

A photograph of several acoustic guitars hanging on a wall. The guitars are arranged in two rows. The top row features two blue guitars. The bottom row includes a mix of blue and natural wood finish guitars. Some guitars have a small 'E' logo on the body. The background is a light-colored, horizontally-slatted wall.

The Avery Coonley School

Magazine

Spring 2019

*One Journey Ends,
Another Begins*

The Avery Coonley School

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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: This new display wall in the renovated Music Room showcases the school's guitar collection for student use and was completed during Phase 3 of the Journey Forward Together campaign.

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Dear
Readers,

Welcome to another issue of *The Avery Coonley School Magazine*. While the weather is still unpredictable, the days are slowly, but surely, getting longer. Earlier this spring, the sap started running through the maple trees, ready for our Second Group students to tap and boil into syrup to share with the school community, just as they've been doing since the earliest days of ACS. Maple tree tapping is still one of my fondest memories as an ACS alumna. It was exciting to go out to the trees each day and check our buckets to see how full they'd gotten, and to watch the amount of sap we were collecting grow bigger each collection time. It was also an exercise in patience – sometimes the sap ran slowly after a cold snap and our buckets weren't as full as we'd hoped, and the process of boiling all of that sap down into syrup seemed to take forever. But the results were always well-worth the wait: a delicious treat we had helped to create ourselves, not just for our own enjoyment, but for the enjoyment of others and enriching our community through our efforts.

I can't think of a better metaphor for what the ACS experience is like than this. Our experiences and efforts at ACS are fueled by both our drive to learn and grow, and by our hope that what we attempt and accomplish will benefit everyone, not just ourselves. This ethic was a foundation for the *Journey Together Forward* campaign, which helped make possible a number of major renovations to the School's original 1929 building, thus ensuring that ACS will continue to serve students' needs well into the future. It is the foundation of the approach ACS has refined in the development of our Strategic Plan, which balances the need to strengthen the elements that have made ACS a leader in progressive education for gifted students, while looking ahead to how ACS can evolve to meet and succeed at future challenges. All of these things rely on the considerable passion and belief our community has for the School's mission and success, and if there's anything I've learned from my time as an ACS student, and have seen reinforced over and over again as an alumna and now staff member, it's that ACS is at its best when we work together to achieve any goal. Because we know that our success isn't just for ourselves, it's to help ensure a bright future of endless possibility for the School community.



Michi Trota '92

Associate Director of Communications and Marketing

Welcome from the Head of School

Dear Friends,



For the past five years I have had the honor and pleasure to serve as Head of The Avery Coonley School. During this period the ACS community has collectively made great contributions to the financial health of the institution. Our yearly Annual Fund and School Auction have continued to raise almost a half-million dollars a year in support of our operating budget, we have doubled our financial aid budget, and, as Board Chair Amy Louis states in her message, we have recently completed a major capital campaign that has renovated virtually all of the classrooms in our 1929 historic campus buildings. Our academic program continues to thrive as ACS students routinely matriculate to the most selective high schools and colleges across the country, and ACS graduates find success in careers ranging from Silicon Valley to Global Diplomacy. The ACS mission to provide the very best education for gifted students remains our focus and commitment, and because of the generous support of our alumni, parents, former parents, Trustees, faculty, and staff, we are able to maintain excellence in our program, students, teachers, and facilities.

What does “excellence” look like? Some examples include our new ACS Makerspace program and partnership with TinkRworks, a well-known leader in the Makerspace world; a new Middle School Debate team—one of the only independent middle school teams in Illinois; continued successes in science fairs, math competitions, chess tournaments, state student council representatives, athletic championships, and even poetry and writing competitions. Our Lower School Physical Education Department was awarded Blue Ribbon School Status in 2017, one of our teachers was named Illinois Teacher of the Year in physical education, and our faculty routinely present at school conferences and workshops throughout the Midwest and nationally. These are but a few examples of what is happening on Maple Avenue! As you know, we recently announced the launch of our brand new Strategic Plan 2018, which will help strengthen our already excellent school, and give us a road map for ensuring our students receive the best 21st century education possible. We look forward to continuing to partner with the greater ACS family—our alums, parents, former parents, and friends of ACS, to keep ACS at the forefront of elementary and middle school education for gifted students. On behalf of the ACS faculty, staff, and students, I thank you for your dedication and generosity to The Avery Coonley School. I think Queene Ferry Coonley would be very proud of where her school stands today.

Sincerely,

Paul Druzinsky, Head of School

The Story of Our Journey Forward Together

by Carolyn Johnson, Director of Development

*Carolyn has been
Director of Development
since 2015.*

The buildings and grounds have always been an integral part of the Avery Coonley School experience. Our founder Queene Ferry Coonley once wrote “We have now gone far enough in this more creative education to be quite definitely planning school settings...” These words reinforce the belief that the physical setting is an active partner in our educational process.

Our original building, completed in 1929, served the needs of the school for a half a century. In 1979, a fine arts wing was added; in 1993 the Performing Arts Center, Mochel Commons, and gymnasium were constructed; and in 2006, the school opened its new Middle School wing. The first building and subsequent additions were designed to meet the present and future school needs of the students. Each supported and enhanced the mission of the school. They were all carefully planned to be functional, flexible, and beautiful.

In 2014, the school was poised to take the next step in our journey. *The Journey Forward Together* campaign was launched to provide a major renovation to the School’s original 1929 building. These renovations were designed to preserve our magnificent physical spaces, create new opportunities for ACS teachers and students, and solidify our learning environment for years to come. With the generous support from the ACS community, more than \$1.5 million was raised for this important capital campaign. These funds allowed the School to renovate the Library, Music, and Orchestra classrooms, French classrooms, and Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, and Fourth Group classrooms. We were incredibly pleased and thankful for the successful completion of this campaign, and are thrilled with the difference its made for our students.



What were our goals?

Funds raised by *The Journey Forward Together* campaign were intended to support and enhance the school's capability of creating a learning environment that would best serve gifted learners not just today, but in the future. Doing so required the implementation of several elements, working in concert to promote the best possible environment at ACS, including a healthier, eco-friendly decor more conducive to teaching and learning; multifunctional and adaptable common spaces for exploration, collaboration, innovation, and social gatherings; and the utilization of safe, age-appropriate furniture that was also easily reconfigured to serve multiple purposes.

The funds would also make improvements to infrastructure in the original building—including electrical, HVAC, and plumbing—possible. These updates, along with providing access to cutting-edge technology to support and enhance our curriculum, would increase efficiency of the school building and continue evolving the school into a more environmentally-conscious campus.

These goals for renovation were implemented in multiple phases from 2015 through 2018, with each phase proceeding once funding was secured.

The Evolution of the ACS Campus



1928

Queene Ferry Coonley purchases 10+ acres of land on Maple Avenue in Downers Grove and hires her son-in-law Waldron Faulkner and noted landscape architect Jens Jensen to design a campus ideally suited for progressive education. The Avery Coonley School opens on September 30, 1929 for more than 100 students.

1961

A swimming pool is added to the ACS grounds, greatly enhancing the facilities for the newly inaugurated Summer Program.

1970

The Third Group learning spaces are added as part of an ongoing focus on innovative classroom design. The ACS mission is evolving toward gifted education, and the School serves about 200 students.

1979

A new Art and Music wing is added to the east side of the Cloister. The arts continue to play a key role in the now fully formulated gifted curriculum. The new wing also enables ACS to begin the Early Childhood program.

One Journey Ends, Another Begins

Phase I: Completed 2015

The first phase of renovations was completed in the summer of 2015, and included updates to the library, as well as Second, Third, and Fourth Group classrooms. Three breakout session rooms for smaller groups and a larger conference room were added to the library. Improvements made to classrooms include new cooling, electrical, and plumbing systems, as well as modern, easily re-configured furniture, and interactive touch screens. Technology updates were also made to middle school classrooms during this phase. The new furniture, technology, and learning environments have had a positive impact on our students. Funding for this phase of renovations was made possible from proceeds generated by a successful bond refinancing and donations in the silent phase of the campaign.

Phase II: Completed 2016

After entering the public phase of the campaign, the ACS community generously supported funding for Phase II, securing over \$1.5 million. This outpouring of financial support made possible upgrades to the south wing of the 1929 building, which were completed during summer 2016. Important renovations were made to First Group and Kindergarten classrooms. Despite elevated costs for trades and materials for the projects, the School was committed to remaining fiscally responsible and only moving forward as funds were raised. The school adjusted renovation plans and moved into the final phase focused on the east wing of the original building.



1993

A major building addition adds the Mochel Commons, gymnasium, and Performing Arts Center, and the former gym is transformed into a library and administrative offices. With the additional space, class sizes are increased to 32 students per Group, for a total of 370+ students.



2006

Nine new classrooms, including two state-of-the-art science labs, are added as part of the Middle School addition. The extra space allows Junior Kindergarten to move into their own classrooms and enables Kindergarten to become a full-day program.



2014-2018

ACS focuses once again on the original 1929 building, making much-needed infrastructure improvements, increasing flexibility and opportunities for small- and large-group collaboration, and ensuring that classroom technology meets the needs of current and future generations. The renovations are designed to highlight and enhance the charm and unique character of the building.



Phase III (Final): Complete in 2018

The final phase of renovations and upgrades was focused on the east wing of the original building (including the French, music, and orchestra classrooms). Significant changes were made in the music and orchestra spaces to increase the size of the orchestra room, allowing for more flexible use of the classroom. Custom cabinetry for instruments was also installed in the music classroom, and a special display feature wall was built to highlight the ACS guitar collection.

In addition, conceptual planning began for the design and construction of a Makerspace, which would act as a lab for innovative thinking and experiential, hands-on learning. A fortuitous opportunity was presented in 2017, and in January 2018 ACS formalized a partnership with TinkRworks and the new ACS Makerspace made its debut.* The Makerspace would occupy space in the lower level of the west wing of the original building; to accommodate these plans, the drama classroom was relocated to a larger space in the former multi-purpose room on the lower level of the east wing.

In 2017, the ACS barn was the Auction Fund-A-Need project, and \$27,400 was raised for this initiative. A group of parents, students, and staff gathered in July 2017 for a Family Day of Service to work on the barn, echoing the hands-on learning experience students had in the 1930s building the barn themselves. A portion of the barn was completely renovated – including supports for roof and walls, drywall, electrical, new paint, custom windows and doors, flooring – with concrete work generously donated by William Hach and Associates. This space later became a secondary Makerspace location, perfectly suited for tools and equipment that create significant dust and debris.



Alumni Reception

Leslie Hindman '68 hosted an Alumni Reception in her home in Chicago on May 3, 2017. The event included a presentation for alumni about the Journey Forward Together campaign and renovations, and was attended by more than 25 alumni and Trustees.

Special thanks to Leslie for hosting the event, and to Leslie, Chip Fry '67, and Chip Mottier '70 for reaching out to their fellow alumni about the event.



(top, from left to right): ACS Head of School Paul Druzinsky, Leslie Hindman '68, Michael Reiss '69, Kevin Peterson '69

(center) ACS alumni, Board of Trustees members, and staff attendees at the home of alumna Leslie Hindman '68

(bottom, from left to right): RJ Lopez '95, Emily Hallaren Gabriel '97, Maithili Jha '97, ACS Trustee John Grube

One Journey Ends, Another Begins

The following year, an additional \$50,000 was raised in support of the Makerspace during the 2018 Auction as that year's Fund-A-Need project. Donations were used to purchase equipment and supplies for the makerspace including 3D printers, laser cutter, CNC milling machine, and other 21st century toolsets.

Future Plans

As with any project, our aspirations were expansive and far-reaching, but unforeseen circumstances presented additional challenges. Some projects required refocusing and prioritization of spaces and updates that would serve the most immediate needs of our students, faculty, and staff.

The original goal was to update other spaces in the original building, including the Old Library, Lower School science labs, administrative spaces, and the art room. We still hope for a future opportunity to benefit these spaces, especially the art room. While it currently meets the students' needs, significant remodeling to allow for a hallway connecting to other common areas - removing the need to go through the art room to access those areas - is still a laudable goal.

While we have not yet been able to address these needs, the adjustments to our original plans continue to provide inspiration for future projects as we continue care for our beautiful and historic campus in innovative ways.



Summary

We are proud of the exciting renovations and expansions achieved during this campaign. We've already seen what a difference the improvements are making for our students. We're even more proud and grateful of how our ACS community - parents, alumni families, faculty, staff, Board members, grandparents, business partners, and other friends - came together in myriad ways to support these ambitious and extensive projects. The successful implementation of the *Journey Forward Together* campaign is a wonderful example of what is possible thanks to the enthusiasm, commitment, and financial support of our greater ACS family. Thank you to the many generous donors listed in the Report of Giving to The Avery Coonley School (pages 41-44) who made this Journey Forward possible.

**Editor's Note: for more about TinkRworks, please see the interview with the company's co-founder, Anu Mahajan, which appears in this issue.*



above: Brand new Learning Spaces based on the original designs were installed as part of the renovations for Third Group's classrooms.

below: The Kindergarten rooms still maintain their original charm while also integrating more modern furniture suitable for multiple uses.



*Dr. Mahajan working with students
on robotics in the Makerspace*

Creating Solutions *in the* ACS Makerspace

*An interview with TinkRworks Co-Founder,
Dr. Anu Mahajan*

by Michi Trota

Dr. Anu Mahajan is the co-founder and CEO of TinkRworks, an organization focused on providing exceptional and enriching STEAM programs for our children that allow them to reinforce and augment foundational concepts taught by our wonderful and dedicated school teachers. Academically, Dr. Mahajan has a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and an M.B.A.

In 2018, the School formalized a partnership with TinkRworks, an organization based in Hinsdale that provides Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) programming for young learners. Instructors from TinkRworks collaborate with ACS teachers and assist ACS students from all Groups during the week on various projects. TinkRworks co-founder, Dr. Anu Mahajan, spoke with ACS about the organization's approach to STEAM, why it's an essential part of students' education, and what makes TinkRworks's partnership with ACS so special.

Why do you think schools are starting to embrace Makerspaces as part of students' education?

I think this all starts with high-level trends that are impacting Corporate America which then trickle down and impact our educational system. With the advent of advanced technologies and the implementation of automation within key parts of the workforce, capabilities that employers are seeking today are inherently different from years past. Employers today are seeking candidates who have both a solid understanding of topical subject areas as well as those that excel in critical-thinking and problem-solving capabilities. Excellence in problem-solving typically involves looking at problems, developing hypotheses which are testable, putting a plan together to test these hypotheses, trying things out, failing, learning, re-jiggering the hypotheses, and then trying again. Looking at our traditional school system, emphasis has been placed on the planning side of things and not so much on the application or execution side, especially in regard to failing and then re-directing the hypotheses in response. I think that schools are now seeing the importance of incorporating an environment within the school—namely a Makerspace—where students can actively engage in the execution side of the approach, which ultimately completes the cycle. Thus, I see the Makerspace becoming more and more integrated within schools and within curriculum.



Students get to work collaboratively or individually on projects in the Makerspace under the guidance of Dr. Mahajan or one of TinkRworks' excellent staff.

What inspired you to begin TinkRworks?

This one is actually a direct result of a conversation that I had with my then eight-year old son. I asked him about his favorite subjects in school and he said that math was his least favorite, even though he was doing quite well in it. When I probed further about the reasons why, he said because he didn't know how he would use what he was learning at the time. When I heard this, I suggested to him that he and I design a video game together to showcase how some of the key elements of math he was learning at the time (distances and angles) could be used. He loved the idea and asked me if it was all right if his friends also joined us. I asked him, "You think that they would like it too?" He let me know that they would love it! So, we actually got a small group of children together (my children and the children of TinkRworks' co-founder, Gil Levendel) and we ran a robotics project out of our houses. The kids loved it and we then decided to do a broader trial and run projects out of community houses on Sundays. These sessions did very well and parents started asking for more and suggested that we really start a business around teaching children how to apply their learnings, the output of which is now TinkRworks. Funny how it goes—it all stemmed for a simple conversation I had with my son. So, it was always his idea—never mine.



How does a Makerspace fit into the environment and curriculum at ACS?

I think that the Makerspace fits into ACS across a couple of different dimensions. First off, I think that the Makerspace should serve as an environment where students are allowed to apply what they learn within their classes, thereby deepening the impact of the curricular learnings and also improving retention. I feel very fortunate that ACS has allowed TinkRworks the chance to work directly with educators to co-create projects that align to ACS curriculum. In this way, the Makerspace supports ACS teachings. This is different from other environments I have seen where people set up a Makerspace and then try to force-fit Makerspace elements into the day. In the case of ACS, tremendous thought has been placed on how to utilize the Makerspace environment to support, supplement, and complement teachings, which represents a holistic approach of high value, at least in my opinion.

Makerspaces are often associated with STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) subjects, but how can a Makerspace impact students' experiences in other subject areas?

I think that this is really a great question as so many people link Makerspaces to math and science. I view a Makerspace as something entirely different. My definition of a Makerspace has nothing to do with technology, or engineering, or math or science. Instead, my definition of a Makerspace is an environment where students are allowed to bring their ideas to life. To this extent, a Makerspace can be used to bring a story to life, create a novel musical instrument, make a beautiful hand-cut butcher-block cutting board into reality, or even make T-shirts with beautiful lights and sounds that get triggered when the wearer is near their friends, to name just a few.

In all these cases, the focus is on the transformation of an idea into practice, which is what I see as the primary function of the Makerspace. Naturally, in bringing these ideas to life, there are numerous capabilities brought out across a wide swath of subjects which our outside of the traditional math and science. On a personal note, the applications I personally enjoy most are those involving arts, literature, music, and social studies. And this comes from a hardcore electrical engineer, which is my background.

Play and hands-on creative activities can have an impact on students' abilities to identify and solve problems. How do you encourage students to do this through Makerspace activities?

I totally agree on this notion, i.e., play and hands-on creative activities are essential in the identification and problem-solving process. As Makerspace projects unfold and students select the solution path they wish to pursue to solve the problem at hand, the first step they pursue is the design of their solution. It is through this design phase where individualism and customization really shines. In this way, students are typically allowed to create elegant solutions which are not only functionally sound but also aesthetically beautiful. As students work on Makerspace projects, we always emphasize to them that they should express themselves in the design. As time progresses, students become more and more passionate about the projects as ultimately, they realize their solutions are natural extensions of themselves. Thus, it's through design and customization that students have the opportunity to do a bit of play and personalization which ultimately results in beautiful solutions. After all, it's never good enough to just solve a problem—it's all about solving them in beautiful ways, which is what we try to emphasize to the students in the Makerspace.

What are some of the most surprising projects and ideas you've seen students create in the ACS Makerspace?

Not surprisingly, we have seen quite a few fantastic ideas that have transformed into reality within the Makerspace. In one case, we had a student design a Rubik's cube completely from scratch, 3D print it, and then assemble it into a fully functional cube. In doing so, the student went to extreme levels of intricacy within CAD (computer-aided design) to the point where when he showed it to me, I let him know that he's not allowed to copy stuff from the web. He said, "But Mr. Anu—I designed this myself." I doubted him and asked me to show me his design. When I saw it and after he walked me through it, my jaw was literally on the ground as the level of detail in the design were simply incredible. He spent weeks on the design, fabrication (3D printing), and assembly, and the beauty of it all was that it worked and worked well!

I also had students who wanted to design and fabricate gears that meshed together to change the speed of something they were trying to drive with a motor. The notion of designing gears is actually quite daunting as there are full books written, all steeped in mathematics, around gear design. However, two ACS students spent time making their way through the mathematics to develop drawings with carefully-calculated dimensions. After laying their designs out in CAD, they went ahead and used the laser cutter to fabricate these gears out of wood. We then worked with them to integrate motors and axles along with them and voila—their gear system worked! Similar to the experience above, I was really floored as I was not expecting it.

There are indeed a number of projects students have undertaken at ACS that stick out in my mind and I could go on and on, and if you give me the time, I'm happy to do so!

How do you see students' use of Makerspaces evolving as part of a regular school curriculum?

My feeling here is that if integrated properly, the role of the Makerspace as part of a school's curriculum will continue to grow in importance and will become a fundamental element of a school's curriculum. The large assumption in this sentence is the "integrated properly" part as I've had the chance to talk to a variety of different parties on Makerspace design, development, set-up, and usage. What I find fascinating is that people are approaching things in radically different ways. In one extreme, you have parties that are being pressured to build leading-edge Makerspaces with high-end toolsets who openly say that they're not sure what they'll do with things once the space is set up. In other cases, I've spoken with a variety of parties who have said that they don't want to fall behind in this movement so they're setting up Makerspaces and once set up, they'll let the kids figure out what to do with it. In these cases, the toolsets are what the focus is within the Makerspace, which I think is not a pathway towards proper integration with curriculum.

Instead, I like to attack the problem from the end-goal and then work backwards. Specifically, I believe that we should start with the notion of allowing students an opportunity to apply what they learn when they learn it to reinforce and augment learnings. If we start with this approach, we then need to take a look at the educational curriculum to understand learning objectives and key activities and then design Makerspace projects that support these. Once these are done, then we need to identify the right person to engage with students and educators as these projects are undertaken, and ensure that this person—or facilitator—has the needed professional development to succeed.



Working backwards from there, we arrive at our last step to consider, namely which are the toolsets to get to support the facilitator, the projects, and ultimately the educational curriculum. Thus, I feel that the toolsets are actually the last thing that should be considered and not the first. To me, this is what I mean when I say "integrated properly." And, I think that if this approach is followed, then we're in for quite a transformation of our educational system—one where we see the physical and curricular integration of Makerspaces into the educational setting.

What do you hope students and faculty take away from their experiences in the ACS Makerspace?

I really just have one hope/wish in regards to takeaways from the ACS Makerspace and that is simple: I hope that both students as well as faculty and members of the ACS community view the ACS Makerspace as a place where students are empowered to transform their ideas into reality. That's really what it all boils down to for me.

ACS Strategic Plan

In the Fall of 2018, The Avery Coonley School Board of Trustees approved the ACS 2018 Strategic Plan, which will serve as the primary driver of our efforts as a school community for the next five to seven years and help us in building a secure future for the School. ACS has been a model of excellence for over 100 years, and our Strategic Plan will ensure that ACS will continue to be the best possible choice for gifted children.

The Strategic Plan is the result of efforts undertaken during the 2017-2018 academic year to create an in-depth strategic planning initiative. This initiative follows the best practices of leading independent schools to periodically conduct broad, deep, community-wide analyses. In doing so, this effort allowed us to create a renewed road map for the future of our beloved school, so that ACS is best positioned to meet the needs of our students, both in the present and in the future.

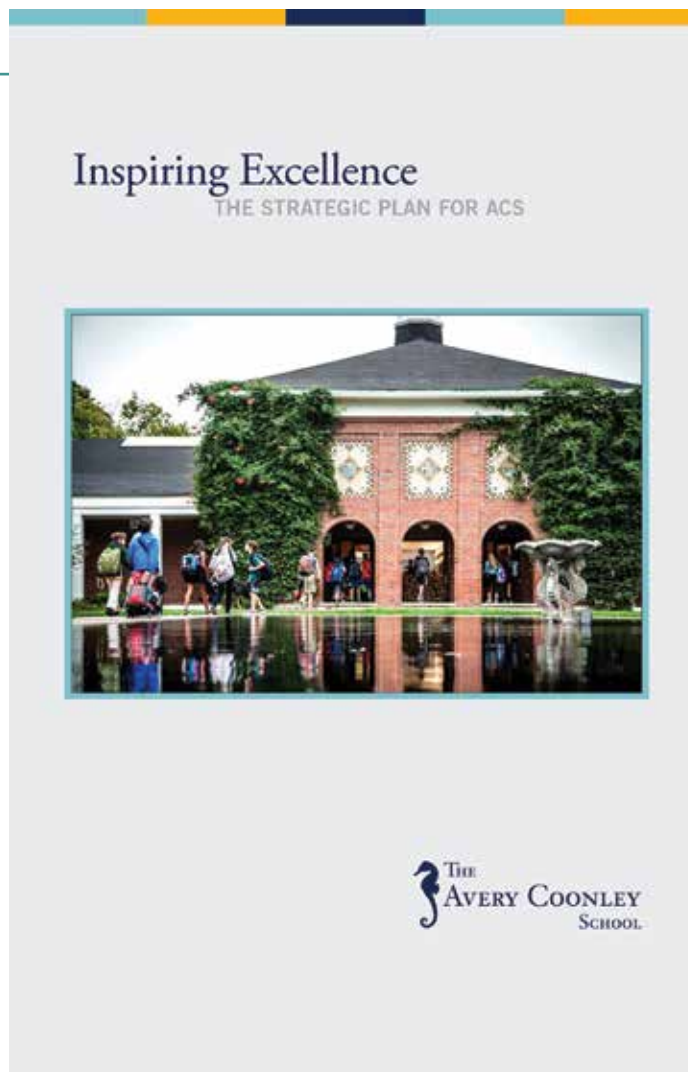
The voices of our stakeholders – parents, teachers, staff, alumni, students, Trustees, and friends of ACS – played a significant role in the planning process. ACS also partnered with Ian Symmonds & Associates (ISA), one of the premier school consultants in the country. The finalized strategic plan is rooted in four distinct goals:

- ♦ Deepen our commitment to our gifted mission and program.
- ♦ Strengthen our identity as a diverse, inclusive, and multicultural school community.
- ♦ Expand our platform of programs, partnership, and expertise.
- ♦ Enhance our long term stability.

We're excited for the future of ACS and how this strategic plan will enhance our School's viability and longevity as a leading independent school and provider of education for gifted children. We're grateful to the many members of our community who shared their insights and knowledge through constituent surveys, and by serving as members of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, participating in Work Groups, and supporting the School throughout the process.

Strategic plans are invigorating, mission-driven initiatives that bring school communities together. ACS has been an example of excellence for over 100 years, and with the support of our extended community, this strategic plan will serve as a guide as our school continues its long tradition of excellence in gifted education for many years to come. We look forward to sharing further details on this important plan as its implementation continues.

A webinar presentation by Paul Druzinsky, Head of School, and Amy Louis, Chair of the Board of Trustees, that reviews the goals and initiatives of the plan can be viewed on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/QxZA3eSS-m1Y>. A PDF of the strategic plan brochure can also be viewed on the ACS website.





What's Next?

Design Thursdays

Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, ACS will continue to further its legacy of innovation in gifted education by implementing a new and exciting schedule that will expand opportunities for learning and growth for both our students and faculty.

In the new school year, Thursday afternoons will become dedicated time for an unique curriculum and collaboration. At that time, students and faculty will move from their traditional day at 1:30 p.m. in order to begin their specially focused lessons. The schedule is based upon two key elements:

- ♦ Grade-level specific courses that complement our existing curricular programs.
- ♦ Faculty development through consistent and regular collaboration.

These courses will all take place on-site and utilize the skills, knowledge, and expertise of carefully chosen educational partners. Lower school students might work with partners such as the Dupage Children's Museum and TinkRworks for more hands-on learning. Middle school students might have opportunities to delve into projects focused on areas such as journalism and ethics, under the guidance of expert educators. Group 8 students might pursue a project to coalesce their passions and expertise gained during their time at ACS.

Simultaneously, faculty will have the space and opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues and experts to focus on inter-departmental and cross-curricular collaboration, meaningful professional development, and curriculum review, re-design, and implementation. For example, our teachers are in their cycle of reviewing and aligning our K-8 science curriculum with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Additionally, science teachers can work together to research, review, and implementation of curriculum on a consistent basis without being absent from their classrooms. Our counselors could also use this time to train the faculty on the latest research-based social-emotional curriculum to meets our students' needs.

The implementation of Design Thursdays reflects several elements of our new strategic plan. In particular, this addition to the regular ACS curriculum will help us meet our goals to "create an innovative, comprehensive program" for the benefit of the entire school community, as well as create "happy, lifelong learners." We're excited to begin this new phase of innovative, collaborative, and creative education at ACS!



Around Campus



Fun Run

The sun was shining down on ACS for our annual Family Fun Run held in September! Over 400 students and families enjoyed the run, the food, and many fun activities. The dunk tank and splash stations once again proved to be extremely popular over the past two years, where children got a chance to dunk some of their favorite teachers and administrators, including Mr. Druzinsky. Many thanks to our sponsors and to the Home and School Association and Student Council for making this ACS favorite such a huge success!

Grandfriends' Day

Each year, we welcome hundreds of grandparents and special friends to Grandfriends' Day at Avery Coonley. There is nothing more endearing than seeing our students' unbridled excitement as they share with their Grandfriends a glimpse of what Avery Coonley offers them each and every day. We hope our special visitors leave with a sense of the spirit of academic excellence, innovative curiosity, and welcoming community that make The Avery Coonley School a wonderful learning environment for our talented students.



Logan Biel and his grandfather John Conners were one of many students and grandfriends who got to spend the day together.

Barn Renovation

The renovation of the barn, one of the great historic buildings on the Avery Coonley campus, was featured as the 2017 Auction Fund-a-Need. This exciting project offered a unique chance to connect with our past in a tangible, meaningful way. The old barn was the epitome of "hands-on learning" in the 1930s. Students constructed the barn and cared for the farm animals in this center of activity. Eighty-plus years later, the historic barn still sits on the beautiful grounds of campus, but its beauty and purpose had faded.

The ACS community contributed \$27,400 to renovate and restore the area around the barn as well as the interior space. With the funds in hand, members of the community then gathered to "dream big" and exchange ideas on how the newly renovated space could be used to enhance the student experience. With plans to transform the barn into a flexible outdoor learning environment, the community then rallied again to bring it to life!

On July 29, 2017, a small but mighty group of school families and staff volunteered at ACS for a "Family Day of Service" to assist in the renovation efforts. Students, parents, and staff worked together on a hot summer day to address the structural needs of the barn, including electrical work, insulation, flooring, and painting. With continued work on the space by our dedicated maintenance team, the barn was ready for use for the 2017-2018 school year. As the year progressed, the newly renovated space became an outdoor classroom for the Makerspace.

Thank you to the donors and volunteers that helped with this historic project!



(left, top) ACS students, and families and alumni repainting the barn

(left, bottom) The barn was originally built by students in the 1930s.

(right, top and center) ACS students were excited to share their costumes and didn't mind the slightly chilly weather on Halloween.

(right, bottom) Eighth Group students took their Kindergarten buddies to the Book Fair during the day.



Halloween

Halloween at The Avery Coonley School is always extra special. Between the Halloween parade, class parties, the Middle School dance and the annual performance of the "Monster Mash", the day is just full of fun.

Fall Fest

Students had a great time with parents and teachers at the ACS Fall Fest. A huge thank you to the ACS Home & School Association and all the volunteers for the hard work that went into organizing continually successful and memorable Book Fairs and Fall Fest events.

Around Campus



Thanksgiving

Our Thanksgiving Program continued its nearly 90-year-long history as one of the School's most meaningful traditions. Once again, our ACS community gathered donations of fresh fruit and vegetables for the needy, celebrating our gratitude for what we've been given, and sharing our gifts with others. Students came together to create a cornucopia of food offerings and sang songs of gratitude while their families looked on. We're so grateful for every student and family who has shared in the experience of our Thanksgiving program over the years!

(left, top) Students once again contributed colorful fruits and vegetables to the Thanksgiving program.

(right, top) A new generation began the Thanksgiving program with the traditional offerings of wheat and bread.

(right, center) The maypole dance continues to be a favorite Spring Fair tradition.

(right, bottom) Students worked really hard on their coordinated dance with hoops for Spring Fair.



Spring Fair

Spring Fair is one of the most joyous of ACS traditions. From honoring the faculty and staff to the dances each class prepares for the festivities, Spring Fair is nothing if not fun! Our youngest students dance and entertain the crowd, ending as always with the annual Maypole dance.



Alumni Council Members

Shilpa Gokhale '94,
Alumni Council President

Jessica Bollow '05

Anathea Carrigan '18

Matt Cook '05

Ginny Corrinet, Retired Faculty

Nancy Doris '91

Madelyn Flynn '16

Shannon Horn '04

Patricia Huebner, Honorary Trustee

Maria Kerhulas, Retired Faculty

Dawn Lawler '82

Anna Lenhardt, Middle School Head

R.J. Lopez '95

Carissa Means '89

Shilpa Rupani '99

Angela Solis '04

Brittany Thompson '01

Michi Trota '92, Associate Director of
Communications and Marketing

Barbara Cosentino, Associate Director of
Alumni and Community Relations

Why Should Alumni Be Involved with ACS?

by Shilpa Gokhale '94

Almost 25 years after I graduated from ACS, I found myself walking through the doors of The Avery Coonley School to meet with members of the Class of 2013. When I told people what I was doing that evening, no one could believe that I was going back to my elementary school to meet with other alums and recent graduates, but that is what going to Avery Coonley does to you.

If you asked me when I graduated in 1994 if I would still be involved with the school when I was a "grown up", you would have gotten a look that wouldn't have been encouraging. But as each year passes, I am more grateful for the time I spent at ACS and the lessons and values that I learned and carry with me every day.

When I think back on my time at ACS, there are so many memories to reflect on – Thanksgiving Program, Spring Fair, tapping maple trees, learning "spaces" in 3rd Group... the list goes on and on. While the academic excellent ACS prides itself on is a given, ACS gave me much more than a step up in academics; it taught me how to be a better person and how to carry myself going forward. This is why I am involved with Avery Coonley.

The value of relationships was nurtured at ACS and has stayed with me – Mrs. Lenhardt was a key part of my life when I was at ACS and has continued to be someone I've gone to for advice and encouragement. Not many people can say they stayed in touch with their fifth grade teacher 25 years later, and I think it feels nothing but normal for me to be able to reach out Mrs. Lenhardt (or the school) if I ever need something.

I'm proud to serve on the Alumni Council as President and help the school think about how best to continue to move onward and upward with its alums. I look forward to continuing my work with the Council and the ACS alumni community to help us all continue "onward, upward, and beyond."



Shilpa Gokhale '94

Alumni News

Classes of 2017 and 2018

Congratulations and best wishes to our newest ACS alumni – the Classes of 2017 and 2018! Members of these classes are attending the following high schools:

Class of 2017

Culver Academy (IN)
Deerfield Academy (MA)
Downers Grove North High School
Downers Grove South High School
Fenwick High School
Glenbard West High School
Hinsdale Central High School
Lakeside School (WA)
Lockport High School
Naperville Central High School
Naperville North High School
Peddie School (NJ)
Phillips Academy Andover (MA)
Phillips Exeter Academy (NH)
St. Andrew's School (DE)
St. Francis High School
St. Ignatius College Prep
University of Chicago Laboratory School
Wheaton North High School

Class of 2018

Benet Academy
Coal City High School
Downers Grove North High School
Fenwick High School
Glenbard West High School
Hinsdale Central High School
Hotchkiss School (CT)
Lake Park High School
Naperville Central High School
Naperville North High School
Phillips Exeter Academy (NH)
St. Ignatius College Prep
University of Chicago Laboratory School
Wheaton North High School



The Class of 2017



The Class of 2018



The Class of 2013

Classes of 2013 and 2014

Congratulations to the ACS Classes of 2013 and 2014 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 2013

*Boston University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Clemson University
Dartmouth College
Duke University
Georgetown University
Northwestern University
Nova Southeastern University
Oberlin College
Princeton University
United States Military Academy
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Michigan
University of Pennsylvania
Vanderbilt University
Yale University*

Class of 2014

*Arizona State University
Bowdoin College
Brown University
Case Western University
Cornell University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Howard University
Indiana University
Loyola University Chicago
New York University
Northwestern University
Pace University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rice University
Stanford University*



The Class of 2014

*Tufts University
University of Alabama - Huntsville
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Missouri - Kansas City
University of Pennsylvania
University of Southern California
Yale University*

Alumni News

Why do I return?

To be part of the Avery Coonley Community is a special privilege, one that I remember and cherish with fond memories. Catching up with my dear friends, beloved teachers and friendly staff reminds me that I am still part of this Avery family.

Most importantly, I come back to help the community that developed and prepared my son, Marc, to become a conscientious world learner embarking on the next phase of his academic journey at Northwestern University.

How can I not return?

Eli Cordero, mother of Marc '14



(left to right) ACS Parents William and Farah Turk (parents of Alex '17 and Christian '19) with Eli Cordero (mother of Marc '14).



Arsalan and Anna

Arsalan Iftikhar '91 (above) returned to ACS in September 2017 to share his experiences with Islamophobia and to discuss the importance of supporting Muslims in our communities in a post-9/11 world. During the day, he met with students to talk about his time as an ACS student and answer their questions. In the evening, he gave a presentation to the ACS and local community, and moderated an engaged discussion with audience members about recognizing Islamophobia and creating welcoming communities. He was also invited to serve on the national advisory board for the John C. Danforth Center on Religion & Politics at his alma mater Washington University in St. Louis. Arsalan is an international human rights lawyer, published author, and frequent news show pundit.



Emma Wilson '13, R.J. Lopez '95, and Carissa Means '89 at the gathering.

ACS alumni gathered together at the Alter Brewing Company in October 2017 to reconnect, make new friends and remember good times. Thanks for coming out, seahorses!

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you that Sloane (Stephen) Sullivan, Class of 2009, passed away. Sloane was the beloved daughter of Robert and Susan Sullivan, as well as a treasured friend by many. The Class of 2009 gathered together on December 30, 2017 to honor Sloane's memory at The Avery Coonley School. Donations in Sloane's name can be made to Center on Halsted.

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 email information to development@averycoonley.org or share a note in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. We look forward to hearing from you... thanks!



Matthew Ludington '81 with the family of the French exchange student he met while at ACS.

1981

Lara Druyan sent the following message to the ACS family: "Having never shared any updates in this forum, I won't try to cover the 37 years that have passed since graduating from ACS. I live and work in the San Francisco Bay Area and have done so for more than 20 years. I've spent most of my career in technology (big companies and start-ups) and venture capital. I head innovation on the West Coast for the Royal Bank of Canada, a role in which I work across the Bank to help modernize a 150 year old financial institution! My twins are 11, and my daughter is about to start middle school at the ACS of the Bay Area (Nueva). I recently joined the University of Chicago's Global Alumni Board. So, I will be in Chicago more often than in the past. It has been great to reconnect with ACS friends on Facebook in recent years."



Lara Druyan '81 with her husband, twin children, and their pet dog.

Matthew Ludington (above) recently shared that he still remains close friends with the exchange student that Madame Storm, the ACS French teacher for his class, connected him with. They both recently celebrated Stephan's 50th birthday in Avignon, France. In addition, their respective children have also had their own exchanges over the last 5 years. His daughter and Stephan's daughter are scheduled to both study in Bordeaux this May! Matthew states that this friendship "...never would have happened without ACS."

1982

Jay Chandrasekhar had a guest appearance on an episode of the hit sitcom Brooklyn Nine-Nine. Jay played himself as a celebrity spokesman for a company that turns out to be a pyramid scheme. Jay also appeared as a guest judge on the new hit Netflix show *Nailed It!* which is "a reality bake-off competition where three amateur bakers compete to replicate complicated cakes and confectionery, in order to win a \$10,000 cash prize." He was the guest judge on Episode 6, "In Your Face." Jay is also the director/star of the comedy film *Super Troopers 2*, which opened in April 2018.

1987

Claire Broido Johnson honored the Class of 2017 by speaking at their evening graduation ceremony. Claire is the President of CBJ Energy, an energy consulting firm headquartered in Baltimore, where she works with financiers, contractors and building owners to retrofit commercial buildings and installers. Claire lives in the Washington DC area and balances her dedication to environmental concerns with devotion to her family. She has two children (3 and 7) and a wonderful husband, and in her own words, she “loves mentoring people and traveling for fun.”

1990

Gabrielle Green took time out of her busy schedule to be the morning graduation speaker at the Class of 2017 commencement. Gabrielle works in the Washington, D.C. area as a trial attorney specializing in criminal defense and has tried over 80 cases over the course of her career.



Current ACS Parents John Blackburn and Board of Trustees member Nancy Doris '91 with their children Peter, Edward, and John (left to right).

1991

Jessica Glaser was serving as the Deputy Development Director at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York when she came to speak at the evening graduation for the Class of 2018. She recently took the role of Director of Patron Programs at the World Monuments Fund in New York.

Matthew Hornback was interviewed by *Markets Watch* about the inner workings of the US Treasury Department, the Fed, and bond markets.

Arsalan Iftikhar was invited to serve on the national advisory board for the John C. Danforth Center on Religion & Politics at his alma mater Washington University in St. Louis.

Carrie Openshaw was featured on the Secondhand Hounds social media pages for her work as their Volunteer Training Coordinator.

1992

Michi Trota is a Hugo Award winner for the third time! She is the managing editor for *Uncanny Magazine*, which won the Best Semiprozine Hugo Award at the 2018 Hugo Awards Ceremony, held at the 76th WorldCon hosted in San Jose, CA in August. Michi has two Hugos from *Uncanny's* previous wins, and is the first Filipina to have won the award in any category. The Hugo Awards are one of the oldest awards recognizing achievements in science fiction and fantasy. Michi also had her first comic published in *New Frontiers: The Many Worlds of George Takei*.



(left to right) Alumni Council President Shilpa Gokhale '94, R.J. Lopez '95, Carissa Means '89, and Shannon Horn '06 at the Young Alumni dinner

1995

Pavun Shetty is a producer in Hollywood, and has worked on such projects as *S.W.A.T.* and *New Girl*.

1996

Jonathan Lehe visited a few countries in Africa and Asia as part of his work as an independent consultant with several international development organizations. One of these organizations is Precision Agriculture for Development, a US-based non-profit that works with farmers to provide them with customized advice on their mobile phones to improve their yields and profitability. His work with them has focused on Ethiopia, Kenya, and India. Jonathan is also doing work with the World Bank on their Results in Education for All Children (REACH) team and the CDC Group, a private sector investment fund within the British government's Department for International Development (DFID).

1997

Charles Rohlf took a new position at the National Basketball Association as Senior Director of Basketball Technology and Products.

2000

Anne Stava-Murray ran for a local State Representative seat in Illinois in the November 2018 election and won her district. She now represents District 81 in the Illinois House of Representatives. Anne was also one of the many women running for office as first-time candidates whose pictures were featured on the cover of the January 29, 2018, Vol. 191, Issue 3 of *TIME* magazine.

2001

Brittany Thompson, a member of the ACS Alumni Council, met with 7th Group students during their visit to Washington DC in Spring 2018. Brittany gave a presentation called "Diplomacy, Foreign Service and the U.S. Department of State" to the group.

2002

Abi Johnson has completed her first year of business school at UCLA and is currently in DC for a summer internship with a consulting firm. She was also recently engaged.

2003

Conrad Tao, who attended ACS through 2003, recently made his Lincoln Center debut. He was also featured in a live *New York Time's* video playing the piano at Steinway & Sons to preview his debut.

2004

Michael Zevin visited campus in Spring 2017 to talk to Middle School science classes. He talked about his current project at Northwestern studying gravitational wave potential. He is working toward his doctorate, and served as the daytime graduation speaker for the Class of 2018.



(above) Alumni from the Class of 2007 found they could still fit into the Learning Spaces.

(below) Middle School Head Anna Lenhardt (second from left) with members of the Class of 2007 visiting the school.



Meredith (Staub) Fore '07 with Bryce Fore at their wedding.

2007

Meredith (Staub) Fore married Bryce Fore, her college best friend, in a ceremony on Cape Cod in Massachusetts, Sept. 8th 2017. They both received bachelor's degrees in physics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2015, and are both currently pursuing PhDs in theoretical physics at the University of Washington in Seattle. Bryce studies nuclear astrophysics, and Meredith studies molecular physics.

2008

Emily Temple-Wood was published in the September 2017 issue of *Scientific American*, which focused on issues of sex and gender in science & science history. In the article, Emily discussed her work chronicling the history of women in science, the harassment she's received because of it, and how that bullying has only fueled her determination to continue. She was also the alumni speaker at the 36th Annual ACS Auction in 2018.



Anna Zechel '10 in Guatemala to present to a client NGO, Highland Support Project, as part of the D2international (D2i) program.

2010

Anna Zechel was one of 12 Summer Scholars nationally selected from Deloitte's US intern class to participate in their prestigious D2international (D2i) program. Anna and the D2i team worked on a project to support socially impactful business practices culminating with a trip at the end of the summer to Guatemala to present to their client NGO, Highland Support Project.

2011

Maisie Bull released a new single "Grey to Me!" which can be purchased on iTunes.

2012

Mahesh Kumar is studying Neurobiology at Georgetown.

Harish Rajan is currently a Finance major at Wake Forest University.

Isabella Spinelli performed a violin recital at the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University. She performed two pieces: Ludwig van Beethoven's *Sonata No. 5 in F Major, Op. 24*, and Edouard Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole, Op. 21*. She was accompanied on the piano by Shirley Trissell. She also completed her first full symphony orchestra piece, submitted it to the Urbana Pops Symphony Orchestra Composition Contest, and won. The performance of her piece, "Elbrus: A Tone Poem," can be seen on The Urban Pops Youtube Channel. Isabella is currently a student at Northwestern University.



Members of the Class of 2013 gathered on campus for the Board of Trustee's Salute to the Class in honor of their high school graduations.

2013

Sonia Mistry debuted her "Arangetram" in 2017. This dance performance is the debut performance within the South Indian dance tradition Bharathanatyam, and it celebrated Sonia's mastery of this ancient art form.



Jacob Furlong '14 and Abigail Gupta '14 with other National Merit Scholars for 2017-2018.

2014

Jacob Furlong and **Abigail Gupta** both qualified as National Merit Scholars for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mikayla Gilles was a participant (along with her mom, Karen) on *Making a Model* with **Yolanda Hadid**, which aired on Lifetime.

Nicole Horio created a performance piece entitled "She Did It Her Way: Playwright Rachel Crothers Takes Broadway by Storm," which advanced to the finals for the 2018 Chicago Metro History Fair, sponsored by the Chicago History Museum.

Hunter Morris was Senior Class President at Carl Sandburg High School in Orland Park. Hunter is now attending University of Southern California Marshall School of Business. Hunter was also awarded a Presidential Scholarship from University of Southern California and was the recipient of the Andrew Corporation Scholarship locally.



Mikayla Gilles's '14 headshot from her appearance as a contestant on *Making a Model* with Yolanda Hadid.



2015

Dania Baig, Sohil Manek, and Mili Shah also had their projects advance to the finals for the 2018 Chicago Metro History Fair, sponsored by the Chicago History Museum. Dania's documentary is entitled *Thomas Dorsey, Father of Gospel Music*. Sohil collaborated on a documentary called *Laughter is the Best Medicine: Dick Gregory's Hilarious Fight for Civil Rights*. Mili wrote a paper on Ella Flagg Young, called "An Uphill Battle for the Nation's First Female Superintendent of Schools."

Dania's documentary, *Thomas Dorsey, Father of Gospel Music*, was also screened as part of a special showcase at the Smithsonian museum of African American history in June. She was invited to visit Senator Dick Durbin, and her article on the meaningful impact of spirituality on faith was published in *Muslim World Today*.



Rose Benas won 2nd place in the Maryknoll Magazine 2017 Student Essay Contest. The theme for the essay was "Recognizing Violence And Promoting Peace," referenced Pope Francis' call "to take a clear stand for creative and active nonviolence and against all forms of violence."

Rose also visited campus with Mili Shah, Ibrahim Ahmed '17 and Henry Davis '17 in March to chat with parents about their Secondary School experiences.

Ethan Harrast was selected for the varsity baseball team at Hinsdale Central.

Mili Shah placed 1st in State and 6th in the nation at the National French contest 2018 (Le Grand Concours).

(far left) Dania Baig '15 as pictured in her article on the meaningful impact of spirituality on faith.

(above) Class of 2016 alumni Maddie Flynn, Ethan Gould, Britta Vaughan, and Maya Goyal (left to right) after their induction into the French Honors Society at St. Ignatius.

(below) Head of School Paul Druzinsky (center) with alumni (left to right) Sarah Kim '15, Natalie Spitzer '15, Joshua Ravichandran '17, Sanaa Imami '17, Carly McClear '17, and Alek Malone '15.

2016

Congratulations to the Class of 2016 Alumni who were inducted as Sophomores in to the French Honor Society at St. Ignatius: Maddie Flynn, Ethan Gould, Maya Gould, and Britta Vaughan.

Catherine Ramsey performed in Berlin, Germany with the District 99 Orchestra. She was also selected as a finalist in the Mexico International Harp Competition and Festival. The competition is held every three years, where youth from around the world compete and are judged by prominent figures in the international harp field.



Several alumni returned to visit during the Thanksgiving program.

2017

Sanaa Imami was chosen to have her art exhibited at the "I'm Down For Whatever: The Teen Perspective" curated by the Teen Arts Council Arts+Public Life Education Program. The exhibition voices the perspective and outlook of teens from the Chicagoland area.

Grace Kurtz-Nelson visited campus with her French pen pal, Estelle. Grace and Estelle met two years ago during the ACS/Joseph Niel exchange.



ACS Parents Laura Heimburger (left), mother of Cullen '12 and Kyle '15, with Jackie Gupta (right), mother of Michael '12, Abby '14, and Jacob '20.

As to why I stay involved ...

It's like going home and seeing old friends and family!! I love the diversity of people I continue to meet and get to know!!

*Laura Heimburger, mother of
Cullen '12 and Kyle '15*

MOVED TO A
NEW PLACE?

NEW
CAREER?

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HEARING
ALUMNI
NEWS!

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MILESTONES?

GOT
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CLASS NOTES ARE CONSIDERED FOR
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BCOSENTINO@AVERYCOONLEY.ORG

*ACS Alumni
are always doing
interesting things and
making their mark
on the world.*

*Here is
..... Danila Kurganov '14's
story about moving
and studying abroad
in England.*



What made your family decide to move abroad?

My dad was given the chance to work in London for his firm, and as a family we decided to take this unique opportunity and live with him in London.

How is school in England different from school in the United States?

In the last two years of British High School students choose to study three subjects that they're really passionate about (although they can technically take as many subjects as they'd like), and these subjects are then taught at AP/college level for two years. As students are genuinely interested in their subjects (or at least don't dislike them), most of their extra time goes into learning their subjects deeply (what they're supposed to do at least). For this reason, it only takes three years at university to get a BA degree (as opposed to four in America).

Tell us all about your life – What are some favorite hobbies? Is there anything you really enjoy doing? Do you have any news about your family you would like to share?

Living in England is fantastic, I've met some of my closest and best friends here. In my free time I enjoy playing saxophone, guitar, and teaching myself how to code. Most of my time though is spent on helping younger years at my school; this includes helping them prepare for the UK Maths Challenge (British version of AMC), as well as running a STEM club where students are now working on making catapults. I enjoy seeing students get very passionate on something they previously thought was dull. My family is also quite happy living here, and my little brother is the first in the family to talk with a British accent!

Thinking back, what is one of your favorite memories from your time at ACS?

The thing that immediately pops into my head was making movies for Drama. Weeks of writing scripts, acting, and filming was a hard but enjoyable task. Everything seemed to work on paper, but when we tried to film a scene either someone had too much makeup on, or clothing changed mid-scene, or the massive camera decided to quit working. All this quirkiness was then recorded onto a CD for the school to watch during assembly. Quite fun this was!

What advice would you give to any student who wants to study abroad?

My advice for anyone deciding to study abroad is to think about how your decision affects your future. Once you move to another country, it'll be harder for you to go back to America and study at College or University. Does moving provide you with a new opportunity? If you want to study abroad "just because," really think about your decision some more.

The Importance *of Giving* as an ACS Alumnus

by Nancy Doris '92, Alumni Council Past President
and ACS Board Member



As an alumna and current parent, my connection with Avery Coonley spans almost 40 years! While maintaining the mission and traditions of the school are important to me as an alumna, it is equally important to me that Avery Coonley advance its vision and spaces to ensure the school continues to be the place where lifelong impressions are made. I probably didn't appreciate Avery Coonley as much as I should have as a student there, but I quickly realized as early as high school and continue to recognize with my own children there now, that this is a special place that I value.

John and my support started before we had children, and while inspired by the value I saw as an alumna, it was grounded with the warm reception back to campus and the opportunities for John and me to experience Avery Coonley through reunions, auctions, visits, and conversations with the Head of School, teachers, and students.

I think that I share the recognition of this value and warmth with fellow alumni – and many of us want to give back in some way! Alumni represented half of the responses for the Strategic Planning surveys conducted, alumni annual giving grows, and participation in alumni events is increasing as the school is reaching out more broadly and consistently. Avery Coonley is promoting its alumni on campus and in publications. Alumni are connected to the school and to each other on social media to keep in touch, network academically, professionally, and socially, and for many classes, organize their own reunions. I have served on the Avery Coonley Alumni Council since its inception, and we work year-round to connect alumni and current and former teachers through outreach, events, and service opportunities. There are Faculty, Staff, and Board Members who are alumni and parents of alumni.

At Grandfriends' Day, Legacy pins are given to grandparents who had children and now grandchildren at the school. It is important for current students, and their families, to understand that the ACS community and culture of giving extends far past graduation.

By giving, alumni and current parents are supporting programs that help make Avery Coonley accessible to a broad community: programs that promote diversity, grow financial aid funding, and recruit and retain specialized faculty. These gifts allow Avery Coonley to continue expanding the breadth of whole curriculum, including Fine Arts, Language Arts, Foreign Language, and Athletics programs, in balance with the emphasis in STEM-centered disciplines. Faculty investment is a priority, and 21st Century techniques and resources can be applied in the growing physical and virtual classrooms at any level.

I can't say exactly how Avery Coonley has changed in the last 40 years, but my changing relationship as student to alumna to parent and Board Member is a perspective that I appreciate. I am fortunate to experience Avery Coonley every day. I encourage fellow alumni to come to campus and talk to the teachers and administration, sit in or speak in on a class, walk through on a tour, or attend a campus or regional alumni event. Most importantly, connect however you can. I think Avery Coonley has made great progress in Alumni Relations, including outreach, communications, and promotion, and as a result, alumni are contacted and involved more than ever. The legacy continues!

Dear Donors,



*Amy Louis with Freddy the Seahorse
at the ACS Fun Run.*

Central to The Avery Coonley School's mission is its learning environment. The school's wooded campus and homey classrooms provide unparalleled opportunity for student growth. The buildings and grounds are an enduring source of differentiation in attracting new families, a shared source of comfort to current families and an enduring link for alumni. The Board of Trustees takes great care to ensure that the school's physical plant is well cared for.

On November 17, 2014, the board authorized a comprehensive renovation plan that allowed all classrooms in the 1929 building to be fully modernized to meet the demands of 21st century teaching and learning. In addition to addressing the needs of the 1929 building, significant upgrades to parts of the 1993 building were called for. The library and the lunchroom received particular focus in the plan. Maintaining architectural integrity was given top priority throughout.

I am pleased to share that all phases of the renovation plan are now complete. The school's administrative team did an outstanding job ensuring student safety throughout the project's many phases. The team is to be commended for ensuring that all phases were successfully completed both on time and on budget.

The board believes that the upgraded facilities will provide the perfect platform on which to continue to fulfill the promise of the school's mission. The board has also worked diligently to finalize a five-year strategic plan that will direct the school's focus moving forward. An overview of the strategic plan was shared with the school community shortly before the recent winter holiday; we will continue to provide updates as the plan is implemented. I look forward to sharing these updates with you as we assess the implementation of our strategic plan.

To our generous donors, please accept my sincere thanks for your support of the renovation plan. I hope you will stop in and see the campus improvements for yourself. I am extremely proud of the improvements and hope you will be too.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Louis".

Amy Louis
Chair, ACS Board of Trustees

Welcome New Board Members



We'd like to welcome the following new members of the ACS Board of Trustees who have joined the board since 2017:

Nancy Doris '91 is an advocate for The Avery Coonley School and the education and experiences that it provides. She promotes the ACS faculty as specialized in gifted education, and delivering unparalleled opportunities and support to students. As an alumna of the school, she is invested in its growth and success. With three children at ACS, Nancy is actively involved. In addition to classroom volunteerism, Nancy served as President of the Alumni Council (2015-2018), Strategic Plan Steering Committee Member (2017-2018), Strategic Plan Diversity Work Group Co-Chair (2017-2018), Development Committee member (2015-2018), and Alumni Representative to the Board of Trustees (2015-2018). Nancy joined the Board of Trustees in 2018. She serves on the Building and Grounds Committee and as co-chair of the Fleur de Lis Society. Nancy attended Culver Girls Academy, Notre Dame, and Kellogg. After some consulting work, Nancy spent fifteen years at a medical device company in both global operations and global marketing roles. She specialized in product development, portfolio optimization, and marketing analytics while maintaining the patients' needs and dignity as priority.

Raj Goyal joined the Board because as a physician, he's had experience in running a service-driven business which dictates high performance and quality products to others, finding it similar to how private schooling can be a difficult endeavor to successfully deliver and requires multidisciplinary personnel to guide the values it cherishes. Raj's support of ACS comes from his own experience as a student receiving private education, and of having children in ACS, where he's had the opportunity to see the educational and moral benefits of similarly minded peers in one's surroundings. He is an advocate of nurturing the learning atmosphere and uncovering the potential of young minds. Outside ACS, Raj is a practicing eye transplant surgeon for 20 years; his goals have been focused on training the future surgeons in excellent care. Trained at Johns Hopkins, Raj was on staff for several years for his medical acumen and research achievements. His hobbies include competing in Olympic triathlons and performing magic shows. One of his favorite classes was symphonic wind ensemble, where he was one of the saxophone quartet who travelled throughout Europe playing on radio stations. Raj also serves on the Board of Examiners, American board of Ophthalmology, Written, and the Board of Examiners, American board of Ophthalmology, Oral.

As the proud parent of an ACS graduate, **Imran Qureshi** is dedicated to ensuring that more children from wide-ranging backgrounds will also be able to experience the school's unique educational programs. Imran brings a rich background of business skills and acumen to his position on the Board of Trustees, with experience in developing key relationships, as well as building engagement and retention among colleagues and community members. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics, with Honors, from the University of Manchester in the U.K., and has guest lectured at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management and the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. Imran continues to share his experiences and knowledge within the business community, and is a Director on the Board of the Human Resources Management Association of Chicago (HRMAC).

Jennifer Reenan, Assistant Secretary, is extremely dedicated to the mission of ACS and appreciates the opportunity to preserve and strengthen the incredible learning environment that it offers by serving on the Board. She also very much enjoys collaborating with other parents, alumni, administrators, and teachers on initiatives and events that unify the community and support the goals of the school. For Jennifer, ACS is the place where each of her three kids has found a true intellectual and emotional home, and the bonds that they have formed with their incredible teachers and fellow classmates create a nurturing and inspiring atmosphere that has fostered their love of learning and strengthened their character. A deep sense of gratitude for all of this compels Jennifer to support ACS however she can. In her personal life, Jennifer double-majored in History & Literature in college, where her favorite class was "Concepts of the Hero in Ancient Greek Civilization." She did medical ethics research and consulted in medical education after graduating from medical school. Her hobbies include: the Home & School Association, attending jazz concerts and live theater with her husband, and NHL hockey.



The Report of *Giving* to The Avery Coonley School

Among the many traditions initiated by our founder, Queene Ferry Coonley, was her remarkable record of philanthropic giving. Beginning with the first Kindergarten she established in 1906 to her extraordinary gift of The Avery Coonley School building and grounds, Mrs. Coonley provided future generations the foundation to learn and grow in a beautiful and caring educational environment. Over the years, additional charitable support from parents, Board members, alumni families, faculty, staff and other friends of ACS has enabled the school to expand and prosper.

Charitable giving supports the life of The Avery Coonley School on a daily basis. It is evident in the classrooms, where small groups of students, highly-trained faculty, an innovative curriculum, and state-of-the-art 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.

Charitable support makes possible the amazing array of physical spaces of this beautiful and historic campus. It is the traditions, special events, and trips 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.

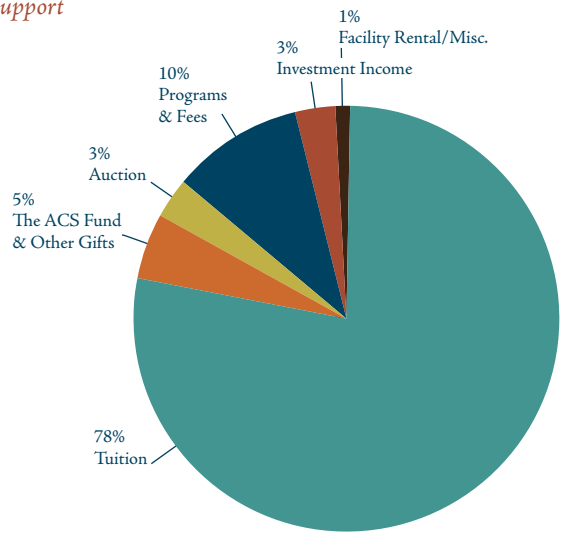
Each year, the School conducts two major fundraising programs that are conducted by the Development Office: the ACS Fund and the Annual Auction. Charitable gifts may also be directed to one of three major endowment funds: the General Endowment, which supports a wide range of School needs; the Professional 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 socioeconomic backgrounds.

Beginning in 2014, ACS embarked on our *Journey Forward Together*, designed to make the unique learning environments at our school even better. This Capital Campaign honors the critical role that ACS has played in so many young lives, celebrates the many fond memories that we share, and recognizes a shared responsibility in maintaining and enhancing this magnificent school. Thanks to the generosity of the ACS community, the school was able to reach its goals to restore and renovate the original building, as well as enhance common spaces and learning environments. As the campaign comes to a close, we celebrate the many donors whose support made the *Journey Forward Together* possible.

The tradition of philanthropy started by Queene Ferry Coonley continues to be a vital part of the success and well-being of ACS. Every charitable 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

2017–2018 General Operating Fund
Revenues and Support



Revenue and Support

Tuition Income Less Need Based Financial Aid \$6,873,462

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 42 students during the 2017-2018 school year.

ACS Fund and Other Gifts \$407,493

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 \$276,021

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 \$2,475 per student.

Programs and Fees \$843,235

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 \$258,760

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

Facilities Rental and Miscellaneous Income \$82,394

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

How ACS Works Financially

Expenses

Educational Salaries and Benefits \$4,231,959

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 \$1,124,023

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

Building Maintenance \$558,422

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

Educational Expenses \$834,784

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.

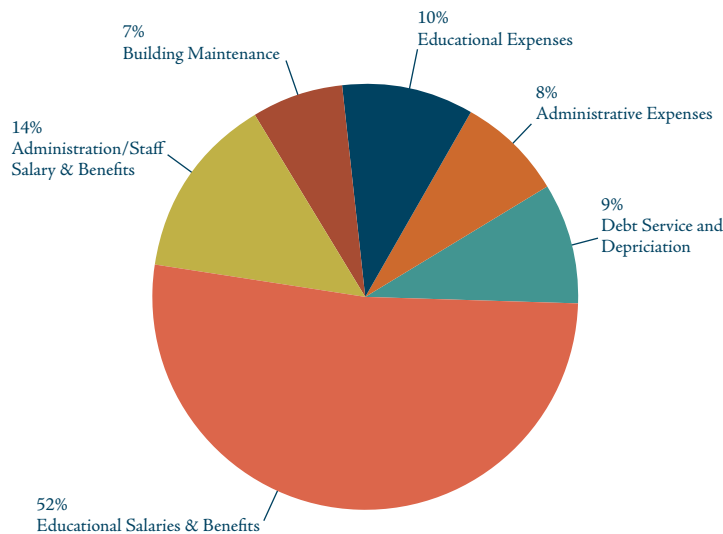
Administrative Expenses \$604,655

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 \$708,073

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.

2017–2018 General Operating Fund Expenses



2017 – 2018 School Year

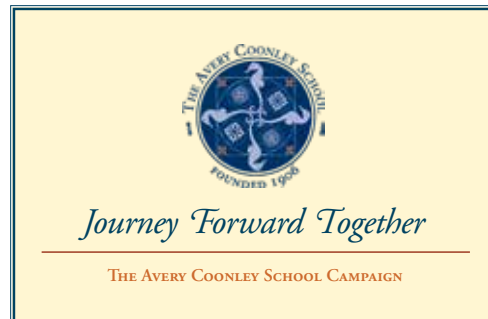
Statement of Income and Expenses – Operating Fund

For the Period Ending June 30, 2018

	Actual	Budget	Variance
<i>Revenues and Support</i>			
Tuition income	\$6,873,462	\$6,560,405	\$313,057
Programs	781,687	752,500	29,187
Fees	61,548	47,550	13,998
Dividend and interest income	118,562	20,000	98,562
Realized and unrealized gains on investments		0	140,198
Miscellaneous income	37,240	6000	31,240
Facility rental	45,154	40,000	5,154
Internally-generated income	\$8,057,851	\$7,426,455	\$631,396
Auction proceeds	276,021	160,000	116,021
Unrestricted gifts and annual giving	407,493	330,000	77,493
Total support	\$683,514	\$490,000	\$193,514
Total income	\$8,741,365	\$7,916,455	\$824,910
<i>Expenses</i>			
Educational	\$5,066,743	\$5,151,564	\$84,821
Administration and staff	1,728,678	1,745,292	16,614
Maintenance	494,516	477,000	(\$17,516)
Building and grounds	63,906	148,250	84,344
Interest expense and bond costs	136,715	394,349	257,634
Depreciation	571,358	0	(\$571,358)
Total operating expenses	\$8,061,916	\$7,916,455	(\$145,461)
2017-2018 surplus/(deficit)	\$679,449	0	\$679,449
Special expenditures and allocations	(\$679,449)	0	(\$679,449)
Net Change in Undesignated Fund Balance	0	0	0

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

Journey Forward Together Campaign



Capital Campaigns are an integral source of revenue for independent schools. Our most recent campaign, Journey Forward Together, was launched in 2015 to provide a major renovation to the School's original 1929 building. These renovations were designed to ensure a functional, flexible, and beautiful learning environment for all students.

As a result of the generous philanthropic support of the ACS community, combined with proceeds from successful bond refinancing, the School was able to reach its original goal of \$4.5 million. These funds allowed the School to renovate the rooms within the Library, Music and Orchestra classrooms, French classrooms, and Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, and Fourth Group classrooms. Thank you to the generous donors who contributed more than \$1.5 million in support of this important capital campaign.

Special thanks to our *Journey Forward Together* leaders, John Grube and Christopher McClear, to the Campaign Steering Committee, campaign liaisons, and to members of the administration, faculty, and staff who help lead the *Journey Forward Together*.

Campaign Steering Committee

Campaign Co-Chairs

John Grube
Christopher McClear

Campaign Committee

Patrick Fry '80
Amy Louis
Toni Pritchard
Catherine Slark

Thank you to the following parents who served as group liaisons for Journey Forward Together as the campaign launched publicly in the 2015-2016 School Year.

Bill and Reagen Atwood
Zainab Baig
Michael and Tobin Baum
Anup Bendre and Anu Perni Bendre
Bo and Tracy Blackburn
Maneesh and Archana Chawla
Peter and Kathleen Danakis
Patrick Fry '80
Kevin and Kelly Flynn
Sue Gould
Raj and Nina Goyal
Mark and Jackie Gupta
Chris and Lisa McClear
Fraser and Jacquie Orr
Brendan and Mary Sheehy
Franklin and Peggy Tan
Bill and Farah Turk

Journey Forward Together Campaign

Thank you to the following donors for their support of the Journey Forward Together Campaign to restore and renovate our original building and enhance our common spaces and learning environments. We are honored to recognize the individuals and families who made gifts and pledges in support of the Journey Forward Together Campaign between November 17, 2014 and June 30, 2018.

\$100,000 +

Mr. Ajay and Mrs. Priya Desai
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Grube
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Catherine Slark
Anonymous

\$75,000 - \$99,999

Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Lisa McClear
Nickum Foundation

\$50,000 - \$74,999

Dr. Steven and Mrs. Amy Louis
Mr. Eddie and Mrs. Sarah Opler

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Mr. Neal and Dr. Jennifer Reenan
The Shackelford Family Foundation
Mr. Brendan and Mrs. Mary Sheehy
The McCabe-Wild Family

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Amy & Steve Louis Foundation
Mr. Maneesh and Mrs. Archana Chawla
Mr. Daniel J. and Mrs. Deb L. Clarke, Jr.
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Kathleen Danakis
Dr. Peter E. and Mrs. Carole Doris
Lloyd "Chip" Fry '67 and the
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Ms. Allyson Gorman
Dr. Raj and Dr. Nina Goyal
Rev. Dr. Linda L. Nelson
The Pritchard Family
Dr. Franklin and Dr. Peggy Tan
Mr. Sreeram Prasad and Mrs. Uma Veluchamy
Mr. Joel and Mrs. Shannon Weinberger
Anonymous (3)

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Mr. Ranjit and Mrs. Bhavna Bahadur
Mr. Aamer and Dr. Zainab Baig
Mr. John Blackburn and
Ms. Nancy R. Doris '91
Mr. William and Ms. Joanna Bradford
Mr. James and Mrs. Pamela Crouthamel
Mr. Edward Tim Doris '90
Mr. Joe I. Gillespie, Jr. and
Mrs. Kristina Gillespie
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Jacqueline Gupta
Mr. Ian and Mrs. Dianne Gutterman
Dr. Minh Hoang and Ms. Eonju Hwang
Mr. Sonny and Dr. Sabira Khalil '84
Mr. Naufal Khan and Mrs. Asma Afridi
Mr. Robert '79 and Mrs. Jingjing Kipp
Mr. Daniel Krzeczowski and
Mrs. Susan Bray
Mr. Dan and Mrs. Mary McNamara
Prof. Damian Ortiz and Mrs. Adeena Weiss
Ortiz Mr. Alesh and Mrs. Binita Patel
Mr. Imran and Mrs. Niema Qureshi
Mr. Edwin Savarimuthu and
Ms. Dhevi Kandasamy
In Memory of Jack J. Weiss and Antonio Ortiz
Mr. Bruce W. and Mrs. Lily N. Winterhof
The Zhong Family

\$7,500 - \$9,999

Mr. Anjan and Mrs. Anuradha Asthana
Dr. Anup Bendre and Dr. Anuradha Perni
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Anne Elliott
Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Heather Manning
Anonymous

Journey Forward Together Campaign

\$5,000 - \$7,499

Dr. Nouri and Mrs. Shatha Al-Khaled
Mr. John and Mrs. Artemis Anos
Mr. William and Mrs. Reagen Atwood
Mr. Srikanth and Mrs. Lavanya Batchu
Mr. Michael Baum and Mrs. Tobin Baum
Mr. Richard J. Baum, Jr. '98
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Tracy Blackburn
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Debra Bruns
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Victoria Chen
Mr. Carl and Ms. Elizabeth Clark
Mr. Yong Fan and Mrs. Tzu-Ling Yeh
Mr. Jedidiah Gaetz and Ms. Angela Aman
Mr. Brian Gilmartin and Dr. Lisa Karaitis
Mr. Mike and Mrs. Sue Gould
Mr. Andrew and Mrs. Julie Grieve
Dr. Vivek Gupta and Dr. Sonal Gupta
Mr. Robert Jacobs
Mr. Houman and Mrs. Parastoo Kashanipour
Mr. David and Mrs. Heidi Keeling
The Lawler Family
Dr. Ted Liu and Mrs. Ellen Huang
Mr. Stephen Lunn
Mr. Paul and Mrs. Daiva Majauskas
Mr. Charles H. Mottier '70
Dr. Frederick Mueller and Ms. Cindy Leicht
Mr. Walter and Mrs. Lily Polowczak
Mr. James and Mrs. Jill Stocki
Anonymous

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Mr. Philip Adler and
Ms. Sarah Goddard Adler
Ms. Mary Ellen Bull '79
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Gracetrue Buzzard
Dr. Steven Chough and Dr. Anna Park
Dr. Andrew Dombard and
Dr. D'Arcy Meyer-Dombard
Mr. Paul Druzinsky
The Engel Family
Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Kelly Flynn
The Fry Family
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Charlene Geary
The Heun Family
Ms. Linda and Kristen '24 Hou
Mr. Alok and Mrs. Barnali Khuntia
Mr. Kirill and Mrs. Laura Krylov
Mr. Mark and Dr. Panorea Kukla '88

Mr. Christopher Lok and Ms. Josephine Sheng
Mr. James and Mrs. BJ Marshall
Mr. Ted and Mrs. Jenny McKendall
Mr. Michael Nicolai and Ms. Lisa Castle
Mr. Ravi and Mrs. Carolyn Ravichandran
Mr. Jefferson, Mrs. Catherine, and
Mr. Jay Rollin Reiter '15
Mr. William and Dr. Farah Turk
The Viravec Family
Mr. Keith Woodruff and
Dr. Monina Quindipan
Mr. Charles and Mrs. Amy Wright

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Mr. Nicholas and Mrs. Judith George
Mr. Eric Benson and Ms. Stephanie Sayegh
Mr. Daniel Chan and Ms. Shuling Lee
Dr. Neal and Mrs. Teresa Fischer
Dr. Meghan Flannery
Mr. James T. and Mrs. Judith S. Horn
Mr. Ravi Kuchibhotla and
Ms. Padmaja Putcha
Mr. Dimitre and Mrs. Katerina Marinov
Mr. Stephen Olechowski, III and
Ms. Liza Diaz
Dr. Neel Shah and Dr. Ameer Majmudar
Dr. Robert and Mrs. Michelle Strugala
Dr. Hui Zhao and Dr. Yi Zhou
Mr. Edward Lam and Dr. Angela Gomez-Lam
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Beth Spiegel
Dr. Huayun Chen and Mrs. Wei Qi
Mr. Donald and Mrs. Catherine Glass
Mr. David and Mrs. Amy Hansfield
Mr. Paul and Mrs. Barbara Hansfield
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Carissa Means '89
Mr. Derek and Mrs. Ying Timmermann
Dr. Ravi and Dr. Vandana Badlani
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Jill Mueller
Mr. James and Mrs. Trecia Gandurski
Mr. Peter A. and Mrs. Michelle Brown
Mr. Ricardo and Mrs. Barbara Alvarado
Mr. Benton and Mrs. Stephanie Bullwinkel
Mr. Dimitri and Mrs. Becky Carrigan
Mr. Edward A. and Mrs. Patricia L. Crylen
Mr. John and Mrs. Allison Davis
Mr. Dave and Mrs. Margie Davis
Mr. Alan Dineff and Ms. Jane Rose
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Kathryn Dunlop
Mr. Kirk Cordill and
Ms. Wendy Eckelkamp Cordill
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Jane Egan

Dr. Joshua and Mrs. Sara Foxson
Mr. Adam Gastolek and
Dr. Aneta Paniczko-Gastolek
Mr. Asgar Hakim
Ms. Andrea Hornickel and
Ms. Julie Swinehart
Dr. Andrew and Mrs. Yongtae Kim
Mr. Yan Kong and Mrs. Yun Liu
Mr. John and Mrs. Lara Mammaing
Ms. Thoma Mehl
Dr. Michael Olson and Dr. Karen Barbera
Mr. Ketan Patwardhan and
Mrs. Komilla Chawla
Mr. Kevin '69 and Mrs. Janet Peterson
Mr. Christopher P. and Mrs. Carol S. Portman
Dr. Melissa Pradhan
Dr. Saleh Rifai and Mrs. Chams Atassi
Mr. Patrick Sapinski and
Mrs. Minh Tran-Sapinski
Mr. Tapan and Dr. Kavita Shah
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Michelle Stastny
Mr. Utkarsh and Mrs. Shweta Trivedi
Dr. David and Ms. Angela Tse
Mr. Nathan and Mrs. Susan Wilda
Mr. Anthony and Dr. Nicole Zangler
Anonymous

\$500 - \$999

Mr. Stephen '70 and Mrs. Jana Bohnen
Mr. Matthew Carlson and
Ms. Elizabeth Slark Carlson '01
Dr. Jean M. Crespi '72 and Dr. Tim Byrne
Dr. Bulent Demirtas and
Dr. Meltem Urgun-Demirtas
Mr. John and Mrs. Kathy Gallo
Mr. Adam Gastolek and
Dr. Aneta Paniczko-Gastolek
Mr. Anil and Mrs. Varsha Gursahani
Dr. Stuart and Mrs. Laura Heimbürger
Mr. John S. Hetzel '77
Ms. Michelle Soudier and Mr. Joe Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald A. Jablonski
Mr. Stephen and Mrs. Sharon Jaster
Mr. William and Mrs. Carolyn Johnson
Mr. Ivan and Mrs. Sanja Jovanovic
Dr. Jae and Mrs. Jiyeon Kim
Mr. David and Mrs. Lekha Knoepp
Mr. Matthew Lange and Dr. Cathleen Ayuste
Mr. Wai and Mrs. Jessica Lau

Journey Forward Together Campaign

Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Anna Lenhardt
Mr. John and Mrs. Lara Mammiga
Mr. Gerard and Dr. Lisa Martin
Mr. Mohit and Mrs. Shobhina Mutreja
Mr. Frank Natanek and Mrs. Erin Brehm
Mr. Trac Nghiem and Mrs. Kulchitt Vilaichitt
Ms. Bhuvaneswari Palanikumar
Mr. Elliot and Mrs. Suzette Papadakis
Dr. Todd Pleune and Mrs. Heather Pleune
Mr. Brien Sheahan and Mrs. Anne Kearns
Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Kelly Shipman
Dr. Everett Smith and Mrs. Rita Drenga
Mr. Karthik Subramanian
Mr. Rajcan and Mrs. Yuanna Surface
Dr. Michael Wince and Ms. Pamela Cox

\$250 - \$499

Mr. David Ding and Mrs. Xufei Ding
Mr. Sriram Divakar and Ms. Vandana Malali
Mr. John and Mrs. Grace Harrast
Mr. Ross and Mrs. Ximen Januszyk
Mr. Michael Jiang and Mrs. Jasmine Chen
Mr. Jason Meslin and
 Ms. Rebecca Malotke-Meslin
Mr. David and Mrs. Deborah McGarry
Mr. George and Mrs. Connie Molitor
Mr. Samuel R. Tepper and
 Ms. Christine Giovannelli
Ms. Margaret J. Tomasik
Ms. Karen E. Winterhof '01
Mr. Neal Y. Winterhof '96
Mr. Peter W. Winterhof '04

Gifts up to \$249

Mr. Asif and Mrs. Faryal Ahmed
Mr. Matthew Aquino and
 Mrs. Christine Kurczaba-Aquino
Mr. Adam Beyer and
 Ms. Elizabeth H. Roberts
Mr. Michael S. and Mrs. Sandra I. Bohn
Mr. Steven Bosco
Mr. David Breisch '99
Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Tammy Bristol
Ms. Susan A. Brown
Mr. Shawn Potzinger and Mrs. Alexis Bryant
Mr. Paul Carey and Ms. Sherri Lasko
Mr. Henry Chen '22
Mr. Eugene and Mrs. Jessica Choi
Mr. R. Ramas and Ms. Janice Ciampi

Mr. Gary and Mrs. Rose Ciccione
Mr. Alain and Mrs. Denise Clivaz
Mr. Shawn and Mrs. Gwen Cooper
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Barbara Cosentino
Dr. Stewart and Mrs. Laura DeSoto
Mr. David A. and Mrs. Hilary Dundek
Ms. Sunshine M. Echevarria
Mr. Hans Kristian and Mrs. AnnMarie Fauske
Mr. David A. and Mrs. Lilian Y. Ficht
Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Kathleen Flynn
Mr. John and Mrs. Rima Franklin
Mr. Aaron Gage and Ms. Seemab Qaderi
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jennifer Garetto
Mr. Efrain and Mrs. Leslie Gutierrez
Mr. John E. Gutterman '22
Mr. Samuel A. Gutterman '19
Ms. Laura Henningson '81
Mr. Calvin and Mrs. Ramona Hogan
Ms. Shannon M. Horn '06
Ms. Lynne Hurdle
Mr. Dan and Mrs. Karen Hyma
Mr. Steve and Mrs. Sally Johnston
Mr. Neil and Mrs. Amy Kane
Mr. William and Ms. Jill Kramer
Mrs. Carol Kuhn
Mr. Grant and Mrs. Mary Lauinger
Mr. Stephen Lester '66 and
 Mrs. Rachel Goldstein
Mr. Luke Gillono and
 Mrs. Jennifer Marvel-Gillono
Mr. Zach and Mrs. Dina Mathews
Ms. Clare McComb
Mr. Andrew McCormick
Mr. Evan and Mrs. Beth McNish
Dr. Rajeev and Mrs. Tejal Mehta
Mr. Adam and Mrs. Suzanne Metcalf
Mr. David and Mrs. Kristen Mitchell
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Laura Murray
Ms. Frances Nelson '82
Mr. Philip Schwartz and Mrs. Tracy Nemecek
Mr. Viktor Perekhozhuk and
 Mrs. Oksana Pidruchna
Mr. David Reynolds and Mrs. Wendi Wilson
Ms. Nancy Ries
Mr. Matthew and Dr. Sabine Rolnick
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Sarah Schallmoser
Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Michelle Schaub
Mr. Gregory A. and Mrs. Nancy Schmidt
Mrs. Leandra Sedlack
Mr. John Seger and Mrs. Christine Seger
Mr. Carmen and Mrs. Debbie Soldato

Mr. Eric Stenstrom
Mr. William and Mrs. Jaime Surdyski
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Taylor
Mr. Brayer and Mrs. Kristen Teague
Ms. Kara Thorpe-Dosen
Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Angel Van Howe
Mr. William Franko and Ms. Jennifer Vaughan
Mr. William and Mrs. Linda Ward
Mr. Eric and Mrs. Jody Weidman
Mr. Jeffrey Westbrook and Ms. Kelly Stokes
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Donna Wetta
Mrs. Lisa Wiltz
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Debbie Wysopal
Ms. Linda Young
Anonymous

Corporate and Foundation Support for the Journey Forward Together Campaign

Amy & Steve Louis Foundation
APG Dentistry Inc.
Apple Inc.
Bank of America Matching Gifts Program
BP Matching Fund Programs
CME Group Community Foundation
Fidelity Charitable
Gelber Group
Google Matching Gifts Program
INVESTHR
ITW Foundation 3-For-1 Matching
 Gift Program
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
LyondellBasell Matching Gift Program
Mastercard International Inc.
Motorola Inc.
Nickum Foundation
PotashCorp
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
SC Johnson Fund, Inc.
The Shackelford Family Foundation
Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving



THE ACS FUND AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The Importance and Tradition of Giving

The Avery Coonley School extends a warm thank you to everyone who supported the ACS Fund in the 2017-2018 school year. Board members, parents, alumni, alumni families, grandparents, faculty, staff, foundations, corporations, and other friends generously contributed to the ACS Fund. This generosity enables the school to provide a transformative experience for our students and helps ACS continue to be one of the nation's finest independent elementary schools.

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 \$407,493 for the ACS Fund and restricted funds to support the School. Once again, every member of the Board of Trustees and nearly every faculty and staff member also supported the Fund.

The ACS Fund is more than just a fund-raising initiative. It is a demonstration of our collective commitment to the importance of a specialized education for gifted and talented young minds. It cultivates remarkable pride within our community, and ensures that current students and the generations to follow will benefit from the ACS academic program of excellence.

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

ACS Fund Leadership for 2017-2018 School Year

ACS Fund Chairs

Sreeram Prasad and Uma Veluchamy

Alumni Chair

Katherine Grube '96

Faculty and Staff Chairs

Dina Mathews

Joe Schallmoser



There was great energy and enjoyment on this sunny Spring Fair day.

2017-2018 ACS Fund Leadership Giving Circles

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

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

Mr. Michael Beckley '88
Mr. Joshua and Mrs. Jessica Friess
Mr. Frederick '55 and Mrs. Kay Krehbiel
Mr. John H. Krehbiel, Jr. '51
Dr. Steven and Mrs. Amy Louis
Amy & Steve Louis Foundation
Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Lisa McClear
Nickum Foundation
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Catherine Slark

Jens Jensen Circle
Honoring the famed landscape architect and naturalist who designed the school grounds including the stunning rock pond garden, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$7,500 to \$9,999.

Mr. Peter and Mrs. Kathleen Danakis
Mr. Neal and Dr. Jennifer Reenan
Mr. William and Dr. Farah Turk

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

Lloyd "Chip" Fry '67 and the
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Mr. John and Mrs. Ann Grube
Mr. David and Mrs. Heidi Keeling
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Eva Metzger '38
Mr. Brendan and Mrs. Mary Sheehy
Anonymous

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.

Mr. Iqbal Anwar and Mrs. Tashmin Lopa
Mr. William and Ms. Joanna Bradford
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Debra Bruns
Mr. Maneesh and Mrs. Archana Chawla
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Victoria Chen
Mr. Carl and Ms. Elizabeth Clark
Mr. Mike and Mrs. Sue Gould
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Jacqueline Gupta
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Kathleen Havlick
Dr. Syed and Dr. Mariam Khan
Dr. Jae and Mrs. Jiyeon Kim
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Dawn E. Lawler '82
Mr. Stephen Lunn
Mr. Dimitre and Mrs. Katerina Marinov
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Daile McCann
Dr. Uday and Mrs. Sheetal Narahari
Mr. Edwin Savarimuthu and
Ms. Dhevi Kandasamy
Dr. Franklin and Dr. Peggy Tan
Mr. Joel and Mrs. Shannon Weinberger
Mr. Aloysius Wild, III and
Dr. Caer-Eve McCabe



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.

Mr. Philip Adler and Ms. Sarah Goddard Adler
Dr. Nouri and Mrs. Shatha Al-Khaled
Dr. Michelle Andreoli-McMahon
Mr. Christopher and Dr. Kristin Athas
Mr. William and Mrs. Reagan Arwood
Mr. Srikanth and Mrs. Lavanya Batchu
Dr. Anup Bendre and Dr. Anuradha Perni
Mr. Adrian and Mrs. Cristen Bielart
Mr. John Blackburn and
Ms. Nancy R. Doris '91
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Tracy Blackburn
Mr. Peter A. and Mrs. Michelle Brown
Dr. Kenneth Candido and Dr. Durre Shahwar
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Mr. Paul Druzinsky
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Kathryn Dunlop
Ms. Jennifer Elliott
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Anne Elliott
Mr. Yong Fan and Mrs. Tzu-Ling Yeh
Dr. Joshua and Mrs. Sara Foxson
Mr. Rik Geiersbach and Ms. Carolyn Burger
Mr. Brian Gilmartin and Dr. Lisa Karaitis
Ms. Allyson Gorman
Dr. Raj and Dr. Nina Goyal
Dr. Vivek Gupta and Dr. Sonal Gupta
Dr. John and Mrs. Grace Hong
Ms. Andrea Hornickle and Ms. Julie Swinehart
Ms. Linda Hou
Dr. Parag and Mrs. Shweta Jain
Mr. William and Mrs. Carolyn Johnson
Mr. Terry and Mrs. Margi Johnson
Dr. Rishi and Mrs. Nidhi Kapoor
Mr. Houman and Mrs. Parastoo Kashanipour
Mr. Naufal Khan and Mrs. Asma Afridi
Mr. Robert '79 and Mrs. Jingjing Kipp
Mr. Kirill and Mrs. Laura Krylov
Dr. Selvakumar Kunchithapatham and
Dr. Shakila Meerapatel
Mr. Miles Lasater and
Dr. G. Elizabeth Lasater '92
Dr. Ted Liu and Mrs. Ellen Huang
Mr. Christopher Lok and Ms. Josephine Sheng
Dr. Sophia Majid

Mr. James and Mrs. BJ Marshall
Mr. Gerard and Dr. Lisa Martin
Dr. Frederick Mueller and Ms. Cindy Leicht
Mr. Eddie and Mrs. Sarah Opler
Mr. Madhu and Dr. Sreya Pallath
Dr. Udit and Mrs. Malini Patel
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Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Kelly Shipman
Mr. Vishnu '92 and Mrs. Sailaja Srinivasan
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Laura Stasaitis
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Michelle Stastny
Mr. Rajcan and Mrs. Yuanna Surface
Mr. Sailesh Thakur and
Mrs. Ramapriya Subramanian
Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Lisa Vaughan
Mr. Sreeram Prasad and
Mrs. Uma Veluchamy
Dr. Venkat Venkatakrishnan and
Dr. Kavitha Rao
Dr. William Whittier and
Dr. Sushama Gundlapalli
Mr. Mark Wiemelt and Ms. Tracey Brill
Prof. Jie Yang and Dr. Liping Tong
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Laura Zeman
Dr. Hui Zhao and Dr. Yi Zhou
Dr. Yunde Zhong and Dr. Shuli Wang
Anonymous

*"I have many
fond memories of
going to school at
Avery Coonley.
I remember
all the traditions and
all of my teachers.
I received a wonderful
education that really
served as the foundation
for a successful life."*

*Lloyd "Chip" Fry '67
and the Lloyd A. Fry
Foundation
have been loyal and
generous supporters,
and contributed \$50,000
in support of the
Journey Forward Together
campaign
and the ACS Fund.*

2017 – 2018 ACS Fund

Maple Tapping Circle

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

Mr. John and Mrs. Artemis Anos
Mr. Anjan and Mrs. Anuradha Asthana
Mr. Ayaan Asthana '14
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Dr. Amir Darki and Dr. Dina Dadabhoy
Mr. Mehrab and Mrs. Zarine Deboo
Mr. David Ding and Mrs. Xufei Ding
Mr. Patrick Doherty and Ms. Kristina Murray
Dr. Andrew Dombard and
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Mr. John and Mrs. Kathy Gallo
Mr. Adam Gastolek and
Dr. Aneta Paniczko-Gastolek
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Charlene Geary
Mr. Ian and Mrs. Dianne Gutterman
Mr. John and Mrs. Kiyomi Hamilton

Mr. Steve and Mrs. Amy Harris
Mr. John and Mrs. Joan Harrison
Mr. Roy and Mrs. Lisa Henrickson
Mr. Michael Jan and Ms. Alice Chin
Mr. Stephen and Mrs. Sharon Jaster
Dr. Andrew and Mrs. Yongtae Kim
Mr. Matthew Lange and Dr. Cathleen Ayuste
Mr. Wai and Mrs. Jessica Lau
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Anna Lenhardt
Mr. Wei Li and Mrs. Jing Xing
Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Heather Manning
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Carissa Means '89
Mr. Michael Nicolai and Ms. Lisa Castle
Prof. Damian Ortiz and
Mrs. Adeena Weiss Ortiz
Mr. Rishin and Dr. Sonal Pandya
Mr. Kevin '69 and Mrs. Janet Peterson
Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Kristin Porter
Mr. JP Ramirez and Dr. Kimberly Bauer
Ms. Stacy Recchia
Dr. Irfan and Dr. Farheen Sadiq
Mr. Ritesh '89 and Mrs. Shilpi Shah
Dr. Everett Smith and Mrs. Rita Drenga
Ms. Michelle Soudier and Mr. Joe Hughes
Mr. Joel A. Stava
Mr. James and Mrs. Jill Stocki
Mr. Derek and Mrs. Ying Timmermann
Dr. David and Ms. Angela Tse
Mr. Girmantas and Mrs. Sigita Urbonas
Mr. Charles and Mrs. Amy Wright
Mr. Anthony and Dr. Nicole Zangler
Anonymous (2)

Bell Ringers Circle

Signaling a decades-old tradition of a new school day at ACS, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$250 to \$499.

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Mr. Benton and Mrs. Stephanie Bullwinkel
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Gracetrue Buzzard
Mrs. Savinder Chhatwal
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Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jennifer Garetto
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 Mr. Nihar Rout and Mrs. Bhumika Gochhi
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 Ms. Lily C. Ryan '16
 Dr. Sudarshan K. and Mrs. Neetu Sharma
 Mr. Arun M. Sharma '12
 Dr. Perry A. Soriano '86
 Ms. Jill Plesha Spacucello
 Dr. Robert and Mrs. Michelle Strugala
 Mr. Joel and Mrs. Patrice Tosi
 Mr. Theodore A. Tylman '48
 Mr. Ashish M. Vora '92 and
 Ms. Amanda Boatright
 Dr. Michael Wince and Ms. Pamela Cox
 Dr. Ludwig and Mrs. Kathleen Wolf
 Mr. Keith Woodruff and
 Dr. Monina Quindipan
 Anonymous (2)

Cloister Circle

Symbolizing the special place of serenity and action at the center of the school, this Circle recognizes all contributors of gifts up to \$249.

Dr. Adnan and Dr. Stefanie Ali
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 Ms. Elizabeth H. Roberts
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 Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Kirsten Gillono
 Mr. Donald and Mrs. Catherine Glass
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 Dr. Ankush and Mrs. Amrita Goel
 Ms. Katherine Grube '96
 Mr. Efrain and Mrs. Leslie Gutierrez
 Mr. Paul and Mrs. Diana Halley
 Mr. Daniel Harrell
 Ms. Emily E. Hayman '05
 Mr. Jay and Mrs. Carrie Heck
 Mr. Brian and Mrs. Jeanine Helfrich
 Ms. Nancy Hinrichs
 Mr. Calvin and Mrs. Ramona Hogan
 Mr. Nicholas and Mrs. Carol Hornickel
 Mrs. Linda B. Hunt
 Ms. Lynne Hurdle
 Mr. Michael and Mrs. Tracy Izhak
 Mr. Pradeep and Mrs. Kristen Jain
 Mr. Ross and Mrs. Ximen Januszyk
 Mr. Steve and Mrs. Sally Johnston
 Dr. Purav and Mrs. Amisha Kapadia
 Mr. James Kidston '65
 Mrs. Jeanne Kipp
 Mr. Lee Kopacz
 Ms. Maria Kozi and Ms. Madeleine England
 Mr. Gregory and Mrs. Michele Kistou
 Mrs. Carol Kuhn
 Mr. Zeno and Mrs. Thais Ladas
 Mr. Justin and Mrs. Amanda LaReau
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2017 – 2018 ACS Fund

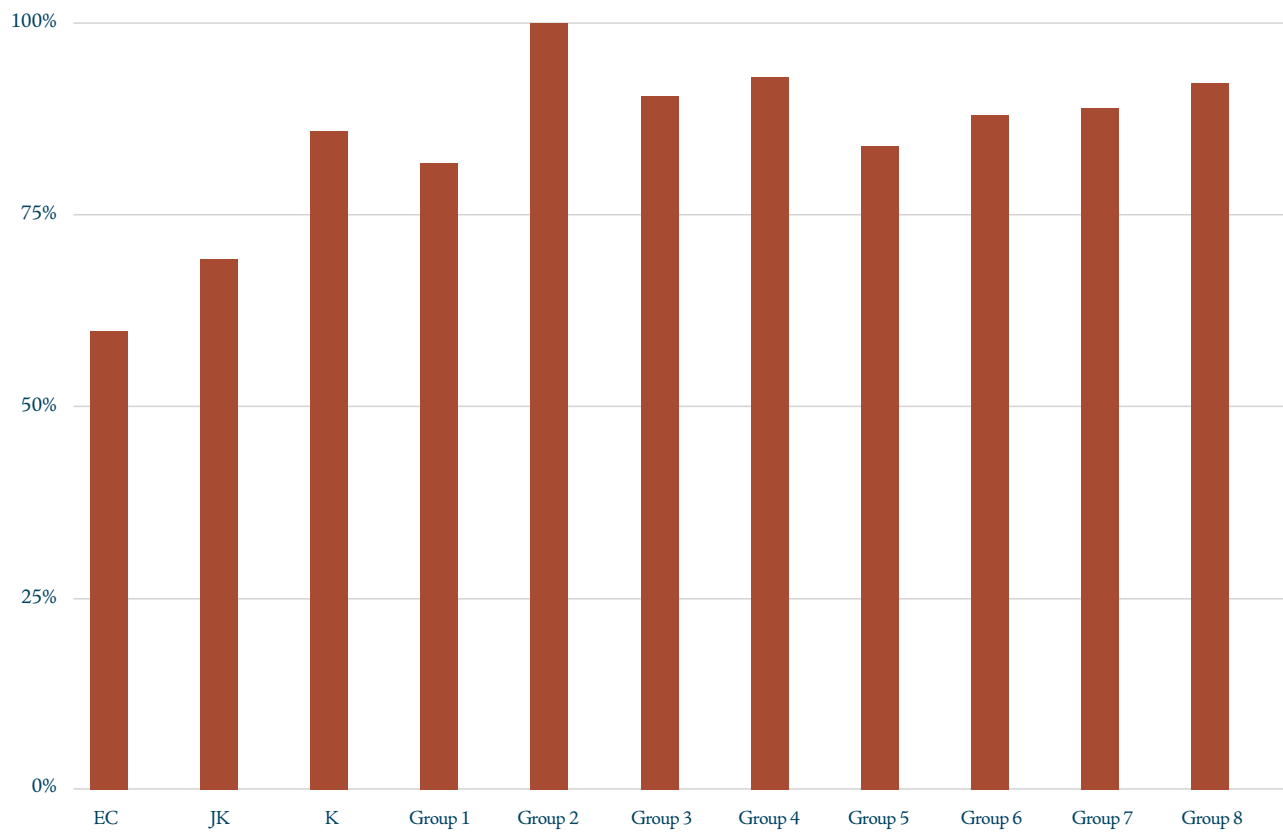
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Mr. Usman and Mrs. Maribel Siddiqui
Dr. Mark and Dr. Margaret Sokolowski
Mr. Carmen and Mrs. Debbie Soldato
Ms. Antionette L. Sottrel
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Beth Spiegel
Ms. Gale Stellwagen
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Mr. William and Mrs. Jaime Surdyski
Ms. Tiffany S. Tang '03
Mr. Brayer and Mrs. Kristen Teague
Mrs. Neha Thakkar
Mr. Brett D. Thompson '86
Ms. Kara Thorpe-Dosen
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Nina Tipton
Mr. Todd and Mrs. Beth Treleven
Ms. Michi Trota '92 and Mr. Jesse Lex
Dr. Eric and Dr. Susan Tseng
Mr. Matthew Urban and Ms. Julie Safranski
Dr. Amir and Dr. Sara Vafa
Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Angel Van Howe
Mr. David P. Vitek
Mr. Edward and Mrs. Jody Weidman
Mr. Jeffrey Westbrook and Ms. Kelly Stokes
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Donna Wetta
Mrs. Lisa Wiltz
Mr. Alexander S. Wiltz '11
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Debbie Wysopal
Ms. Linda Young
Anonymous (3)

2017 – 2018 Parent Participation

Among the many traditions initiated by our founder, Queene Ferry Coonley, was her remarkable record of philanthropic giving. Grateful parents continued this “spirit of giving” during the 2017-2018 school year with their support of the ACS Fund and the Journey Forward Together Campaign. Second Group parents led the way with an impressive 100% participation in the ACS Fund! Thank you to the many parents who generously supported the School with a donation!

The ACS Fund Contributions by Group



2017 – 2018 ACS Fund

The ACS Fund *Parent Participation by Group*

Early Childhood Education - 59%

Dr. Adnan and Dr. Stefanie Ali
Mr. Baird and Mrs. Carolann Allis
Mr. Christopher and Dr. Kristin Athas
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Shawn Aycock
Mr. Adrian and Mrs. Cristen Bielat
Mr. John Blackburn and Ms. Nancy Doris '91
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Victoria Chen
Mr. Mehrab and Mrs. Zarine Deboo
Dr. Ankush and Mrs. Amrita Goel
Mr. Steve and Mrs. Amy Harris
Dr. John and Mrs. Grace Hong
Dr. Wayde and Dr. Anita Nagamine
Mr. Andrew and Mrs. Dina Pilipczuk
Mr. Wendell Spruill and Dr. Paula Green
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Laura Stasaitis
Mr. Joel and Mrs. Patrice Tosi
Dr. Amir and Dr. Sara Vafa
Dr. Venkat Venkatakrishnan and
Dr. Kavitha Rao
Anonymous

Junior Kindergarten - 70%

Mr. Dan and Mrs. Elissa Baker
Mr. Mark Batts and Ms. Julie Cirillo
Mr. Darren and Dr. Bruna Burgener
Mr. Kenneth Chang and Dr. Julia Espel
Mr. Sean and Mrs. Jamie Dougherty
Mr. Dimitri and Mrs. Angela Eliopoulos
Dr. Joshua and Mrs. Sara Foxson
Mr. Joshua and Mrs. Jessica Friess
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jennifer Garetto
Mr. David and Mrs. Amy Hansfield
Mr. Roy and Mrs. Lisa Henrickson
Mr. Michael Jan and Ms. Alice Chin
Dr. Purav and Mrs. Amisha Kapadia
Mr. William Keating and Dr. Gina Murray
Mr. Gregory and Mrs. Michele Kristou
Mr. Justin and Mrs. Amanda LaReau
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Daile McCann
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Carissa Means '89
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Debbie Myszynski
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Jennifer Oko
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Katie Oresar
Mr. Rishin and Dr. Sonal Pandya
Dr. Irfan and Dr. Farheen Sadiq
Dr. Mark and Dr. Margaret Sokolowski
Dr. Eric and Dr. Susan Tseng
Mr. Girmantas and Mrs. Sigita Urbonas

Kindergarten - 85%

Mr. John Blackburn and Ms. Nancy 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
Dr. Michael Farhi and
Ms. Emmy Majogo
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
Mr. Woosang Lee and Mrs. Kyungeun Shin
Dr. Ted Liu and Mrs. Ellen Huang
Mr. Sanjay Nannapaneni and
Dr. Traci D'Almeida
Dr. Udit and Mrs. Malini Patel
Mrs. Natalie Powell
Mr. JP Ramirez and Dr. Kimberly Bauer
Mr. William and Mrs. Lindsay Sickinger
Ms. Jill Plesha Spacucello
Mr. Vishnu '92 and Mrs. Sailaja Srinivasan
Mr. Derek and Mrs. Ying Timmermann
Anonymous

First Group - 81%

Dr. Michelle Andreoli-McMahon
Mr. Anthony Ardizzone and
Mrs. Jessica Armour-Ardizzone
Mr. Damian and Mrs. Stephanie Austin
Mr. Graham and Mrs. Katie Baldwin
Mr. Adrian and Mrs. Cristen Bielat
Dr. Joshua and Mrs. Sara Foxson
Mr. William Gibson
Mr. John and Mrs. Joan Harrison
Mr. Edwin and Mrs. Raquel Johnson
Ms. Maria Kozi and Ms. Madeleine England
Prof. Damian Ortiz and
Mrs. Adeena Weiss Ortiz
Dr. Mohammad Puri and Ms. Sarwat Latif
Mr. Usman and Mrs. Maribel Siddiqui
Mr. Sailesh Thakur and
Mrs. Ramapriya Subramanian
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Nina Tipton
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Laura Zeman
Dr. Yunde Zhong and Dr. Shuli Wang

Second Group - 100%

Mr. Alex and Mrs. Danielle Andrade
Mr. Iqbal Anwar and Mrs. Tashmin Lopa
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Nadia Bowman
Mr. Maneesh and Mrs. Archana Chawla
Mr. Carl and Ms. Elizabeth Clark
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Kathleen Danakis
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Kathryn Dunlop
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Anne Elliott
Ms. April Finan
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Zuzana Fitzpatrick
Mr. Joshua and Mrs. Jessica Friess
Ms. Linda Hou
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Tracy Izhaky
Mr. Ross and Mrs. Ximen Januszyk
Mr. Michael Jiang and Mrs. Jasmine Chen
Dr. Syed and Dr. Mariam Khan
Mr. Alok and Mrs. Barnali Khuntia
Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Heather Manning
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Daile McCann
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Carissa Means '89
Mr. Mike and Mrs. Genene Murphy
Dr. Uday and Mrs. Sheetal Narahari
Mr. Fraser and Mrs. Jacquie Orr
Prof. Damian Ortiz and
Mrs. Adeena Weiss Ortiz
Mr. Darin and Mrs. Jennifer Roddick-Small
Mr. Nihar Rout and Mrs. Bhumika Gochhi
Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Kelly Shipman
Ms. Jill Plesha Spacucello
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Laura Stasaitis
Mr. Joel A. Stava
Dr. Venkat Venkatakrishnan and
Dr. Kavitha Rao

2017 – 2018 Parent Participation

Third Group - 91%

Mr. Philip Adler and
Ms. Sarah Goddard Adler
Mr. Graham and Mrs. Katie Baldwin
Dr. Anup Bendre and Dr. Anuradha Perni
Mr. John Blackburn and Ms. Nancy Doris '91
Mr. Jeff and Mrs. Debra Bruns
Dr. Andrew Dombard and
Dr. D'Arcy Meyer-Dombard
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. Brian Gilmartin and Dr. Lisa Karaitis
Ms. Allyson Gorman
Dr. Raj and Dr. Nina Goyal
Mr. John and Mrs. Kiyomi Hamilton
Mr. Naufal Khan and Mrs. Asma Afridi
Dr. Jae and Mrs. Jiyeon Kim
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Dawn Lawler '82
Mr. Christopher Lok and Ms. Josephine Sheng
Mr. Stephen Lunn
Mr. Dimitre and Mrs. Katerina Marinov
Mr. Michael Nicolai and Ms. Lisa Castle
Dr. Udit and Mrs. Malini Patel
Mr. Viktor Perekhozhuk and
Mrs. Oksana Pidruchna
Mrs. Natalie Powell
Mr. JP Ramirez and Dr. Kimberly Bauer
Mr. Neal and Dr. Jennifer Reenan
Mr. Vishnu '92 and Mrs. Sailaja Srinivasan
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Cindy Stathakis
Mr. Derek and Mrs. Ying Timmermann
Anonymous

Fourth Group - 94%

Mr. William Atwood and
Mrs. Reagen Atwood
Mr. Robert, Jr. and Mrs. Tracy Blackburn
Mr. William and Ms. Joanna Bradford
Mr. Benton and Mrs. Stephanie Bullwinkel
Mr. Maneesh and Mrs. Archana Chawla
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Victoria Chen
Dr. Steven Chough and Dr. Anna Park
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Kathryn Dunlop
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Anne Elliott
Mr. James and Mrs. Trecia Gandurski
Mr. Donald and Mrs. Catherine Glass
Mr. Ian and Mrs. Dianne Gutterman
Mr. Houman and Mrs. Parastoo Kashanipour
Mr. David and Mrs. Heidi Keeling
Mr. Robert '79 and Mrs. Jingjing Kipp
Mr. Kirill and Mrs. Laura Krylov
Mr. Matthew Lange and Dr. Cathleen Ayuste
Mr. Wei Li and Mrs. Jing Xing
Dr. Ted Liu and Mrs. Ellen Huang
Mr. Ted and Mrs. Jenny McKendall
Dr. Uday and Mrs. Sheetal Narahari
Mr. Madhu and Dr. Sreya Pallath
Mr. Alesh and Mrs. Binita Patel
Dr. Melissa Pradhan
Mr. Matthew and Dr. Sabine Rolnick
Dr. Everett Smith and Mrs. Rita Drenga
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Beth Spiegel
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Michelle Stastny
Dr. Robert and Mrs. Michelle Strugala
Mr. Rajcan and Mrs. Yuanna Surface
Mr. Aloysius Wild, III and
Dr. Caer-Eve McCabe
Dr. Hui Zhao and Dr. Yi Zhou

Fifth Group - 83%

Mr. John and Mrs. Artemis Anos
Mr. Srikanth and Mrs. Lavanya Batchu
Mr. Jeff and Mrs. Debra Bruns
Mr. Carl and Ms. Elizabeth Clark
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Kathleen Danakis
Mr. Ajay and Mrs. Priya Desai
Mr. Anthony '91 and Dr. Heidi Engel
Mr. Kristian and Mrs. AnnMarie Fauske
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Charlene Geary
Dr. Sophia Majid
Mr. Paul and Mrs. Diana Halley
Ms. Andrea Hornickle and
Ms. Julie Swinehart
Mr. Naufal Khan and Mrs. Asma Afridi
Mr. Alok and Mrs. Barnali Khuntia
Mr. Matthew Lange and Dr. Cathleen Ayuste
Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Heather Manning
Mr. James and Mrs. BJ Marshall
Mr. Gerard and Dr. Lisa Martin
Mr. David and Mrs. Deborah McGarry
Dr. Rajeev and Mrs. Tejal Mehta
Mr. Keith and Mrs. Susan Ozsvat
Mr. Matt and Mrs. Kristin Porter
Mr. James and Mrs. Susanna Ramsden
Mr. Neal and Dr. Jennifer Reenan
Mr. Edwin Savarimuthu and
Ms. Dhevi Kandasamy
Ms. Michelle Soudier and Mr. Joe Hughes
Dr. Franklin and Dr. Peggy Tan
Dr. David and Ms. Angela Tse
Anonymous

2017 – 2018 ACS Fund

Sixth Group - 89%

Dr. Nouri and Mrs. Shatha Al-Khaled
Mr. Chadwick and Mrs. Evgenia Baatz
Dr. Anup Bendre and Dr. Anuradha Perni
Mr. Robert, Jr. and Mrs. Tracy Blackburn
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Gracetrue Buzzard
Mr. Daniel Chan and Ms. Shuling Lee
Mr. Maneesh and Mrs. Archana Chawla
Dr. Steven Chough and Dr. Anna Park
Mr. Dave and Mrs. Margie Davis
Mr. David and Mrs. Xufei Ding
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Jane Egan
Ms. Jennifer Elliott
Mr. Adam Gastolek and
 Dr. Aneta Paniczko-Gastolek
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Charlene Geary
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Jacqueline Gupta
Dr. Andrew and Mrs. Yongtae Kim
Mr. Wai and Mrs. Jessica Lau
Mr. Christopher Lok and Ms. Josephine Sheng
Mr. Evan and Mrs. Beth McNish
Dr. Frederick Mueller and Ms. Cindy Leicht
Dr. Todd and Mrs. Heather Pleune
Mr. David Reynolds and Mrs. Wendi Wilson
Mr. Melvin Sanny and Mrs. Iona Bunea
Mr. Tapan and Dr. Kavita Shah
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Michelle Stastny
Dr. Robert and Mrs. Michelle Strugala
Mr. Rajcan and Mrs. Yuanna Surface
Mr. Aloysius Wild, III and
 Dr. Caer-Eve McCabe
Dr. Michael Wince and Ms. Pamela Cox
Mr. Keith Woodruff and
 Dr. Monina Quindipan
Prof. Jie Yang and Dr. Liping Tong
Anonymous

Seventh Group - 90%

Dr. Kenneth Candido and Dr. Durre Shahwar
Dr. Huayun Chen and Mrs. Wei Qi
Mr. James and Mrs. Trecia Gandurski
Mr. Rik Geiersbach and Ms. Carolyn Burger
Mr. Brian Gilmartin and Dr. Lisa Karaitis
Dr. Vivek and Dr. Sonal Gupta
Mr. Ian and Mrs. Dianne Gutterman
Mr. John and Mrs. Grace Harrast
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**SAVE THE DATE:
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Onward, Upward, and Beyond:
A Lasting Legacy



Alumni Donors

With deep gratitude, we recognize the loyalty and philanthropic support of our alumni to the ACS Fund, the Journey Forward Together Campaign, our endowments, and other restricted funds. In addition to their financial support, alumni support ACS through their service on the Board of Trustees, the Alumni Council, as guest speakers for special events and through other volunteer opportunities. ACS alumni remain connected to their alma mater through the annual Auction and a wide variety of other events, programs, and activities.

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Walter Anderson '80
Ayaan Asthana '14
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Michael Beckley '88
Stephen Bohnen '70
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Volunteers at the "water station" had a chance to cool off during Fun Run.

Tributes and Memorials

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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The following corporations and foundations generously supported The School in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. These organizations include family foundations, donor-advised funds, and companies that offer matching gift programs. We encourage all donors to inquire about the possibility of a gift match through their employer - it is an easy way to double or even triple the impact of your donation!

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Mr. Jefferson and Mrs. Catherine Reiter

ACS also extends our sincere gratitude to the many families and students who contribute to the ACS Library Birthday Book Club and Library Enrichment Program each year.



Working on the barn was a great example of teamwork and community at ACS.

2018 Auction



(left to right) TRIFECTA Auction Chairs Carissa Means '89 and Raquel Johnson

The 36th Annual Auction was held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at the elegant Westin Hotel in Lombard, Illinois. The Kentucky Derby themed event, TRIFECTA!, brought the community together to celebrate our remarkable students and the School's spirit of tradition, innovation, and excellence.

The event raised \$276,021 net proceeds for the School. Together with the ACS Fund, the Auction helps bridge the gap between tuition and operating expenses, allowing ACS to continue to provide an outstanding educational experience for our extraordinary students. The evening also offered the opportunity to create lasting memories among friends old and new, thanks to the generosity and effort of the following volunteers and donors.



ACS students had a fun time volunteering at the Auction to sell raffle tickets.

2018 Auction Committee and Volunteers

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Raquel Johnson
Carissa Means '89

Baskets

Eli Cordero

Catalog Layout

Samreen Imami

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Fourth Group

Kathryn Dunlop

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Jennifer Reenan

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Sanja Jovanovic

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Bhavna Badur
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2018 Auction

Fleur de Lis Society

The Fleur de Lis Society is comprised of benefactors who provide philanthropic support to the Auction at a leadership level of \$1,000 or more. The Society, established in 1990, is critical to the fundraising success of this event. Sincere appreciation is shared with all contributors to the Fleur de Lis Society, who collectively contributed \$118,500 this year!

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Jie Yang and Liping Tong



Alumni from the Class of 2008 were in attendance at the 2018 ACS Annual Auction: TRIFECTA

Special Recognition

The Avery Coonley School gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and businesses who contributed items and/or services to the Auction valued at \$1,000 or more.

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Thank you to the generous companies who provided financial support at a leadership level of \$1,000 or more during the 2017-2018 school year. Sponsorship provides a unique and valued opportunity to support ACS.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Development Office at 630-969-0800 or development@averycoonley.org.

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Thank you to the following companies for providing matching gifts and other financial support to the Auction.

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Sabine Rolnick, Coldwell Banker
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2018 Auction

The 2018 Fund-A-Need

This year's Fund-A-Need provided \$50,000 in underwriting in support of the new ACS Makerspace. The Makerspace creates more opportunities for students to take what they are learning in their classrooms and use higher level thinking skills to discover problems and design tangible solutions and creations. In partnership with TinkRworks, ACS faculty encourage design thinking, a solutions-based method to solving problems. Doing so further reinforces students' abilities to extrapolate the knowledge they acquired in class and apply it in everyday life.

This year's Fund-A-Need offered the opportunity to provide students with more access to exciting equipment, and a well-outfitted, efficient space to explore the use of both traditional and high tech tools in new and unexpected ways. In addition to its current location in the former drama classroom, the Makerspace also now occupies the newly-renovated barn as an outdoor power-tool workshop. With the generous support of the following donors, we are able to make an amazing array of tools, equipment, and technology available to ACS students for years to come.



ACS students created a special "ACS Makerspace" sign for the auction as one first major projects done in the Makerspace.

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 Walter E. Smithe Furniture
 Shuli Wang
 Jody Weidman
 Joel and Shannon Weinberger
 Rebecca Weitekamp
 Jeff Westbrook
 Western Digital
 Donna Wetta
 Jonathan Whitall and Meg Dedolph '86
 Caryn Wiczorkwicz
 Mark Wiemelt and Tracey Brill
 The Law Offices of Mark Wiemelt, PC
 Wight & Company
 Aloysius Wild III and Caer-Eve McCabe
 Lisa Wiltz
 Windy City Playhouse
 Wingren Landscaping
 World's Finest Chocolate
 WOW Wired on Waverly
 Charles and Amy Wright
 Debra Wysopal
 Yoga By Degrees
 Zanies Comedy Club
 Zazu
 Zevia Soda
 Hui Zhao and Yi Zhou

This report reflects gifts received between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. If any errors or omissions are noted, please accept our apologies and share them with the ACS Office of Development.



(above, left) Emily Temple-Wood '08 gave the alumni address at the auction.

(above, right) ACS Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Head of School Peter Brown announcing the start of the ACS Auction

Thank You

In 2017-2018, we said farewell to several Faculty and Staff members who retired. We wish them luck and thank them for their service.



We deeply thank **Patty Crylen** (top, left) who has dynamically served the Avery Coonley community for over 30 years.

Mrs. Crylen began her working career at Avery Coonley in 1994, but she has been part of our family since 1980. Patty's three children – Curtis, Kathryn and Carolyn – all attended ACS, and during those years Patty spent a large portion of her time volunteering on campus. ACS used to have a tradition of parents cooking a pancake breakfast on site for the Eighth Group. Mrs. Crylen and the other volunteers would gather together in the old kitchen and cook over a 100 pancakes monthly for a hungry crowd.

In 1994, Mrs. Crylen began working in our Early Childhood program. She felt that this was a way to give back to ACS, as a thank you for her children having had such an amazing experience as students here. And after all these years, she still says she absolutely loves coming to Avery Coonley. Mrs. Crylen says it best when she states that Avery Coonley is a magical place, and that the children here can see magic in everything.

Even in retirement children will still play a major role in Mrs. Crylen's life. Mr. and Mrs. Crylen are planning on spending more time with their family, including their grandchildren, and Mrs. Crylen is hoping to also improve her cello playing skills.

There is a saying in Early Childhood that Mrs. Crylen is very fond of: Once a child has been in EC, they are part of our family forever. Mrs. Crylen has amended that saying to the following: "Now you all are part of my family forever – please stay in touch!"

Thank you, Mrs. Crylen, for your considerable contributions to the children of The Avery Coonley School.



In 2018, after 20 years at ACS, **Debbie Soldato** (bottom, left) stepped down from her position as Early Childhood teacher. Mrs. Soldato's tenure was marked by her deep love for her young students, and her care in helping them find their place at ACS. Her patience, empathy, and respect for her young charges played an essential role in her students building a strong foundation of confidence, creativity, and compassion for them to take into adolescence and adulthood. Mrs. Soldato also dedicated her time and expertise in teaching the ACS Rainbows Program.

Prior to ACS, Mrs. Soldato worked at St. Paul High School and Nazareth Academy where she taught Speech, Theatre and English. From 1978-1991, Mrs. Soldato was also the Director of the Summer Camp at the Broadview Park District. She was also named Teacher of the Year at Nazareth Academy and received Nazareth's Leaders, Legends, and Legacy Award in 2003.

Mrs. Soldato was also well-known for her love of music and theater, and sharing that passion with children. She directed numerous musical and children's theatre productions, and co-presented "Rockin' Around the Clock with Kids" at the 1999 ISACS Annual Conference. In addition to her work in Early Childhood, Mrs. Soldato was involved with teaching music to Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten. We're very thankful for how Mrs. Soldato's appreciation for music and theater played a large role in enriching the lives of ACS's youngest learners.

In her retirement, Mrs. Soldato looks forward to spending more time outdoors, traveling, and spending time with her children and grandchildren. We wish her nothing but the best, and are grateful for everything she's given during her time at ACS.

Betty Klein's (right) relationship with the school began as the parent of David, and Amy Klein. Through their years here, she served in many parent volunteer positions, and she sat on the Board of Trustees. But then the school figured out a way to channel Mrs. Klein's skills, and her love for ACS in a way that could keep her around long past Amy's graduation: they brilliantly offered her the job of librarian.

Since 1995, Mrs. Klein has welcomed students into the library. Like our other interdivisional faculty, her regular contact with students from EC through 8th grade afforded her the invaluable position to get to know each individual cohort of students. Her longitudinal knowledge was instrumental to the school's ability to maintain a sense of community and the ability of the school to meet the needs of students as they mature into young adults. As the librarian, Mrs. Klein's relationship with ACS students was unique: she got to know, and help foster, their individual reading habits and personal passions, through their choices of books.

Further, her library classes are the central reason our students' research capabilities are so strong here at ACS. She helped students develop strong notetaking skills, the ability to critically read different media, and more. Our alumni consistently report they are well prepared for their high school research tasks – in great part due to Mrs. Klein's guidance.

Outside of the library, Mrs. Klein helped steer the Thanksgiving program. As the chair, she had a finger on every part—from creating the student marching orders, to making on-the-fly adjustments during the program to ensure the tableau's beautiful formation.

The roles that Mrs. Klein has carried out at this school were so varied, including book clubs, helping with middle school research projects like science fair and Immigration Fair, or her ever-important annual job of “welcoming Mrs. Claus” to ACS, during our holiday festivities.

Neil Gaiman once said, “Librarians are the coolest people out there doing the hardest job out there on the frontlines.” Mrs. Klein will be remembered one of the coolest librarians out there, fostering in ACS students a passion for learning for over 2 decades. We thank her for all of her guidance—for the students, faculty, and the rest of the ACS community. We wish Mrs. Klein the best of luck in her next endeavors.



Thank You



In 2017, the School bid a fond farewell to **Linda Ward**, who had significantly influenced the children, alumni and families of the Avery Coonley School for the last 38 years.

Mrs. Ward began her journey here at ACS as a parent. Her daughter, Kristin, started school here in 1978. She was asked to join the faculty in 1979. She was one of the teachers who started the Early Childhood Program; after a few years, she was asked to transfer her talents to First group.

Mrs. Ward has acquired a lot of favorite memories over the years. For example, she recalls the blizzard of 1979, when the field was plowed and the snow was banked in a large row. She and some other teachers snuck onto campus one night and doused the snow bank with green food coloring and decorated it with a face. The children came to school the next day and thought a dragon had taken up residence on the field!

She also remembers taking the children out to ice skate on the rock pond, and lacing up 25 pairs of skates every day; hurtling down the old toboggan slide with laughing students; and the time the fire alarm went off right in the middle of the Thanksgiving program.

Throughout the years, Mrs. Ward has demonstrated her many talents to the ACS community. She started the First Group Circus, a huge and spectacular endeavor. She also helped children create Curious George stories, documenting George's many weekend adventures at each child's home. Her ability to recognize and remember each and every alum who visited was a testament both to her remarkable memory and the incredibly strong bond she formed with each student.

Mrs. Ward hopes to enjoy her retirement by spending more time being a grandmother. Her husband is heavily involved in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and she plans to become more involved with the CSO as well. She also is looking forward to spending more time on the family boat.

Mrs. Ward will miss the children of Avery Coonley above all. She has taught over 1000 students here and counts herself lucky to have taught so many of her colleague's children and the children of former students. As Mrs. Ward says, "The children here are my heart. My footsteps will always echo at Avery Coonley."

Thank you, Mrs. Ward, for all that you have done for the Avery Coonley School!



Students enjoyed being out in the sun for PE when the weather was kind.

The following people joined the ACS Faculty, Administration, and Staff in 2017-2018. We're pleased to welcome them to ACS!

Katie Arnold joined the Kindergarten team at Avery Coonley in 2018. She taught Kindergarten in the Chicago Public Schools for several years before teaching Kindergarten and first grade in the Glencoe School District. Mrs. Arnold attended Illinois State University and earned a degree in Theatre Education before obtaining her Elementary Certification from National Louis University and her Master's in Educational Leadership from UIC. Mrs. Arnold and her family currently live in Chicago.

Linda Cerna joined ACS in 2018 as a Technology Specialist, assisting Director of Technology Steven Bosco with the school's technology needs. Linda has an associate degree in software development and is completing her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her children.

Sean Culligan joined ACS in 2017 as an After School Receptionist. He can also be seen occasionally assisting the ACS Maintenance Team during school breaks. Sean is a Downers Grove South graduate and is currently attending Benedictine University where he is majoring in Environmental Science and Biology. In his free time, he likes to golf and play Frisbee golf.

Julie Doyle joined the school in 2017 and is currently the Junior Kindergarten Assistant Teacher. Prior to ACS, Mrs. Doyle taught the pre-kindergarten program at Grace School in Hinsdale. She also previously taught Kindergarten and 4th grade at St. Alphonsus in Chicago. Mrs. Doyle enjoys spending time with her children, spending time outdoors, gardening, and travel.

Kirsten Gillono joined the ACS community and begin her new adventure as Mr. Druzinsky's assistant in 2017. She comes to us from a real estate law firm where she was the office administrator for several years. She also used to be a competitive swimmer and was a triathlete. Mrs. Gillono enjoys spending time with her family and watching her children's many sporting and musical events.

Stephanie Kohnke joined the faculty as a mathematics teacher in 2018. Mrs. Kohnke has worked in education for the thirteen years prior to joining ACS, with the majority of that time spent as a middle school mathematics teacher in New Jersey. She is a member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and has attended various workshops on problem solving in mathematics. In her spare time, Mrs. Kohnke enjoys playing pickleball, watching sports, and traveling with her husband and two college aged sons.

New Faces at ACS

Lee Kopacz joined ACS in 2017 as a Maintenance and Lunch Room Assistant. He is a Downers Grove South graduate and is an avid musician. Lee plays the drums, guitar, and keyboard, and enjoys creating music. He enjoys spending time with his five year-old daughter.

Meghan McCarthy joined The Avery Coonley School in 2018 as a School Counselor. She previously served as the social worker for the Elmhurst School District, and has also worked as a Family Support Coordinator. Mrs. McCarthy has a BA in Social Work from the University of St. Thomas - Minnesota, and an MA in Social Work from Loyola University. She has studied abroad in Spain and Ireland, and still has quite a bit of family in Switzerland. She and her husband have two sons.

Nelly Musso joined the Kindergarten team at Avery Coonley in 2018. She has previously taught at Catherine Cook School in Chicago, Christ Church in Oakbrook, and the Oakbrook Park District. She has also coached competitive swim for several years, and is an avowed animal lover. Miss Musso, her children, and their menagerie of animals live right here in Downers Grove.

Sarah Perron joined ACS in 2018 as the Associate Director of Development. She has served in a variety of development roles, most recently working with Moose Charities and the Mooseheart Child City and School and the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA). Sarah has served in a variety volunteer and fundraising roles within her community including Elmhurst's Junior Women's Club and Wheaton Family Shelter Services. Ms. Perron is from the western suburbs and has one daughter, Madeleine.

Neha Thakkar joined the faculty of The Avery Coonley School as the school librarian in 2017. Mrs. Thakkar has worked in a school librarian role for the past twelve years in both Chicago Public Schools and North Berwyn Public Schools. She is thrilled to be a part of the ACS community and, as a bit of trivia, was accepted to ACS as a child but was not able to attend. Mrs. Thakkar studied elementary education at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and has master's degrees in Library and Information Sciences, and Educational Administration from University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Mrs. Thakkar has spoken at various conferences on the importance of technology and research for students, and best practices on teaching these tools. Mrs. Thakkar enjoys spending time with her daughter and husband.

Michi Trota '92 joined The Avery Coonley School Development team as Associate Director of Communications and Marketing in July 2017. She has over 20 years of experience in communications, editing, writing, and community-building. Ms. Trota continues to pursue professional development in her field, particularly focusing on critical analyses and discussions of popular media, diversity, representation, and social justice. She is a three-time Hugo Award winning editor for her work on *Uncanny: A Magazine of Science Fiction and Fantasy*, and the first Filipina to win the award. Ms. Trota is also a returning ACS alumna and a member of the ACS Alumni Council. She enjoys cooking and baking, performing as a firespinner, or reading at home with her husband and two cats.

Eric Youngquist joined the staff at ACS in 2018 as a Seventh and Eighth Group literacy teacher. He previously taught for 13 years in Flossmoor as a sixth and seventh grade literacy teacher. He spent a number of years as the English department chair, tech director for the school play, head track coach, Chicago History Fair sponsor, and Science Olympiad coach. Mr. Youngquist likes to spend time with his wife and three children. He is also a fan of all things nerdy. He loves board games, card games, and can usually be found working his way through at least two books at the same time.

We're also pleased to have partnered with **TinkRworks**, a Hinsdale-based provider of innovative and exceptional STEAM experiences, in the operation of the ACS Makerspace.

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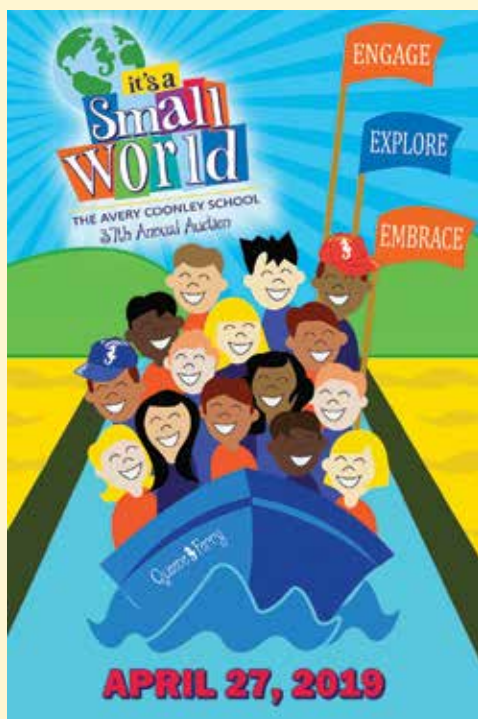
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