



# Avail Academy

Christian Education on Purpose



# ANNUAL REPORT

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## 2024



# BOARD CHAIR REPORT

As we reflect on another year of God's faithfulness, we remain committed to providing a uniquely Christian education while sustaining strong financial health, growing our enrollment, and remaining firmly rooted in our mission.

## **Commitment to Mission and Values**

Staying true to our mission is at the core of who we are. Avail is not just about academic achievement but about equipping students with a biblical worldview that prepares them to face life's challenges with faith and integrity. Our goal is to remain steadfast in our commitment to providing a Christ-centered education that is deeply integrated into every aspect of school life.

## **Enrollment Growth and Financial Health**

Growth is essential to ensuring more families can experience the Avail difference. Our efforts to increase enrollment, paired with financial stewardship, help us build the resources necessary for a high-quality education and reinvest in our teachers, staff, leaders, and campuses. Our Board as well as our leadership team are working diligently to ensure Avail thrives for generations to come.

## **Governance Model: Leadership and Accountability**

A vital part of our school's strength lies in its governance model, which ensures that we stay accountable to our mission. At the top of this structure is the Board of Trustees and the Society – the collective group of Avail's parents, teachers, and supporters who formally own the school. The board and society serve as the guardians of Avail's mission and vision, holding the school accountable to its founding principles and ensuring that every decision aligns with our core values. Below the board, the President oversees directors who guide key areas of the school, and teachers who carry out the work of transforming students' lives. This model ensures accountability and keeps us mission-focused.

## **Looking Ahead**

We are excited about the future and remain committed to the task of providing transformational Christian education. As we look ahead we are putting tactical pieces in place for our future while also praying about where God may be calling us to be bold as we build a strong, thriving Avail. Together, with your support and prayers, we will continue to grow and thrive, impacting our students and community for Christ.

In Christ,

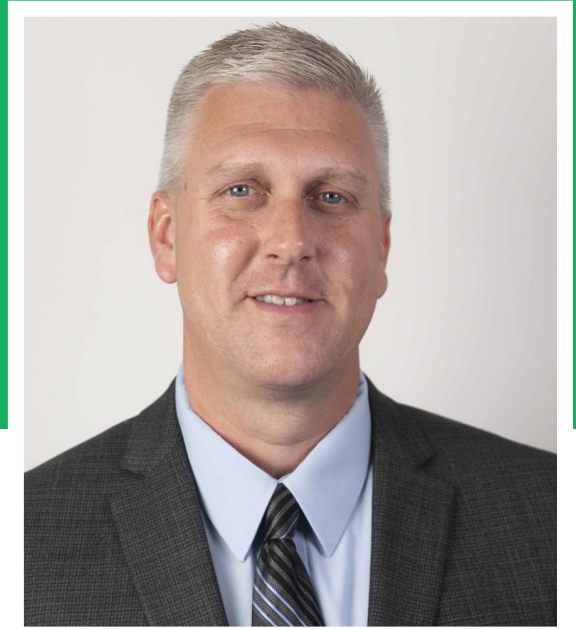
Ross Nelson

*Avail Academy*

*Board Chair*

# PRESIDENT REPORT

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## **Christian Education on Purpose**

I've always appreciated N.T. Wright's thoughts about the importance of having a vision for the kingdom. What was

God's original intent for his creation, and what will it look like in its fullness when Christ returns to make all things new? Avail Academy exists to grow that kingdom vision in our students. Wright also emphasized that a vision of Christ's coming kingdom doesn't simply mean knowing about it, waiting for that day, and accepting our broken world. Rather, Avail Academy must create a desire for that coming kingdom.

Christian education does not emphasize acquiring a specific subset of knowledge, a strategy for protecting our children, or a list of specific moral obligations. While these things certainly do and should occur in a Christian school setting, they do not adequately embody the heartbeat of Christian education. Instead, Avail Academy exists to equip our students to confidently engage with culture wherever God has placed them so they can effectively redeem and reclaim our broken world for Christ.


## **2024 in Review**

Since starting my role in January, we have made significant strides in enhancing the educational experience at Avail while ensuring our long-term sustainability. Key positions were added to deepen our Christ-centered mission and ensure future growth. Jon Kroeze, serving as Director of Faith Formation, has been instrumental in fostering a Spirit-led environment across our campuses. His work with Bible classes, chapels, and relationships with local churches helps students see their role in God's greater story.

We've also focused on making Avail Academy more widely known. A market research study showed that only 30% of families in our community had heard of us. To address this, we hired Sarah Benbow as our first Director of Marketing and Public Relations. Her leadership is already making Avail more prominent in the Twin Cities.



Continued  
on page 4



Former Board Chair Kevin Distad took on the new role of Director of Mission Advancement. Having been associated with Avail for nearly 20 years, he is uniquely equipped to articulate the Avail story and form relationships with mission-aligned organizations and individuals.

Financial sustainability remains a top priority. Thanks to Randy Kroll and Bethany Schuttinga's past leadership and Jeff Piehl's steady hand, we continue to be fiscally strong. Our first capital campaign in 15 years was launched this past summer, and we are planning another in Spring 2025. These campaigns will allow us to update our facilities, ensuring that our students experience a robust learning environment for years to come.

### **Looking Forward**

We're exploring the potential of a single-site North campus, a project spearheaded by the North Campus Assessment Committee. With confirmation from a market study showing a strong opportunity for growth on the north side of the Twin Cities, we are excited about the future. The dream of a thriving Jr. K-12 campus is within reach, and it will allow us to better serve current and future families.

Looking ahead, we will continue to refine our admissions process to align more closely with our key marketing messages. We want prospective families to be greeted with a smooth admissions process and see the distinctiveness of Avail's Christian education.

Our teachers are our most valuable resource, and we are committed to their development. Our principals are working together to create an annual plan for each teacher that emphasizes improving pedagogy, teacher-student relationships, and personal development.

Our commitment to staff development, facility updates, and community engagement will ensure that Avail Academy continues to flourish as a place where students are empowered to live out their faith and transform the world for Christ.

I am deeply grateful for the leadership team and all the faithful individuals who make this mission possible. Together, we are equipping the next generation to carry forward the kingdom vision.

# VALOR VICTORIES



## Academics

- Middle Schooler Lydia Reike was honored with the prestigious Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Award at the Minnesota State Fair
- Fifth grade students won awards from the Minnesota Zoo's ZOOM STEM design challenge, including the Zookeeper Award and the Conservation Award

## Co-Curriculars

- High School Senior Justin Kroeze became a Triple A Award Section 4A Winner and Scholarship Finalist
- High School Senior Zachariah Schaap was named Academic All State in Basketball
- Boys Basketball Team ended the year as State Academic Team Champions for Class A
- Gearshift Valor Robotics (comprised of students grades 8-12) made its debut and earned the Motivate Award and secured 2nd place for the Engineering Portfolio Award
- High School Choir earned the highest Superior Rating at the Minnesota State High School League Chorale Contest
- High School Band students joined the University of Minnesota Marching Band to perform during halftime at a Gopher football game

## Financials

- More than \$100,000 was raised during the annual Valor Challenge
- \$150,000 was raised at the annual Fellowship Dinner
- Nearly \$250,000 was raised in Avail Academy's first Capital Campaign in 15 years
- Approximately 75% of Avail families receive financial support by way of financial aid and discounts





# LIFELONG LESSONS BEGIN AT AVAIL

What if education wasn't just about passing tests, but about preparing students to transform the world? At Avail Academy, this isn't a far-fetched dream – it's the heartbeat of everything we do.

Through our *Teaching for Transformation* (TfT) framework, students aren't just learning to fill in the blanks; they're discovering their God-given purpose and how to reflect His story in the world around them.

Val Van Holland, 5th-grade teacher and instructional coach at Avail, captures the essence of TfT:

*“At its core, TfT empowers students to see learning as an act of worship. We aren't just teaching math or history—we're inviting students to explore their place in God's story.”*

This isn't just about head knowledge, she explains; it's about forming hearts that seek to serve, create, and reflect the image of God.

## Equipping for Lifelong Success

TfT isn't just about the present—it's about planting seeds for a lifetime of success. Van Holland explains, “Our students leave Avail not only with academic knowledge but with a solid understanding of who they are in Christ. They know their calling, and they're prepared to walk confidently into whatever God has for them next.”

No matter what path a student takes in life, the skills they develop through TfT—critical thinking, empathy, leadership, and a heart for service—are the tools they need to impact the world for Christ.

## A Vision Beyond the Classroom

TfT is a vision for transformation that transcends school walls. It's an education that shapes character, ignites passion, and nurtures faith. At Avail Academy, we don't just teach students to pass exams; we teach them to reflect Christ in all they do.

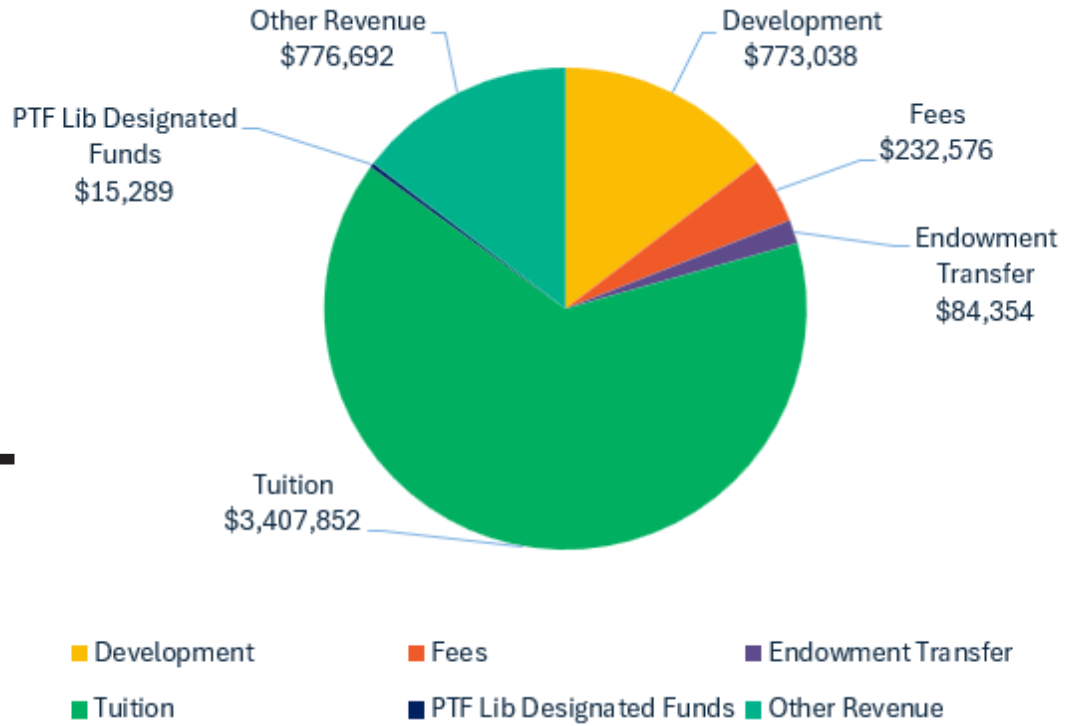
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Income

Tuition: \$3,455,556  
 Fees: \$238,850  
 Other Income: \$411,146  
 Development: \$655,670

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**Total Income: \$4,761,222**

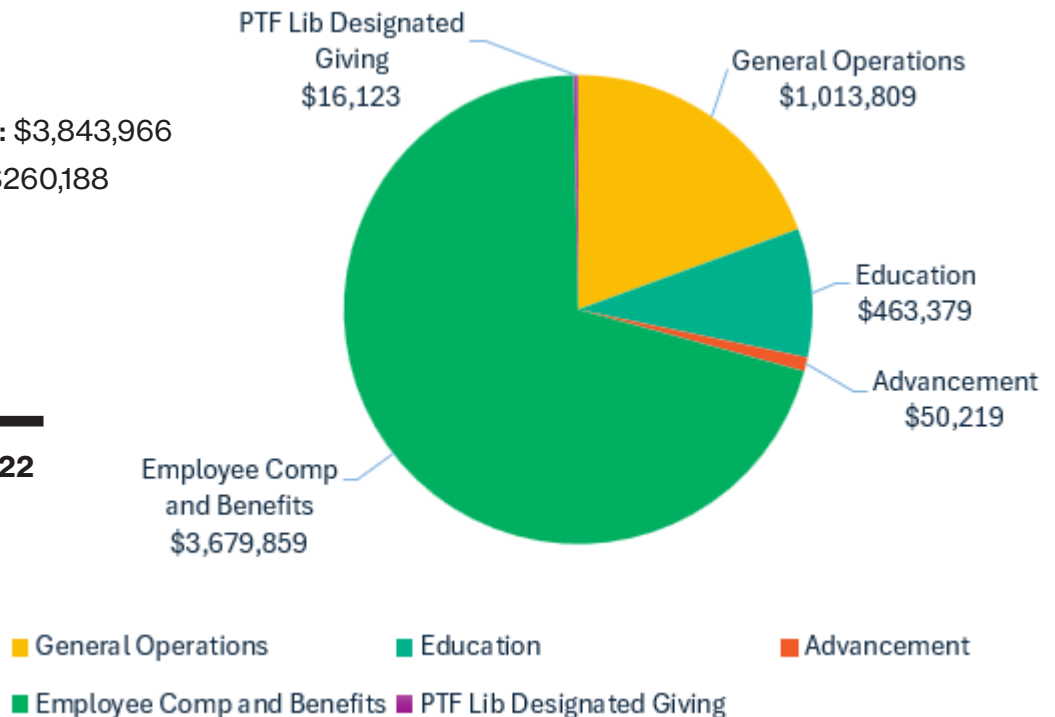


## Expenses

Employee Compensation: \$3,843,966  
 Instructional Expenses: \$260,188  
 Administrative: \$34,341  
 Operations: \$554,838  
 Transportation: \$24,909  
 Development: \$42,981

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**Total Expenses: \$4,761,222**



\* Last year's expenses were slightly higher than budgeted due to strategic investments in facility improvements and addressing deferred maintenance to ensure long-term sustainability.



# BOARD UPDATES

The Avail Academy Board maintains four sub-committees;

- Leadership Development
- Finance
- Education
- Linkage

Currently, we have openings for society members to join the committees and would welcome expressions of interest at [availbd@availacademy.org](mailto:availbd@availacademy.org)

These committees are a great way to get involved, learn more about the activities of the board, and ultimately become an Avail Academy board member.

## What we believe

At Avail Academy, we are deeply rooted in the belief that God is sovereign, revealing Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We see His hand in the Bible—His infallible Word—and in the universe He created. Our lives are a response to His call, reflecting His image as we glorify Him in all we do. We recognize that humanity, though fallen, is offered redemption through Jesus Christ alone.

Our commitment extends to nurturing students in this faith, teaching them that every aspect of their lives serves Christ's glory. We embrace the goodness of God's creation and encourage a holistic education that integrates faith with every area of study. As a community, we are dedicated to cultivating a deep sense of stewardship, recognizing that every part of life is sacred and should be lived in service to God's kingdom. Through this, we equip our students to serve God faithfully, guided by Scripture and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

## This is Christian Education on Purpose:

1. We believe in One God, who reveals himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. God reveals himself to us through the Bible and through the universe he created.
3. God created humanity in His image, and no part of life is spiritually neutral.
4. We need salvation from our sinful nature.
5. Salvation is a gift that comes only through Jesus Christ.
6. We are regenerated by the Holy Spirit, enabling us to live God-honoring lives.
7. We are called to be a community of believers.
8. Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Guided by His Spirit, we dedicate every thought, word, and deed to His service, living daily in the confident hope of His return.

View an expanded statement of faith on our website at [www.availacademy.org/who-we-are](http://www.availacademy.org/who-we-are).

