

Annual Report 2025-2026

THE MIREE CENTER



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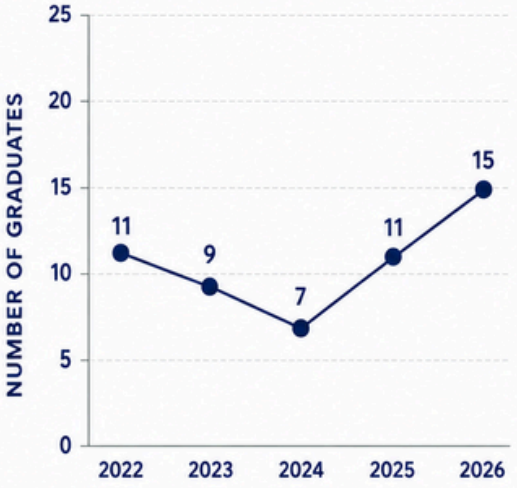


Miree Initiatives



MIREE CENTER DISTINCTION GRADUATES

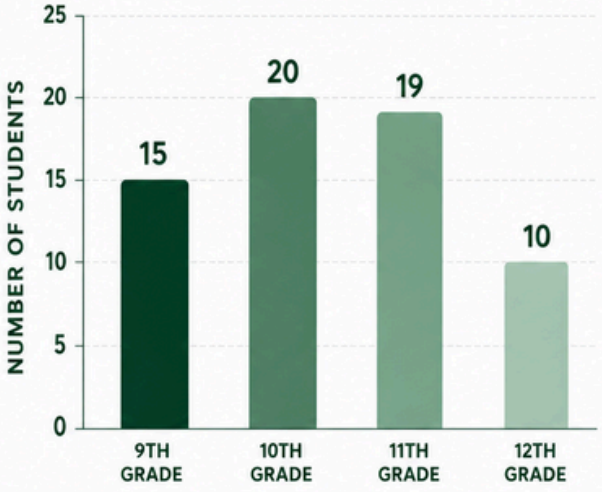
Students graduating with the Miree Center Distinction



MILESTONE:
In 2024, the **Leadership Class** became the official application and entry point to the Miree Center.

MIREE CENTER STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM

Current students engaged in Miree Center experiences by grade level



MORE THAN ONE-THIRD
of Upper School students are actively engaged in the Miree Center.

34%

64 of 188
Upper School students currently participate.

Since the Leadership Class was introduced in 2024 as the entry point to the Miree Center, participation has continued to grow.

During the 2025–2026 school year, the class was intentionally promoted to incoming ninth graders for **the first time.**

15
NINTH-GRADE STUDENTS HAVE ALREADY ENROLLED FOR 2026–2027.

Promoting access today to strengthen leadership tomorrow.

Miree Initiatives - “My Miree Experience”

“The Miree Center has allowed me to completely expand my worldview, step outside of my comfort zone, and witness the good that service brings out of people. By being given the platform to initiate change, I was able to see real results of what passion and determination can accomplish, and I’m constantly inspired by the progress my high school peers have involved.” - Mia





"The Miree Center has allowed me to explore what I care about most and transform it into a project that empowers others. It helped me grow not only as a leader but as a person." - Kennadi,

“The Miree Center has given me the space and support to turn a personal passion into action. It helped me lead with confidence & think beyond myself & into the community.” -Molly

“To me, the Miree center has redefined my mindset on getting things done; it has shown me that I cannot do everything on my own and that getting help from others is a key part of anything.” - Sam









Initiatives Spotlight



PHOTOS FOR A PURPOSE

Sam Elkin dedicated his initiative to raising both awareness and funding for brain cancer research in honor of his godfather, who passed away in February, 2026, after a courageous five-year battle with the disease. Inspired by this personal loss and his passion for photography, a love first cultivated by his father, Sam organized a student photography gallery sponsored by Portraits Inc. Community members were invited to purchase and bid on photographs donated by Sam and fellow student photographers.



Through thoughtful planning and collaboration, the event raised more than $2,000 for the UAB O'Neal Cancer Center. These funds will directly support brain cancer research to advance treatment options and bringing hope to families facing similar challenges.









Intiative Spotlight



BALLET AND BEYOND

Isabelle's initiative was built on the belief that every child deserves access to confidence, creativity, and support. Through a weekly ballet class for 2nd–5th grade students at Avondale Elementary, she created a welcoming space for students to explore movement, self-expression, and performance.



Students learned choreography, studied ballet history, created original dances, and attended live performances. The program fostered confidence, creativity, and discipline.

In Isabelle's Words:
"Leadership is creating an environment where others feel supported, valued, and encouraged to grow. It is not about being in charge, but about setting an example through responsibility, empathy, and hard work. A strong leader listens, takes initiative, and helps build a sense of community so that everyone feels included and empowered to contribute."



Internships



Legion Football Club
Vox Academy
Alabama Wildlife Center
Birmingham Hand and Plastic Surgery
CRC Group – Specialty Insurance
Friedman Law Firm
Jake's Soulfood Café
Birmingham Mayor's Office
Children's of Alabama – Pediatrics
Red Mountain Theatre
Virginia Samford Theatre
Birmingham Public Library Archives
WBRC – Local News
Whelan Company – Forensic Engineering





Grade Level Community Partners









BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN COMMUNITY

Grade-level community partnerships collaborate with organizations that enhance students' educational experiences through shared goals, resources, and meaningful engagement. These partnerships provide opportunities that enrich our programs while supporting the mission of our partners. These are mutually beneficial relationships, ensuring that Altamont students not only learn from the organization but also contribute in meaningful ways.

"I felt like a leader while doing this. I was raising awareness for a good cause. I am taking away how amazing it was to learn how Birmingham is trying to help everyone."

"Learning about KultureCity was very eye-opening to me. Working on the reel showed me that civic engagement could be done in many forms."

-8th Grade Students

Grade Level Community Partners



11th Grade - Lakeshore Foundation Partnership

2026 PARTNERS

5th: Founder's Place
6th: Community on the Rise
7th: Black Warrior River Keepers
8th: Kulture City
9th: U of Alabama, Birmingham
10th: Jones Valley Teaching Farm
11th: Lakeshore Foundation

"It was a wonderful time learning and gaining new experiences with my friends. Not only did we learn about the mission of the Lakeshore Foundation and how incredible their athletes are, but we also got to have fun and try new sports!"

"I loved getting to bond over activity and competition. It really opened my eyes to what sports and community can bring. It was super interesting to talk to the Paralympic athletes and learn about how they balanced their life with their careers."

-11th Grade Students

Middle School LEAD Program

















Highlights

Fall Retreat to McDowell
Week of Kindness for the school
Spring Retreat to Thrive by Equip
Ran Altamont Recycling Program
Open House and New Family Event Ambassadors

Mission and Global Competencies



Mission

"To explore the significance and purpose of being contributing members of society, who impact their local and larger communities in an ethical manner by developing and practicing their skills as leaders through experiential learning and action in a complex and diverse world."

Global Citizenship

- Value human dignity, display openness towards others, and respect the varied customs and beliefs of individuals in a world community.
- Seek to improve society for people and planet through civic engagement and ongoing partnerships.

Personal Responsibility

- Have the courage to take risks and embrace mistakes with humility, grace, and a willingness to learn.
- Are mindful of their own identity and understand how their worldview, motives, and emotions influence their interactions with others.

Universal Collaboration

- Communicate effectively using strategies such as constructive dialogue, active listening, flexibility, and compromise to foster mutual understanding.
- Collaborate across diverse perspectives and apply an understanding of global issues and intercultural differences in complex environments.

Background

C. KYSER MIREE
HIS LEGACY

C. Kyser Miree ’05 appreciated a complex prank or adventure and was often a pathfinder for fun. The qualities that endeared him to friends also shaped his education and profession. “He was great at seeing a big problem or task and breaking it down into the simplest parts,” classmate Adam Frye’05 recalled at a celebration of ten years of The Altamont School’s C. Kyser Miree Center for Ethical Leadership. “It was no big shock to any of us that he became an engineer. While others debated, he would be active. It wasn’t brash or callous. He would just see the simple solution, and he would move forward. The funny thing was, people followed. They trusted his judgement and his instincts, and most people would just find themselves naturally inclined to join in.”

When Kyser Miree died in 2010, his parents, Kathryn and Ben Miree, and his family entrusted The Altamont School to cultivate in new generations the qualities they and his friends prized in Kyser. For more than 10 years, the C. Kyser Miree Center for Ethical Leadership has guided students through more than 130 long-term initiatives in Birmingham and beyond. “Students in the program are asked to look at big societal problems and search for ways to break them down into simple issues that people can act on,” Frye observed. Like Kyser Miree, he said, “at some point, they have to take this action. They need to trust their judgement, they need to see the solution, and they just need to push forward through the crowd to execute the mission.” Anne Brisendine’05 praised the Miree Center’s emphasis on empowering students to take on challenges that match their passions and to persevere in the spirit of her friend. “Leadership can take many forms, but the best projects and best teams always have a Kyser.”



