coonley's collaborator for over 30 years, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$1,000 to \$2,499.

Dr. Nouri and Mrs. Shatha Al-Khaled
Dr. Michelle Andreoli
Mr. John and Mrs. Artemis Anos
Mr. Iqbal Anwar and Mrs. Tashmin Lopa
Mr. Pavel Apostolov and
Ms. Neriman Korensarska
Mr. William and Mrs. Reagen Atwood
Mr. Srikanth and Mrs. Lavanya Batchu
Dr. Mark Batts and Ms. Julie Cirillo
Dr. Hardik and Dr. Palak Bhagat
Mr. John Blackburn and
Ms. Nancy R. Doris '91
Mr. William and Ms. Joanna Bradford
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Michelle Brown
Ms. Mary Ellen Bull '79
Mr. Benton and Mrs. Stephanie Bullwinkel
Mr. Kenneth Chang and Dr. Julia Espel
Mr. Jerry Chen and Prof. PingPing Shi
Mr. Carl and Ms. Elizabeth Clark
Dr. Amir Darki and Dr. Dina Dadabhoy
Mr. Mehrab and Mrs. Zarine Deboo
Mr. Ajay and Mrs. Priya Desai
Dr. David and Mrs. Xufei Ding
Mr. Edward Tim Doris '90
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Cara Doyle
Mr. Paul Druzinsky
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Kathryn Dunlop
Ms. Jennifer Elliott
Mr. Matt and Mrs. Suzy Ennis
Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Kimberly Enos
Mr. Yong Fan and Mrs. Tzu-Ling Yeh
Mr. Jason and Mrs. Lita Gillis
Mr. Brian Gilmartin and Dr. Lisa Karaitis
Ms. Allyson Gorman
Dr. Raj and Dr. Nina Goyal
Mr. Bryan and Mrs. Stephanie Grane
Mr. John and Mrs. Kiyomi Hamilton
Ms. Linda Hou
Mr. Gerald A. and Mrs. Marian Jablonski
The Gerald & Marian Jablonski
Charitable Fund
Mr. William and Mrs. Carolyn Johnson
Dr. JB and Mrs. Elizabeth Joo
Dr. Rishi and Mrs. Nidhi Kapoor

Mr. Houman and Mrs. Parastoo Kashanipour
 Drs. Syed and Mariam Khan
 Mr. Robert '79 and Mrs. Jingjing Kipp
 Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Kate Kocinski
 Mr. Miles Lasater and
 Dr. G. Elizabeth Lasater '92
 Dr. Ted Liu and Mrs. Ellen Huang
 Ms. Quetzali P. Lopez '15
 Mr. Dimitre and Mrs. Katerina Marinov
 Mr. James and Mrs. BJ Marshall
 Mr. Matthew Nakanishi '85
 Mr. Michael Nicolai and Ms. Lisa Castle
 Dr. Lindsay and Mr. Matthew Norwood
 Mr. Eddie and Mrs. Sarah Opler
 Mr. Madhu and Dr. Sreya Pallath
 Dr. Amit Patel and Mrs. Dina Patel
 Dr. Udit and Mrs. Malini Patel
 Mr. Andrew and Mrs. Dina Pilipczuk
 Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Kristin Porter
 Mr. Imran and Mrs. Niema Qureshi
 Dr. Irfan and Dr. Farheen Sadiq
 Mr. Tapan and Dr. Kavita Shah
 Dr. Farshad Sedaghat-Yazdi and
 Dr. Anisha Shetty '95
 Mr. Vishnu '92 and Mrs. Sailaja Srinivasan
 Mr. Scott and Mrs. Michelle Stastny
 Dr. Andy and Mrs. Shu-Han Su
 Mr. Rajcan and Mrs. Yuanna Surface
 Ms. Julie Swinehart and
 Ms. Andrea Hornickle
 Mr. Andrew Taylor and
 Mrs. Maria Soledad Lencioni
 Mr. Sailesh Thakur and
 Mrs. Ramapriya Ramasubramanian
 Mr. Peter and Mrs. Sara Tsantilis
 Mr. Girmantas and Mrs. Sigita Urbonas
 Dr. Matthew and Dr. Joanna Van Beek
 Mr. Sreeram Prasad and Mrs. Uma Veluchamy
 Dr. Venkat Venkatakrishnan and
 Dr. Kavitha Rao
 Prof. Jie Yang and Dr. Liping Tong
 Dr. Jeffrey Yeh and Mrs. Stephanie Lizaso Yeh
 Dr. Huanzhou Yu and Dr. Xiaofei Dong
 Dr. Jian Zhang and Dr. Lan Hong
 Dr. Hui Zhao and Dr. Yi Zhou
 Anonymous (6)

Maple Tapping Circle

Representing one of the School's most cherished traditions, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$500 to \$999.

Mr. Randall and Mrs. Barbara Andreoli
 Mr. Anthony Ardizzzone and
 Mrs. Jessica Armour-Ardizzzone
 Mr. Damian and Mrs. Stephanie Austin
 Mr. Stephen '70 and Mrs. Jana Bohnen
 Mr. David Breisch '99
 Dr. Steven Chough and Dr. Anna Park
 Mr. Patrick Doherty and Ms. Kristina Murray
 Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Anne Elliott
 Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Kathleen Flynn
 Mr. Joshua and Mrs. Jessica Friess
 Mr. Adam Gastolek and
 Dr. Aneta Paniczko-Gastolek
 Mr. Joe I. Gillespie, Jr. and
 Mrs. Kristina Gillespie
 Dr. Rishi Mehta and
 Dr. Nisha Gokhale Mehta '97
 Mr. Mike and Mrs. Sue Gould
 Mr. David and Mrs. Lekha Knoepp
 Mr. Edward Lam and Dr. Angela Gomez-Lam
 Mr. Wai and Mrs. Jessica Lau
 Mr. Tom and Mrs. Anna Lenhardt
 Mr. Wei Li and Mrs. Jing Xing
 Mr. Christopher Lok and Ms. Josephine Sheng
 Mr. Stevan and Mrs. Ljiljana Malesevic

Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Heather Manning
 Mr. Gerard and Dr. Lisa Martin
 Mr. David and Mrs. Deborah McGarry
 Dr. Rajeev and Mrs. Tejal Mehta
 Mr. Mike and Mrs. Jackie Milligan
 Dr. Sachin and Mrs. Deepali Mittal
 Mr. Rishin and Dr. Sonal Pandya
 Mr. Ron and Mrs. Gladys Partridge
 Mr. Kevin '69 and Mrs. Janet Peterson
 Mr. Robert Pierson and Ms. Stephanie Lewin
 Mr. Brett '76 and Mrs. Antonia S. Pritchard
 Mr. Mohamed Salahuddin and
 Ms. Asma Manzar
 Mr. Tom and Mrs. Melissa Sandy
 Dr. Pramilla Sarin
 Mr. Edwin Savarimuthu and
 Ms. Dhevi Kandasamy
 Mr. Ritesh '89 and Mrs. Shilpi Shah
 Mr. Usman and Mrs. Maribel Siddiqui
 Dr. Robert and Mrs. Michelle Strugala
 Mr. Brian and Mrs. Kristin Stumm
 Ms. Alexandra Thompson '87
 Mr. Derek and Mrs. Ying Timmermann
 Mr. Jason Yao and Mrs. Ling Ge
 Dr. Yunde Zhong and Dr. Shuli Wang
 Anonymous (3)

Ms. Sunshine Echevarria
Mr. Anthony '91 and Dr. Heidi Engel
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Laurie Ernst
Mr. Kent and Ms. Lauren Evans
Ms. AnnMarie Fauske
Ms. Crystal Fiedler
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Zuzana Fitzpatrick
Mr. John and Mrs. Kathy Gallo
Mr. James and Mrs. Trecia Gandurski
Mr. and Mrs. R. Gandurski
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Heather Getty
Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Kirsten Gillono
Ms. Shilpa Gokhale '94
Mr. Efrain and Mrs. Leslie Gutierrez
Mr. Paul and Mrs. Diana Halley
Mr. James and Mrs. Susanna Ramsden
Mr. Jay and Mrs. Carrie Heck
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Jeanine Helfrich
Mr. Calvin and Mrs. Ramona Hogan
Mr. Brandon Hornickle '19
Mrs. Christina Hur
Mr. Dan and Mrs. Karen Hyma
Mr. Edwin and Mrs. Raquel Johnson
Mr. Steve and Mrs. Sally Johnston
Mr. William Keating and Dr. Gina Murray
Dr. Murat Keceli and
 Dr. Sevnur Komurlu Keceli
Dr. Kara Kennedy '94
Dr. Sean Kennedy '01
Mr. Vishal and Mrs. Smriti Khairari
Mr. Matt and Mrs. Stephanie Kohnke
Mr. Lee Kopacz
Ms. Emilia Krylov '19
Ms. Jessica Kuczkowski
Mrs. Carol Kuhn
Mr. Matthew Lange and Dr. Cathleen Ayuste
Mr. Woosang Lee and Mrs. Kyungeun Shin
Dr. Justin Mao and Dr. Laura Yun
Mr. Luke Gillono and
 Mrs. Jennifer Marvel-Gillono
Mr. Zach and Mrs. Dina Mathews
Mr. David and Mrs. Meghan McCarthy

Mr. Andrew McCormick
Mr. Matthew and Ms. Lana McKenna
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Carissa Means '89
Mr. Adam and Mrs. Suzanne Metcalf
Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Patti Miller
Mr. David and Mrs. Kristen Mitchell
Mr. William and Mrs. Susanna Murphy
Miss Nelly Musso
Mr. Imran Mustafa and
 Mrs. Sarah Salam-Mustafa
Mr. James O'Leary '07
Mr. John O'Leary '05
Mr. Keith and Mrs. Susan Ozsvath
Dr. Tommy and Mrs. Stephanie Pacana
Mr. Alesh and Mrs. Binita Patel
Mr. Konrad Pawelek
Mr. John and Mrs. Jill Peckham
Mr. Viktor and Mrs. Oksana Perekhozhuk
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Linda Puchyr
Mr. James and Mrs. Susanna Ramsden
Mr. Adam Beyer and
 Ms. Elizabeth H. Roberts
Mr. Darin and Mrs. Jennifer Roddick-Small
Mr. Nihar Rout and Mrs. Bhumika Gochhi
Ms. Shilpa Rupani '99
Dr. Paulina Rychenkova
Mr. Melvin Sanny and Mrs. Iona Bunea
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Sarah Schallmoser
Mr. Mark J. Schindler '67
Mr. Gregory and Mrs. Nancy Schmidt
Dr. Greg Schwartz and Dr. Sarah Kampbell
Mrs. Leandra Sedlack
Mr. Frankie Sheehy '16
Mr. Nolan Sheehy '18
Mr. Ken and Mrs. Marie Shipman
Mr. William and Mrs. Lindsay Sickinger
Mr. Rob Strumillo '06
Mr. William and Mrs. Jaime Surdynski
Mr. Kirill and
 Mrs. Christina Taranouchtchenko
Mr. Brayer and Mrs. Kristen Teague
Mr. Ravi and Mrs. Neha Thakkar
Mr. Brett Thompson '86
Ms. Brittany Thompson '01
Ms. Kara Thorpe-Dosen

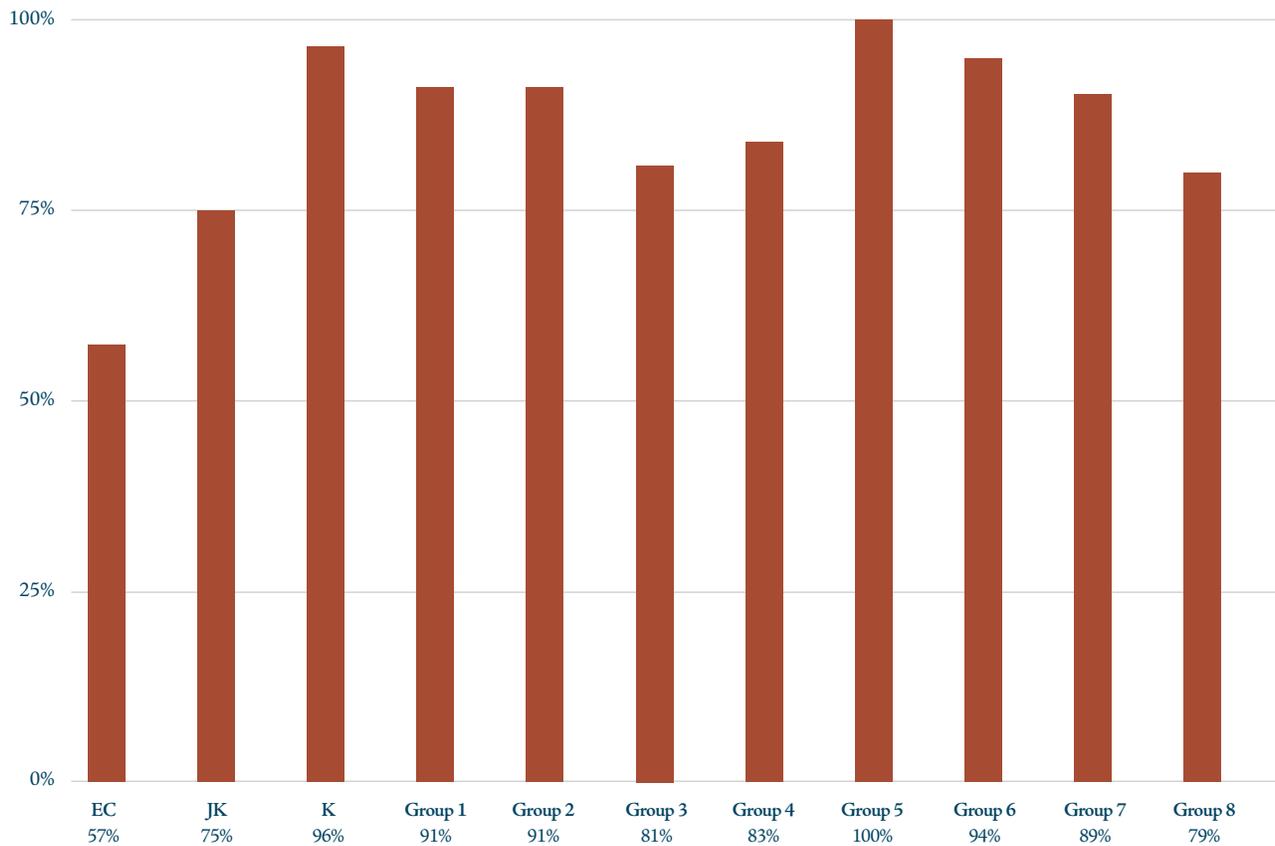
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Nina Tipton
Mr. Jesse Lex and Ms. Michi Trota '92
Mr. Roger and Mrs. Angela Tufo
Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Angel Van Howe
Mr. William Franko and Ms. Jennifer Vaughan
Ms. Amanda Walsh '11
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Nicole Walus
Mr. Aidan Weinberger '10
Mr. Jeffrey Westbrook and Ms. Kelly Stokes
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Donna Wetta
Mrs. Lisa Wiltz
Ms. Karen Winterhof '01
Mr. Neal Winterhof '96
Mr. Peter Winterhof '04
Mr. Keith Woodruff and
 Dr. Monina Quindipan
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Debra Wysopal
Ms. Linda Young
Dr. Mark and Mrs. Jennifer Youngblood
Mr. Eric and Mrs. Susan Youngquist
Anonymous (4)

Parent Participation in the ACS Fund

The ACS Fund is a vital cornerstone of philanthropy at Avery Coonley. Parent giving is critical to help bridge the difference between the cost of tuition and the actual cost of educating each student at ACS.

Thank you to the 89% of school families who made a gift to the ACS Fund in the fiscal year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

The ACS Fund Contributions by Group



The ACS Fund
Parent Participation by Group

Early Childhood - 57%

Dr. Adnan and Dr. Stefanie Ali
Mr. Patrick Doherty and Ms. Kristina Murray
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jennifer Garetto
Mr. Jason and Mrs. Lita Gillis
Dr. Rishi and Mrs. Nidhi Kapoor
Dr. James and Dr. Jamie Lubawski
Mr. Mike and Mrs. Jackie Milligan
Mr. Jeremy and Ms. Raechelle Norman
Mr. Rishin and Dr. Sonal Pandya
Mr. William and Mrs. Lindsay Sickinger
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Sara Tsantilis
Anonymous

Junior Kindergarten - 75%

Dr. Michelle Andreoli
Mr. Spencer and Mrs. Amanda Burns
Mr. Kenneth Chang and Dr. Julia Espel
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Sarah Clary
Mr. Sean and Mrs. Jamie Dougherty
Mr. Pradeep and Mrs. Kristen Jain
Dr. Justin Mao and Dr. Laura Yun
Mr. Matthew and Ms. Lana McKenna
Mr. Jason and Mrs. Kristin Pauley
Mr. Robert Pierson and Ms. Stephanie Lewin
Mr. JP Ramirez and Dr. Kimberly Bauer
Dr. Farshad Sedaghat-Yazdi and
Dr. Anisha Shetty '95
Mr. Usman and Mrs. Maribel Siddiqui
Mr. Andrew Taylor and
Mrs. Maria Soledad Lencioni
Mr. Jason Yao and Mrs. Ling Ge
Dr. Mark and Mrs. Jennifer Youngblood
Mr. Jian Zhang and Mrs. Lan Hong
Anonymous

Kindergarten - 96%

Dr. Adnan and Dr. Stefanie Ali
Mr. Pavel Apostolov and
Ms. Neriman Korensarska
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Shawn Aycock
Mr. Ryan and Ms. Kathryn Beil
Dr. Hardik and Dr. Palak Bhagat
Mr. John Blackburn and
Ms. Nancy R. Doris '91
Mr. Jeffrey Chen and Mrs. Victoria Cheng
Mr. Mehrab and Mrs. Zarine Deboo
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Cara Doyle
Dr. John and Mrs. Grace Hong
Dr. Murat Keceli and
Dr. Sevnur Komurlu Keceli
Mr. Matthew and Ms. Lana McKenna
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Carissa Means '89
Dr. Rishi Mehta and
Dr. Nisha Gokhale Mehta '97
Mr. Mike and Mrs. Jackie Milligan
Dr. Wayde and Dr. Anita Nagamine
Mr. Brian and Dr. Christina O'Donoghue
Mr. Andrew and Mrs. Dina Pilipczuk
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Suzanne Schlei
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Laura Stasaitis
Dr. Matthew and Dr. Joanna Van Beek
Dr. Venkat Venkatakrishnan and
Dr. Kavitha Rao
Anonymous (2)

Group One - 91%

Mr. Srikanth and Mrs. Lavanya Batchu
Dr. Mark Batts and Ms. Julie Cirillo
Mr. Benton and Mrs. Stephanie Bullwinkel
Mr. Kenneth Chang and Dr. Julia Espel
Mr. Sean and Mrs. Jamie Dougherty
Mr. Joshua and Mrs. Jessica Friess
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jennifer Garetto
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Heather Getty
Dr. Bryce Higa and Dr. Anna Stanislaus
Mrs. Christina Hur
Dr. JB and Mrs. Elizabeth Joo
Mr. William Keating and Dr. Gina Murray
Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Kate Kocinski
Dr. James and Dr. Jamie Lubawski
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Daile McCann
Mr. Imran Mustafa and
Mrs. Sarah Salam-Mustafa
Dr. Tommy and Mrs. Stephanie Pacana
Mr. Rishin and Dr. Sonal Pandya

Mr. Ron and Mrs. Gladys Partridge
Dr. Amit and Mrs. Dina Patel
Mr. James and Ms. Amy Peckham '87
Dr. Irfan and Dr. Farheen Sadiq
Dr. Greg Schwartz and Dr. Sarah Kampbell
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Nina Tipton
Mr. Girmantas and Mrs. Sigita Urbonas
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Nicole Walus
Mr. David Wilner and Ms. Melanie Leonard
Dr. Huanzhou Yu and Dr. Xiaofei Dong
Anonymous (3)

Group Two - 91%

Mr. Matthew Aquino and
Mrs. Christine Kurczaba-Aquino
Mr. John Blackburn and
Ms. Nancy R. Doris '91
Mr. Benton and Mrs. Stephanie Bullwinkel
Dr. Amir Darki and Dr. Dina Dadabhoy
Mr. Mehrab and Mrs. Zarine Deboo
Mr. Patrick Doherty and Ms. Kristina Murray
Mr. William and Mrs. Erin Fiedler
Ms. Allyson Gorman
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Kathleen Havlick
Dr. John and Mrs. Grace Hong
Mr. Pradeep and Mrs. Kristen Jain
Dr. Rishi and Mrs. Nidhi Kapoor
Dr. Murat Keceli and
Dr. Sevnur Komurlu Keceli
Mr. David and Mrs. Lekha Knoepp
Mr. Woosang Lee and Mrs. Kyungeun Shin
Dr. Ted Liu and Mrs. Ellen Huang
Dr. Sachin and Mrs. Deepali Mittal
Mr. Matthew and Dr. Lindsay Norwood
Dr. Udit and Mrs. Malini Patel
Mrs. Natalie Powell
Mr. JP Ramirez and Dr. Kimberly Bauer
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Laura Sandahl
Dr. Greg Schwartz and Dr. Sarah Kampbell
Mr. William and Mrs. Lindsay Sickinger
Mr. Vishnu '92 and Mrs. Sailaja Srinivasan
Mr. Derek and Mrs. Ying Timmermann
Dr. Matthew and Dr. Joanna Van Beek
Dr. Jeffrey Yeh and Mrs. Stephanie Lizaso Yeh
Mr. Lee and Mrs. Alexandria Zachos
Anonymous

Parent Participation in the ACS Fund

Group Three - 81%

Dr. Michelle Andreoli
Mr. Anthony Ardizzone and
Mrs. Jessica Armour-Ardizzone
Mr. Damian and Mrs. Stephanie Austin
Mr. Graham and Mrs. Katie Baldwin
Mr. Jerry Chen and Prof. PingPing Shi
Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Jennifer Douglass
Mr. Bryan and Mrs. Stephanie Grane
Mr. Jeff and Mrs. Erin Hartman
Mr. Edwin and Mrs. Raquel Johnson
Dr. JB and Mrs. Elizabeth Joo
Mr. Edward Lam and Dr. Angela Gomez-Lam
Dr. Sachin and Mrs. Deepali Mittal
Dr. Paulina Rychenkova
Mr. Usman and Mrs. Maribel Siddiqui
Mr. Andrew Taylor and
Mrs. Maria Soledad Lencioni
Mr. Sailesh Thakur and
Mrs. Ramapriya Ramasubramanian
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Nina Tipton
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Laura Zeman
Dr. Yunde Zhong and Dr. Shuli Wang
Anonymous (3)

Group Four - 83%

Mr. Iqbal Anwar and Mrs. Tashmin Lopa
Mr. Pavel Apostolov and
Ms. Neriman Korensarska
Mr. Carl and Ms. Elizabeth Clark
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Kathleen Danakis
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Kathryn Dunlop
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Anne Elliott
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Zuzana Fitzpatrick
Mr. Joshua and Mrs. Jessica Friess
Dr. Bryce Higa and Dr. Anna Stanislaus
Ms. Linda Hou
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Tracy Izhaky
Mr. Ross and Mrs. Ximen Januszyk
Mr. Ivan and Mrs. Sanja Jovanovic
Mr. Vishal and Mrs. Smriti Khairari
Dr. Syed and Dr. Mariam Khan
Mr. Alok and Mrs. Barnali Khuntia
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Daile McCann
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Carissa Means '89
Dr. Uday and Mrs. Sheetal Narahari
Mr. Matthew and Dr. Lindsay Norwood
Mr. Fraser and Mrs. Jacquie Orr
Mr. Darin and Mrs. Jennifer Roddick-Small
Mr. Nihar Rout and Mrs. Bhumika Gochhi
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Laura Sandahl
Mr. Tom and Mrs. Melissa Sandy
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Laura Stasaitis
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Kristin Stumm
Dr. Venkat Venkatakrishnan and
Dr. Kavitha Rao
Mr. Rick Wang and Mrs. Jean Gu
Mr. David Wilner and Ms. Melanie Leonard

Group Five - 100%

Mr. Graham and Mrs. Katie Baldwin
Dr. Anup Bendre and Dr. Anuradha Perni
Mr. John Blackburn and
Mrs. Nancy R. Doris '91
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Debra Bruns
Dr. Amir Darki and Dr. Dina Dadabhoy
Mr. Anthony '91 and Dr. Heidi Engel
Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Kimberly Enos
Mr. Yong Fan and Mrs. Tzu-Ling Yeh
Mr. Adam Gastolek and
Dr. Aneta Paniczko-Gastolek
Mr. Joe I. Gillespie, Jr. and
Mrs. Kristina Gillespie
Mr. Brian Gilmartin and Dr. Lisa Karaitis
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Thank you to the alumni who made contributions to a variety of funding areas during the fiscal year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

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A memorial or tribute is a wonderful way to honor a friend or loved one while supporting The Avery Coonley School. When a memorial or tribute gift is received, a note is sent to the honoree or, in the case of a memorial, the family of the honoree, telling them of your thoughtful and kind gesture. Memorial and tribute gifts are always welcome and may be directed to support The ACS Fund or the endowment funds.

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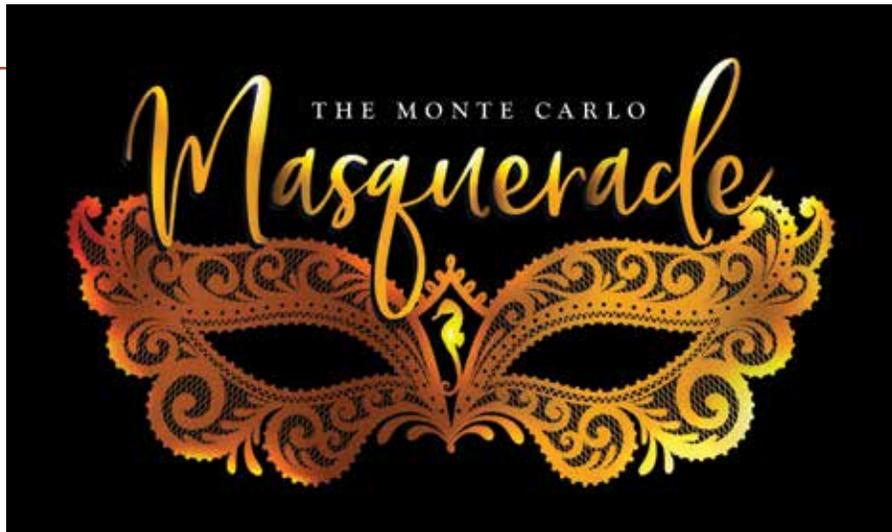
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2020 Auction

On Saturday, April 25, 2020, the ACS community came together for the School's 38th Annual Auction and first-ever Virtual Auction. Award-winning actress Jane Lynch kicked off the festivities with a special video for the ACS community. Guests gathered in the virtual ballroom for a welcome from Head of School Paul Druzinsky followed by heart-felt remarks from alumna guest speaker Zoe Briskey '10.

Guests then joined in virtual Happy Hour Party Rooms hosted by ACS parents, took a break for dinner, and spent some time browsing and bidding on silent auction items. Later in the evening, the Fund-A-Need Playground Expansion project was presented with a video featuring ACS students and Student Council. The grand finale for the evening was the live drawing of the ever-popular class basket raffles.

We are grateful to our auction chairs, Nidhi Kapoor and Malini Patel, along with the many committee members, volunteers, Board members, faculty, and staff who played a significant role in auction planning and ensuring the auction could take place with a new format.

Thank you to all who contributed to The Monte Carlo Masquerade as sponsors, early members of the Fleur de Lis Society, underwriters, silent auction donors and bidders, and raffle donors. The generous spirit of the ACS community ensured the Auction was a success and raised more than \$290,000 for the COVID-19 Fund and the Playground Expansion Fund-A-Need!

2020 Auction



The Monte Carlo Masquerade Auction Chairs
Nidhi Kapoor (above) and Malini Patel.

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Students enjoy the nice weather by taking their portable technology outside and utilizing an outdoor learning space.

2020 Auction

The 2020 Fund-A-Need

This year's Fund-A-Need provided \$69,579 in underwriting in support of expanding the ACS playground.

With the expansion, the ACS playground area increased by approximately 4,500 square feet – nearly doubling in size! The project included a new sidewalk path, benches, necessary site preparation and playground mulch, and of course - new playground equipment to complement our existing pieces. Read more about the playground expansion on page 5.

Thank you to the Board of Trustees, early members of the Fleur de Lis Society, Sponsors, and friends of ACS who have generously supported the Outdoor Playground Expansion project.

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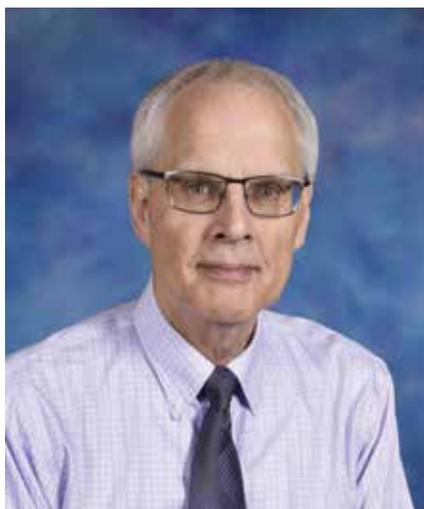
Students wave to the Head of School, Paul Druzinsky, as he prepares to do his annual reading of “The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein.

This report reflects gifts received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. If any errors or omissions are noted, please accept our apologies and share them with the ACS Office of Development at development@averycoonley.org or 630.969.0800.

Thank You

In 2019-2020, we said farewell to several faculty and staff members who retired. We wish them well and thank them for their service.

Jan Ciampi, Group 4 Teacher, arrived at ACS in 2010. Her sharp wit and direct humor resonated with many students at ACS. As a Group 4 teacher, her love for math and science was undeniable. Her passion for math helped guide the Group 4 students to victory as they won several Continental Math League competitions under her leadership. She also introduced a hands-on architecture unit into the curriculum, which nicely paired with ACS's connection to Frank Lloyd Wright and the school's early roots. She encouraged her students to understand concepts and demonstrate their discoveries with others. Jan's students loved her humor and impromptu dance parties; even previous students would routinely come back to visit her. She was a mentor to many, and we are grateful for the time and effort she devoted to helping others succeed.



Dave Dundek, Middle School Social Studies and Summer Program Director, arrived at ACS in 1992, just a few years after ACS expanded their classes from 25 to 32 students per group, and he joined alongside Anna Lenhardt as a Group 5 homeroom teacher. He was always eager to collaborate and welcomed the opportunity to plan projects that integrated language arts with world history. When the Middle School advisory program was created in the mid-1990s, Dave enthusiastically volunteered to be on the planning committee. He has been a dedicated Group 5 advisor ever since. As the Director of the Summer Program for more than 25 years, Dave grew its enrollment and reputation within the community. He has been a respected teacher, colleague, and friend to many staff and faculty for 28 years.



Calvin Hogan, Maintenance, came to ACS in 1999. Since that time, he has been an integral part of the ACS community while working with the maintenance staff. Mr. Hogan is known for his deep love for his family and children. He was always willing to take a moment to talk with faculty and staff about being a parent. He is a man of faith, translating his beliefs into kind actions toward others. Cal exemplifies the idea that a man can learn about, love, and care for many people beyond his immediate circle. Cal also enjoyed singing and shared his gift with the ACS community on many occasions, from the auction to special events to Coonley Crooner performances. Calvin Hogan's unique personality and talents have positively impacted the students, faculty, and staff at ACS.

Nancy Schmidt, Assistant to the Division Heads, started her ACS career in 2003 and will always be remembered as one of the most efficient, hard-working, dedicated people at ACS. Nancy's most recent role was Assistant to the Division Heads' – a brand new position at ACS. She also provided support to the Student Council. She met with students, attended leadership workshops, and the state convention in Springfield. Nancy epitomizes the life-long learning so valued at The Avery Coonley School. When faced with a challenge of coordinating the Group 8 graduation ceremony amid a pandemic, she considered it a puzzle to be solved. She found a way to give students the experience they deserved. Her ability to plan and work through contingencies helped make the past 17 years at ACS run smoothly.



Anna Lenhardt, Middle School Head, joined the ACS faculty in 1982. After 38 years at ACS, Mrs. Lenhardt has been instrumental in shaping the lives of at least 1,200 students as a Middle School Language Arts teacher, Academic Dean, Acting Head of School, Student Council Advisor, and most recently, Middle School Head. Perhaps her most treasured role is a caring, thoughtful mentor to students, parents, and faculty alike. Anna's passion for grammar is only matched by her love of her students. She created the ACS Student Council and will continue to serve as an advisor into her retirement. Additionally, she guides Group 8 students through the High School application process and helps families choose the secondary school that is right for every one of them. Her interest in ACS students doesn't stop when they graduate. She stays connected with many of her former students, regularly attends alumni events, and has served on the ACS Alumni Council since its establishment in 2011.

New Faces and Roles at ACS

Faculty and Staff Updates

In 2020-2021, many seasoned faculty members transitioned to new roles at ACS.

Anna Lenhardt joined the staff in 1982 and this year, retired from her previous position as Middle School Head. She now works as a Secondary School Coordinator, an essential part of her last role. She will also be keeping close connections with students through her role in Student Council and serving on the ACS Alumni Council.

Gwen Cooper joined the faculty in 2015. She was formerly the Group 7 and 8 Language Arts teacher before stepping into the role as Middle School Head this year.

Angel Van Howe joined the staff in 2012 as a Lower School teacher and has recently transitioned into a full-time role of Social-Emotional Facilitator and Gifted Coordinator.

Lynn Hurdle joined the faculty in 2000 and transitioned from teaching technology to teaching Group 4 alongside Jessica Kuczkowski.

New Faces at ACS

In 2020-2021 we welcomed a few new faces to our team! The following professionals have joined the ACS Faculty, Administration, and Staff this year.

Jenny Riley joined the faculty in 2020 as a Group 7 and 8 Literacy Teacher. She has her B.A. in English from the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University and an M.A in Teaching from Dominican University, IL. This is Mrs. Riley's 11th year of teaching. Previously, she taught high school English at Proviso West for two years and then taught 6th grade at Chicago Virtual Charter School for 7 seven years. While at CVCS, she honed her skills for teaching math and reading online and in-person to a diverse group of students. She even partnered with Open Books to participate in a program where her students wrote narratives and could become published authors. Last year, Mrs. Riley taught ELA and Social studies to 6th-grade students at Namaste Charter School.

Rachel Bucek joined the staff in 2020 as a Marketing and Communications Assistant. She has five years of marketing experience in higher education, STEAM-based learning centers, and marketing agencies. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Strategic Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations and a minor in Organizational Communications from Northern Arizona University. Rachel started her marketing career during her time at NAU as a member of the school's social media team, which ranked #1 nationally for social media engagement in higher education in 2016.

Kristen Stanton joined The Avery Coonley School full time in 2020 as an Early Childhood teaching assistant. She has a B.A. from Purdue University. Before taking this position, she was a substitute teacher in Lower School at ACS and the Hinsdale Community's elementary schools.

Tina Vences started at the Avery Coonley School in 2020 as an Instructional Technology Integration Specialist. She works both in the classroom teaching technology for Lower School and supporting the school's tech team with any technical support needs. Tina has worked in technology for the last seven years with Microsoft Stores, Verizon Wireless, Aldi, and Reyes Holdings. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Communications Studies from Elmhurst University.

Bill Johnson joined The Avery Coonley School full time in 2020 as a Recess and Outdoor Supervisor. He worked at Wilton Brands in Woodridge for 20 years and was a stay home dad for the past four years before working for ACS.

Annie McNally joined the faculty as a Group 3 teacher in 2020. In 2014, Annie graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in history. After graduation, Annie worked for a nonprofit before-and-after school program in Fort Collins, Colorado. From 2015-2019, she taught fourth and fifth grade at Hutchinson Elementary in Lakewood, Colorado. During this time, she obtained her master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado in literacy instruction. After moving to Chicago, Annie became a teaching assistant at Catherine Cook School in the fourth grade.



We'd like to welcome the following new member of the ACS Board of Trustees who has joined the board in 2020.

Gerry Jablonski joined the Board of Trustees because he believes Avery Coonley is the best local elementary school for academically bright and gifted students. As a parent of two students that transferred into the school, he was extremely impressed with the simultaneously challenging and nurturing culture that The Avery Coonley School provides. When asked to join the board, he was grateful to contribute to the school's future success and its students. Gerry has been a nuclear engineer, a computer engineer, and a financial markets professional outside of ACS. He is on the advisory board of Greenhouse Scholars, the due diligence committee of Irish Angels (an angel investing group), and a member of the Village of Hinsdale Plan Commission. His recreational pursuits include cooking and mountain biking.



Admission Tour



*Schedule a
Virtual Tour today!*

*Contact the
Admission Office at
admission@averycoonley.org
or visit
averycoonley.org/admission.*



The Avery Coonley School offers a dynamic and diverse learning environment for academically bright and gifted children in Preschool through 8th Grade.

Learn more about how the accelerated and enriched, hands-on curriculum meets the academic, social, and emotional needs of gifted children!



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Then & Now

