

FALL 2015

ANCHORAGE

The Magazine of the Annapolis Area Christian School



Year • in *Review* 2014 – 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

*New Severn Lower School open and thriving,
Understanding different cultures, and Annual Report 2014-15*



ANNAPOLIS AREA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



A MESSAGE FROM MR. K

By Rick Kempton, *Superintendent*

LET'S NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS.

Dear Eagle Supporters,

The other day, (when we were still in October) I was caught, even distracted, by the avalanche of attention given to Halloween, along with the incredibly early arrival of Christmas displays....or as the media driven culture calls it "Holiday" Celebration.

I read that November falls between the two highest "holiday related" retail sales periods in America.

It was no surprise to hear that Christmas-related purchases out-distanced every holiday, by a significant amount, for the number one spot.

I was, however, a little caught off guard to discover that Halloween was not only in second place, but very comfortably in the number two spot.

Where am I headed with this?

Stop and think a minute about the media hype that surrounded Halloween...the TV specials, the "Friday the 13th" style movies, the costumes, and so on. The frenzy was building from early October and beyond the 31st.

Christmas, on the other hand, gets an even earlier start. In "days of old," Christmas decorations and related advertisement began the Friday after Thanksgiving and built in intensity as we approached the 25th. Today,

however, the Christmas season is set in motion with the close of Halloween (or sooner) and is in full scale assault on our attention (and wallets) long before we break bread as a family on Thanksgiving.

So, you ask again, where are you headed with this, Rick?

Here it is... don't miss Thanksgiving! Let's not miss the opportunity to express our thanks. For me personally, I have discovered that when my November is focused on being thankful and expressing my thankfulness to God and others, then my heart for the "Christ" in Christmas grows during the month of December.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 says, "Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Here's a little invitation... beginning now, start every day by praying in thankfulness. Pray specifically in thankfulness for family members, for blessings and even for uncomfortable circumstances.

I promise you, if you accept and follow through on this invitation, it will make your November 26th special and your prayers in November will help you rise above the pressures of December and allow you to see and worship the Christ in Christmas.

...And who knows? Maybe December will flow into a more Christ-purposed January... and then...?

Let's make time to be thankful! Please know that Barbara and I are deeply thankful to be part of the AACs family! ✕

*In His Service and Yours,
Rick Kempton, Superintendent*

ANCHORAGE is the magazine of the Annapolis Area Christian School. The magazine is distributed to school parents, alumni, parents of alumni, and friends of Annapolis Area Christian School. A downloadable version is also available on the website at aacsonline.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

We engage students in an education of excellence enabling them to impact the world through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

STAFF

- Rick Kempton, *Superintendent*
- Bob McCollum, *Principal, Upper School*
- Rick Slenk, *Principal, Middle School*
- Nancy Pavlischek, *Principal, Lower School, Annapolis*
- Karl Graustein, *Principal, Lower School, Severn*
- Glen Cole, *Chief Financial Officer*
- Graham Thorpe, *Chief Advancement Officer*
- Jennifer Good, *Chief Communications Officer*

ALUMNI should direct news information to alumni@aacsonline.org or contact the Alumni Relations office at 410.519.5300.

AACS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To email a member of the board, please use the format first initial and last name@aacsonline.org unless otherwise noted below.

- Michael Edmonds, *President*
- Karen Cole
- Warwick Fairfax
- Dion Golatt
- James Mackrell
- David Mitchell
- Mary Robertson
- Cedric Sims
- Dan Smith – dansmith@aacsonline.org
- Mark Solsman
- Donna Tull
- Lisa Wadsworth

ABOUT THE COVER

Students and staff stand proudly in front of the new AACs Lower School in Severn.

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN

Breanna Wheeler, '01
Studio Owner / Art Director
ColorWheelCreatives.com

PRINTING SERVICES

Nelson Anderson, '99
Anderson Minuteman Press
Glen Burnie & Ocean City
www.minutemanmaryland.com

3 LOWER SCHOOL :: ANNAPOLIS
A Joyful Noise

4 LOWER SCHOOL :: SEVERN
Past+Present=AACS Legacy

5 MIDDLE SCHOOL :: ANNAPOLIS
What Does It Mean to be Called to Lead

6 UPPER SCHOOL :: SEVERN
Culture: Not bad, just different!

9 ALUMNI PROFILE
Dan Hammer, Class of 2000

10 2014-2015
Review Snapshot

by Deborah Long, *Lower School Music*

Lower School :: Annapolis

A JOYFUL NOISE

Children love music! They are naturals when it comes to responding to melody and rhythm. Music not only brings joy to a child's life, but can be a tool for triggering learning – not just in the performing arts, but in enhancing the brain's ability to learn math, science, reading and writing as well.



• • Joseph Hubrich and Aiden Libby (grade 1) show off their cuckoo masks made during their study of Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals*.

At the Annapolis Campus, lower school students are enjoying a wide variety of approaches to music. New this year is the ukulele program! What could be more fun? Thanks to a memorial fund donation in honor of Donna

DeRoo's mother, Florence Malkus, we were able to purchase a classroom set of ukuleles. When classes come in now, they not only learn melody, rhythm, and tempo, they are learning chord structure. Knowing just three chords will allow students to play many familiar songs.

We have also been exploring rhythmic patterns on hand drums and with rhythm sticks. Thanks to Home Depot's donation, we also have the opportunity to form bucket bands. Buckets are a great way to produce a variety of sounds based on where and how you strike the bucket, and everyone is able to play at the same time! If you come by, you are



• • *"I was so excited!"* – Bailey Cho, 1st grade
"The buckets are fun because you get to bang on them – a little bit." – Lukas Kurmayev, 1st grade



• • *"This is good training for when I take guitar lessons later this year."* – Griffin Redmon, 4th grade

"Playing the ukulele will help me when I play the piano." – Joey Nebbia, 4th grade

sure to have eager students, ready to show you what they are learning.

In addition to the new programs added this year, students continue to enjoy established music activities as well. The Pre-K through 2nd grade students have been studying *The Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saens. It has been fun to study this piece in-depth with the students and find all the musical humor that Saint-Saens incorporated in the piece.

Lower school music classes are a time to encourage a child's natural inclination towards music. These skills, when encouraged and developed, will lead to a lifetime of joy of listening to music, performing for others, and worshipping our Savior. ✝

*"Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation!"*

Psalm 95:1

by Amanda Fusting, Class of 2016

Lower School :: Severn

PAST+PRESENT=AACS LEGACY

Alumni couple Ruth and Adam Coleman had always dreamed of sending their children to the school they grew up in. And when they heard about the new AACS Lower School campus in Severn, they scheduled a tour immediately!

"The facility is beautiful and the staff are kind and helpful" says Adam Coleman, class of 2000. "Their love for the kids is obvious. We thank God every day that we can send Jonathan to a safe place, learning everything in light of Christ's love and sacrifice for us."

heart and mind of each of our students." The teachers love every one of their students and that is evident in their work.

The children at AACS are excited to learn, eager to play, and enjoy connecting with a faculty and staff that love the Lord and love to teach. Second grader, Katelynn says the treasure box is one of her favorite things in the classroom. "If I get ten stamps" she says, "I get to go to the treasure box." Evan, like many elementary students, says he loves recess the most. "I always play wiffleball when we have outdoor recess and soccer when



Alumni Adam & Ruth
(Woodward) Coleman, '00,
with their children
Jonathan and Abigail

The Coleman's gazed nostalgically at the new AACS sign planted outside Grace Pointe Community Church of the Nazarene on the first day of school. Little Jonathan waved goodbye to his parents as he ran into the new wing.

There were other excited children there as well. Kindergartener Rosie had already been prancing around the new campus for over an hour. She was the first student to enroll at the Severn Lower School, and the first student to arrive on the first day of school. She eagerly awaited her teachers and friends, smiling until her cheeks hurt.

Mr. Graustein, the principal of the new campus, says, "There is a spirit of joy and grace as we seek to reach the

we have indoor recess," he explains.

With the new school and the new year comes a new theme verse: Psalm 127:1, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain." This verse reflects the journey of the AACS Severn Lower School over the past couple of years. This project was a gift from God. Through the hands of the Lord, the AACS wing was transformed. He stands guard over His beloved children at the Lower School. The Colemans attest to the miraculous blessing the Severn campus brings to local Christian families. The Lord is continuing to work in the community of Severn and we stand in wonder at all he is doing! †

DO WE CONTINUE
TO TEACH THEM
WHAT IT MEANS TO
BE A LEADER...



The 8th Grade Team thanks you for your partnership. To God be the Glory!



...or do we
show them?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CALLED TO LEAD?



At the beginning of this school year the 8th grade gathered at Camp Wabanna in Edgewater for a retreat on leadership, to discover what it means to lead and how to influence the world for Jesus Christ. The students studied world leaders, from Mao Zedong to Ghandi, Adolf Hitler and Martin Luther King Jr, and biblical ones like David, flawed, but after God's own heart. Guest speakers Eric Hansen and Doug Scheidt rallied them to think about big things like identity and legacy; Daniel Giddings asked them to look at the small, themselves, because leadership is about who we are more than what we do. It was heady, sometimes droll, and by nightfall it was dulled by antsy middle schoolers who shifted in chairs, looking not at us but outside, anxious for things that are real, like Capture the Flag, s'mores, and dorm room pranks.

We'd been together for the whole day in one room, but we weren't one. The

students were annoyed with one another today and over the past several years, irritated by differences, irked over being forced to play nice and be nice to people they didn't like, and didn't want to. They were distracted, disinterested and divided. In time, we were distressed: we learned that while adults spent the day intent on teaching students how to lead, a group of students spent the day intent on schemes to bully another student. They had succeeded once, and planned more for later. Now, with the day coming to a close, we knew we had a decision to make: *Do we continue to teach them what it means to be a leader, or do we show them?* With our minds spinning like the fan blades over our tired heads, our most pressing question became this one: *If we choose to show them, what do we do?*

We decided to answer our question not with an answer, but with this realization: We are all the same before God, whether we are the teacher or the student. Every day, we are annoyed with one another, irritated by differences, irked over being forced to play nice and be nice to people we don't like and don't want to like. We are distracted, disinterested, and divided. We are no different than our students. We're just older. We know how to hide it.

With this realization, we dropped our fig leaves and threw off our conceit. What happened next is one of those things in life that can't be explained, only witnessed. For reasons we may never know, the people in that room were there to witness the bending of skies. Four teachers, five parents and 70 plus students became still as the Holy Spirit swept in and defined leadership for all of us. Eighth grade boys sobbed

like babies and the girls wept and held each other, as one by one students stood and praised the very student they once bullied; the human target not just at this Retreat, but all last year. The adults said nothing and watched as students took over, and for over one hour admitted failures and weaknesses, poor decisions, bad judgments, wrong thoughts, mistakes. One student said he was ashamed to think of what God thought of him. Another, with tears streaming down his face, his chest swelled and his hand placed on the back of the bullied student now bent over and sobbing, looked out at his class and barely uttered, "How do you call yourselves Christian?," before He cut himself off to cover his face to tell His Lord, "We all are sorry." By night's end, everyone wanted to be the one to close in prayer and thank God for the weakest among them, whom God chose to humble every single one of us.

There is a song by Hillsong called "Empires" that says "We are worlds, we are bodies, empires of dirt and grace." At the end of the Retreat, a few boys walked over to a father at pickup. They knew him from last year. One by one they shook his hand and told him from now on they'd protect his son, that they'd "have his back." The rest of that song goes like this: *"The night is done, our chains are broken. The time has come. The wait is over. The King is here and his name is Jesus. Singing Hallelujah. Breathing in a brand new world."*

If that night we all were empires of dirt, the next day the 8th graders were empires of grace, new creations, 8th graders "called to lead" helping to breathe in a brand new world into a broken one for Jesus Christ. †

by Don Wiley, Upper School Academic Dean

Upper School :: Severn

CULTURE

IT'S NOT BAD, JUST DIFFERENT!

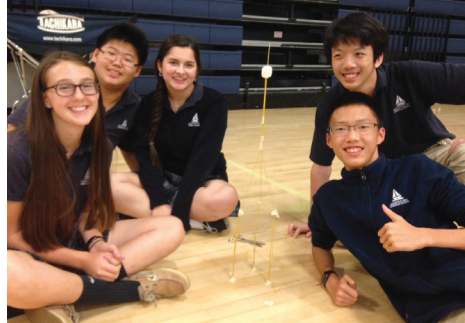
This year our Upper School introduced a new elective that is transforming student relationships: Understanding Different Cultures (UDC). Taught by our new ESL teacher Mrs. Susan Cole, the UDC class is a course designed to help especially our international students, but also any others enrolled, recognize that their view of “normal” is often cultural, and that other cultural behaviors are not “wrong,” just “different.”



The UDC class has a full enrollment of 25 students. 15 of these are internationals, including the newest 13 international enrollees at AACS. Those 13 are required to take the class. The other seats in the room are occupied by various students (grades 9-12) who simply elected to take the Culture course.

Early reports are that all 25 students are finding UDC to be a valuable course. Many say it is even better than they had expected.

Sophomore Isa Sweeney was not aware that the class would have “so many Chinese students in it.” But she says that is what makes the course even better—rather than just learning about maps and places, she actually gets to interact cross-culturally in the classroom.



Senior Sarah Raspberry agrees: “I thought we would just be reading books about people who have traveled internationally.” Sarah, who plans to major in sociology in college, appreciates how Mrs. Cole has placed them in cross-cultural learning groups where they actually experience the different norms themselves.

There is also a textbook, however, and it's a text fellow senior Shannon Baden really likes. “The book *Foreign to Familiar* helps us understand more about different ways of communicating, like indirect and direct,” and other cultural patterns.

In the textbook, author Sarah Lanier claims that “Cultural differences among us provide both the richest color to our lives and the harshest wounding.” Teacher Susan Cole agrees, and feels that is why the course is so important for all its 25 students.



“Cultural differences among us provide both the richest color to our lives and the harshest wounding.”

Another senior, Chloe Kotch, recognizes how valuable the UDC course is to our international students especially. She noted how the class allows those “foreign” students to feel included in the AACS community. Chloe has been struck by “how eager these students are

to talk with us” and interact.

What about the International students themselves—what do they think about the UDC class? Zihan Ma, a junior from Beijing, says, “I love this class! It helps me form relationships with Americans!” Zihan joined AACS in January as a new midyear sophomore; for any student that is a difficult time to be new. Now, thanks in large part to the UDC class, he hears American students call him by name in the hallways. He appreciates especially how UDC forces students to look past differences and build friendships with all others at AACS. Even though the differences between Chinese and American cultures are highlighted in the class, Zihan feels that the American students learn through the course to respect his culture.

Bella Choi, a sophomore from Shenzhen, also likes the small group learning format. Often in those groups, Bella says, “We don't ask each other a typical question,” but one that forces them to recognize their differences and come to mutual understanding. Overall, they learn that cultural variations are not wrong, just different. Once they learn that, they move on quickly to what unites them in friendship.

While the class does focus often on differences between Chinese and American culture, senior Micah Meadows says that it also helps all the students be more willing to talk to anyone of a different culture at AACS. Micah says the Understanding Different Cultures course “basically removes the color issue from our relationships,” making us more willing to talk to people as people.

All of these students said they would recommend the course to others. So next year, students, consider signing up! †





HOMECOMING 2015



There is much joy in receiving. There is also much joy in giving. We have immense joy in receiving forgiveness through God's gift of His only son to redeem us. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. It is an underlying theme in many stories in the Bible. And it is much more than mere happiness. Joy is not directly tied to our circumstance (like happiness is). Our true joy, for those who call Christ their Lord and Savior, is based on the righteous works of Jesus and the hope that springs from salvation.

A wonderful question to ask of ourselves and one another is this: "where are we placing our hope and is it reflected in our joyfulness?" Rev. John P. Sartelle, in a 2004 edition of the magazine *Modern Reformation*, writes, "I don't think that the world looks at the Christian community in our culture and wonders at our joy. Joy amidst suffering is a powerful testimony to the reality and power of Christ. What about joy outside the context of distress? 'Rejoice, in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice' (Phil. 4:4). If we are to have a Gospel-joy in times of pain, what should our joy look like as we enjoy the blessings of food, clothes, houses, health, marriage, children, friendship, recreation, prayer, forgiveness, His Word, His Spirit, worship, and the coming glories of heaven?"

What should our joy look like as we enjoy the blessings of food, clothes, houses, health, marriage, children, friendship, recreation, prayer, forgiveness, His Word, His Spirit, worship, and the coming glories of heaven?

Most Christians are afraid of expressing a sensual, spiritual, unleashed, unabashed, and reveling joy. We think it is somehow incongruous with Christ. Joy incompatible with Jesus — that kind of thinking is a treacherous lie from the Liar and Accuser. He wants Christians to live sad, morose, and dull lives. Self-pity in the face of agony tells the world that God is not sovereign. Despair in the face of our sin tells the world that there is no grace, no blood of Christ that saves. Melancholy in the context of immense blessings is an unholy complaint against the goodness of God. Oh dear friend, celebrate. Celebrate the great goodness of God, in and out of season. When we get home we will not regret rejoicing too much, we will wonder why we didn't celebrate more."

Are you joyful? Do you have an eternal, permanent, immovable, joy-inducing trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ? If so, be joyful! Joyfulness in the midst of the good and the bad, the sunshine and the rain, is a clear statement to the watching world that our circumstances do not determine our perspective or our eternity....our real hope is anchored to the rock that is Jesus Christ. ✠

by Graham Thorpe '97, Chief Advancement Officer

Alumni Spottings @ Homecoming



Congratulations to the 2015 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES!

RYAN McCUEN

Class of 2001 • Soccer and Lacrosse

CASEY COOK

Class of 2003 • Golf

MICHAEL STINE

Class of 1985 • Basketball and Soccer

For more information on the Athletic Hall of Fame
and to view inductee bios, please visit
the Athletics Tab on aacsonline.org.





ALUMNI PROFILE

DAN HAMMER, *Class of 2000*

I *appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice...*

What first began as words from Romans 12, memorized strictly in order to pass Mr. Bitzer's illustrious Romans class in the late 90's, has transformed to the precious Word of God emblazoned on my heart charting the course for life's every decision.

As I journeyed through the same halls as Thomas Jefferson at William & Mary; married my college sweetheart and far better half, Ann; dabbled in investment banking; followed God's call into full time vocational ministry; moved back to the Annapolis area; served on staff at a local church for 8 years, completed seminary education at Liberty; assisted Doug Scheidt in coaching guys varsity basketball for 5 years at AACCS; and had 3 kids (our 4th just arrived in October, 2015); the reality of what it meant to truly offer my body as a living sacrifice to God, traveled from my brain where it resided in the knowledge state, and began to flow more and more out of my life in actual application. That, after all, is the ultimate goal of our AACCS education and experience.

Jesus calls us on a mission: to follow Him and make disciples.

Then came the moment...you know, the moment where it is time to put up or shut up. Our moment was in early 2014, when God revealed to Ann and me, that after many months of praying, He was calling us to plant a church, Harvest Bible Chapel Annapolis, in order to reach more people with the life altering and hope giving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This decision would require moving our young family 5 times to 3 different states, over the following 15 months, including spending 4 months in training at the Harvest Training Center in Chicago under the leadership of Pastor James MacDonald. It would require

raising substantial financial support for the launch of God's new church. And it would require God to raise up a group of people to join together and build this new church from the ground up. We have, through this whole process, experienced God moving in amazing ways. It was the ultimate application moment for me of my commitment to offer my body to God as a living sacrifice. It was complete surrender to God's will, His way, and His timing.

However, our family's small sacrifice is nothing in comparison with Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross for our sins. So we packed up the cars and headed to Chicago! The last 20 months have been some of the hardest, but sweetest, of our lives. We wouldn't trade them for anything. Our great God has shown Himself so faithful throughout the journey, over and over again. Harvest Annapolis successfully launched with



181 people in attendance on Sunday, September 13, 2015, at Arundel Middle School. God is moving, people are giving their lives to Christ, and Jesus is making us all more like Himself. The Gospel changes everything! There is no greater thing in life. The sacrifice is worth it because Jesus is worth it. Harvest's mission is to glorify God through the fulfillment of the Great Commission; the same heartbeat and goal as AACCS.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 16, 2015**
Alumni Christmas Reception
7:00-10:00pm
Federal House in Annapolis

**WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 6, 2016**
**Young Alumni Chapel
& Luncheon**

Chapel: 9:55-10:40am,
Kerr Center

Lunch: 10:45am,
Kilby Athletic Center

*To RSVP for the above
alumni events email
akastendike@aacsonline.org.*

Jesus calls us all on a mission: to follow Him and make disciples. This mission, instilled in me, and all of us at AACCS, is now being lived out locally and globally, and for that I'm forever grateful. As we would say when we broke the huddle for the basketball teams I played on at AACCS, "All for Him!" If we truly mean that, may we all risk and sacrifice greatly for our Lord for He alone is worthy and He is worth it. ✝



2014-2015 Annual Fund

In last year's report, the big news was restructuring our long term debt.

With that project behind us, 2014/15 was a year of stable financial performance despite preparations for the Severn Elementary School campus.

Despite expenditures on this new infrastructure, we were able to reduce overall expenses by 0.5%. Corresponding revenue increased 1.5% over the same period. One of the significant factors in this increase was a 36% increase in contributions and fund raising.

What a blessing!

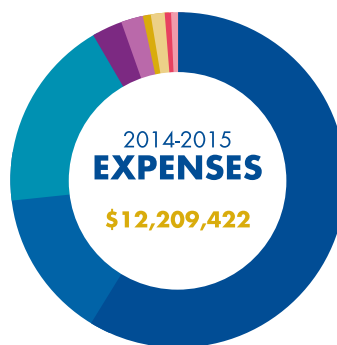
There is one technical note for those comparing this report to prior years. You may note that plant and depreciation are no longer stated separately. This reflects a change in accounting rules that mandates these costs be allocated to the other expense lines rather than reported on their own. ⚓

by Glen Cole,
Chief Financial Officer



ANNAPOLIS AREA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

EXPENSES



- Personnel
- Educational
- Program
- Administrative
- Transportation
- Furniture & Equipment
- Admissions
- Development
- Technology

*Let us hold fast the confession
of our hope without wavering,
for He who promised is faithful.*

Hebrews 10:23

DID YOU KNOW?

93

Chapels held
at AACCS
campuses

64,090

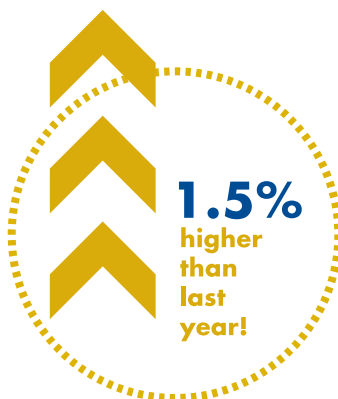
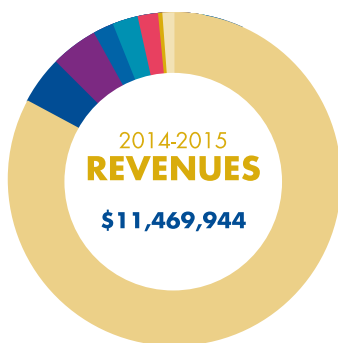
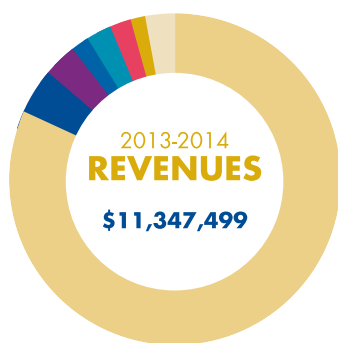
Lunches
served at the
Upper School

\$50,000

Increase in
endowment
giving

Report Year in Review

REVENUES



- Tuition
- Programs
- Contributions
- Application & Enrollment Fees
- Rentals
- Transportation
- Investment Income
- Athletic & Other

ANNUAL GIVING

2013–2014



2014–2015



36%
INCREASE
in giving

3

Conference
championship
teams

92%

School-wide
re-enrollment
rate

ENROLLMENT

LOWER SCHOOL	234
MIDDLE SCHOOL	189
UPPER SCHOOL	358

781
TOTAL ENROLLMENT

STUDENTS RE-ENROLLED	606
NEW STUDENTS ENROLLED	175

FULL TIME TEACHERS	61.7
FULL TIME STAFF	47

108.7
FACULTY & STAFF
(full time equivalent positions)



ANNAPOLIS AREA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**ANNAPOLIS
LOWER SCHOOL**
710 Ridgely Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401

**SEVERN
LOWER SCHOOL**
61 Gambrills Rd.
Severn, MD 21144

MIDDLE SCHOOL
716 Bestgate Rd.
Annapolis, MD 21401

**UPPER SCHOOL &
CENTRAL OFFICE**
109 Burns Crossing Rd.
Severn, MD 21144

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MILLERSVILLE, MD
PERMIT #22

410.519.5300 aacsonline.org



Anchors Aweigh

Save the Date to **SET SAIL WITH AACCS!**

2016 Spring Spectacular Dinner & Auction

SATURDAY, APRIL 23 • 6:00PM

Kilby Athletic Center • AACCS Upper School



SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS

FREE TUITION DRAWING

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

DELICIOUS DINNER



PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE AACCS ANCHOR FUND

For more information, contact 410-519-5300 x2116 or akastendike@aacsonline.org.