



# The BEACON

News for family and friends of Ann Arbor Christian School 2019-2020 No. 3

## HEADS UP by Wayne Sit, head of school

### Will We Come Out Different?



*We remain committed both to our mission to provide strong, Christ-centered education and to a safe start to the next school year. Pictured: Ben & Caleb praying during online chapel time.*

As we wind down an extraordinary spring, I praise God for His faithfulness and am honored to be working with a great cloud of witnesses who support and care for Ann Arbor Christian on so many levels: as teachers, as staff, as students, as parents, as alumni families, as supporters, as grandparents, and the list goes on. Thank you for sticking by us and with each other!

The next thing that I want to say is that I remain very proud of how our school community managed this spring together.

Despite the ups and downs, by God's grace, we really pulled off something remarkable over these three months through our virtual learning every day, and it was well-capped off by a unique and special graduation for our Eighth graders.

What was one of AACCS's hardest seasons hopefully will be remembered as one of its brightest moments! In our recent annual parent survey, we scored a record high of 8.24 out of 9.0 for overall rating and a 8.53 for how we lived out our mission during the pandemic. Thank you, parents, for your trust, partnership, and patience during these times. We "villaged" it together!

***What was one of AACCS's hardest seasons hopefully will be remembered as one of its brightest moments!***

Now, we head into the summer to rest and recover so that we can be ready for the work of preparing for a new school year that will probably have an atypical start. As we continue in a world in which physical distancing is still required or recommended, I thought about Paul who was in prison for several years and what God empowered him to do during that long season of "social distancing". For one, God inspired him to write four letters in the Bible while apart from others: Colossians, Philippians, Ephesians, and Philemon. We cannot escape difficult realities around us, but we can allow God to use us in small and big ways to complete His greater purposes.

As we come out of this historic school year caused by the pandemic, I humbly ask: How can we continue to allow God to make us different and stand out in the world around us that we are called to engage, transform, and love?

- Did you discover a new pace of life that may better reflect God's pattern for work and rest?
- How did God expand your awareness of the needs around you or outside your immediate community?
- How did your action and faith work together this spring?
- Did you learn new lessons about perseverance and endurance?
- Did you find new ways to serve?
- How did you or your family handle significant, heart-breaking situations thrown at you?
- Did you develop new appreciation for things you took for granted?
- Did you discover habits within your family that you want to build on, as well as habits to end?
- How well did you use social media during the pandemic?
- Did the school discover new ways it can provide its education?
- When life returns to "normal", will you and your family be different in ways that pleases your Heavenly Father?

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# HEADS UP...

(continued from page 1)

There is a saying that we should never waste a good crisis, so I pray that all of us will emerge from this surreal spring and summer not simply slowly returning to the usual, but different and better. Like you, AACS needs to emerge better and stronger too, not just be what we were pre-pandemic. The school needs to reflect on what we learned during the pandemic, on how we can use those lessons to emerge as a more vibrant school, on what our core values are when our backs are against the wall, and on meaningful ways to remake ourselves not only for the next school year but also heading into the mid-21st century. Yes, we all want to return to “normal”, but, more than that, we should want to return smarter, wiser, better ready, and different to live out our mission. So, let us all take a posture of humility and openness and allow God to transform us both during and through this extraordinary time.



Check out  
the 8th Grade  
Graduation  
Ceremony  
Video!



Check out  
the 8th Grade  
Celebration  
Video!

## Annual Association Meeting Recap

By Ryan Peterson, AACS board president

For the first time (presumably) in the history of AACS, our Annual Association meeting was held via Zoom. While we certainly missed the opportunity to encourage one another through physical presence, we did embrace the opportunity to engage thoughtfully regarding topics important to our mission and vision. I am always grateful for the obvious love and commitment of our Association members to Ann Arbor Christian School. This year, that same level of love and commitment was obvious during the meeting.

While there was formal business to conduct, including the approval of new Board members, much of the meeting involved both looking back and looking forward. We looked back on the previous year, celebrating some of the key wins of this past academic year. Most significantly, we reflected on the significance of moving to virtual learning but maintaining our resolute commitment to our mission of offering strong, Christ-centered education. We celebrated (with virtual “thumbs up” and audible praise) that the school is now debt free! Thanks to the generosity of many who have given towards the capital campaign, we paid off our mortgage this spring.

Looking ahead, for the start of 2020-2021, the school intends and hopes to welcome our students and staff back in-person. There may be some safety precautions in place, but our intention and hope are to be back in-person. Naturally, the next two months will shape the final outcome, and we are aware that other less ideal possibilities may need to be considered if the situation warrants them. As a Board, we are working closely with Wayne Sit and will also hear regular updates from the task force regarding these plans. Please continue to read the regular updates from Wayne and talk with him about these plans. He is eager to work with every family and is hosting various Zoom sessions in July for further discussion.

As a Board, we thank you again for your prayerful support of our mission. May God grant you peace and rest this summer as we look ahead with joyful hope towards all that God will continue to do through AACS in the year ahead.

## Opening Plans for 2020-2021

By Wayne Sit, head of school

We remain committed both to our mission to provide strong, Christ-centered education and to a safe start to the next school year. While we were not allowed to meet in-person this spring, we never wavered from our mission and from our care of our school families, and, by God’s grace, we did our best to live out our mission as we actively continued to teach throughout the entire spring and moved our curriculum forward.

Our intent and hope have always been to welcome everyone back to the next school year in-person and in a safe environment, and recent developments and trends have made this the likely outcome and our Plan A. Assuming current trends continue, it is now safe to assume Ann Arbor Christian School will reopen in-person.

The specific details of what our reopening will look like or what precautions will be in place will be finalized during the month of July as more data becomes available and more state-level guidelines are made. The CDC recently provided broad national guidelines for the re-opening of K-12 schools, and both Governor Whitmer’s office and the Michigan Department of Education are forming advisory groups to guide the reopening of K-12 schools specifically for Michigan. In addition, our school’s task force will be helping the school with its decision-making process. The Governor has stated that she is optimistic that schools will be open and that it is critical that they open.

In summary, barring an unexpected reversal in current COVID-19 trends, AACS plans to open in-person. We put our full faith in our loving and sovereign God and ask for His guidance as we use our God-given minds and hearts to hear His leading and to continue to be the best school we can be.

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## A Hope & A Future Fund

## A COMMUNITY GATHERED

When AACS was required to close in March, we sent a letter updating you and sharing the start of a new fund to help people in crisis due to the pandemic.

Many of you are familiar with the beautiful quilt in our Gathering Space. It was made when our current building was built in 2002 and



has the handprints of all the students and staff at AACS during that year. On it is Jeremiah 29:11, and I will add verses 12 and 13: *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

In response to the unprecedented ways that the COVID-19 pandemic would affect the school and the lives of members of our AACS community, **we created a new fund called A Hope & A Future Fund** as a reminder to those in need that we have a living hope and future in our Great God who is steadfast and unchanging as the world becomes a tumultuous sea of change.

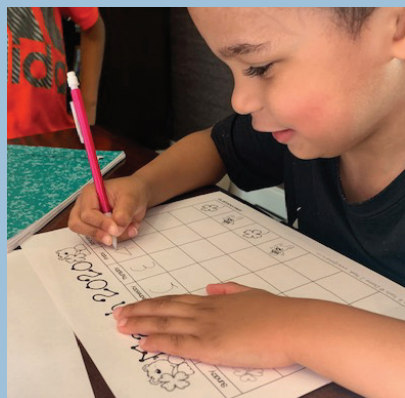
Because we continue to anticipate many significant implications on the school caused by the pandemic, new gifts designated to this fund will exclusively provide resources for critical needs of the school that no one could have foreseen, particularly unanticipated demand for tuition assistance as financial hardship hits some families and critical safety resources needed to assist with our reopening plans for the fall.

We continue to seek to build up this fund as we prepare for a new school year, including prospective families who are eager for Christian education but no longer able to afford it. **At the same time, general giving to AACS has dropped considerably this spring. Whether a general gift or designated gift, we appreciate your generosity during this critical time in the school's life and history.**



## #AACSLIFE

Even though AACS went online, we still maintained classes everyday, kept to the curriculum, had chapel, created fun class experiences like crazy hair day, did book readings and drive-by celebrations and so much more! Kudos to our awesome AACS students, families, faculty and staff! To God be the Glory!



Check out photos like these on Instagram & Facebook

**THANK YOU** to our IT Committee that helped keep AACS connected—Mark Doorlag, Ricke Stauffer, Adam Gross, and Darren DeZeeuw! We truly appreciate your help during this challenging time.

# LASTING SIGNIFICANCE

## Rooted in Jesus. Growing in Faith.

By Becky Johnson, spiritual life coordinator

For me, faith grows as I see God in the details. Last summer, as I was thinking and praying about a chapel theme, I had no idea that, later in the year, we would be in a pandemic and quarantined as we tried to flatten the



*Faith sporting her new AACCS shirt based on the chapel theme at Sleeping Bear Dunes.*

curve. Initially, I was going in a completely different direction. Yet, the topic of faith came to the forefront of my mind. Suddenly, it felt like that was the theme. But how to unpack that for students? While praying, I was suddenly inspired with these phrases: faith believes, faith trusts, faith perseveres, faith asks, faith acts, faith invites, faith surrenders, faith receives, and faith struggles. I had no idea how timely and pertinent these words would be throughout our school year,

but God did. He gave us the chapel theme we needed to navigate through this season!

Our last in-person chapel was on Faith Surrenders. We focused on the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane praying, "Not my will but yours be done." Learning to surrender our agendas and wishes to God's sovereignty and plan was important in the days and months of quarantine and online learning as students had to let go of their expectations and hopes for the end of the year. No eighth grade class trip. No fifth grade camp. No second grade field trip to the zoo. Then, as we moved into Holy Week and Easter, our focus was Faith Receives, Faith Struggles, and Faith Grows. Recognizing that Thomas and the disciples struggled with understanding God's plan, with believing the resurrection, was important as some of the students were struggling with their own doubts and wonders. Why is God letting this happen? Why isn't He stopping it? Learning that God loves us in the midst of our struggles and that it is safe to talk to God about our questions were vital in helping the students process the world around them.

God gives us what we need even before we know that we need it. I am so thankful for God's faithfulness to us this year and giving us the theme we needed as we navigated uncharted waters.



**Send us your FAITH STORY today at**  
**([www.annarborchristian.org/faithstories](http://www.annarborchristian.org/faithstories)),**  
**so we can share them with the students!**

## Shared Faith Stories



"I find that during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, I am hearing many people asking, 'when will our life return to normal'? What is 'normal'? I think for many of us normal means a life where comfort and convenience are an expectation, a right, rather than being defined as a privilege.

It is easy to think that our regular way of life is normal, that it is expected that we should have lives that are saturated with convenience and comfort. However, most of the world's population does not have this privilege.

I recently read this poignant news article, "From one citizen to another, I beg of you: take a deep breath, ignore the deafening noise, and think deeply about what you want to put back into your life. This is our chance to define a new version of normal, a rare and truly sacred (yes, sacred) opportunity to get rid of the unnecessary stuff in our lives and to only bring back what works for us, what makes our lives richer, what makes our kids happier, what makes us truly proud." And I would add, what honors God...

During Easter, I was reflecting on death and resurrection as a Biblical and Spiritual reality. As Jesus states in John 12:24, "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." In our current circumstances, we have all experienced a kind of death — we have lost the ability to go about our normal way of life. Furthermore, much of our ministry activities have been paused. Perhaps the spiritual parallel is that sometimes a plan or a 'dream' needs to die before it can thrive.

In the midst of our current loss and time of uncertainty, I have a deep sense of hope, that this time for our ministry is a kind of death — similar to a kernel of wheat falling to the ground and dying, similar to Joseph and Isaac 'figuratively' dying — where after each of these deaths, God brings forth abundance and life, fulfillment of hope and a deeper understanding of God's purposes. We have the vantage point of knowing the outcome in Biblical examples. However, in the context of our current vantage point in our current circumstances, whether it be with our work, ministry, or our personal lives and situations, we need to cling to hope, where we can, 'Be Joyful In Hope, Patient In Affliction, Faithful In Prayer' (Romans 12:12).

I am hopeful that during this time of uncertainty, where much of our ministry and our lives have been disrupted, that God will do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

Scott Rodin's prayer from The Steward Leader:

"It's yours. I am not fighting this battle for you, God. It's your battle, and you are fighting it for me. It is all yours, and I want whatever you have for me in this situation. It is not my organization, it is yours. So, I depend on your Spirit to show me what to do. So, this day is yours; I am yours; these people are yours; the resources are yours. The challenges we face are yours, as is anything we hope to accomplish. It's yours, God. It is not mine."

Despite our current circumstances and challenges, I choose to be hopeful, and to believe that God is good all the time, and that all things work to the good of those who love God." — Andrew Steggall-Lewis





# BEYOND THE BASICS

## Moving Forward

*Teaching and curriculum approach with COVID-19 this spring and next year*

*By Renée McKeone, curriculum director*



*Students in a fifth grade math class designed miniature cities while practicing Geometry skills. Picture: Cubesville by Brody.*

For several years, AACS has wrestled with the challenge to create 21st century learners with a Christian worldview and the balance between technology integration versus tried and true paper and pencil tasks. This rose to the forefront March 13, when we were faced with the challenge to teach remotely. In the midst of determining how to best do this, we were guided by our mission and vision: to offer Christ-centered, academically excellent education in partnership with Christian families. While there were some significant learning curves along the way, we are extremely proud of the program we offered, our teachers who

led the way with continued relationship-based, excellent education, and our families who redefined partnership in this endeavor.

standards” or focusing on what is most important to teach as teachers struggle to “fit everything in” a typical school year. The COVID closure forced us to refocus and pair down the learning to what was most important. This experience has given teachers a new perspective on the ways they were teaching, activities they were using, and new methods which will influence their teaching when we are back in person. Each teacher has added new tools to his or her toolbox, especially in terms of using technology well.

In reflecting on the experience, it is clear that God’s hand was preparing our school. Last August, the entire staff went through Google Tools training and learned how to use Google tools better and manage a Google classroom. When scheduling that training, we had no idea that Google classroom would become so essential to our teachers. Additionally, the new Chromebooks added over the past year through the capital campaign increased our use of technology, preparing us for online learning. And the students? Their technology skills and tools have also grown from knowing how to submit digital work to how to appropriately participate in a Zoom meeting. AACS students are definitely 21st century learners.

ship-based, excellent education, and our families who redefined partnership in this endeavor.

Unlike many large public school districts, we were able to move into action swiftly and make adaptations to curriculum that allowed our students to move forward with learning in various subjects and were not limited to only review material. We recognized we could not replicate the classroom, but we could identify how to best reach our students in the remote environment and replace some of the tried and true activities with new methods and assignments for student learning. Students engaged in historical fiction book clubs, poetry writing, math lessons, virtual and at home science labs, web-quests, writing reports, Bible reflections, and many other learning experiences. Every school day, every grade had some form of live interaction with their teachers to not only continue our education, but also to maintain community and to meet socioemotional needs.

Likewise, teachers had to grow in learning new tools and methods to reach their students. Kindergarten teacher Keri Louwerse led students in their phonics lessons via video lessons she created where students followed along on their own magnetic phonics board. The strong routines and foundations laid in the previous school months allowed students to transition to a new way of doing the work, and, for Mrs. Louwerse, the success was in seeing her students continue to grow as readers through the time of remote learning. Such successes were seen in many other classes and settings, where students grew in knowledge and skill. Teachers were challenged with identifying the most essential learnings and focusing on those. By doing this, AACS was able to deliver the essential curriculum during the time of COVID closures.

We know that we were not able to cover as much material or to engage as deeply as we would in our regular classrooms. To address that, AACS teachers will be in communication about areas that will need to be taught or reinforced at the start of the coming school year. Again, the flexibility of a small school allows us to make these adjustments easily. Our fall NWEA Map testing will provide data that will be helpful in identifying learning gains or losses during the COVID period and allow us to be proactive in addressing any learning losses. In addition, we are providing summer tutoring options and learning activities to maintain and build up skills.

The experience, even though difficult for teachers and students, will bear fruit for AACS. As curriculum director, I have talked with teachers about “power

“ Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, AACS has continued to pursue academic rigor. The school staff have spent the quarantine growing in their understanding of how to deliver education virtually. They have been willing to flex when it became clear that something was not working or an original goal was no longer feasible.

The AACS community has embraced virtual school in such a way that has enabled classes to continue with planned curriculum, but at the same time to give families grace realizing that each family will get done what their individual circumstances will accommodate. I’m glad that my children are still learning and growing, but aren’t stressed about school work.

### Mathematical Olympiads!

Thank you to our coaches Phil Boonstra and Justin Schiller. The results are in! The elementary top scorers were Jared C. and Pascal C., and the middle school top scorer was David S.

Several of our students scored in the top rankings nationally: Jared C. (top 25%), Pascal C. (top 25%), Simon B. (top 30%), Natalie H. (top 40%) and Naomi B. (top 50%). In the middle school division: David S. scored in the top 25% of all students nationally.

**Congratulations to all our mathletes and thank you to our coaches!**

# Supernatural Restoration Needed

By Wayne Sit, head of school

Early in my career at AACS, an Asian American mother at the school told my wife how glad she was to see me at the school because her 8th grade son had been for years wishing he was more white like his classmates. My heart sank when I heard that. That comment has always stuck with me.

Around the same time, I read an article in the Christian Reformed Church's magazine *The Banner* that talked about the importance of Christian education. However, it emphasized that this importance was also rooted in not being a closed bubble separated from the larger world and its problems. Yes, we are drawn together by many shared values and a worldview centered on the Gospel, and there are real and legitimate concerns and anxieties that lead families to AACS. However, AACS should not exist based on fear since the courageous call of our faith is to engage, transform, and love the world, just as our Lord did.

Like many of you, I have many thoughts and emotions about the powerful movements for racial justice happening across our nation. What happened to Mr. Floyd was horrific and almost beyond words to describe, and all of our hearts should be broken by his death and recognize the outpouring of anger, immense heartache, and suffering that it has caused, particularly within the black community. Events over recent weeks should loudly call to light that racism still exists and needs to be acknowledged, condemned, and faced. I have experienced it as an Asian American, but I am also fully aware that it is much more pronounced for Black Americans.

Part of our personal reactions is shaped by our life experiences. For me, they stem from my background as a person who immigrated to the U.S. as a young child and later gained the many wonderful rights as a citizen through the naturalization process, as a youth who grew up in downtown Boston and attended its racially diverse public school system for many years, as someone who appreciated the cultural values and comfort that the broader Boston Chinese community offered to immigrant families but also saw how it could become very insulator, and as an educator coming from one of the most diverse Christian schools in the country prior to moving to Michigan and seeing complicated racial dynamics play out there. Two of my best friends are black and live in

major cities. One wishes she could be out in the protests, but she is worried about looting, the police, and COVID-19. The other shared with me his experiences, which sadly also included being labeled as not being "black enough" by some because his life does not reflect their image of being a black man.

As I think about our mission to produce graduates in our society who are committed followers of Jesus Christ and the racial tension gripping our nation, I believe we need to again ask some hard and critical questions to make sure our mission is life-changing: When we are back together, how do we walk through this and emerge through this to be a culture-changing school? Yes, we stand out as having school on MLK Day, but how do we do more? How do we produce graduates who are more deeply attuned to the larger world and thus be even more equipped to be committed followers of Jesus with that awareness? How would that affect our curriculum and learning opportunities? How do we teach our students to always remember the intrinsic worth of every individual because they are made in God's image and as a unique, precious creation of God? How can we help our school community be instruments of justice to fight back injustice? How do we assist parents with these hard conversations? How do we help our school community to be part of a supernatural reconciliation and restoration process that will not succumb to the divisiveness and despair that plague our nation, but is a model of hope that is united in love through Jesus Christ? I have also called and spoken with some of our families with black students to get their thoughts.

I do not have any perfect solutions in mind yet, but this conversation will be part of bigger conversations and prayers about how, rather than just striving to return to our pre-crisis form, do we emerge from 2020 as a better, wiser, and more vibrant school for Christ.



*We are unique as the only school in the area that is in session on MLK Day to remember Dr. King, but there is more to do.*

## GRADUATE PROFILE: SCHILLER FAMILY

"When we visited AACS, Kaitlin was four years old and David was two - time flies! We were immediately impressed with all the school offered. We have always been an academically focused family and wanted our children to receive an outstanding education, but in choosing a school, several other factors also played a role. We wanted a school that would take the time to get to know our children closely, and sincerely love them as individuals. We hoped to impart strong values of service and justice. And we hoped Kaitlin and David would know the love of God. AACS has given our family those things and so much more. The close relationships between



students and teachers at our school maximized spiritual, social and educational growth. We appreciate the staff and teachers so much for that personalized attention. Some of the benefits we had not considered at that time were the wonderful opportunities to participate in sports and theater club in ways our kids might not have been able to had they attended larger schools. We also didn't realize how important the community of families would be to us. In this time of social distancing, the support of other parents traveling this road with us has been essential. That is probably what we will miss most and we hope you will keep in touch with us. Thank you for everything."

# ABOVE AND BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

## Saying farewell to Sue DeZeeuw and Susan Furr

By Becky Johnson, spiritual life coordinator

### Well done, good and faithful servants!

After twenty years of service, Susan Furr, our first grade teacher, and Sue DeZeeuw, our middle school lead teacher and Academic Support Coordinator, are stepping away from their roles at AACS. Susan will be retiring, and Sue will be serving as a foster parent while continuing to serve AACS in a more limited role of mentor and administrative support.

Each of these women has touched countless lives at AACS. As part of our goodbye for them, alumni students, parents, and staff were invited to send in video messages of thanks. It is not easy to summarize the legacy that these women will leave behind.

### Sue DeZeeuw:

One of the things that typifies Sue is her servant's heart. Sue has always been willing to step in and do what needed to be done. It didn't matter whether what the job – Sue was willing to help.



Middle School teachers Sue, Laura, Kirstin and Jamie during our 8th grade drive-by celebration.

AACS has been blessed by Sue's ability to think outside the box. So often she would offer an insightful solution to a thorny problem. Sue's "can do" attitude allowed her to approach problems as opportunities for change and growth. As a teacher, Sue equipped her 8th graders to grow as leaders, supporting them as they took on leadership in their chapel families. She not only taught her students to have a growth mindset, but modeled that in her own life, always reading articles, seeking out new techniques and approaches for students who were struggling in some way.

We will always appreciate the countless hats and roles that both Sue and her entire family took on to serve AACS, including its start.

### Susan Furr:

One of the things many people appreciated about Susan was her gentle but firm way of loving the first graders and helping them grow in knowing God's Word and hiding it in their hearts. Through stories and through her example she sowed God's Word and nurtured faith. Susan just loved to close her door and focus on her students' love of learning, exploring the world with them, and following their interests. Her many life experiences and travels gave Susan a wealth of stories and examples which have entertained, educated, and enriched those around her.



Susan enjoying the last day's drive-by celebration.


Both Sue and Susan embodied the AACS core value of community, welcoming new staff members, reaching out to help, being attentive listeners, and investing in relationships with students, families, and fellow staff members.

Well done, good and faithful servants. We look forward to having an in-person time to thank and recognize both of these women in the fall.

“ The teachers at AACS are absolutely the jewel of the school. They care deeply about our kids, both academically and emotionally. Even as they challenge the students academically, they prioritize their hearts. Even in the midst of teaching a rigorous curriculum, the teachers are very attentive to students' emotional needs, social dynamics, and spiritual lives. Our favorite thing about AACS is how the teachers truly SEE our kids. ”

Be sure to check out Lands' End for the updated spiritwear with the NEW Eagle logo. Go, Eagles!





### \$500 TUITION CREDIT

Submit this voucher when you register at AACS to receive the \$500 tuition credit per family when you enroll one or more children in grades K-8 at the school.\*

We were referred by the \_\_\_\_\_ family.

Our Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

5500 Whitmore Lake Road • (734) 743-4948 • [www.annarborchristian.org](http://www.annarborchristian.org) \* Applied to your May 2021 tuition bill.

### Are you interested in receiving \$500 off your tuition for the next school year?

As in the past, \$500 referral vouchers will be available if you refer a new family who enrolls in AACS. The added incentive is that the new family will receive \$500 off their tuition as well. This is a great way to introduce AACS to families you know who may want to join us in the fall! The school continues to give virtual or in-person tours during the summer.





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*Like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram (@annarborchristian), or check out our hashtag #AACSlife to see what our students are up to here at Ann Arbor Christian School.*

## GRADUATE PROFILE: RICCINTO FAMILY

"God used an AACCS poster on a bulletin board at Panera Bread to lead our family to this wonderful school and community. It was March of 2013. Thomas was in third grade. Michael was in first grade, and it was clear that they needed a different school to call home. My heart would ache each morning I dropped them off at their former school and a gnawing sense of uneasiness followed me during the day.

When I saw the AACCS poster in the Panera that morning, I immediately went to the school's website and was blown away by credentials of the leadership team and staff, focus on project-based learning, and passion for Christ. We toured the school and enrolled our boys. The uneasiness in my heart was replaced with peace knowing my children were loved and cared for at school.

The seven years that our family has spent at AACCS has truly been a blessing. Having our children at an academically-excellent Christian school has grown their minds and hearts in Christ and for Christ. We are so grateful to the AACCS community for partnering with us to raise our sons. The teachers and families walked along beside us every step of the way, and we developed friendships that will last a lifetime.

Thank you AACCS and the greater school community for being part of our children's education and faith journey. Because of you and your love of Christ, our children have been surrounded by Christ-centered role models and classmates to learn, play, and pray with. Although our time at AACCS has come to an end, the impact that the school has made on our family and our love for the AACCS community goes on."



### MORE UPCOMING DATES

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC  
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!  
MIDDLE SCHOOL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT  
ELEM. & PRESCHOOL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT  
NO SCHOOL/CEA CONFERENCE FOR TEACHERS  
GRANDPARENTS' DAY  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST EVENT

August 27, at 5:30 p.m.  
August 31  
September 10, at 7 p.m.  
September 17, at 7 p.m.  
October 22-23, all day  
November 6  
November 7, at 8:30 a.m.