



HONORING PROGRESS

# CELEBRATING THE END OF A REMARKABLE YEAR



## Message - From Dr. Zak Palsha, Superintendent

Dear ACST Community,

As we conclude another extraordinary school year at ACST, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on all that we have accomplished together. This year has been marked by growth, achievement, resilience, and a collective commitment to ensuring that ACST continues to thrive as a school that truly opens doors, hearts, and minds.

Throughout the year, our students, faculty, staff, parents, Board of Governors, and wider community have worked together to advance the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan. We strengthened teaching and learning through curriculum development, professional growth opportunities, and a continued focus on high-quality instruction. We expanded student support services, increased opportunities for student leadership and engagement, enhanced our commitment to sustainability, and continued improving our campus and learning environments.



One of the most significant accomplishments this year was the successful evaluation of our International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The evaluation team recognized many strengths within our programme and affirmed the dedication of our faculty, students, and leadership team. This achievement reflects years of intentional work and our unwavering commitment to providing world-class educational opportunities for our students.

At the same time, we have been diligently preparing for our upcoming Middle States Association accreditation visit next year. Accreditation is far more than a compliance exercise—it is an opportunity to reflect, grow, and ensure that we continue to deliver on our promise of excellence. The preparation process has already strengthened our systems, sharpened our focus, and brought our community together around a shared vision for the future.

Beyond these milestones, this year has been filled with moments that remind us what makes ACST special. Our students represented the school across Africa and Europe through athletics, music, Model United Nations, and academic programs. We celebrated learning through student-led conferences, performances, exhibitions, service initiatives, cultural events, and community gatherings. Whether through the AMIS Honor Band, international athletic competitions, the ACST MUN Conference, International Day, the PTO Iftar, or countless classroom experiences, our students demonstrated the curiosity, compassion, and global-mindedness that define an ACST education.

On a personal note, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to continue serving as Superintendent for another year before transitioning to a new role at the International Community School in Addis Ababa. This transition carries special meaning for me, as ICS Addis is the school I attended as a student. Returning to my alma mater is both a professional opportunity and a deeply personal homecoming.





While I look forward to that next chapter, I remain fully committed to ACST and to ensuring a successful and smooth year ahead. I am incredibly thankful to the Board of Governors for the trust they have placed in me and for the opportunity to continue leading this exceptional community. The Board has already begun the process of identifying ACST's next Superintendent and will provide updates to the community as the search progresses in the fall.

Most importantly, thank you. Thank you to our students for inspiring us with your curiosity and determination. Thank you to our faculty and staff for your dedication and care. Thank you to our parents and families for your partnership and trust. Thank you to our PTO, Falcon Parent Council, and volunteers for enriching the life of our school. And thank you to our Board of Governors for their stewardship and commitment to ACST's future.

As we close this school year, we have much to celebrate and even more to anticipate. Together, we have continued building a school community that prepares students not only for academic success, but for lives of purpose, leadership, and service.

I wish each of you a restful, joyful, and well-deserved summer. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in August for another year of learning, growth, and achievement.

In Service,

Dr. Zak Palsha  
Superintendent





 **Friday, June 12 is the last day of the school year.**

 **Dismissal is at 12:30 pm.**

 **As the end of the academic year approaches, we wanted to remind you that **report cards** for the current semester will be available on **June 12**.**

However, we must emphasize that report cards will only be issued to families who have settled all outstanding invoices and charges. This includes any balances on tuition and fees owed, outstanding canteen charges, library fines, and any other unpaid balances.

Our finance department has been diligently notifying families with outstanding charges or unpaid balances. If you have received such notifications, it is imperative that you address these outstanding payments promptly to ensure timely receipt of your child's report card.

We understand the importance of receiving academic progress updates, and we want to ensure that every student's achievements are recognized. Therefore, we kindly urge you to settle any outstanding invoices as soon as possible to avoid any delays in receiving your child's report card.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding outstanding charges or payment arrangements, please don't hesitate to reach out to our finance department at [finance@acst.net](mailto:finance@acst.net).

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and your cooperation in ensuring a smooth end-of-year process for everyone.



**LAUNCHING THIS THURSDAY**

**THE SECOND ISSUE OF OUR  
ANNUAL ALUMNI MAGAZINE**

**Featuring inspiring stories  
from graduates across the years.  
Don't miss this special edition!**



**Middle States  
Accreditation**



## 2025-2026 MSA SELF-STUDY PROCESS SUMMARY

The 2025-2026 school year marked a significant milestone in ACST's accreditation cycle as the school engaged in a comprehensive Middle States Association (MSA) Self-Study process. Led by the Internal Coordinators, the self-study involved extensive participation from faculty, staff, students, parents, administrators, and board members. The purpose of the process was to evaluate the school's effectiveness against the MSA Standards for Accreditation, identify areas of strength and growth, and establish a foundation for continuous improvement.

At the beginning of the year, committees were formed to examine each accreditation standard in depth. Committee members met regularly to review evidence, analyze practices, and assess the degree to which ACST meets the expectations outlined within each standard. To support this work, teams collected and organized hundreds of artifacts, including policies, handbooks, curriculum documents, assessment data, Board documentation, strategic planning materials, student support records, professional learning evidence, and operational procedures. A centralized evidence repository was developed to ensure transparency and consistency across all committees.

A significant component of the self-study involved gathering stakeholder feedback. Surveys were administered to students, parents, faculty, staff, and leadership team members to better understand perceptions of school culture, communication, governance, teaching and learning, student support services, safety, and operational effectiveness. Survey results were analyzed by committee teams and incorporated into both the narrative responses and ratings for each standard. These data points helped validate areas of strength while also identifying opportunities for improvement and future planning.

The self-study process provided an opportunity to reflect on several major initiatives and accomplishments completed during the accreditation cycle. Evidence demonstrated the school's focus on standards-based instruction, assessment literacy, data-informed decision-making, and continuous refinement of curriculum and instructional practices.



As committees completed their analysis, each standard was rated using the MSA framework and accompanied by narrative explanations supported by evidence. Areas of strength consistently identified across standards included the school's strong sense of community, commitment to student-centered learning, collaborative culture, dedication to continuous improvement, and alignment between mission, values, and practice. Areas for continued growth focused on strengthening consistency across systems, refining documentation processes, increasing stakeholder communication in targeted areas, and ensuring that improvement initiatives are monitored through measurable outcomes.

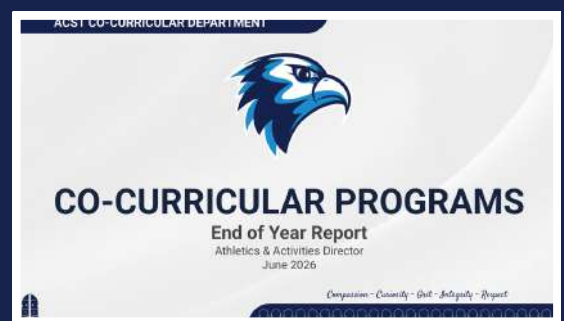
The culmination of the self-study process resulted in a comprehensive report that accurately reflects ACST's current reality while identifying priorities for future growth. More importantly, the process itself fostered meaningful reflection, collaboration, and shared ownership across the school community. Through the collective efforts of all stakeholders, ACST has developed a deeper understanding of its strengths, challenges, and opportunities, positioning the school well for its upcoming accreditation visit and continued pursuit of excellence in international education.

## CHECK THE CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

### END OF YEAR REPORT

Explore the highlights, achievements, and growth of our Co-Curricular Programs throughout the 2025–2026 academic year. This report showcases key developments in Organization & Program Enhancements, insights from Performance Evaluations, memorable International Student Trips, and the impact these experiences have had on our students and community.

As we celebrate this year's successes, we also look ahead to 2026–2027, outlining planned Enhancements and strategic Goals that will continue to enrich student opportunities, strengthen program quality, and foster meaningful learning beyond the classroom.





# INTRODUCING THE FALCON FAMILY ASSOCIATION

## A UNIFIED PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ACST COMMUNITY



We are excited to announce the launch of the Falcon Family Association (FFA), a new parent-staff organization that will begin serving the ACST community in the 2026-2027 school year.

The Falcon Family Association represents a fresh chapter in parent and staff engagement at ACST. Building on the strengths, traditions, and accomplishments of both the Falcon Parent Council and the PTO, the FFA will unite the most successful elements of each organization into one streamlined and collaborative structure.

Our mission is to strengthen connections across the ACST community by supporting parent and staff engagement, promoting school spirit, enhancing student activities, and fostering meaningful community-building initiatives.

As we begin this transition, we are pleased to share that Ms. Nadine Helm will serve as President and Ms. Tricia Steeves will serve as Treasurer for the 2026-2027 school year. Additional leadership positions, including Vice President and Secretary, will be filled in the coming months as we continue building a strong and sustainable organization for the future.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the individual who established the PTO at ACST, as well as to the many Executive Board members, Organizing Committee volunteers, and Falcon Parent Council members whose dedication and service have made a lasting impact on our school community. Their contributions have laid the foundation for this exciting new beginning.



Over the coming weeks, we will share more information about the Falcon Family Association, including its vision, goals, and opportunities for involvement. We look forward to working together to create an inclusive, engaged, and vibrant community that supports every ACST family.

Thank you for your continued support as we embark on this exciting new journey together.

### Falcon Family Association



Introducing Nadine Helm:  
Falcon Family Association President

**One community. One mission. One Falcon Family.**



# Farewell to Our Departing Colleagues



Jessica Toledo  
Study Hall Coordinator/  
Youth Club Leader  
16 years



Executive Assistant  
to the Superintendent  
8 years



Kate Wood  
Elementary Assistant  
Principal  
7 years



Joseph Bedetti  
HS Social Studies/IB Business  
& Management Teacher  
6 years



Malek Sioud  
Secondary PE Teacher  
6 years



Norma Napier  
Kindergarten Teacher  
5 years



Ryan Jefferson  
Secondary Assistant  
Principal  
4 years



Krystina Hullinger  
HS Science/IB ESS/IB  
Biology TeacherS  
Assistant Principal  
4 years



Michael Kelly  
Grade 4 Teacher  
4 years



Meghan O'Bannon  
Secondary Learning Support  
4 years



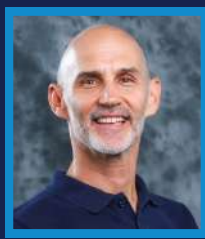
Mary Porter  
Secondary EAL Teacher  
4 years



Colin Simpson  
HS Science/IB Physics/  
IB Chemistry Teacher  
4 years



Roy Napier  
Educational Assistant  
Athletics & Cross  
Country Coach  
3 years



Aaron Davis  
Elementary Math Coach  
3 years



Janice Eilken  
Elementary Learning  
Support  
3 years



Laura Buchan  
MS Generalist Teacher  
2 years



Bridget Coughlin  
Secondary Counselor  
1 year



Mariana Larralde  
Secondary Counselor  
1 year



# A RECAP SINCE THE SPRING BREAK

## CAREER WEEK

From March 23 to March 25, we held Career Week, a series of events designed to help students explore future academic and professional pathways. The program included MS Career Day, High School career presentations delivered in classrooms, and a Teacher University Fair. Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to learn about a variety of careers through direct sessions with teachers and guest speakers.



## IBDP VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION

On March 26, we held the IBDP Visual Arts Exhibition, showcasing the creative work of our IBDP students. The exhibition featured a diverse range of artworks developed through sustained inquiry, experimentation, and personal exploration. Students displayed their final pieces, offering insight into their artistic journeys and conceptual development. The event provided the school community with an opportunity to engage with student creativity and celebrate their achievements in visual arts.



## HS VOLLEYBALL SENIOR NIGHT

On April 3, we held HS Volleyball Senior Night to honor our graduating student-athletes. The event celebrated the seniors' dedication, teamwork, and contributions to the volleyball program. Players were recognized for their commitment both on and off the court. It was a meaningful occasion for teammates, coaches, families, and the school community to come together in appreciation and support.

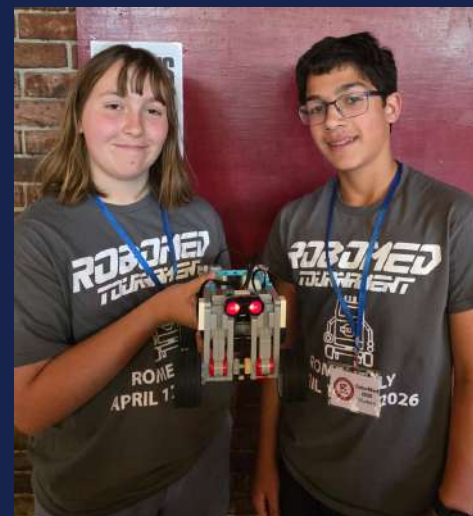


## VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT - TANGIER, MOROCCO

From April 8 to April 11, the Varsity Volleyball teams competed in the MASAC Championships in Tangier, demonstrating resilience through travel challenges. The boys finished 6th, while the girls earned 4th place—their highest finish at this event in the past three years. Congratulations to Linnea Yamaguchi-Fasting and Youssef Ben Ghazi, who were named team MVPs.

## MAIS ROBOMED COMPETITION - ROME, ITALY

From April 16 to April 18, the Secondary Robotics team traveled to Rome to compete against nearly a dozen international schools. ACST was represented by three teams—Neocarthagians, Falconites, and Americaws—that participated in six different challenges. Team Falconites (Ravi Katkar and Katherine Davis) secured 1st place in the obstacle course and overall team standings. Ole Steffen and Ravi Katkar also earned 2nd place in the aqua course. Overall, Neocarthagians finished in 5th place, Falconites in 10th place, and Americaws in 19th place.



## MEDCUP MS SOCCER TOURNAMENT - VERONA, ITALY

From April 30 to May 4, our Middle School soccer teams traveled to Verona, Italy, to compete in the MedCup tournament. The girls achieved a first-place finish in the Champions Division, while the boys secured 3rd place in the Europa Division. Congratulations to Ilyas Alhaaj for being recognized as the outstanding player in the Europa Division, and Emma Sophie Ben Ayed for being selected as the outstanding goalkeeper of the entire girls' tournament.



## K-2 DAYTIME CONCERT

On April 30, we hosted the K-2 Daytime Concert, where our youngest students delighted the school community with their musical performances. Students shared songs they had worked hard to prepare, demonstrating enthusiasm, confidence, and growing musical skills. The concert was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their efforts and achievements, creating a joyful atmosphere filled with energy, smiles, and school spirit.



## SS TRACK - ATHENS, GREECE

From May 6 to May 9, our Secondary School Track team traveled to Greece for an unforgettable experience that combined competition, history, and cultural exploration. In just two days of intense competition, our athletes delivered a remarkable performance, setting 7 new school records in the birthplace of the Olympics. Between events, the team explored the rich history and culture of Athens, visiting ancient landmarks and immersing themselves in the Greek atmosphere. From the track to the Acropolis, it was a journey marked by growth, grit, and lasting memories. The group returned home exhausted but incredibly happy, strengthened by teamwork and impressive achievements.



## GRADE 3-5 EVENING CONCERT

On May 7, we hosted the 3-5 Evening Concert, showcasing a wide range of musical talent. Students performed pieces they had worked hard to prepare, demonstrating their creativity, confidence, and progress. Families and members of the school community gathered to celebrate our young musicians, making it a joyful evening filled with music, enthusiasm, and pride in student achievement.



## SPRING & END OF YEAR TEAM AWARDS NIGHT

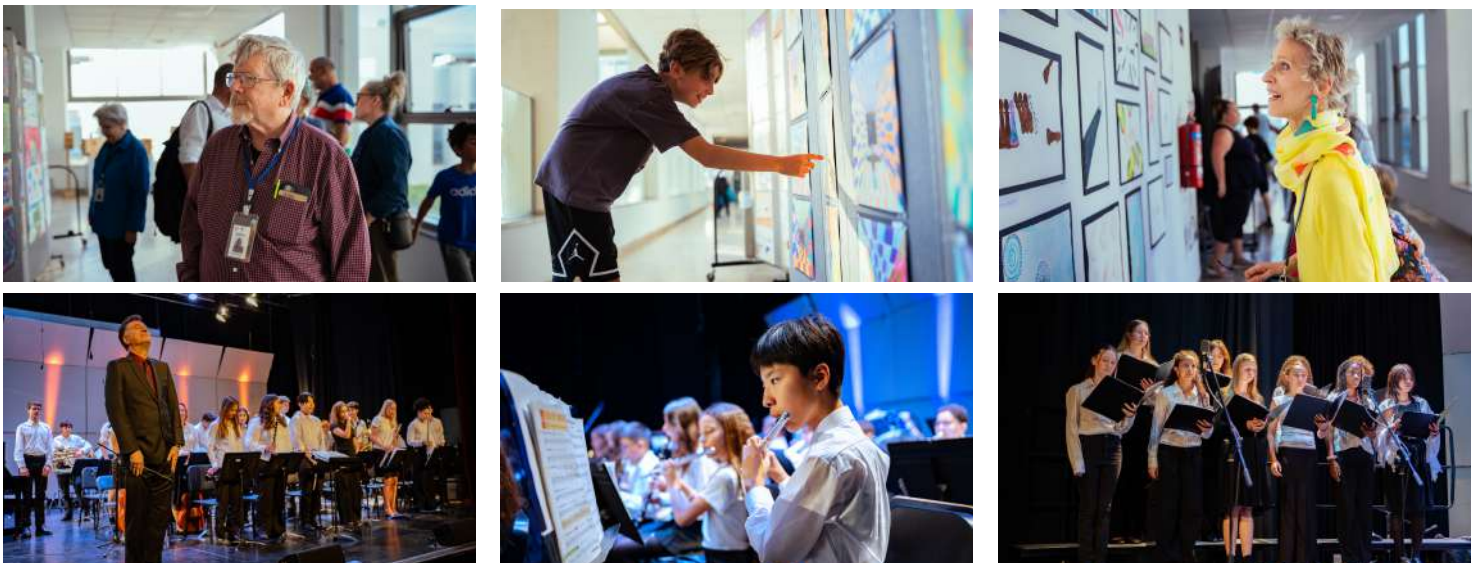
On May 18, we celebrated the hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship of our student-athletes at the annual Athletic Awards Ceremony. The evening recognized outstanding achievements across a variety of sports, robotics and Model United Nations, highlighting individual excellence, team spirit, and the perseverance that defines our athletic community. Congratulations to all of our athletes, coaches, and supporters for an incredible season.



## SECONDARY MUSIC SPRING CONCERT & SPRING ART SHOW

On May 20, the Spring Art Show & Concert showcased the incredible creativity and talent of our students. The art exhibition featured vibrant paintings, detailed sketches, and expressive sculptures, transforming the space into a student-curated gallery.

The evening continued with a joyful concert, where choirs, bands, and soloists delivered powerful performances that filled the room with energy and emotion.



## FPC & PTO FALCON FAMILY MARKET DAY

On May 23, the Falcon Parent Council and Parent Teacher Association organized a community event featuring frippe stalls and more than 20 vendors. The event brought together families, students, and members of the school community for a day of shopping, connection, and engagement. With a variety of stalls and offerings, the event created a lively atmosphere while providing an opportunity to strengthen community spirit and support local initiatives.



## PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

On June 2nd, Our Preschool Open House was filled with smiles, songs, and wonderful student performances. Congratulations to our Pre-K 2 graduates as they take the next exciting step to Kindergarten! We are so proud of all our young learners and their accomplishments.



## PROM

On May 23, our students enjoyed a memorable Prom featuring music, dancing, laughter, and special moments with friends. It was a wonderful evening celebrating friendships and creating lasting memories.



## SENIOR WALK THROUGH

On June 2nd, our seniors proudly wore their caps and gowns for the annual Senior Walk-Through, a heartwarming tradition that celebrates their journey and accomplishments. As they toured the school halls, students, faculty, staff, and parents gathered to cheer them on with smiles and applause.

The celebration continued in the theater, where the seniors were treated to a special surprise, words of wisdom and life advice from their Grade 1 buddies. Their heartfelt and often humorous messages reminded everyone of the joy, innocence, and hope that mark both the beginning and end of a school journey.



## COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

On June 3rd, we proudly celebrated the Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2026. Surrounded by family, friends, faculty, and staff, our graduating seniors crossed the stage with pride, marking the end of one chapter and the beginning of another.

Congratulations to our graduates! We are so proud of all you've accomplished and can't wait to see the incredible things you'll do next.



## ES FIELD DAY

Our Elementary School Field Day was an exciting day of friendly competition, and outdoor fun. Students participated in a variety of games and activities, showing great sportsmanship and school spirit throughout the day.

