

Excellence  
through  
Engenuity



# 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

Avon Grove Charter School



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# School Leadership

## Board of Trustees

**Dwayne Degler** President  
**Charity Longnecker** Vice President  
**Deji Akintoye** Treasurer  
**Stacy Barno** Secretary  
**Cynthia Allen** Member  
**Jason Chubb** Member  
**Kelly Eshleman** Member  
**Brian Ladman** Member  
**Colleen Preston** Member

## Administrators

**Kristen Bishop** Head of School & CEO  
**Natosha Bowers** Director of Human Resources & CPO  
**Donna Archer** Business Administrator & CFO  
**Bryan Brutto** Director of Administration & CAO  
**Gerri Kingery** Director of Information Technology  
**Jennifer Weaver** Director of Teaching & Learning  
**Ryan Taylor** Director of Student Services  
**Alexander Bove** Director of Special Education

## Principals

**Matthew Messick** Principal, 9-12  
**GerriAnn Lambert** Principal, 7-8  
**Sharon Ray** Principal, 4-6  
**Kelly Hendrickson** Principal, K-3  
**Mark Miller** Assistant Principal, 7-12  
**Tara Delgado** Assistant Principal, 4-6  
**Kristopher Stevenson** Assistant Principal, K-3

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### MISSION

To inspire passion for lifelong learning one student at a time.

### VISION

To be an accepting community that unlocks students' abilities to discover and reach their full potential.

# A Message from the Head of School

This year has been one of resilience, growth, and unwavering commitment from every corner of our school community. With our "All In" theme, we set out to develop a portrait for every facet of our school. We envisioned a portrait of a graduate who embodies academic excellence, resilience, empathy, and a drive for lifelong learning. Together, we've nurtured these qualities in our students, empowering them to step confidently into the next chapter of their lives. Parents, board members, staff, and students have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our shared vision. Each member of our community plays a vital role in shaping the fabric of our school, and this year, we've seen firsthand the power of collaboration and collective effort.



We also look forward to exciting developments on the horizon. The groundbreaking for our new academic building for grades 7-12 marks a significant milestone in our journey. This state-of-the-art facility will provide our students with opportunities for growth and discovery, ensuring that our school remains at the forefront of educational innovation.

Our school is committed to nurturing a family-like environment where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to thrive. Through continued implementation of PBIS and the adoption of a block schedule, we've tailored our approach to meet the unique needs of each student, ensuring that every individual receives the support they need to succeed.

I am grateful for the dedication and passion of our entire community. Your unwavering support and commitment to our mission have been the driving force behind our successes this year. Together, we've achieved countless milestones and achievements.

As we close the chapter on another school year, let us celebrate our accomplishments and look forward to the opportunities ahead.

In Partnership,  
Kristen Bishop



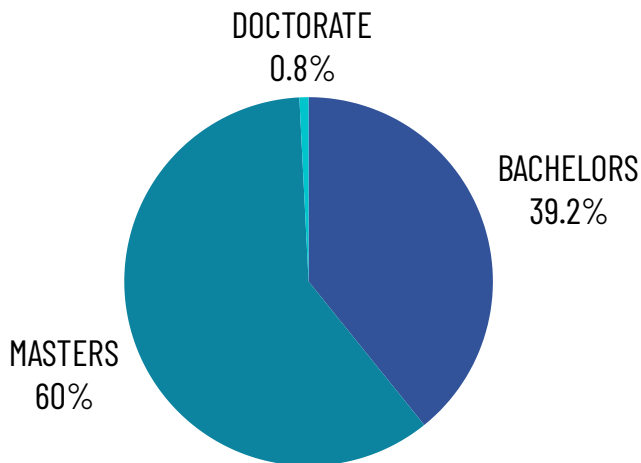


# Employees

In 2023-2024, AGCS employed 126 teachers, 5 school counselors, 3 nurses and a school social worker, totaling 235 faculty members.

**147** STATE ROAD  
FACULTY

**88** EARLY LEARNING  
CENTER FACULTY

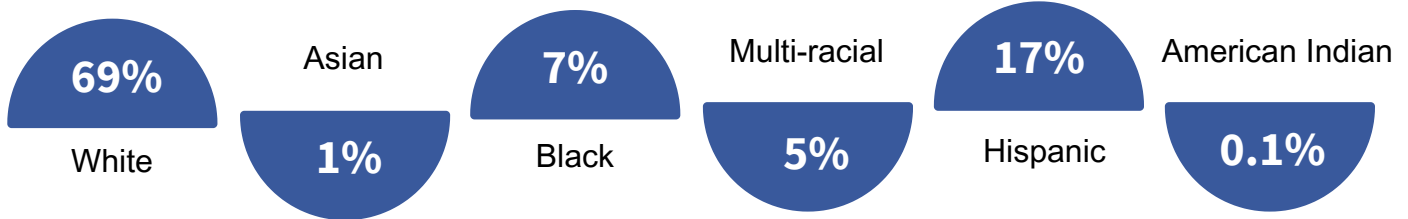


**Level of Education**

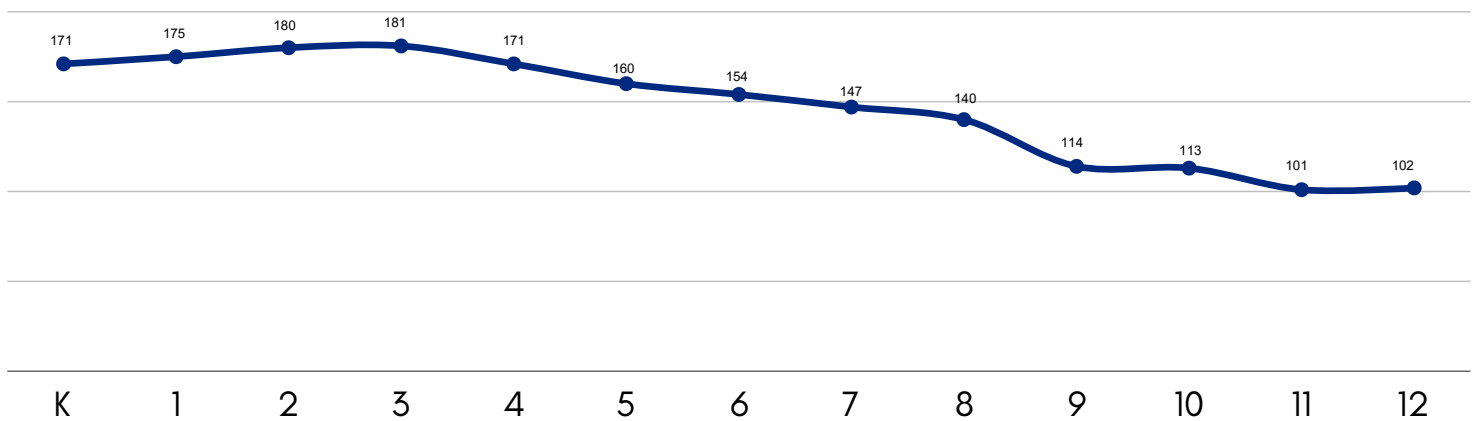
**28%** EMPLOYEED  
BY AGCS 15+  
YEARS

# Enrollment

## Student Demographics



## Student Enrollment by Grade



Students categorized English Language Learners

**1.2%**

Students receiving Special Education services

**17.5%**

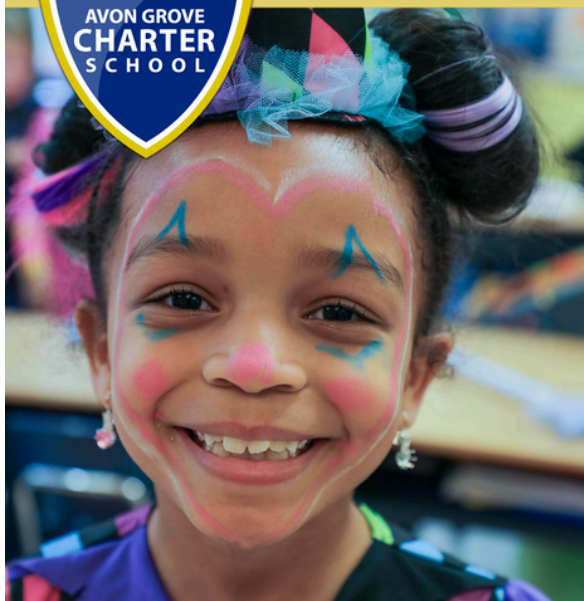
Students categorized as free/reduced lunch eligible

**37.9%**

Total Enrollment **1909**



**AVON GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL**  
...more than an outstanding education



# Strategic Priorities

## RIGOROUS TEACHING & LEARNING

AGCS will ensure that all students are engaged in rigorous, standards aligned, academic curriculum and learning experiences designed to foster college and career readiness skills.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

AGCS will build and extend the schools brand to ensure community awareness, participation, and to forge relationships with various stakeholders groups.

## SUPPORT FOR ALL LEARNERS

AGCS will enhance the school community by providing curriculum, professional development, support, and protocols to promote the social and emotional wellness of our students and staff and create an equitable learning environment.

## MODERNIZING OUR FACILITIES & SYSTEMS

AGCS will develop plans to modernize our physical facilities and infrastructure and ensure a safe and supportive learning and work environment.





# Teaching and Learning

The K-12 Science Leadership Team has been hard at work learning about the new Pennsylvania science standards aptly known as STEELS (Science, Technology, Engineering, Environmental Literacy, and Sustainability), which help create the conditions for all students to be scientifically, technologically, environmentally, and engineering literate.

The Team has collaborated with administration and consultants from the CCIU to strengthen instructional practices that will align with the new standards. In June, our team will present our recommendations for new programming to the Board. Implementation of STEELS will begin in the Fall of 2024. In addition, the Science PSSA will shift from 4th to 5th grade.





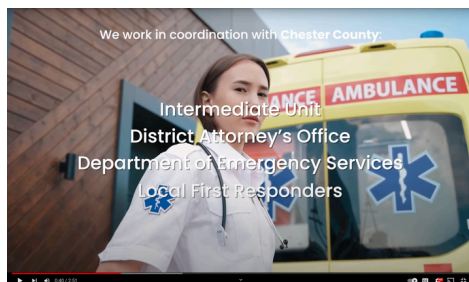
# Safety & Security

Ensuring the safety and security of our school community is our utmost priority at AGCS. Our school diligently adheres to the safety requirements outlined in Act 44.

- We collaborate closely with the Avon Grove School District, sharing the expertise of our Safety and Security Coordinator, Chrissy Simpkins. Mrs. Simpkins consistently reviews and updates our policies and procedures to ensure they align with the latest safety standards and best practices.
- We conduct regular and required drills to prepare our students and staff for various emergency scenarios. These drills ensure everyone can respond quickly and effectively in an emergency.
- We coordinate and meet regularly with local emergency services, including the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), the West Grove Fire Company, Southern Chester County EMS, and our local Townships representatives. These strong partnerships enhance our preparedness and ensure a swift, coordinated response if needed.
- Our commitment to safety extends to providing various training sessions for our staff. These trainings equip our team with the knowledge and skills to handle emergencies efficiently and confidently.
- This year, we launched *Navigate 360*, a comprehensive suite of integrated school safety solutions. This platform offers ongoing support and a range of tools that enhance our ability to communicate and maintain a secure school environment.

## AGCS/AGSD SAFETY & SECURITY COLLABORATION

In partnership with the Avon Grove School District, we created a video to provide information on how we are committed to ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for our students. In the video, you can expect to find an overview of the safety measures in place, including updated standard response protocols, safety guidelines, and concern reporting.



# AGCS Pride

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS



- AGCS students invited over 75 loved ones to campus for our Veteran's Breakfast. The veteran's parade through the Early Learning Center was one of our most loved videos on social media.
- The high school and middle school Leo Clubs volunteered their labor at La Mancha Animal Rescue and Canine Partners for Life, played bingo with residents at Luther House, ran a stuffed animal drive for Orphan Grain Train, and went to Ronald McDonald House to make breakfast for families of children being treated at A.I. DuPont Children's Hospital.
- The Tri-M Music Honor Society and the high school orchestra performed holiday concerts at the Kennett Senior Center and Maris Grove.
- 1st-6th grade CAAP students plus ELC principles presented community storytime at Rooted and community libraries
- In a nod to local rose gifting history, during National School Choice Week AGCS seniors presented blue and yellow roses to community businesses, signifying our appreciation for our community partnership.

## BIO MED STUDENT DETECTS MURMUR

In our Biomedical Sciences class, high schooler Wyatt Nelson identified a rare and previously undetected heart murmur in his friend and classmate. Wyatt applied what he'd learned in class to make a difference in the real world and we couldn't be more thrilled for him, his classmates and their outstanding teacher, Mrs. Marielle Veilleux! The story was reported by NBC Philadelphia.



## FARM-TO-SCHOOL GRANT

AGCS was awarded the PA Farm-to-School Grant to help fund our Micro-Farm and Ag-Ed Program. In March, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding visited both AGCS campuses as the state prepared to celebrate Ag Literacy Week.

# AGCS Pride

## DECA ATTENDS STATE AND INTERNATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCES

This winter, twenty-five DECA students competed in the 3-day State Career Development Conference in Hershey, PA. They came home with some commendable wins including four team members who qualified for the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Anaheim, California: Anneli Erion, Thaddeus Purifoy, Tennyson Nelson and Max Guttman.

While at ICDC the 4-student team took advanced exams in business professional categories and competed in public speaking and team building events. They were exposed to high levels of competition amongst 25,000 students from across the globe. While our team did not come home with an official win, they had the experience of a lifetime and made invaluable connections with other student leaders.



## GUARNERI EARNS CITADEL 'HEART OF LEARNING' AWARD

High school math teacher Kim Guarneri won the prestigious award which recognizes local teachers who show dedication in and out of the classroom. Just *one* charter & private school teacher is selected to receive this award each year!

## ClassH ROOM COMPETITION

AGCS' student-teacher team competed against each other on Fox-29's famous trivia game show, The ClassH Room! It was a tough battle but the students were victorious, beating the teachers 250-240. Their friendly battle earned \$500 for the school.





# Athletics

It was an exciting year in AGCS athletics with many team successes and individual player recognitions. Due to construction, spring sports led our transition offsite to Nichol Park. We look forward to new onsite athletics facilities, including a turf field and new gym, in 2026!

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Cross country team achieved a record number of PRs
- Boys soccer team finished the fall season as the #1 seed in the MIL with an overall record of 13-3
- Girls volleyball team finished with a record of 14-5 and advanced to the MIL championship
- Inaugural girls basketball season complete, under the leadership of Head Coach, Nicole Burns
- First alumni coach, Leah Cross, hired to lead the AGCS cheer program
- Boys lacrosse team won their first playoff game and finished with an overall winning record of 10-6
- Junior lacrosse player Sam Carey was recognized by the Philadelphia Wings as a Player-of-the-Week.
- Senior Gia Hall became the first AGCS volleyball player to achieve 1000 career volleyball points.

## MIL LEAGUE AWARDS

### Soccer

1st Team: Gus Lopez, Ryan Stockar, Sam Neely, Ray Sanchez, Billy McAfee, Sophia Erdmann, Lily Eldridge

### Volleyball

League MVP: Gia Hall

1st Team: Gia Hall, Emily Colp

### Basketball

1st Team: Ella Barrett, Xavier London

### Lacrosse

1st Team: Sam Carey







## ATHLETES COMPETING AT COLLEGIATE LEVEL

**Riley Campbell**

Baylor University-Equestrian

**Emily Colp**

Anna Maria College-Volleyball

**Gia Hall**

Anna Maria College-Volleyball

**Alexis Himelright**

Penn State Brandywine-Soccer

**Agustin Lopez**

Goldey-Beacom College-Soccer

**Thomas Matuszewski**

Mt. St. Mary's University-Baseball

**Morgan Tighe**

Mercyhurst University-Cheer

*Gia Hall was named the MIL MVP in girls volleyball and became the first player in AGCS volleyball history to score 1000 points*

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Our middle school athletics teams (grades 7-8) build school spirit and provide depth & experience for our varsity teams. The middle school cross country, girls volleyball and boys & girls soccer teams enjoyed growth and success this year.

**We are excited to be expanding our middle school athletics program by including 6th graders for the 2024-2025 school year!**



# Facilities



The Avon Grove Charter School is committed to providing the highest quality education possible, and that includes recognizing the critical role that school facilities play in student success. With the academic building groundbreaking occurring in March and the multiple capital improvements and system upgrades completed at each campus this year, AGCS has demonstrated its commitment to creating an environment that fosters growth, learning and student achievement.

## **PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2023-2024**

### *Schoolwide:*

- Building security and automated access entry
- Increased and enhanced security camera surveillance system
- Purchase of two 15 passenger vans

### *Kemblesville Campus:*

- New Staff Lounge
- Unit ventilator control automation
- Replacement of 3rd grade acoustic Ceiling Tiles
- Cafeteria & Gymnasium HVAC Project

### *State Road Campus:*

- Electrical campus upgrades completed
- Arts Wing classroom casework replacement
- Arts Wing window replacement
- Arts Wing AC condenser installation

### *New Academic Building:*

- Groundbreaking March 1, 2024
- Building Completion Date: April 2026
- Project Site Work Completion Date: October 2026

# Capital Campaign

## New 7-12 Academic Building

As demand for our school has grown throughout the county and surrounding areas, we have outgrown the current State Road campus building. Our 7th-12th grade classrooms are situated in modular units which have exceeded their expected life cycle.

We are thrilled to have embarked on a journey to build a new 7-12 academic building, which is slated to be opened in the fall of 2026. This new building will meet enrollment demands and offer the state of the art educational facility that our students deserve.

Making a Capital Campaign contribution of any amount will provide financial assistance for this important project. Visit our website's "Support AGCS" page to learn more and to donate.

### 7-12 ACADEMIC BUILDING TOUR



### ABOUT OUR SCHOOL & OUR CAMPAIGN





# Construction Underway

## New 7-12 Academic Building

The finance team worked with the US Department of Agriculture to complete the application and approval process required to secure funding for the new academic building. After a process of several years, the administrative and finance teams were thrilled to finally receive the official “Letter of Conditions” which approved AGCS for a USDA loan in the amount of \$84 M. This loan afforded AGCS the ability to construct our \$52 M academic building as well as refinance the existing building purchases and renovation debt into a one loan with a 3.625 % interest rate.

On February 29th, we celebrated another pivotal moment in our quest to build for the future of our AGCS students and community: our groundbreaking ceremony followed by groundbreaking on March 1.

Our "Digging Blue and Gold" Groundbreaking Ceremony was attended by over 100 staff, students, builders, architects, board members, community members, and well-wishers. We couldn't be more excited for what the future holds for the AGCS community!



### CONSTRUCTION MILESTONES

- Ground Breaking, Equipment Mobilization & Staging
- Site Safety Parameters Installed, Site Survey & Limits of Disturbance Mapped
- Initial Project Phase Permit Applications Submitted, Approved, Received
- Materials & Equipment Submittals In Process
- IT Data, Camera, Access Control & Intercom System Discussions Initiated
- Vegetation Clearing & Top Soil Removal
- Waterline Mapping & Shutoffs, New Waterline Installation & Connections
- Storm Water Drainage Headwall Installation, Drainage Basin Excavation & Grading Initiated
- Building Foundation Grading Initiated



# Fiscal Highlights

- Recent implementation of new financial accounting and procurement platforms. These transitions have increased the department’s ability to automate tasks as well as to build new efficiencies into our systems that will better serve our school community.
- Worked with federal, state and local entities for annual financial audits and grant monitoring and are thrilled to share that there were no findings reported and AGCS has successfully met all fiscal compliance mandates.
- The finance team, along with our financial advisor, worked with the US Department of Agriculture to complete the application and approval process required to secure funding for the new academic building.

For our 2023-2024 fiscal year, our projected revenues, totaling \$36,933,371.00, increased by \$3,204,441.08 from the prior year. This is primarily due to increases in student enrollments, student retention, demographic shifts in the schools’ student membership, increased tuition rates as well as remaining ESSER funding still available to serve all K-12 learners.

Projected expenditures for the academic year totaled \$35,691,327.00. An increase of \$2,210,120.51 from the prior year. This was primarily due to an increase in instructional and student resources and support services, staff retention and recruitment, instructional technology resources as well as facility capital improvements and campus security measures implemented for both sites.

Administration, with the support of the business office team, will continue to maintain a balanced budget while supporting academic excellence and expanding resources for students and staff. We will continue to strategically focus on our long-term financial planning to achieve our long-standing instructional and facility goals.




	Fiscal Year 2023-2024
Student Enrollment	1,925
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Charges for Services	33,463,352
Operating Grants & Contributions	1,572,311
Capital Grants & Contributions	127,500
Investment Earnings	27,500
Miscellaneous Revenues	857,344
Food Service Charges for Services	319,760
Food Service Operating Grants & Contributions	565,604
Facilities Capital Improvements Funding Transfer	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>36,933,371</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Instruction	21,077,730
Support Services	9,797,478
Operation of Noninstructional Services	453,737
Depreciation & Amortization	2,240,000
Interest on Short & Long-term Debt	1,239,013
Food Service	883,369
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>35,691,327</b>

# Graduating Class of 2024







## POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Anna Maria College  
 Arcadia University  
 United State Army  
 Automotive Training Center  
 Baylor University  
 CCIU - Practical Nursing Program  
 Cecil College  
 Cornell University  
 Coastal Carolina University  
 Delaware County Community College  
 Delaware Technical Community College  
 Drexel University  
 Eastern University Templeton Honors College  
 Goldey-Beacom College  
 Immaculata University  
 Indiana University of PA  
 Kutztown University  
 Lancaster Bible College  
 Lincoln University  
 Mercyhurst University  
 Messiah University  
 Millersville University  
 Mount Saint Mary's  
 Messiah University  
 Penn State - University Park  
 Penn State - Brandywine  
 Pennsylvania Police Academy  
 Saint Joseph's University in Lancaster  
 Shippensburg University  
 Stockton University  
 Temple University  
 Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology  
 Towson University  
 Universal Technical Institute  
 University of the Arts  
 University of Delaware  
 University of Maryland - College Park  
 University of Massachusetts - Boston  
 University of New Haven  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 Walnut Hill College  
 West Chester University



## Portrait of a Graduate

A commitment to the success of every student, one student at a time

### AGCS Core Beliefs

**Lifelong Learning:** Commitment to the ongoing pursuit of knowledge, skills, and personal development

**Service:** Dedication of time, skills, and resources to contribute positively to the improvement of society

**Connections:** Recognition that our connections to the school and community are invaluable

### AGCS Core Values

**Positivity:** Possessing a mental attitude that allows me to see the good in myself and to recognize my accomplishments

- Demonstrating **self-awareness** and **self-management**
- Regulating emotions, showing honesty and integrity

**Accountability:** Making constructive and intentional choices about my actions

- Demonstrating **responsible decisions** and reasoned judgment
- Accepting the consequences of one's actions

**Confidence:** Believing in my ability to solve problems and navigate my future path

- Persisting in **solving problems** and setting goals
- Advocating for oneself and one's needs

**Kindness:** Establishing and maintaining healthy, rewarding, and respectful relationships

- Building **social awareness** and **relationship skills**
- Showing empathy, appreciating diversity, and listening to understand





# AVON GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL



**AVON GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL**  
110 East State Road  
West Grove, PA 19390  
(484) 667-5000

**DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US**



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**@AGCHARTER**

## WE'RE HIRING!



Visit the 'Careers' section of our website to learn more!

[agcharter.org](http://agcharter.org)