



VALOR

Avail Academy Newsletter

Voice

Summer 2024



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Mission:

Avail Academy provides quality education that is fully integrated with a biblical knowledge of God and his world, supporting Christian parents and the church in nurturing children as disciples of Christ.

Vision:

Avail Academy will thrive as a provider of distinctively Christian elementary and secondary education and will lead the larger community to adopt Christian education as a priority.

Values:

*Cultural Connectedness,
Thoughtful Discipleship,
Nurturing Community,
Transforming Education,
Opening Opportunities*

Since beginning my service in January, I have come to understand how uniquely positioned Avail Academy is in providing covenantal Christian education for our families. Few schools have remained as steadfast as Avail in their missions since opening their doors. Our founders' vision in 1956—when they formed the Society and vividly envisioned the church, home, and school partnering in close collaboration—is still vibrantly present in 2024. Thanks be to God for the courageous leadership of forward-thinking board members, administrators, parents, faculty, and staff during that span.

Like you, I was drawn to Avail Academy because of our unwavering commitment to Christian education. Few entities possess the capacity to influence families and culture like Christian schools and the local Church. Avail Academy exists to support families in their pursuit of providing their children with a Christ-centered education. At Avail Academy, our opportunity to make an impact is significant, and our potential is immense. Transforming students, families, and the greater culture is a privilege. What a gift that we get to do this at Avail Academy!

To ensure future generations of students can experience the Avail Advantage, we launched our Impact Drive to upgrade facilities and enhance the student experience. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 by July 11. Meeting this objective will help enhance safety at our Blaine and Edina campuses, allow for facility upgrades at each of our campuses, and provide the means to purchase two multifunctional school activity buses, fostering more off-campus experiences and alleviate some of the bussing expenses. We covet your partnership and participation in this Impact Drive and request that you consider this prayerfully.

Avail Academy has diligently and faithfully served students and families since opening its doors in 1961. Today, we are the owners and stewards of this wonderful Christian academy. Thanks for making Avail Academy a special place, now and in the future.

Ross Douma
President



Avail Academy

2024 Impact Drive



Creating a Safe and Faithful Community Together

At Avail Academy, we strive to foster a safe, engaging, and enriching environment grounded in Christian values, where students can grow both academically and spiritually. To continue providing exceptional experiences and ensuring the well-being of our students into the future, we have launched the 2024 Impact Drive. This drive will fund critical improvements that will benefit our entire school community.

Why We Need Your Support



Safety Improvements

- Rekey and better label exterior doors of both elementary schools
- Upgrade vestibule in Blaine



Campus Upgrades

- Create a Mobile Science Lab for the high school
- Update stage flooring and lighting at Blaine
- Renovate bathroom, replace carpeting, and purchase new playground equipment in Edina
- Enhance exterior signage and landscaping at both elementary schools



New Transportation

- Purchase of two multifunctional school activity buses

The Impact of Your Contribution

Your generous contributions will:

1. Improve security and protect our children
2. Create a more welcoming experience that demonstrates our commitment to Christian kindness and love
3. Advance learning opportunities that allow students to see the beauty and complexity of God's creation
4. Provide reliable transportation that will enhance our students' activities

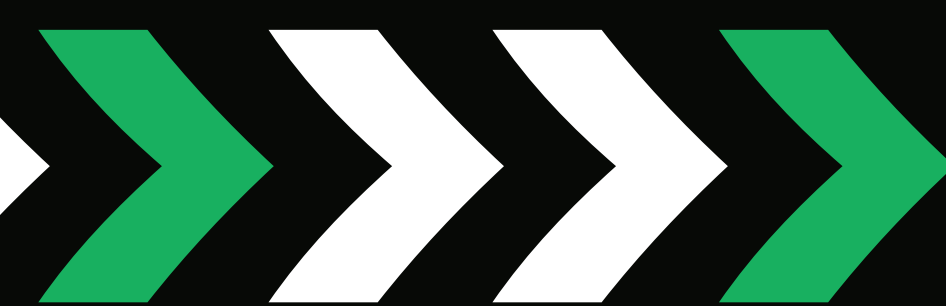
How You Can Help

We humbly and earnestly invite parents, grandparents, alumni, and community members to join us in this exciting and vital initiative. Every gift makes a difference and brings us closer to our goal of raising \$250,000 by July 11.

You can make an online donation at www.availacademy.org/donate or send a check to any of our campuses, and be sure to write Impact Drive in the Memo field.

You can also contact Kevin Distad, Director of Mission Advancement, at (763) 350-5966 or kdistad@availacademy.org to discover more ways to make a kingdom impact.

You can find more information on our website at www.availacademy.org/donate.



Avail Accelerators

Thank you for the generous support of our business partners who understand the critical role their businesses play in equipping students to serve with a Christ-centered worldview in our communities, state, country, and world.



PLATINUM PARTNERS

- Aaron Hall, Attorney
- Bethel University
- Bell Band Mortgage- Jake TeWinkle
- Capital Consulting Group, Inc
- Christian Brothers Automotive- Andover
- Dale Carnegie
- Elevation Wealth Management
- Federal Industries Corporation
- Highland Bank
- Lettermen Sports
- Orange House Realty- Chad and Annie Anderson
- PrinsBank
- Priority Medical Billing
- University of Northwestern
- Veil and Wild Orthodontics
- Veritage Law Group
- Wexford Commercial Construction

For the past six years I have served Avail Academy on the Board of Directors, and this year I began working for the school as Director of Mission Advancement. My wife, Jennifer, and I have eight children, and we've had the tremendous honor of sending seven of them (so far) to Avail. I am immensely grateful for the legacy of covenantal Christian Education at Avail, and I pray that you experience this same feeling as you see your children and grandchildren grow academically and in the faith.



I hope that you will consider playing a role in advancing our mission by contributing to the Impact Drive. Every gift, no matter the size, matters. Please feel free to reach out to me or President Ross Douma with any questions about this drive.

Kevin Distad: kdistad@availacademy.org | (763) 350-5966
 Ross Douma: rdouma@availacademy.org | (712) 578-9443

GOLD PARTNERS

- Blue Yeti- HVAC and Plumbing Services
- Frontier Fire, LLC
- National Christian Foundation

SILVER PARTNERS

- Love and Butter Bakery
- Plantscape, Inc
- Red Glasses Voiceovers
- The Werth Group MN-
- Keller Williams Integrity Lakes

BRONZE PARTNERS

- Four Corners Exploration
- Grant-Shannon Staffing
- The Platinum Group





High School Highlights

Running with Heart: Avail Academy Delivers “Stay Strong” Medallions to Single Moms

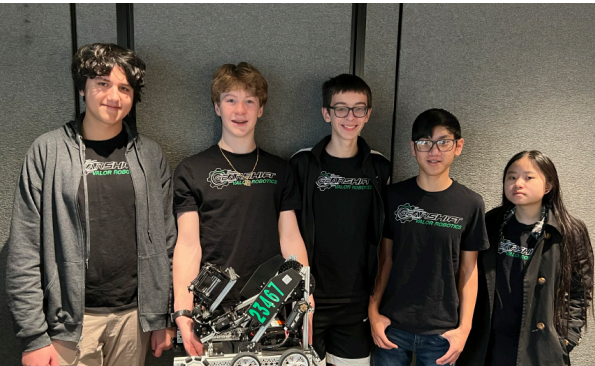
The Girls Cross Country team partnered with WWIB Radio to support single mothers on Single Moms Sunday.

The team distributed personal letters and medallions to single moms offering them heartfelt encouragement. These medallions say, “Stay Strong: You never know who you are inspiring.” These medallions are typically given to runners on opposing teams who are visibly struggling but showing perseverance. By extending this gesture to single moms, the team emphasized their ongoing Christian commitment to uplifting those in need.



Gears in Motion: New Robotics Team Makes Stellar Debut

Avail Academy’s newly established robotics team, Gearshift Valor Robotics, has made an impressive debut this year. The team, comprised of students from grades 8 through 12, demonstrated remarkable dedication and skill in their first competitive season.



At a recent robotics competition, Gearshift Valor Robotics earned the Motivate Award, recognizing their outreach efforts with various organizations, including the Girl Scouts. Gearshift Valor Robotics showcased their technical prowess by securing 2nd place for the Engineering Portfolio Award.

Reflecting on the team’s achievements, Team Coach Tanya Hinton said,

“I loved seeing your enthusiasm in speaking with the judges, plus your kindness and gracious professionalism with all of the other teams. We can end our rookie season with our heads held high!”

Choir Shines with Superior Rating at State Contest

The high school choir earned the highest Superior Rating at the Minnesota State High School League Chorale Contest, with their performance of “Emerald Stream” by Seth Houston and “Battle of Jericho” by Mark Hayes.

The choir and high school band also toured the Chicago area, attending workshops at North Park University and giving performances at Elim Christian Services and the Arbors of Oak Park Place senior living community.



Banner Year for High School Athletics



Boys Basketball Team ended the year as State Academic Team Champions for Class A.



Basketball (senior) Justin Kroeze became a Triple A Award Section 4A Winner and Scholarship Finalist.



(Senior) Zachariah Schaap was named Academic All State in Basketball.



Track and Field senior Roman Bock took first place in shot put at the Valor Track Meet.



Track and Field school records were set by 8th grader Berean Bock in high jump (4'), 8th grader Ruth Peterson in 300 hurdles (57.69), and by a relay team with 9th graders Ainsley Mick and Chloe Peterson, and 8th graders Ruth Peterson and Berean Bock in the 4 x 800 relay (11:38.40).



K-8 Excellence

Student Historians Excel at State-Level Competition

Eighth Graders competed at the Minnesota State History Day Contest. With thousands of students competing at Regionals, it is quite an honor to be selected to participate in the State-level competition. State Projects:

Individual Performance:

- Ceilidh Johnstone (Blaine) presented “The Boston Tea Party: Igniting the Fight for Freedom.”
- Maddie Ringo (Edina) presented “Clara Barton and the Red Cross: A Turning Point for Humanitarian Effort.” She took 4th Place.

Individual Documentaries:

- Nick Ertel (Edina) presented “The Groundbreaking Innovations of Tractors: A Turning Point That Changed How Farming Was Done.” He took the topical prize in “History of Agriculture in the Upper Midwest.”
- Eden Hagen (Edina) presented “Emerging Narratives for Women: Barbie as a Catalyst for Social Change.”

Group Documentaries:

- Beckham Lundquist and Jake Miles (Edina) presented “Jake Burton and the Rise of Snowboarding.”
- Nathan Nelson and Andon Vande Glind (Blaine) presented ““Founding Yellowstone: A Turning Point in Tourism and Conservation.”
- Ryder Rose and Parker Staal (Edina) presented “Operation Neptune: D-Day’s Turning Point in World War II.”

Exhibit:

- Solveig Farley (Blaine) presented “Radium Girls: A New Chapter in Worker’s Rights.”

Papers:

- Olivia Byers (Edina) presented “The WAVES of WWII: Creating a Turning Point for Women in the Navy.”
- Patrick Grosser (Blaine) presented “After the Rwandan Genocide: Overcoming a Century of Hate and Division.”
- Sadie Hall (Blaine) presented “The Day Iceland Stood Still: How the 1975 Women’s Strike Reshaped Icelandic History and Revolutionized Womens’ Roles in Society.”
- Cecelia Leptuck (Edina) presented “Amelia Earhart: Breaking Gender Barriers.”

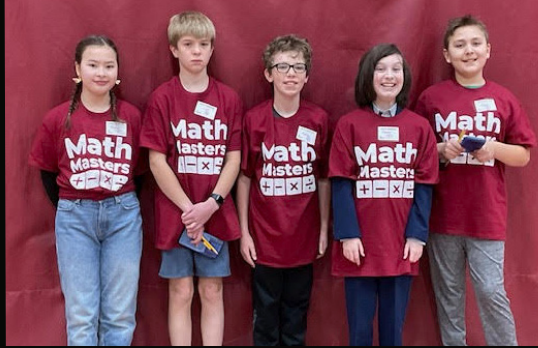


Middle Schoolers Earn High Honors in Science Fair

Seventh graders Faith Mick and Lydia Reike (Blaine) received first place blue ribbons, placing them in the top 10% of participants at the regional Science Fair. This impressive achievement earned them purple ribbons, qualifying them to compete at the Minnesota State Science Fair.

At the Minnesota State Science Fair, both students continued to shine. Faith received a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Lydia was honored with the prestigious Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge award.





**Adding Up To Success:
Avail students excel at
Math Masters**
Students from Blaine
and Edina campuses
showcased their
mathematical skills at the
Math Masters competition.

**Blaine 5th Grade
Team:**
Colton Dykstra
Levi Elgersma
Toviah Grosser
Micah Janssen
Nathan Klobe

**Edina 5th Grade
Team:**
Eleasar Buzzell
Thias Feikema
Jed Hagen
Andrew Matasovsky
Elianah Weinacht

Blaine 6th Grade Team:
Micah Brockmeier
Henry Bruin
Iam Farley
Roman Martin Makarych
Jonathan Schoonveld
Sam Schussman
Kate Vande Glind



Students Win Awards from Minnesota Zoo

Two teams of Edina fifth graders took home awards from the Minnesota Zoo's ZOOM STEM Design Challenge. Caleb King and Bennett Travis earned the Conservation Award for displaying exceptional engineering design and research highlighting the Minnesota Zoo's commitment to conservation and saving wildlife. Abram Kron and Tanner Peterson (not pictured) won the Zookeeper Award for their for impressive design consideration and application of zookeeper needs.

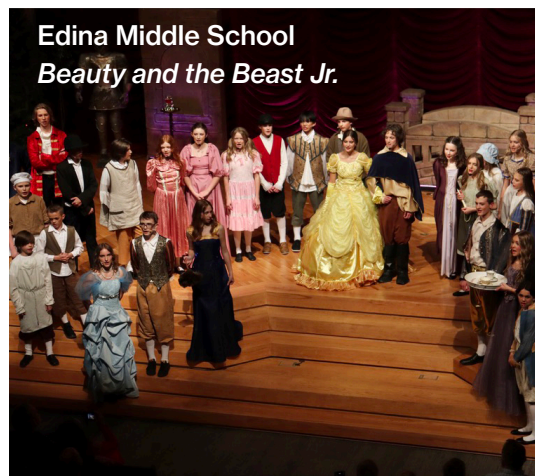


Faith Heroes Brought to Life

Avail Academy (Edina) students showcased their creativity at the Creative Expressions Night and Wax Museum Faith Heroes Night. Kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th grade students shared poems and scripture passages they had memorized. Then 5th grade students stepped out dressed as Christian heroes of the faith, delivering oral presentations about their character's life and testimonies of God's faithfulness.



**Blaine Middle School
Annie Jr.**



**Edina Middle School
Beauty and the Beast Jr.**



**High School
Willy Wonka**

Love what Avail has done for your family?

If Avail Academy has helped your child grow academically and with a Christ-centered worldview, we hope that you will consider helping spread the news of who we are with others.

10 ways you can support our mission:

1. Leave us a 5-star Google Review and share your story
2. Spread the word about us through social media and with your friends and family
3. Tell us of a family you know who would welcome a phone call from our admissions team
4. Encourage family and friends to call and schedule a campus tour
5. Attend school events and cheer on our students
6. Volunteer at the school
7. Become a corporate partner by calling Kevin Distad at (763) 350-5966
8. Provide financial support through our Impact Drive at www.availacademy.org/donate
9. Donate supplies like books, sporting equipment, technology, or art supplies
10. Pray for our students, families, and the staff of Avail Academy



Customer Reviews ★★★★★

SAVE THE DATE

First Day of School:

August 28, 2024

Valor 5K Challenge:

Saturday, October 5, 2024,
at Lake Harriet

Avail Gala

(formerly Fellowship Dinner):

Saturday, November 9, 2024,
at Omni Viking Lakes Hotel